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EDITORIAL

TRIPLY HANGED BY ITSELF.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE *Evening Post* of February 24, handles the Moyer-Haywood arrest in a three-column article under flaming headlines. One of these headlines is “Significance of the Arrest of Federation Officials”. The headline is correct; how correct appears from the leading point made why Moyer and Haywood were arrested; next from the leading point made why they were arrested in the manner in which the arrest was made; and finally, from the leading point justifying the preliminary methods.

As to the first point—why Moyer and Haywood were arrested—the *Evening Post* candidly admits that the Western Federation of Miners had “become so strong. . . . FINALLY TO STAND ALONE WHENEVER THE SUPPORT OF MR. MITCHELL’S UNITED MINE WORKERS OR MR. GOMPERS’S AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN”. The admission is candid to the point of brazenness. So long as the Moyer-Haywood organization was so weak that it could not stand alone in the struggle against capitalism, without the support of Belmont’s labor-lieutenants Mitchell and Gompers, then the Western Federation of Miners could be tolerated as “safe and sane”: whatever serious aspirations it entertained to strike the shackles of wage slavery from the limbs of Labor, could be readily scuttled by the secret wires that the Civic Federation could and would pull, pulling away the support of Messrs. Mitchell and Gompers. So soon, however, as the Western Federation of Miners—now the strongest organized department of the I.W.W.—had gathered the necessary strength to be unscutttable, whatever Messrs. Mitchell and Gompers might do, from that moment it became “unsafe and insane”. In other words, emancipation from the thrall of Mitchell-Gompersism is mutiny, it is rebellion, it is crime—and the officers of the “mutiny” or “rebellion” must be shot in the back as mutineers on the Ship of Capitalism.

As to the second point—why Moyer and Haywood were arrested in the manner in which the arrest was made—the *Evening Post* again candidly admits that “it is doubtful if a Colorado indictment could have been brought against Haywood and Moyer”. This admission outruns the first in point of brazenness. It throws overboard the capitalist false pretenses of respect for the law. It amounts to a declaration that Haywood and Moyer are known to be innocent; that their conduct in Colorado, which is their home, is so over and above board straight, that no intrigue could there breed an indictment against them; that, consequently, the only way to get them within the toils {coils?} of the law was to kidnap them to some other State, and there take the chances of putting them out of the way. It is an admission that the charges are but a pretext; that the real purpose is to dispose of the men.

Finally, as to the third point, the *Evening Post* coolly admits—with a coolness tantamount to applause—that the pretext for the extradition papers is a confession wrung from one Harry Orchard “on being put through the ‘thirty-third degree.’” {degree.” or degree”} In other words, the capitalist class has relapsed into the state of the barbarian. The torture—long discredited as a method for obtaining the truth, and discarded by the human conscience as savage—is again brought into requisition, and its application is spoken of with the coolness that one would speak of sending a telegraphic message.

By applauding barbarism, by approving anarchy and by condemning as a crime the clear-sightedness of workingmen who detect the wires that connect Mitchell and Gompers with Belmont, and obedient to which these two labor-lieutenants of the capitalist class dance like puppets,—by this triple admission the *Evening Post*, together with the class whose sentiments and purposes it vocalizes, has triply hanged itself.

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

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slpns@slp.org