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EDITORIAL

## SPREAD THE LIGHT!

By DANIEL DE LEON

**R**OSCOE Conklin, the one-time brilliant Federal Senator from the State of New York, is credited with the statement—"The American press is an ulcer on the face of the earth." Brilliant a man though Conklin was, his vision was limited. He knew little of Europe, less of deep underlying social causes. He saw the ulcerous press of the land, and he took that to be peculiar to America. The ulcerousness of the "press," pointed at by Conklin, is nothing peculiar to the land: it is peculiar to capitalist society: America, however, being the fullest developed stinkweed of capitalism, presents to view the biggest ulcer. The attitude of the capitalist press of the land at this moment is bearing sad justification to the Conklin dictum.

Several men, Moyer and Haywood prominent among them, have been arrested, deported from one State to another and are held to answer the grave charge of murder. Crime has marked every step in these proceedings. Up to then, the crime was limited to the official perpetrators. Junctures like this are tests. A clean press would have leaped into the breach to prevent embitterment; to readjust the social bonds, snapped by the felonious conduct of the Colorado and Idaho officials; and to prevent society from taking a plunge into chaos. Such a conduct was all the more imperative if the capitalist press really considered the arrested men guilty. Justice can not but be blurred if high-handed wrong is the instrument to reach it. If ever the press had a duty to perform it was now, at such a juncture. But the ulcer is running away with itself. So far from calmly handling the subject, the capitalist press has out-Heroded the Colorado-Idaho Herods. If these have given the lie to their pretenses regarding the "Sanctity of the Law," the capitalist press has thrown law and equity bodily overboard. Throughout the country the capitalist press is running over with flaming headlines like these:

“Terrible Conspiracy of Dynamiters Unearthed.”

“Moyer and Haywood Discovered to be the Leaders in a Conspiracy for Murder Unparalleled in History.”

“The Most Gigantic Criminal Plot the World has ever Known.”

“The Crime Confessed in Full by one of the Conspirators.”

Etc., etc., etc.

The safeguard that civilization throws around the individual is rent to tatters. No trial is needed. The ulcerous capitalist press of the land, animated with the effrontery of the professional criminal, adjudges the arrested men guilty without a trial. If a man can be convicted without trial, why should he not be executed before conviction? In short, thanks to the capitalist press of the land, public opinion is to be stampeded. Lynch law is virtually preached.

America has done her duty towards the Russian Revolution. Let us now turn our attention and efforts to our own Tsars, Trepoffs and the rest of the vermin. The massacres engineered by Russian Tsarism are underway in the West of our own land. How to put a spoke in the wheel of this Juggernaut car is the jewel we must pluck from the head of the ugly and venomous toad of the American capitalist press—counteract the conspiracy of poisoning the public mind with false information, counteract it by flooding the land with information that is truthful upon the tragedy that American capitalism has in contemplation in the West. Nothing will so effectively stay the hands, now murderously rising over the heads of Moyer and Haywood, and thus over the bona fide Labor and Socialist Movement of the land itself, than a correct public opinion upon the facts in this case. Ignorant of the facts, worse yet, their minds stuffed full with falsehoods dealt out by the capitalist press, the Working Class of the land will stand by dumb, and thereby invite further catastrophes. With a Working Class enlightened upon the facts, the malefactors will think twice before they carry out their fell designs; moreover the incident will serve as a stepping stone to put a final end to this thickening Reign of Terror.

In this whole broad land there is but one English daily paper that stoutly holds up the beacon of Working Class enlightenment. It is the *Daily People*. What, under these circumstances, amounts to a National Festival, is to be held in the interest of

this paper on the 18th of this month, for the purpose of raising funds for its support. A necessity to the American Labor Movement from the day of its establishment, six years ago, the *Daily People* is to-day indispensable. There is no other daily channel of enlightenment to the Working Class of the land. Let the funds flow that will keep the oil burning bright in this beacon light, who no storms have been able to blow out.

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