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FIRST EDITORIAL

EAST AND WEST.

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SECTIONAL feeling is not a desirable thing to cultivate. It is too productive of sectional animosity, and should, therefore, be avoided. Owing to slavery, the last century experienced intense sectional feeling between the North and the South. Owing to the latest developments of capitalism, this century appears destined to witness some between the East and the West, although, happily, it is not likely to be of the same sanguinary nature. The Panama Canal and Asiatic export trade promise to give to the West in future years greater economic prominence than that now possessed by the East. The West is, therefore, being boomed in anticipation of the great changes ahead. Western "prosperity," banking, railroads, public institutions and social conditions, are praised in contrast to Eastern "hard times," official corruption, class divisions and economic inequality. The last to be heard along these lines is the Rev. Dr. Dwight Hillis. He has just informed his Plymouth Church congregation that all the good forces of the country would come out of the West.

This booming and praising of the West at the expense of the East must be taken with a pinch of salt, if sectional feeling and other blunders are to be avoided. The West is a comparatively new and agricultural country, with plenty of room, and with the advantages gained from the experiments of the older sections, unhampered by deep-rooted conditions. Under the circumstances, it would be surprising were its institutions and conditions not somewhat more admirable and democratic. Nevertheless, the West presents some phenomena that would put the East to blush. Land and Indian scandals are not unknown to it. Nor are railroad jobberies and monopolies. It had its St. Louis, Minneapolis and Milwaukee bribery cases. Above all, it is the land of Colorado, the scene of the most outrageous and undemocratic infamies ever perpetrated on the working class in any section of the country. In

brief, it is observed that, as capitalism develops in the West, the West takes on the same rotten features of the East. As the West grows more industrial under the impetus given by Panama and Asia, these features will become more intensified, so that, in the end, the West is likely to surpass the East in the ugliness of its economic physiognomy, just as at present the United States surpasses in repulsiveness many of the economic lineaments of Europe, owing to the more modern capitalist development here as compared to the economic development there.

The workingmen who are lured to the West by the booms that are the outcome of this sectional feeling will be the first to experience these changes. They will see the industrial cities and bonanza farms grow bigger. With them will also grow the army of the unemployed, the slums, strikes, and the thousand and one evils peculiar to capitalist development. They will, accordingly, discountenance this sectional feeling, and appeal to the class feeling of their fellow wage workers to join with their brethren, East, North and South, in the overthrow of the damnable system of capitalism, which exploits and oppresses all workers, regardless of geographical divisions. That this will occur when the West has attained the height of its future economic prominence, is foreshadowed in the fact that such appeals are already being made. They are bound to grow as the West grows.

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