

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 4, NO. 348.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 1904.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

RUNNING AMUCK.

By DANIEL DE LEON

RECOVERED from their first surprise at the news of how the Colorado militia went about deposing legally elected public officers, and no doubt yanked back into “sense” by their Colorado mines and other such stockholders, the Metropolitan Republican and Democratic press has resumed its natural attitude and regular trade—the attitude of pretending to uphold law and order while in fact upholding lawlessness, brigandage and rapine, and the trade of retailing false information.

While the Union miners have been uniformly orderly; while their very orderliness has been an aggravation to the mine owners; while the mine owners sent for the militia in the hope of intimidating the strikers and failing in this themselves rioted; while miners were arrested without cause and sentenced to \$25 and long imprisonment with the alternative that they work two days in the mines; while the alternative clearly shows that the arrests were false and were only resorted to for the purpose of dragooning the miners to work against their will; while the writ of habeas corpus being applied to and obtained in favor of the thus sentenced men, not one of whom accepted the “alternative”, the militia refused to obey the order of the court and declared: “To hell with the constitution”; while such acts failing in their purpose the capitalists of Cripple Creek have resorted to dynamite plots—while all that was and is going on, these Republicans and Democratic papers have the audacity, the criminal impudence of charging the miners with riot!

And yet it is natural. The conduct of Adj. Gen. Bell, himself an employee of a mining company, shows that he and his paymasters are desperate for dividends and salaries. The striking miners refuse to go back to work under them; they refuse to accept the alternative of two days in the mines to longer days in the lock-up; they

have resisted all provocation to riot, and by their firm and cool conduct have driven the capitalist brigands to expose themselves, and thereby to establish such a state of things that not even would-be scabs can be attracted. Readers of *The People* are familiar with Adj. Gen. Sherman Bell, the traveler on passes; they have been familiar with his more recent acts of lawlessness. His present conduct of assaulting and shooting miners on the pretext that these are rioting shows that Sherman Bell and his mine-owning paymasters have passed the stage of desperation, and have become blindly revengeful, proportionally more criminal also. They feel beaten; they feel that irreparable injuries have been done to their revenues; and now, murder, brutal, deliberate yet rage-inspired murder, is their revengeful tack.

Sherman Bell and his mine owners are running amuck; the Republican and Democratic press are beating time for him and his associates.

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

Uploaded June 2007

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