

EDITORIAL

THE INTERNATIONAL “RULLS” AND BINGHAMS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE following from the April 10 issue of the Madrid *El Socialista*, central organ of the Labor or Socialist party of Spain, fits in nicely with the speech pronounced by Bebel in Berlin ten years ago, and recently published in *The People* in the English translation by B. Reinstein:

“A fortnight has elapsed since the examination of Rull began before the Audiencia of Barcelona, and to this hour not the slightest indication has been obtained as to who the perpetrators were of the alleged terrorist deeds.

“Nevertheless, although that important secret could not be uncovered, one fact leaps to sight from the declarations of the prisoners and of the witnesses, to wit, the ineptitude of the magistrates who confidently started on the hunt for the dynamiters from the premises of the services of such confidential agents as Rull, who, like this individual, were playing with stacked cards, and whose only purpose was to get money from all sides, not to subserve the purposes of justice, but, on the contrary, to hamstring the same and thereby to cause all manner of inconvenience to people utterly foreign to the criminal acts.

“And the admission was made by the ex-police officer Memento, who, in giving his testimony, said that ‘Rull carried to them many confidential bits of information against radicals and Anarchists, which resulted in many arrests and caused much injury to innocent victims of the man’s whisperings and mysterious confidential gossip.’

“This is all that the drastic laws of exception, blandly passed by our Parliament and placed for their execution into unfit hands, have ever served and will continue to serve for—annoy everybody without obtaining the purpose for which they are framed.”

Bebel’s speech, though now ten years old, evidently applies to this very day. The case of the police spy Rull in Barcelona is the freshest instance in Europe. Nor is America behind hand. The Rulls have here made their appearance, East and

West—and likewise the inept officials upon whom the Rulls must feed.

If Police Commissioner Bingham, for instance, were to spend less time in assuring people that he is still being flooded with letters applauding him for the conduct of his mounted police on Union Square, and would bestow half the time in mentioning the name or names of the Rulls, who find him "dead easy", then the public would realize the solidity of the truth that lies at the bottom of the Socialist principle that "The Capitalist world is one city". Whether in Germany or Idaho, in Barcelona or New York, in Paris or Scranton, in St. Petersburg or Goldfield, in Dublin or Chicago—wherever class rule holds sway there a certain sediment is formed to which the name of "Rull" may be given. It is an element so utterly frayed in all sense of decency that it is untrue even to its pay-masters. It cheats all. It cheats the workers by buzzing slanders into their ears, and it cheats its pay-masters by buzzing back false information into the ears of the latter. The "Rull" element can live only in the most troubled of waters. It queers whatever it touches; it excites and incites mistrust wherever it goes; it talks dynamite, and places the same, and then lets innocent people suffer. Such is the law of the existence of the "Rulls". But the "Rulls" need the "dead easy" officials to batten upon. Capitalism furnishes this element also. And so, between the two, they lick the platter clean.

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

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