

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 156.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1911.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

## THE MCNAMARA “DARK AFFAIR.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A**FTER causing John J. McNamara’s extradition from Indianapolis in sensational style, on the charge of blowing up the Los Angeles Times Building, and thereby causing the death of a score of men; after his being indicted and brought to trial in Los Angeles for that heinous offence, and the trial being still pending; after the prosecution, through their detective Burns, had for months been filling the columns of the “business men’s” press with shocking and appalling details on the subject of the Times Building explosion, as the excuse, or extenuation, if not justification, for the highhanded extradition methods which they had adopted, and on account of which one of their own, Burns himself, has been since placed under indictment in Indianapolis; nay, more, after having trumpeted to the world that their purpose, in swooping down upon and seizing the “chief offender,” the International Secretary of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers Association, in the Times Building outrage, was “to avenue the cause of Law and Order” in the land;—after all that, the prosecution “REACHES AN AGREEMENT” with the alleged “chief offender” whereby James B. McNamara, a younger brother of John J., but an insignificant personage in the Labor Movement, pleads guilty of the Times Building catastrophe, and is to receive, not the deserved sentence of death, but only a life sentence, and the alleged “chief offender” himself is to plead guilty to another and infinitely lesser offence, an offence for which he was not extradited and for which he was not on trial, and is to be let off with a fourteen-year sentence, his own trial for the Times Building murderous explosion being incontinently dropped!

This is climax and anti-climax for you.

It is an anti-climax that points to a dark judicial deed. It is an anti-climax that justifies suspicion and conjecture:—

Was the plea of guilty by John J. McNamara to the lesser offence of complicity

in the explosion of the Llewellyn Iron Works, for which he is to receive only a fourteen year sentence, (and speedily pardoned?)—was that the price extorted from John J. McNamara to save his brother's life? Was the present, made to John J. McNamara of his brother's life, the price that the prosecution chattered over, in order to save their own face behind a perfunctory plea of guilty (the perfunctoriness of which newspaper headlines would tend to conceal) on the part of John J. McNamara, for the lasting injury that they perpetrated, over his body, upon civilization through their barbaric extradition methods?

The mysteriousness, the at all turns irregularity of the, at present, unfathomable affair suggests all that—and worse. Wherefore, its skirts being notably clean of the remotest affinity with Anarchy and its methods, the *Daily People* has not a single word to retract from, on the contrary, by the "light" of the present "darkness," it stands by every word in the article of last April 25, reproduced elsewhere in this, issue, where "The McNamara Case" was first treated in these columns.

And now we add—

It matters little whether John J. McNamara is guilty or not; it matters little whether he is innocent and a victim; nay, it matters little how black the degree of guilt that actually attaches to James B. McNamara;—all that matters not to the real Event.

When the McNamaras rose in their seats in the Court Room of Los Angeles and answered "Guilty" they, however unconscious, were, at that moment, the mouth-piece of a trinity made up of Capitalist Society, of Gompers-Mitchellism and of Socialist-party Officialdom.

A Social Order whose "business men" Pillars—as every recent Congressional investigation has contributed in showing—are pace-setters in crime, from the destruction of life and property down through the gamut of the Criminal Code—such a Social Order is primarily responsible for Los Angeles dramas.

A Gompers-Mitchellism that from Civic Federation banquets and other places of vantage preaches to the Working Class the pestiferous creed that they and the above-named Pillars are "brothers" with "reciprocal interests"—such a set attunes their followers' mind to the "business men" Pillars' code.

An Officialdom that piratically flies the colors of Socialism, and yet whose can-

didates dicker and deal with “business men” and fuse with the Pillars’ parties, and, beginning with its very Los Angeles present mayoralty candidate, proudly wave the “business men’s” endorsement placards of themselves; an Officialdom whose privately-owned press, like the *New York Call*, suppresses its editorial utterances in deference to cash from Traction advertising Pillars, and, like the *New Yorker Volkzeitung*, betrays the workers in consideration of Brewery, Furniture and other advertising Pillars, and, like the *Philadelphia Tageblatt*, sandbags with workers on strike with paid-for articles from the very Pillars against whom the strike is on, and, like the *Chicago Socialist* is an advertiser for scabs and get-rich-quick schemes, and, like the *Appeal to Reason* with its “Shoaf Revelations” swindle, battens on McNamara catastrophes; an Officialdom that, climaxing such infamies, has officiated for the last twelve years as train-carrier for Gompers-Mitchellism, and of the Gompers-Mitchellic concept of Unionism, even to the extent of endeavoring to sandbag those who, moving by the light of Marxism, have been endeavoring to pull the land’s proletariat out of the mire of Gompers-Mitchellism;—such an Officialdom confirms the workers in the channels of hypocrisy that lead to crime.

Whether de facto “guilty” or not, John J. McNamara, even his brother also, are victims. They are the victims of that unhallowed trinity. It is that trinity that pleaded guilty.

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Uploaded November 2012

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