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EDITORIAL

## THE MCNAMARA CASE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**S**INCE Sunday, April 23rd, there is hardly a metropolitan bourgeois paper that has not at least three columns, reporting the alleged discoveries made by Los Angeles officials, directly incriminating the McNamaras in the Los Angeles Times Building explosion of last October. Several of these papers contain many more columns than three. In other words, the prosecuting bourgeois Interests are having the floor; they are having the floor extensively; what is more, they are having the floor exclusively, so far.

As a rule, the case of the accuser, even when unfounded, looks well so long as the accuser is having his "innings." As a rule, it requires a hearing of "the other side" to straighten up things. In the present instance, if the accuser has a sound case, he is acting like a fool and spoiling his chances of success in the minds of the thoughtful; if he is not a fool, then he is convicted out of his own mouth.

If, indeed, the Los Angeles officials and their corps of detectives did make all the finds that they claim they did; if, indeed, these gentlemen are in possession of all documents that they claim to be in possession of; if, indeed, and in short, their case against the Secretary-Treasurer of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers, John, J. McNamara, is as clear as they report it to be;—if, indeed, all this is so, why raise over so well-substantiated a case the heavy cloud of suspicion that their unusual, their secret, their rapid methods of extradition with the Governor of Indiana raises over the case?

The State of Indiana is not a Nevada, an Idaho, a New Mexico, sparse of population, and in which primitive methods may at times be dictated by exigencies. Indiana is the 9th State in the Union ranking close with such States as Massachusetts, Michigan and Missouri in point of settled conditions. Indianapolis, the capital of Indiana, is no Western mining camp of primitive days, in which

servers of process of law might run the risk of being “held up” by spontaneous mobs of rioters. Indianapolis is a city of close to 300,000 inhabitants, peaceful and of settled habits. Why, in such a State and city, strain the regulations concerning the extradition of fugitive criminals in a manner to revive forcibly the bandit conduct applied by the chief Executives of Colorado and Idaho to Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone? Why behave in a way more beseeming burglars sneaking into a house under cover of the dark, than of agents of the Law in pursuit of a high mission? Not so are men likely to conduct themselves when armed with “proofs overwhelming” in a civilized community.

The suspicious conduct of the authorities—Indianan and Californian—looks like a Darker Plot in support of a previous plot that circumstances have pointed to as dark enough.

McNamara’s arrest and extradition is a sequel of the Los Angeles Times Building explosion. On that occasion, it will be remembered, the Times Building folks “gave away the snap.” They talked and proved too much. The *Daily People* immediately pointed out that, from the language of these folks themselves, the criminal dynamiters were to be looked for in quarters wholly other than Labor. And step by step this estimate of the situation was confirmed by subsequent reports of the investigation in Los Angeles.

The facts so far in, rationally interpreted, justify the conclusion that the Working Class of the country faces, not as Mr. Gompers in his usual superlative style proclaims “the first act” of a tragedy to crush Labor, but the latest of a series of acts in a drama, the first bloody act of which was the assassination of the “Molly Maguires,” and a more recent act of which is the imprisonment for life of the two I.W.W. men Preston and Smith—a drama whose probable latest plot is yet to be fathomed.

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