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EDITORIAL

A BROKEN-OFF PROPHECY.

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A CORRESPONDENT to the New York *Sun* is inspired into a prophetic vein by the recent success of Japan against Russia; unfortunately the prophet breaks off just when the prophecy threatened to become interesting.

The prophet, a general thing with prophets, is in a despondent mood. Japan's triumphs he considers to be "anything but cause for congratulation and elation" to western civilization; he foresees that China with her teeming millions, the Asiatic in general, will be reorganized industrially under the lead of Japan; that as a result of that, first, importation will stop, and, next, that the surplus of Asiatic manufacture, cheaper and better than that of Europe and America, will be dumped upon our markets. The prophet draws the logical consequences from these likely enough premises. Western manufacturing supremacy will be endangered unless "protective measures" are adopted. What these protective measures are the prophet indicates clearly enough—high tariffs. He might have risen to the height of historic parallelism by saying, instead of tariffs, Western "Chinese walls and Japanese former methods of exclusion." Quite a likely outcome; and then he proceeds with the forecast that the result would be a war of the Asiatics or Yellow Race against the White Man. The prophet's pen thereupon begins to splutter and the nibs of his pen break off in the gloomy outlook of a "complete success" for the Yellow Race.

Let us take up the thread of the prophecy where the *Sun's* prophet breaks off, and continue it in his vein.

The rise of the Yellow Race in mechanical and commercial perfection will—considering its virtues, on the one hand, and on the other, the vices that capitalism has poisoned the White Race with—place the Yellow Man relatively to the White Man in the position that the White Man once stood towards the Yellow Man. Some Yellow Rudyard Kipling will arise and, in meter that will be as

charming and as impudent, sing of the “Yellow Man’s Burden”. Under cover of the alleged duty, the Yellow Man will take the White Man in tutelage, and what that means everybody knows from the record of the tutelage under which the White Man has been holding the Yellow Man. What are now dependencies of the White Man would become metropolitan centers of empire, and what are now metropolitan centers of empire would become dependencies of the Yellow Man. European and American Kiauchous and Shanghais would blossom forth.

And next? That that would not be the end of the song is obvious. Is the cycle of time to be turned again, and the see-saw to be repeated with the White Man swinging upward once more?

Hardly. And at this point the unprofitable nature of the mind brought up on the teat of capitalist superficiality comes to the surface. Such minds are not aware that, when history repeats itself, it repeats itself under changed conditions, and that results never are the outcome of any one, or two, or more causes, but of all the causes in the case—including the latest which may have supervened and which may play a controlling role. Such a latest cause is the swelling wave of Socialism. Thanks to it, previous causes will be so molded that both the Yellow and the White Man will act as if animated by a new soul. The material possibilities, that now lie wasted and thereby produce the internal struggles that ultimately manifest themselves in huge race conflicts, will be understood and availed of.

Not the Yellow Man’s tyranny, nor yet the White Man’s tyranny is the end of the song heralded by Japan’s triumph but the Empire of Labor. Quite possible there is many a “White Man” to whom such an empire tastes as gallingly tyrannous as the prospect of the empire of the Yellow Man; nor can there be any doubt that there is many a “Yellow Man” who shares such antipathies with his fellow “White Man” barnacle on Labor’s back. They alone will suffer, but their pain will be the world’s bliss.

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

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