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EDITORIAL

OUR DREYFUS CASE.

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WITH the unqualified acquittal of Dreyfus, an acquittal that is so signal as to be tantamount to a conviction of his previous prosecutors, the Dreyfus Case is closed. The facts are all in court, unquestionable. Here they are:

Dreyfus was convicted by a court martial upon secret evidence. In itself this was a violation of the express ordinance. On top of that, the secret testimony was a pure fabrication of his chief prosecutor, Gen. Mercier. Murder will out. Altho' degraded, his sword broken and otherwise humiliated with a good deal of theatrical show, and sent to Devil's Island in the French Guiana, rumors began to leak out concerning the illegal method of the proceedings. The conspirators immediately lost their heads. They then resorted to forgery in order to back up their previous felony, and then to other forgeries in order to back up the first. One of their tools, Col. Henry, who was caught red-handed, either committed suicide, or was killed lest he peached upon his pals; one of their dupes, Gen. Cavaignac, became publicly discredited and was forced to resign from office. The rapid cumulation of crime to conceal crime furnished Dreyfus's friends with the means of redress. The stench of the evil deed stripped the deed of its personal character. The conviction grew that Dreyfus was but a pawn in a huge game. Further circumstances pointed to France herself, as the real stake played for by the conspirators. The conspiracy had aimed at nothing short of bagging the country for an arch reactionary military despotism; it broke its neck over the identical rock that such conspiracies are fatedly destined to dash themselves against—the rock of the criminal methods that conspiracy ever is forced to adopt.

At every point such is the experience made in the Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone Case, so far as the case has gone—and such will the experience be when

the case will have closed. Justice needs no criminal methods nor criminal agencies for its vindication. As in the case of Dreyfus, criminal methods and criminal agencies were resorted to; as in the case of Dreyfus, the law was violated in the arrest of the men; as in the case of Dreyfus criminals—the Orchards and McParlands—were the instruments, with the McDonalds and Goodings as the guiding spirits of high rank; as in the case of Dreyfus, such a criminal prelude pointed unerringly at a criminal purpose. That purpose in America was to break the backbone of the Movement of Labor to emancipate itself; it was the conspiracy of western capitalists, intimately connected with their eastern fellows through the gambling dens yclept “stock exchanges,” to bag the nation for the autocratic rule of the Capitalist Class. Finally, as in the case of Dreyfus, the criminal methods, unconcealable, become so public as to cause a popular revolt with the immediate losing of their heads by the chief conspirators. Nothing else than a loss of their heads is the policy of the Idaho Government to postpone and postpone still more the trial of the men whom, that same Government had meant to send to the gallows off-hand, but whose acquittal it now knows is certain, seeing that the people, posted on the occurrence, are in no humor to tolerate any more judicial murders.

The Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone case is not yet closed. When it closes the exact parallel, in point of circumstances, with the Dreyfus Case will be completed. As with the Dreyfus Case, the Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone Case will close with the conviction of the conspirators of high and low degree.

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