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EDITORIAL

“KELLY THE BUM,” NOT “DAVID THE KING.”

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WHEN last year *The People* termed the much heralded confession of Orchard the “so-called confession,” the *Idaho Statesman*, the organ of Gov. Gooding, resented the imputation implied in the word “so-called.” The confession is not a “so-called” confession, declared the *Idaho Statesman*; it is a “genuine confession.” And the august *Statesman* sought to clinch the point with the question: “Would Orchard dare to make such a confession when every word in his confession fastens the noose tighter around his neck?” The question was promptly answered by *The People* thus: “So far from every additional crime ‘confessed’ by Orchard tightening the noose around his neck, every additional crime that Pinkertonian ‘confesses’ raises his reward with his masters, the Mine Owners’ Association.” The proof of the correctness of this answer was wrung by Haywood’s attorney from the perjured lips of Orchard in the course of the masterly cross-examination to which he was subjected. Richardson, Haywood’s attorney, forced Orchard to admit that MacParland had posted him upon “Kelly the Bum,” and the purse that was raised to enable him to leave the country.

Who was “Kelly the Bum”?

Among the Pinkertons sent in among the “Molly Maguires” by the coal mine owners of Pennsylvania was a reprobate who had earned the nickname of “Kelly the Bum.” The coal miners of Pennsylvania had an organization which they called “Molly Maguire.” The Molly Maguire was a cross between a pure and simple trades union and a social club. The organization was in the air on economics and the mission of the working class. Nevertheless, it had an instinctive sense of the class struggle, and of the wrongs the working class was made to suffer at the hands of the capitalist class. The Molly Maguires “hit in the dark.” Unsystematic and unintelligent though their policy was, it was a cause of annoyance to Bro. Capital.

Pinkertons were sent in among them to spy. Finding nothing that could be “taken hold of,” the Pinkertons next proceeded to furnish objects for the criminal courts—in the regulation style that has been made so familiar in Colorado. “Kelly the Bum” was in his element. Directed by MacParland, the chief of that department of the coal mine owners, he did, and did, and did. When enough was done, some dozen or more innocent members of the Molly Maguires were arrested and brought to trial for murder. “Kelly the Bum” figured at that trial. He did not figure as MacParland did, as a Pinkerton spy; he figured as one of the “criminals,” and he “turned State’s evidence.” “Kelly the Bum’s” cue was to “confess” to a variety of crimes. It is essential to the completion of this part of Pinkertonianism that the scamp incriminate himself. The more he incriminates himself all the more does he impart a color of truth to his perjured testimony against the innocent man or men to be victimized. The Pinkertonian can do so with comfort. Not around his neck is the noose tightened by his perjuries against himself; the noose is thereby tightened only around the neck of the innocent victim. The Pinkertonian himself only raises his value, and thereby his price in the measure he pretends to be a criminal himself. “Kelly the Bum” is indeed a self-confessed criminal, who turned State’s evidence, might have been entitled to some little leniency from the State; to freedom and a bonus—never. “Kelly the Bum” got off scot free and received a bonus variously reported as being from \$800 to \$1,000 and left the country—a safe precaution on the part of his capitalist suborners of perjury. If he remained in the country he might perpetually levy blackmail upon them; he might eventually even “peach” upon them. “Kelly the Bum” was furnished with a purse and left the country.

Orchard declares that since he repented of his old ways he took King David as his guide. It is clear that Orchard’s “guide” is “Kelly the Bum.” Posted by MacParland upon the successful career of “Kelly the Bum,” a career crowned with a purse and a ticket for foreign ports, Orchard has sought to emulate the reprobate “Kelly the Bum.” If “Kelly the Bum” could get freedom and \$1,000 for “confessing” a few paltry crimes, with the effect of ridding the coal mine owners of a batch of blindly groping workingmen, surely the “confession” of a score of horrible crimes that promises to rid the whole capitalist class of a much more dangerous because intelligent foe, should be entitled to a much larger “tip.” Orchard, accordingly,

“sailed in.” He outstripped his guide—he outstripped his guide to the extent of overdoing the game.

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