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EDITORIAL

## THE ARREST OF MOYER AND HAYWOOD.

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**T**HE Mine Owners' Association appears to be resorting to its disreputable tactics once more. Its members have caused the arrest of Chas. H. Moyer and Wm. D. Haywood, President and Secretary, respectively, of the Western Federation of Miners, charging them with the murder of Ex-Governor Steunenberg, of Idaho. The charges are based on the alleged confession of one Harry Orchard. The officers and members of the Western Federation have been arrested before on similar charges and similar "confessions," only to be released; the charges having been found unwarranted; the "confessions" being inspired and paid for by the mining capitalists.

An identical condition of affairs seems to prevail just now. This Harry Orchard appears to be a paid tool of the mine owners. In an article on the Steunenberg murder headed, "We Court the Fullest Investigation," the *Miners' Magazine*, answering a charge of complicity with Orchard in preceding dynamite explosions, and commenting on his arrest for the assassination of the Ex-Governor, says, in its issue of January 18: "Strange that no one knew that Orchard was wanted until he was found in Idaho in the little town in which Steunenberg made his home. Strange that Orchard could walk the streets of Denver in broad daylight for months and escape the vigilance of these officers who now pretend that they were moving heaven and earth to uncover Orchard." It is not only strange, but, under the present circumstances, decidedly suspicious. The arrest and "confession" of Orchard appears to be carefully calculated.

But stranger and more suspicious still is the manner in which Moyer and Haywood were hurried out of Colorado into Idaho. There is nothing in the report of the extradition proceedings before Governor McDonald to show that they were represented by their lawyers, or that they were allowed to be heard in their own

defense. They were placed under a heavy guard that was calculated to reflect upon the character of the miners' organization, and railroaded out of the State. This, to say the least, does not convey an impression of sincerity and honesty on the part of those making the charges. It is on a par with the illegal proceedings by which Moyer was held in the bull pen for 105 days, only to go free of any charges; 1,200 miners were confined within the military stockades of Idaho; the stores of the miners at Goldfield, Victor, Anaconda and Cripple Creek were looted, and other infamies, too numerous to mention, were perpetrated against the working class by the capitalist authorities, acting in behalf of the Mine Owners' Association, in past labor conflicts.

The Mine Owners' Association failed to crush the Western Federation of Miners three years ago. It now beholds the Federation stronger than ever before, combatting "Belmont's bluffing braggart," Gompers, taking a prominent part in the new industrial movement that is organizing the working class to take and hold that which it produces, and otherwise extending its power and prestige. Something, evidently, must be done. To get Moyer and Haywood out of the way seems to be it.

But alas for the Mine Owners' Association, and all capitalist associations, when one workman is jailed, two arise to take his place. When Moyer and Haywood are jailed, other miners will take their places. Steunenberg fought Boyce; Peabody fought Moyer and Haywood; possibly the next capitalist governor elected by and acting in the interests of the mine owners, will have to fight a quartette of leaders.

The class struggle is on; and, as long as it prevails, Labor will supply all the men necessary to fight it to a successful issue in Labor's behalf.

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

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