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EDITORIAL

FUTILE FIDGET.

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AS the war in the Far East begins to raise heavy clouds of war all over Europe, interest seems to begin to center in the United States. Foreseeing a war at her back with England, Russia has begun to coquet with this country, and our American pundits are thrown into a fidget as to what the country will do. Is our government to side with Russia? Is it to side with England, the obvious European antagonist of Russia? And seeking to answer the question, they take hold of the Russian hint, that during our Civil War Russia sympathized with the North. The fidget is futile.

It matters not what Russia did then to determine the conduct of the Administration in Washington now. Capitalist nations do not pay off obligations of gratitude. The only thing that guides them is how their capitalist interests will be affected NOW. We have seen this country forget all about the positive help given by Great Britain to the Confederates the moment the pockets of the capitalists, who run our Government, found their account in forgetting the old injury. So likewise will we find them again forgetting any act of kindness that Russia may have bestowed upon us during the dark years of the early sixties—should such forgetting square with present interests. Not recollections of the past will carry the day at Washington, but knowledge of the present. According as that knowledge be, should the United States take a hand in the threatened international war, will be the attitude of America.

But our nervous peerers into the future are absolutely wasting their energies. There is not one chance in a thousand that this country will become a belligerent. There more general the clash, all the more certain will be our capitalists' neutrality. For one thing, they will want to sell provisions of war to BOTH sets of sides: why spoil such a chance of coining bloodshed into money by spoiling it with one set or the

other? For another thing, the more completely at peace our capitalists remain, all the more assured will the role of final arbiter be to them. When the groups of European nations, that are now expected to be seen siding with Japan, and the other groups, that are expected to be seen siding with Russia, shall have thoroughly exhausted themselves, our own capitalist government will step up smilingly, and “in the interest of humanity” take the kernel from both, and give one half the shell to each.

Russia’s early opinion that Japan was fighting America’s battles—if the theory is correct—will have more weight than all reminiscences of past kindness in deciding America’s attitude in this war, and that opinion would clearly cause America to keep her hands off—for the present.

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