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EDITORIAL

TURN ON THE LIGHT!

By DANIEL DE LEON

MILITANT workingmen of America, turn on the light upon the drama that is now enacting on the Colorado stage!

A large defense fund is being gathered. That is good. It is excellent. It is necessary. Without that it will be impossible to do what the *Miners' Magazine* justly points out as a duty when it says: "The corruption fund of the Mine Owners' Association must be met with a defense that will hurl conspirators from the citadel of debauchery." The defense of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone must be matchless and unmatched. It may not be hampered for lack of funds. It must be able to overwhelm the capitalist bandits doubly—it must overwhelm the accusation itself, and it must carry the war into Africa by overwhelming the accusers with their own infamy. It must be a rehearsal, upon the stage of the Idaho Court House, of the scene enacted nearly twenty years ago upon the stage of a London Court House, when Piggot, the forger and perjured witness of the British landlord class against Parnell, utterly broke down, was confuted and so overwhelmed with his own infamy by the defense that he fled and committed suicide. That defense must be a quarry from which, in years to come, to gather bolts against the felon class that impiously sets itself up as the pillar of social justice, morality, and order. All that may be expected of that defense, and will be verified—but—but—will that suffice to crown the defense with the saving of these three paladins of the Working Class who now stand in the breach?

No, it will not!

The ablest, the completest, the most overwhelmingly convincing defense alone will not save Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone. Something else will be needed. The self-convicted felon class, that now holds these men in durance vile, needs no argument and proofs to convince them of their victims' innocence, nor no proofs and argument to convince them of their own guilt. None better than they are thoroughly

enlightened upon those heads. Something else than arguments, something else than proofs is required to cause the Mine Owners' Association and their political puppets to bow to proofs, to yield to argument, to be "convinced," to set their prisoners free. And what is that "something else?" It is THE WIDE-SPREAD ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE WORKING CLASS UPON THE RECENT OCCURRENCES IN COLORADO AND IDAHO.

A million dollar defense, and the mass of the proletarians unenlightened, consequently, even doped by the calumnious Republican-Democratic press—and Moyer and Haywood and Pettibone will be "judicially" hanged, if they are not "unjudicially" assassinated.

A much smaller, but sufficient defense fund, and the mass of the proletarians enlightened, consequently, immune against, and therefore all the more indignant at, the calumnious Republican-Democratic press—and Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone will come out of their prison cells unscathed, like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego from the burning fiery furnace.

It is no figure of speech. The Working Class holds the Capitalist Class in the hollow of its hand—soon as enlightened. The latter's present domination is cornerstoned upon the ignorance in which it keeps the workers. The full enlightenment and organization of the Working Class, at least sufficient to overturn the throne of Capitalism, cannot be achieved over night. The ample enlightenment of the Working Class concerning the Colorado-Idaho outrage, however,—that can be more speedily achieved. Speech will do some, print will do the bulk.

No policeman's club, no watchman, armed cap-a-pie, is so dreaded by the midnight thief as—LIGHT. Public meetings, speeches, above all papers and hand-bills poured as a deluge upon the masses, will turn the light upon the would-be midnight assassins, members and lackeys, of the Mine Owners' Association—and their arms will drop, palsied, beside them.

Militant workingmen of America, turn on the light, good and strong, upon the Colorado-Idaho outrage!

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