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EDITORIAL

CAPITALIST AND ANARCHIST.

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NO sooner had the strike of the I.W.W. weavers of Paterson started when there started also the campaign of villification against Rudolph Katz, the clean, sound and sober, yet intrepid, leader of the strike. With the manufacturers as center, the villification radiated in all directions. Katz was ridiculed with jibes at the expense of his name; his character was maligned; his honor assailed; his integrity impugned. Anything and everything was insinuated against him, of course without the semblance of a proof, in genuine Ruling Class fashion to disintegrate the organization of wage earners that he was gathering for redress against capitalist exploitation. Like Leonidas of old at Thermopylae, who fought “under the shade” of the uncountable arrows and spears of the Persians, Katz moved serenely forward at the head of the column of I.W.W. striking weavers “under the shade” of a cloud of personal defamation. It booted nothing. Summoned by an enlightened leadership, the Paterson I.W.W. weavers were kept away at once from the A.F. of L. Slough of Despond, that is periodically lighted by McNamarcic deeds of despair, and from the luring precipice of “Direct Action,” or Anarchic methods, whose only consequence is the giving of a handle to the capitalist for militia and police brutalities to “save society.” Thus, led wisely by the light of the experience of the Labor Movement, held together by the great goal of Labor’s Emancipation, and animated with the dignity of their class, the I.W.W. weavers of Paterson, moved from victory to victory; conducted a huge strike on a plane never before seen in the country, and by their example evoked a kindred spirit among their fellow wage-slaves of other towns who are hastening to apply for a place in the novel, conquering army. The Paterson manufacturers’ strategy of villification failed, and having failed it was discontinued—by them.

No sooner, however, was the villification of the I.W.W. strike leader discontin-

ued by the manufacturers when the storm of abuse started anew, from another quarter.

Invited by an obscure body of “Direct Actionists” who, notably, had all along sought to thwart the strike, William D. Haywood, an ostentatious advocate of “Direct Action,” took the platform in a Paterson hall on the 7th of this month, and opened up with a repetition of the manufacturers’ villifications of the strike leader.

Are, then, “Capitalist” and “Anarchist” the identical thing? No. What the conduct of Haywood, with the background of the manufacturers’ policy, sheds light upon is the make-up of the Anarchist.

Three are the active elements in the Anarchists’ make-up—Hatred; Egotism, the abnormal egotism of the savage; and Vainglory, the vainglory of the peacock.

The three elements are the mark of the stunted human—a being with the mentality of a child and the passions of an adult.

The Anarchist hates the capitalist, not out of Thought, but out of Sentiment. If he had Thought he would not have Hate. When to Hatred is added Egotism and Vainglory, then the Hatred is transferred to any and every person who is supposed to compete with the vainglorious Egotist. All such persons become a “personal affront.” Thus the Anarchist broadens his sphere of Hatred. Having started with hating the capitalist, he winds up with hating anyone who, he opines, infringes upon his Ego, or infringes upon his Vainglory. None can become a prey to Hatred, thus doubly buttressed, without the gratification of the disease becoming a ruling passion, pursued blindly, pursued so blindly that it will be pursued even to the lengths of its redounding to the benefit of the original subject of his Hatred—the capitalist, in this instance; and to the injury of the original subject of his love—the workingman.

That Rudolph Katz, so unobtrusive, however well posted a workingman, should be chosen by his fellow wage-slaves the leader of a great strike; that he should conduct the strike with such consummate tactfulness and absence of pyrotechnics, as to endear himself to masses of men and women, and to plant the strike upon an elevation never before reached in the land; that, Haywood being announced to speak “to the silk weavers” last month, notwithstanding the silk weavers had not invited him, the Strike Committee, with Katz at its head, should not only not have hastened to

“get off the earth,” but should have dared to issue a circular to the workers of Paterson reminding them that they could not afford to wait until Haywood had “learned better things” and had “moved abreast of the time”; that Haywood not having put in an appearance on that occasion and being announced this month as before, to speak to the weavers, the same Strike Committee, the same Katz leading, should have issued a second circular in the same tone as the first;—all that was more than the Anarchist temperament could stand. Vainglory, and Egotism reacted upon Hatred—and Hatred put into Haywood’s mouth the language of the manufacturers.

Not from Hatred, but from Knowledge,—and Knowledge, however hard it is often compelled to smite, never smites with malice—has the Labor Movement ought to expect. That the workers of Paterson realize this was made manifest by the storm of hisses with which Haywood’s villifications were received, so strong a storm that, as the Paterson *Evening News* of the following day, March 8, put it: “he dropped his philippic as if it were a live coal,” and switched off to the Lawrence strike.

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