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ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

INVITING BLOODSHED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE *People* published yesterday the decision of Judge Honore, rendered the day before, in the suit instituted by the General Executive Board of the I.W.W. against the assumption of Sherman. Nothing need here be added as commentary to the decision itself. The report from Chicago is ample. Sherman's assumptions are overthrown. But while there needs to be said nothing more on that head, the decision and the despatch that conveyed it, give occasion for serious reflection, in that they bring to mind and give tone to, certain recent happenings in connection with this case.

On last December 22nd—that is, fourteen days before the Court had rendered any decision whatever, let alone a decision conflicting with the decision actually rendered—the Chicago *Daily Socialist*, which Mr. A.M. Simons has informed us officially that he is the Editor of, published a news item with the following heading:

“Sherman and I.W.W. Sustained by Court.”

On last December 27th—that is, ten days before the Court had rendered any decision whatever, let alone a decision at war with the one actually rendered by the Court—Mr. John M. O'Neill published on the first page of his *Miners' Magazine*, and as the second of his editorial items, the following editorial utterance:

“The injunction against C.O. Sherman, president of the Industrial Workers of the World, has been dissolved. The court has recognized Sherman as the legal head of the organization.”

In its issue of last December 30th—that is six days before the Court had rendered any decision at all, let alone a decision that so completely flies in the face of the decision just rendered, the *New Yorker Volkszeitung* published the following alleged news item from Chicago:

“CHAS. O. SHERMAN TRIUMPHS.

“Chicago, Dec. 29.—Judge Honore dissolved to-day the preliminary injunction that was issued against Chas. O. Sherman, President of the Industrial Workers of the World, so that that portion of the organization that does not recognize the last convention comes into full possession of the office, of the organ *The Industrial Worker*, as well as of all the moneys, etc. Particularly significant is the statement in the report of the decision, to the effect that, according to the affidavits in the case, the large majority of the members of the I.W.W. stand on the side of Sherman. To-day’s decision by the Court amounts to a crushing defeat of the De Leon-Trautmann faction, when the lively fight is kept in mind which Attorney D.K. Tone conducted up to this morning for the preservation of the injunction.”

On that same December 30—that is full six days before the Court had rendered any decision whatever, let alone one so utterly at variance with the decision actually rendered on the 5th instant—the Jewish *Vorwaerts* of this city had this alleged news item from Chicago:

“DE LEON LOSES HIS TRIAL.

[Special Despatch to *Vorwaerts*]

“Chicago, Saturday.—The trial of the Industrial Workers of the World ended to-day. De Leon lost everything. The injunction which De Leon had gotten out against President Sherman is dissolved. The funds and all the moneys are to be given over to the former treasurer, and De Leon has nothing more to do with the Industrial Workers.”

Finally, under date of last December 31—that is five days before any decision was rendered by the Court, let alone a decision at fisticuffs with the one and only one just rendered Kirkpatrick and Canady, associates with Sherman, and the rest of the individuals and bodies above quoted from, issue over their signatures, a letter to the membership of metal and machinery workers of the I.W.W. stating “the injunction is dissolved” by a decision “rendered on the 29{th},” whereby “Trautmann, St. John & Co. will not be allowed to launch another I.W.W., or use any part of the emblems, charters, seals,” etc.

The above presents a batch of double, triple, quadruple falsifications, all based upon a lie of the whole cloth, to wit, the claim that a court decision was rendered, when none was rendered in fact, and when the circumstances were such as to

preclude the possibility of such a decision being rendered as the above news items, letter and editorial utterances falsely announce. The above batch of wholesale falsification is the culmination of a systematic practice of dealing in “saw dust” by an element, which, ashamed to defend that for which it stands, resorts to the methods of the cheating stock jobbers, who cause false news items to be published in the papers for the purpose of “bulling” their own or “bearing” the goods of others. The crashes that occur in the gambling dens of the Stock Exchanges as a result of such stock jobbing practices frequently result in the murder or suicide of the participants. Practiced upon the field of the Labor Movement, with the proletariat itself treated as the cattle for the speculation, the practice can only lead to the confusion of thought among and to the workers; it can only lead to shattering their confidence in anything they hear, whatever the source of the information; it can only lead to disqualify workingmen from correct thought; finally, it can not choose but end in a blood-bath for the proletariat. Some day—driven by want and goaded by ill treatment, but left confused in mind through the volumes of deliberately false information—what else can be expected but an uprising of undisciplined proletarian anger, with the result of a wholesale butchery?

It is not upon the heads of the egomaniacal degenerates of the Simons stamp only; it is not upon the heads of the rattlebrained “autonomous” O’Neills only; it is not upon the heads of the Volkszeitung Corporation partners of the Union-funds-plundering Niedermeyers {only?}; it is not upon the heads of Jewish *Vorwaerts* only, these affecters of indignation at the censorship of the Czar, yet deliberate practicers of the identical censorship methods of suppression of truth and dissemination of falsehood among the poor Russian Jewish proletariat; it is not upon the heads of the grafting Shermans and Kirkpatrick only;—it is not upon the heads of any or of all this bunch of reprobates only that the blood of butchered proletarians will fall. But what would these reprobates care! While jingling in their pockets the hard-earned money of the workers, don’t they heap insult upon them with the sneer of “proletaire rabble” and “doughnut and coffee brigade”? The blood of the proletariat, seasoned to be butchered by reason of the utter confusion of mind into which they are thrown by the volumes of false information dumped upon them, will fall also upon all those militants in the movement, who, while not contributing to the

dissemination of false information, stand by silently, afford false information the opportunity to spread, and associate with the disseminators of false information.

'Tis not the least of the duties of the hour for every one, sincerely wishing the overthrow of capitalist misrule, to set his face like flint, not passively merely, but aggressively against all obviously malicious attacks, and all obviously false information, deliberately set afloat in the Socialist camp. Failure in this is to promote a cataclysm.

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