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EDITORIAL

THE WAR.

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“NINETEEN United States Battleships to the Pacific”; “Japan Equipping for War”—such are the dispatches that are cropping up. What does it all mean? What’s the why of their wherefore, culminating with the latest news: “A Japanese Spy Caught at Fort Rosecrans”? The answer is no secret to him who has fathomed the mystery of the yell that goes up, of the preparations for war that are made by the leaders of craft unions the moment an attempt is made at organizing the masses of the unorganized whom craft Unionism is structurally bound to keep out of the pale of Unionism.

Craft Unionism breeds the potential “scab.” By refusing admission in its ranks to applicants, the craft Union seeks to keep the jobs for its own members. The members of the craft thus excluded do not propose to lie down and die according to “Union Rules.” They propose to live. To live through the Union being forbidden them, they then seek to live despite the Union, and are then termed “scabs.” In the struggle between a so-called Union and the craftsmen, whom it keeps out of its fold, the Union enjoys a certain advantage—the superstition concerning the mere word “Union.” Organize these unorganized, clothe them with the word “Union” and the advantage ceases. Hence the spectacle that the mere organizing of the unorganized is a cause for war in the mind of the craft Union leader. It is similar in this matter of the approaching war with Japan.

The United States has long been an exporter to Japan and China. Exports are made mainly to countries that do not produce the exported article. The export business of the United States to China and Japan was a thriving one. The day has come when this business is threatened. It is not threatened by boycotts or other acts of war. It is threatened by the peaceful act of Japanese production. Japan is now a producer of staples once exported from the United States. Not only does Japan no

longer need to import what she herself produces; she produces so plentifully that she can supply China; worst of all, Japan has deliberately stated she would soon be in condition to export MACHINERY TO THE UNITED STATES! The mere fact of a progress that takes Japan from the list of importers and the additional fact of raising her to the rank of an exporter with wonderful possibilities for expansion—that is the “cause of war.”

The pretext of the war may be this or that, or the other. The reason for it, and that makes the war inevitable, is Japan’s progress.

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