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EDITORIAL

NOTHING BUT “ALLEGED.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

DRIVEN from ditch to ditch, in its defense of its nasty chums the Orchards and Goodings, the Boise, Idaho, *Statesman* is now claiming that it is a gratuitous insult to the good name of the State to speak of the Orchard and Steve Adams confessions as “alleged confessions.” The *Statesman* goes into an involved argument on the subject. It runs this wise: He who makes a confession thereby puts his own liberty and life in jeopardy, therefore—mark the “therefore”—the confessions of Orchard and Steve Adams are not “alleged confessions” but actual confessions. The argument is redolent of the shyster reasoner who put his signature and swore to the lie that Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone were in Caldwell when the notorious ex-Gov. Steunenberg was blown up by one of his own pals.

It is essential to a confession that it be TRUE. A set of words, whether inculcating him who utters them or not, is not necessarily a confession. It may be just the reverse of a confession. The words may be false testimony, paid for by the official who takes the “confession”; and as to whether the “confession” incriminates its utterer or not, that cuts no figure whatever. The self-incrimination may be only a mask for profit and advancement. Of all of this none can be better aware than the honorable *Statesman* itself. Its connection with the Mine Owners’ Association dates not of to-day. As an old and trusted mouth-piece of that collection of Christian patriots, the *Statesman* has certainly rubbed elbows—moral elbows, if not physical ones,—with the choice collection of ex-convicts, adventurers and other off-scourings of society, whom the Mine Owners’ Association, in its “Christian” and “patriotic” and “law-abiding” endeavor of breaking-up Unions by sending their officers to gallows, has used as makers of “confessions.” Surely the *Statesman* can be no utter stranger to one H.H. McKinney, quite possibly the *Statesman* drank and “broke

bread” with the gentleman—the “confessor” who “confessed” his guilt in causing a railroad wreck, naming several Union officials as his accomplices, and then admitted that the whole thing was a put up job, gotten up by the Mine Owners’ Association, who offered him “\$1,000 and transportation for himself and wife to any part of the world he might wish to go to” for his “confession.” According to the *Statesman’s* definition McKinney made an “actual” not an “alleged confession.” His words incriminated him, sure enough. But the degree of self-incrimination was not to be the gauge of his punishment, it was to be the gauge of his REWARD—\$1,000 and a free trip abroad.

The Mine Owners’ Association have opened a side-industry—the mining and smelting of “CONFESIONS.” The output is bogus as CONFESIONS; it is genuine as CRIME only. Of such a nature is the Orchard and Steve Adams dump—as the *Statesman* is well aware of, and will yet be made to swallow.

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

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slpns@slp.org