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EDITORIAL

STARTED, AT LAST!

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AFTER being driven out of one ditch after the other in which they sought delay, the prosecution, or rather persecution, of Haywood has been compelled to toe the chalk-mark. The trial has started, at last!

As was to be expected the opening address of the prosecution justifies the forecast made long ago by all impartial observers of events. The prosecution is the real criminal in the dock; the defense is the real prosecution. As all impartial observers of events knew, the criminal cabal of the Mine Owners' Association had plotted the death of men who hitherto baffled all the efforts of the Association to reduce American Labor to the level of Mexican peons. There was, there is nothing for the prosecution to do, now that it must show its hand, but to seek to wiggle out of the attitude into which the Association was put by the official report made to the United States Senate on the Colorado Labor Troubles. The report quite clearly brought home to the Association the bulk of the crimes committed in Colorado. It was the agents of the Association that killed, blew up and otherwise committed flagrant breaches of the peace. The existence of an "Inner Circle" of capitalist brigands transpires clearly from the report. The opening address of the prosecution, was wholly irrelevant to the case at bar if the case at bar really were "The people of Idaho" against Wm. D. Haywood. The case at bar being really "The awakening public conscience" against the Mine Owners' Association, the prosecution's opening address was eminently relevant. Criminals ever seek to place their victims in their own shoes. The long list of outrages, committed in and outside of Idaho, many named, many more only hinted at by the prosecution, and none of them mentioned in the indictment, utterly irrelevant as they are to the actual case at bar, are decidedly so to the case of "The outraged conscience" of the people of the United States against the banded capitalist felons who have long held the western mining

States in a state of terror.

If ever there was a doubt that Haywood should be acquitted there is none now. It is to be hoped that the dust the prosecution is seeking to raise will not blind the jury, even if composed of men of the class that Labor must oppose. It is to be hoped that, for once, human integrity will rise above class interests. It is to be hoped that the jury will not be duped. Themselves middle class men, it is to be hoped their intelligence will enable them to penetrate the scheme of the prosecution, and save them the opprobrium of being used as catspaw by felons to protect felons by the commission of felony.

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