

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 256.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1906.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE WORKINGMAN OUTLAWED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE most casual observer must be struck by the language of the Republican-Democratic press of the land upon the arrest of Moyer, Haywood, Pettibone and St. John, and the contrast that language bears to the language held by the same press in all other instances of arrests.

Let the reader of these lines, whatever the day may be in which they fall under his eyes, allow his eyes to run over the columns of the Republican-Democratic press. They will encounter reports of arrests for embezzlement, forgery, bigamy, burglary, larceny, murder, etc. In all these instances of commonest everyday arrests, watch the language of the report. The prisoners are not therein stated to have committed the crimes with which they are charged; they are reported to be arrested for the “alleged commission” of such and such crimes. That is the uniform style of reporting such occurrences. The report may incline more or less against the prisoners; it never presumes to assert their guilt conclusively.

How stand matters with the reports on the Moyer-Haywood-Pettibone-St. John arrest? Entirely different. No cautious clauses of “it is alleged”; no guarded sentences of “the charges claim”; no circumspect utterances of “as is said”. None of these. In the instance of these arrests, the language is the language of a jury, before whom the case has been tried, and argued, and who has deliberated thereupon. The language is: “the men are guilty of murder”; “they are proved to be conspirators against the lives of State officers”; “they have planted dynamite bombs”; “they are assassins”; “they are infamous wretches, as our reports prove”; “a pack of dynamiters”; “they are guilty”; “they murdered Gov. Steunenberg”; “they tried to poison Gov. Peabody”; “they are Molly Maguires”; etc., etc., etc. These few passages—culled from the Republican-Democratic press in New York and San Francisco; in Denver and Boston; in Chicago and Philadelphia; in New Orleans and

Detroit; in Minneapolis and Washington, D.C.,—will give a general idea. What does this music mean?

It means that the Workingman is an outlawed being. The safe-guards thrown around the citizen are not for him. As it is written, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men, but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men, so has the Capitalist Class an un-written law to the effect that, All manner of crimes shall be treated with gentleness, but he who raises an impious hand against the God Capital, he shall stand outlawed: in all other instances, conviction shall follow proof; in the instance of one who labors against the sacrosanct God Capital, conviction shall precede proof.

The Working Class has no rights in the eyes of the Capitalist Class. That stands proven once more.

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

Uploaded February 2009

slpns@slp.org