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EDITORIAL

BEHIND THE SCENES.

By DANIEL DE LEON

INVALUABLE at this season, when orderly and peaceful workingmen are being forcibly deported out of the State of Colorado, if they are not murdered outright, and legally elected and appointed officials are being “deposed” by Sherman M. Bell, private employee of the Independence mine at Cripple Creek, and while the Republican, Democratic and Mugwump press is infamously libeling the victims as bandits, and praising the uniformed bandits as heroes of civilization—invaluable at such a season is the pamphlet entitled *Behind the Scenes*, compiled in September of last year by a Colorado wage slave, and published by the Socialist Labor Party—the bogus concern known as the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic, party not daring to touch and keeping silent over so red hot a collection of documents, that place the hot seal of CRIME upon the brow of Colorado capitalism in particular, of the whole land in general.

The pamphlet in question bears the felicitous and, to-day we should say, prophetic sub-title of “Where Passes and Strike-Breaking Militia Kiss.” It is a compilation of autograph letters, with their autograph signatures, between railroad officials at Denver, Colo., and Colorado officials, from the present Gov. Peabody and his Adj.-Gen. Sherman M. Bell, down to judges, etc., furnishing passes, contrary to law, and acknowledging receipt thereof.

On page 15 of the pamphlet is a letter, dated May 12, 1903, of Teller & Dorsey, the attorneys of the Union Pacific Railroad Company, to W.R. Kelly, the General Solicitor in Omaha, Neb., setting forth that “Sherman M. Bell, Adjutant General of the State,” requested a pass over the lines, and recommending that the same be issued to him—on what ground?—on the ground that “THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL IS IN A POSITION TO BE OF BENEFIT TO THE RAILROAD COMPANY IN CASE OF LABOR TROUBLES OR SIMILAR OCCURRENCES.” And on page 17

will be found a letter issued from the Adjutant-General's Office, on its official paper, bearing date of May 27, that is only fifteen days later, acknowledging receipt of the pass, and SIGNED WITH THE GENTLEMAN'S AUTOGRAPH SIGNATURE OVER HIS OFFICIAL TITLE.

Who will dare deny that Adjutant-General Sherman M. Bell is a hero of "law and order"! What a thesis for a stirring campaign speech on "law and order" do not these two documents furnish the Bourke Cochran's of the Democratic party and the Roosevelt's of the Republican party—particularly when they want to make a point against Socialism!

Well, the two documents are here offered to the orators of capitalism free, gratis and for nothing.

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