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EDITORIAL

KATZ ON THE BREACH.

By DANIEL DE LEON

NONE can [read the plea](#) made in court by Rudolph Katz—the leader of the I.W.W. strike in Paterson, and nominee of the Socialist Labor Party for Congress, arrested and sentenced to a 6 months' term in jail for picketing—without profound gratification.

The firm and dignified and pregnant words of Katz, free from the swagger and insolence that mark the rage of the weak, marked, in turn, the moral strength that comes from manfulness, fortified with knowledge, and knowledge, fortified with manfulness.

The arrest of Katz was illegal; his trial was a farce; the sentence a miscarriage of justice;—the whole performance a conspiracy. Katz knew that.

The truths that Col. Roosevelt is, for his own private ends, blustering out regarding “predatory wealth” and its political aids; the equal truths that Gov. Woodrow Wilson is proclaiming, likewise for his own private ends, in more scholastic style against the identical bunch; the undigested indictments that both are hurling at present conditions;—all this Rudolph Katz knows all about; all this he could amplify a thousand-fold; what is more, he has thoroughly digested.

With such digested knowledge, Katz clearly saw through the stage-scenery of Recorder Carroll's court-room; realized the same to be, for the nonce, but the backyard of the firm of Siff & Cohen; sized up the star actors as manikins of the firm; knew in advance what the “verdict” would be;—nor had any doubt as to who had framed-up and ordered the same.

A mental or physical cripple would have gone to pieces under the provocation. Katz controlled himself. Every sentence of his plea was a shot that went home: “If there was any law broken, the police authorities did it”; “If I am convicted, it will be an injustice”; “I know why I was arrested; it was simply because the interests of Siff

& Cohen were at stake; Siff no sooner came on the scene than he said to Sergeant Nolan: ‘Arrest him and give him ninety days!’; “I maintain I had a right to do what I did, and will do it again, it is within the law”;—of these and similar firm and dignified utterances, breathing conscious ascendancy, consisted the plea of Katz, as he serenely looked in the court room over the heads of the agencies of the Capitalist Class, and saw the proletariat mass beyond; the Class for whom he stood and whom to scourge he was to be victimized, drilling to overthrow at the polls the Class the breath in whose nostrils is Working Class suffering, and to enforce the overthrow at the hustings with the power of the industrial organization.

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RUDOLPH KATZ SENTENCED FOR PEACEFUL PICKETING

PATERSON I. W. W. STRIKE LEADER GIVEN SIX MONTHS JAIL TERM.

Case Will be Appealed

KATZ'S DIGNIFIED AND FIRM PLEA.

Mill Boss Siff, of Siff and Cohen's, Orders Katz's Arrest When Latter Took His Station to Picket Mill—Charges of Disorderly Conduct Trumped up Against the Strikers' Leader.

Paterson, N. J., May 31.—Rudolph Katz, the leader of the Industrial Workers of the World who are on strike here, was this morning arrested and sentenced to six months in jail for exercising the lawful right of picketing. The capitalist authorities say Katz was sentenced for "disorderly conduct." Of course he was,—peaceful picketing, in the eyes of the Paterson silk manufacturers and their political henchmen is "disorderly," law or no law. And law or no law, the authorities are trying to help the manufacturers smash the Industrial Workers' strike. The I. W. W. will have to teach these officials themselves, the real disturbers and disorderly element in the community, what is lawful and what isn't.

The sentence of Rudolph Katz will be appealed.

It was bright and early this morning that Katz and some other pickets went on duty before the Siff and Cohen mill at Clay and State streets. Katz spoke to about 25 different persons, shaking hands and exchanging greetings. He also accosted several scabs. He walked up and down before the mill in the most peaceful and undemonstrative manner. This was not to the liking of the powers that be. At about 10 minutes to 7 o'clock he spoke to a scab named Fabian Francis, and then it was that a police sergeant, ordered by Mr. Siff, instructed an officer to arrest Katz for "interference." The sergeant testified on the stand that Siff ordered Katz's arrest.

Katz was bundled off to the station house, and it wasn't very long before a "trial" was held. Two policemen, two scabs, and Mr. Siff appeared as witnesses against Katz. They all testified to "disorderly conduct" and "interfering" with scabs. There were two witnesses for Katz who testified to the orderly manner in which he picketed. There would have been more witnesses to testify, and Attorney Ward asked for a delay in order to prepare the defense but Recorder Carroll would not postpone the hearing.

The case occupied the entire morning in court, and great interest was taken in it. The court room was thronged. After sentence was pronounced by the recorder Katz smiled and said:

"Thank you!"

"You are welcome!" the court answered.

The arrest of Katz was made by Patrolman William Taylor, under direction of Sergeant Edward Nolan. The strike leader was in the vicinity of the Reinhardt mill, at Clay and Gray streets, about 6:30 o'clock and, according to Taylor, obstructing persons passing along. He failed to heed the warning of the sergeant, who then directed Officer Taylor to place Katz under arrest.

This morning charges of disorderly conduct, setting forth that Katz had violated section 3 of the disorderly act of 1898 in that he, while not under the influence of liquor did loiter and obstruct persons in the vicinity of Clay and State streets, were made in Police Court. Katz was represented by Lawyer John Ward and David Smith. The city's side of the case was taken care of by Assistant City Attorney Randall Lewis and Lawyer Isidore Klenert.

Patrolman Taylor was the first witness. He testified to seeing Katz walking up and down the street in front of the mill about 6.30 o'clock this morning and stopping Fabian Francis and other persons unknown to the officer. Sergeant Nolan and Samuel Siff gave corroborative testimony.

Fabian Francis declared that he was stopped by Katz, and that he also

though he has known Katz for the past five years, he did not wish to speak to him this morning. Counsel for the complainant then called Miss Nellie Cadelle, of 120 Barclay street. The latter is employed in the Siff & Cohen plant, which is located in the Reinhardt mill. She testified that she was on her way to her place of employment this morning when she saw Katz walking up and down the street in front of the mill and stopping people. When she neared the corner of State and Clay streets she saw Katz stop three women. As she passed she heard him say to them:

"Don't go in there!" pointing towards the mill. "It's a scab shop!"

With the conclusion of the testimony of Miss Cadelle, the complainants rested their case.

Rudolph Katz was called to the stand. Under direct examination, he said that it was true he walked up and down in front of the Reinhardt mill and that he did stop persons, but they were friends of his. He exchanged greetings with them, and passed on. He positively declared that he did not stop nor talk to anyone who did not care to stop or talk to him. He denied in emphatic terms having spoken to any women. He never used the word "scab," he averred.

Under cross-examination Katz said that he lived at 209 Hamburg avenue, and that he had been a resident of this city for the past six years. He was a cigar maker by trade, but for the past six months has been the organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World. This organization, he said, was composed principally of silk workers, but there were also other branches of trade in the organization, such as wood workers, printers, painters, and many others. Asked why he went to the Reinhardt mill this morning Katz said:

"It had been reported to me that the firm of Siff & Cohen had complete charge of the situation at their mill, where a strike is in progress. I had heard that the police officers took orders from members of this firm. I went there this morning to find out if this were true. I see that it is true."

Benjamin Bookhoff, a picket at the Reinhardt mill, and Joseph Patella, corroborated Katz's testimony.

After all the witnesses were heard, Mr. Katz expressed a desire to plead his own case. After a discussion, in which lawyers Ward and Klenert took part, Recorder Carroll consented. He warned Katz, however, to say nothing concerning the strikes in this city, nor the silk trouble, but to confine himself solely to the facts in this particular case. Katz's argument was limited to ten minutes.

"The strike, as it has been conducted,—" began Katz.

"Now please confine yourself to this case," the court again warned.

Katz again started:

"I wish to say that I did not break the law as I understand it. If there was any law broken, the police authorities did it. I did not obstruct traffic; neither did I obstruct people. I spoke to no one who did not wish to speak to me.

"If I am convicted it will be an injustice. I know why I was arrested. It was simply because the interests of Siff & Cohen were at stake. Siff no sooner came on the scene than he said to Sergeant Nolan: 'Arrest him and give him ninety days.'

"I maintain I have a right to tell a man not to work in a place if I so desire. I will do that again, as it is within the law. I am not an anarchist. I believe in living up to the letter of the law, and in doing what I did this morning. I was doing no more than your honor does every day. I simply met persons I knew, and greeted them. I know the law under which complaints have been made against me, and I declare that I did not violate any part of it."

After a short argument by Lawyer Klenert, in which he asked for a conviction on the evidence presented by