

EDITORIAL

“DESIRABLE” CITIZENS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

A LAW suit, just instituted and involving no less a set of personages than Gen. Walter S. Logan, Senator Agnew and the society elite Myra B. Martin, uncovers deeds that entitle the doers to honorary membership in Roosevelt’s club of “desirabilities.”

The defendants in the suit charge the General, the Senator and the society elite with having conspired to loot the San Luis Mining Company. The gist of the allegations is that moneys intended for the purchase of treasury stock were placed by the General in his personal bank account mingled with his own funds; that he converted these moneys to his own use; that he paid himself 10 per cent of the gross collections as “commissions” aggregating over \$125,000; that he sold stock to himself; that in the course of these transactions the society elite secured 15,000 shares, and the Senator was one of the manipulators. The plaintiffs urge “gross fraud.”

Needless to say, while this choice trinity of “desirable” citizens were at work they had scorn only for the “undesirable” citizens—that “proletaire rabble” that insists in getting what they produce, and who have the effrontery of holding and even declaring that the “desirable” citizens are a collection of swindlers—men and women whose “work” consists in pilfering from one another the wealth that they collectively plunder the working class of.

The case of the plaintiffs in the San Luis Mining Company could have been made infinitely completer. The case presents only one side. There is another, though not opposite side. It is a supplementary side. That side could be presented only by the workingmen, the miners, without whom the San Luis mines would be just so much dross. What that supplementary side is, Goldfield and the recent events in Goldfield, may give an inkling of. The San Luis mining affair must be very different

from all such affairs if it differs materially from Goldfield. In Goldfield barely 10 out of 700 alleged mines are legitimate. At least 690 of those “mines” are located actually in the pockets of “investors.” It is from these pockets that the bulk of the Goldfield “mine”-owners draw their ingots. The actual Goldfield mines are mostly swindles. It follows that the “mine”-owners of such concerns deal really in fly-paper. Consequently, it is to their interest to promote confidence. Capitalist “confidence” is the most skittish thing. While, as Dunning puts it, Capital will commit any crime, trample down all human rights, and even risk its owner’s own neck, for the sake of large profits, nevertheless Capital will take no risks when the “coffee and doughnut brigade” is on its ears, making profits shaky. It is, therefore, in the interest of the “Generals”, the “Senators”, the “society elites”, in short, in the interest of the “desirable citizens” that the “proletaire rabble” be conspicuously trampled under foot. That sets “confidence” on its feet. It is for this reason a lot of disreputable perjurers were suborned in Goldfield to secure a verdict that would notify Capital outside of Goldfield “the coast is clear.” It is for this reason the stalwart St. John is now held in durance vile.

How much more complete would not the case of the San Luis mines be if its miners had the floor in court, and were allowed to supplement the tale against the “desirable” citizens!

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