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EDITORIAL

A DANGEROUS CONCLUSION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WE cannot follow the *Miners' Magazine*, the organ of the Western Federation of Miners, in the ultimate conclusion at which it arrives in the article, extensive extracts of which will be found elsewhere in this issue,¹ in which it comments on the damage suits aggregating \$1,000,000 which the mine operators of the Cripple Creek district have instituted against the Union. The reasoning of the Union's officials, showing the incongruity between all established principles of individual and collective rights, on the one hand, and eventual judgments against the Union, on the other, are faultless. Not so faultless, however, is the paper's ultimate conclusion that if such judgments are obtained, then "the laboring man would grow desperate, and anarchy would raise its hydra-head in riot, rebellion and bloodshed." If any of the words here quoted must be embodied into a conclusion, the correct conclusion would read: "Such action by the capitalist courts would be proof positive that the capitalist class seeks to nag the working class of the land, in the hope that the working class may indulge in some act of angry craziness, before it shall have had time to so thoroughly organize itself that the continuance of capitalist spoliation and brutality will no longer find the working class weak enough to grow desperate and fly off the handle into anarchy and riot, but will be met and wiped out with that order, precision and despatch that characterize the strong in the knowledge of their rights, and the resolution and power to enforce them."

Nothing would suit the brigand capitalist class better than the certainty that the ultimate conclusion arrived at by the *Miners' Magazine* would come about; certain that capitalist nagging would produce the desired effect, the nagging will be

¹ ["The W.F.M. Sued for \$1,000,000," *Miners' Magazine*, May 4, 1905. Reprinted under heading of "Sued for \$1,000,000: Colorado Capitalists Continue Efforts to Crush the Western Federation of Miners," *Daily People*, May 14, 1905.—R.B.]

done, and brutality will be merrily heaped upon brutality so as to force the battle before the hosts of Labor shall be ready to deliver it. On the other hand, there is not to-day any trench imaginable that will afford the working class half as much protection against such official acts of brutality as the one contemplated by \$1,000,000 damage suits against the Western Federation of Miners, as the posture of self-control, conspicuously, firmly adopted, that will notify the capitalist class that no act of brigandage on their part, no nagging and prodding will drive the working class into any act of craziness, or goad it into rioting, but that it will abide its time and strike when it is ready. In the measure that this posture is made clear, in that measure will capitalism quit scheming extraordinary acts of wrongfulness, and devote its thoughts to the regulation crimes without which it must cease to exist.

Not in the hands of the foe must a body of Revolution place its own conduct; it must hold the same firmly in its own grasp. It marks the difference between success and failure.

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