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EDITORIAL

NASTIER AND NASTIER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

STEP by step the performances at Boise are disclosing the nasty fact that the capitalist-ruled society of America has entered upon the stage of dissolution. Step by step the Boise performances betray the fact that we are fast drifting into the turbulent seas that the race labored itself out of, and where all the maxims proved by experience as necessary to civic freedom are thrown to the dogs. The principle that the criminal jurisprudence of the Nation is the barometer of the Nation's degree of civilization is a principle that should to-day cause our Nation's hair to stand on end. Gauged by that principle, we have sunk down to the level of the barbarian.

It is a principle of civilized criminal jurisprudence that the prisoner should know just what he is to defend himself against. If he is dragged to court to defend himself of a charge not specified, then he is stabbed in the dark. Civilization condemns that. Again, it is a principle of civilization that a criminal trial shall be held in the place of its commission. To drag a man to a great distance in order to try him for an alleged crime committed at another place is to place him at the mercy of foes. Under the rulings of Judge Fremont Wood, the Justice who is presiding over the Haywood trial, both these principles, so necessary to the safeguarding of civil rights, are violated flagrantly.

Orchard has been allowed to recite a score of crimes, apart from the Steunenberg killing alleged to have been committed by him at the instigation of Haywood. Granted, for the sake of argument, that the confessed bigamist, liar, cheat and murderer Orchard told the truth, then Haywood is implicated in those crimes; it follows that he must now answer to those charges; but he has not been indicted on any of them. Consequently, at his trial for the alleged killing of Steunenberg, Haywood has suddenly, unexpectedly to answer for a score of other

crimes without preparation. Again, not a few of these crimes were, upon Orchard's own testimony, perpetrated in Colorado. It is there Haywood should have been indicted and tried on them. Why was he not? But no! He is tried on those charges outside of Colorado, and without the notification implied by an indictment!

Such a procedure spells—DELIBERATE INTENT ON THE PART OF THE CAPITALIST CLASS TO COMMIT MURDER.

Why, if Orchard's charges are true, why resort to such indecencies? What kind of a case is that which requires such manoeuvres to bolster it up?

If ever there was any doubt of Haywood's innocence, the measures adopted to convict him prove his guiltlessness, and they prove the guiltfulness of his accusers.

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