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EDITORIAL

“INCENDIARY LANGUAGE.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE *Denver Times* is sorry. It is sorry for the sake of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone. The reason of the *Times's* sorrow is the circular issued by the General Executive Board of the I.W.W. on the arrest of these men, and the manner of their deportation. The *Times* sorrowfully declares that the circular contains “incendiary language”, and such language, it is sorrowfully of the opinion, “will do the accused leaders of the Western Federation of Miners more harm than good”.

What is the language used by the circular?

It opens with an allusion to “the reign of lawless violence” which the capitalist class of the Western States inaugurated at the Coeur d’Alene, beginning with 1897.—The statement is a statement of fact. Pinkertons ran the courts, revolver in hand.

It says that the capitalist conspirators sought to smash the labor organizations of the Miners “by seeking to foist upon these the crimes committed by the capitalist conspirators themselves”.—The statement is a statement of fact, of recorded fact. The blowing up of the Concentrator was traced to the Mine Owners’ Ass’n. itself.

It says that “everyone of these attempts has failed”{,} every case against the accused miners “ended in complete acquittal” in spite of “suborned witnesses”.—The statement is a statement of fact, recorded in the courts: the men were acquitted, the testimony against them was smothered in its own perjury.

It says, summing up this first episode, that it was a series of “diabolical schemes”.—The statement is a statement of fact, solidly banked upon the previous ones.

Taking up the second episode, the one we are now traversing, the circular says that the arrest of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone was a “secret arrest”, that their taking to Idaho was an “illegal deportation”, and that the proceedings bear a

general “criminal character”.—The statements are a series of statements of fact. The testimony upon which their extradition was demanded is on its face perjured testimony; they were denied counsel; they were literally kidnapped and railroaded out of the State.

The circular says further that the agencies who schemed this plot are “pirates of the west”, whose motto, the motto of their Col. McClellan, is: “To hell with the Constitution!”—These statements also are statements of fact.

Running through the circular from top to bottom, and back from bottom to top, every allegation, of the numerous ones that it contains, is a fact sealed, signed and delivered.

The conclusion is obvious.—Not the LANGUAGE of the circular, but the FACTS that it produces are incendiary. Incendiary is the fact that a high military officer declares: “To hell with the Constitution!” Incendiary is the fact that the Governor of a State enters into a conspiracy with the Governor of another State and deprives three citizens of their civic rights. Incendiary is the fact that a capitalist concern—the Mine Owners’ Ass’n.—stands convicted of the subordination {suborning?} of witnesses, whom it pays \$2 to swear away the lives of workingmen. Incendiary is the fact that the capitalist class contemplates murder to protect its continued reign of rapine. These be incendiary facts; pitchy, sulphurous facts; facts aflame, fit to set the country on fire.

The incendiarism lies in the perpetration of these facts; the incendiaries are the perpetrators of these facts. So far from its being incendiary to mention, to expose, to make these incendiary facts publicly known, the mention of them, the exposing of them, the making them publicly known, is the turning of a broad-diametered hose, with its powerful stream of water, upon the conflagration which the incendiary capitalist class and its political puppets are kindling.

All credit to the G.E.B. of the I.W.W. for setting the pace, as intrepid firemen, to put out the fire that incendiary capitalism has started!

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