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EDITORIAL

THE VENEZUELAN INCIDENT.

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THE blockade of Venezuelan ports is raised. Is that all there is of it? Indeed, not! What has happened is that the blockade has been turned on the blockaders, who now, in turn, are themselves blockaded.

About two months ago, when the Venezuelan trouble broke out, it was pointed out in these columns that the “trouble” was seemingly centered in and around Venezuela, whereas, in point of fact, the trouble raged many hundreds and thousands of miles away. The issue proves the correctness of the size-up then made; it also proves the correctness of the forecast that the aggressors would come out at the little end of the horn. The language of the press of the allies distinctly points to this conclusion. This is especially so in the instance of the German press. The *Allgemeine Zeitung* speaks of the situation as “tantamount to a victory of America over Europe”; the *Taegliche Nachrichten* refers to the recent allies as being “in a sad plight”; the *Vossische Zeitung* is full of disappointment at “the discrepancy between the design and the achievement”; in short, they are all sore. And mighty good is their reason.

The assault on Venezuela was not a sporadic affair, no more than the breaking out of a pimple on any part of the body is a “local” matter. A pimple denotes a constitutional state of things. The body on which it breaks out has impure blood. The capitalist world is to-day an organism. It was “capitalist conditions” elsewhere that brought on foreign armaments before Venezuelan ports. What those capitalist impurities were could be guessed at; to-day guessing is no longer necessary. The delay in squeezing Venezuela, due to Venezuela’s resistance, has caused certain leakages about the claims budget. The Oxford professor of international law has given out that many of the British claims will not stand the test of the “international code”; and, as to the German claims, it is now ascertained that there

is a demand for \$15,000,000 sunk in a railroad not longer than 111 miles! The fishy odor emitted by these leakages gives an idea of the composition of the bulk of the claims. The hope was that Venezuela would cave in quickly, and the roar of cannon and clatter of swords would drown the sound of the frauds that the war had in custody. It has turned out otherwise. All these claims are to be inquired into by The Hague Committee. This Committee is made up of representatives of all the other leading capitalist countries. Will they make common cause with England and Germany on the theory that they also are incubators for just such fraudulent claims? No! The law that underlies the capitalist's motions works otherwise. They are competitors; what the one grabs is not there for the others to grab. In this conflict between wolves there lies some degree of safety for the victim. To begin with, not a tithe of the claims, that would otherwise have been enforced on Venezuela, will be now even presented at The Hague by England and Germany, and those that are presented will be very thoroughly scrutinized. In other words, the claimants (former blockaders) are now themselves blockaded!

No doubt there is a tremendous "discrepancy between the design and the achievement." No wonder the crew is sore. The question comes, however, Where will the pimple just cauterized turn up next? What shape will it take? Turn up it must, it is the forerunner of the coming international financial and mercantile crisis.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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