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EDITORIAL

## IN AID OF THE ENVOYS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE President has sent envoys to Goldfield to inquire into the troubles there and determine whether the presence of the Federal troops is necessary. In aid of the investigations which the Presidential envoys will set on foot we respectfully submit to them that each purchase a copy of the *Goldfield Gossip*, a mine-owners' paper, Vol. III, No. 3, dated December, 1907—fresh enough, no doubt. On the fifth page of that issue, beginning at the bottom of the second, and running over to the third column, they will find an article entitled "Labor and its Grievances." The article is here literally reproduced:

"A couple of weeks ago there was a shooting affair on Main Street, in the course of which, as usual, an innocent bystander got it—this time in the leg; and Vincent St. John, one of the parties in the affair of the shooting, in fact the man who was shot at, escaped with a couple of slight flesh wounds. This man St. John is a stormy petrel; wherever he is there is trouble, either active or brewing. He was the leader among the Socialist element of the Western Federation of Miners here during our troubles last spring, when you remember our stocks were broken in price, and the credit of our mines badly damaged. Mr. St. John will clearly understand that we have no personal grievance against him when we say that it was A GREAT PITY THAT THE MAN HOLDING THE GUN IN THE RECENT SHOOTING DID NOT HAVE SENSE ENOUGH TO HOLD IT STRAIGHT. Speaking as one who puts the public good foremost in his argument always, Mr. St. John will pardon us for remarking that HE WOULD LOOK MUCH BETTER DEAD. We would add that we should be more than pleased to attend his funeral and to see that the last sad rites were decently observed. We will even go a step further and assure him that IN THE HOPED-FOR EVENT OF ANYTHING SUDDEN IN THE SHAPE OF A BULLET OVERTAKING HIM we will cheerfully subscribe for a wreath for the coffin, and COUNT IT MONEY WELL SPENT."—The underscorings are our own.

At first we were of the opinion that the Federal troops should be recalled from

Goldfield. No doubt that the pretence under which they were asked for was false. The miners are orderly. The only disorder, that of presuming to issue private money by the mine-owners, could be easily quelled by a Federal constable and the arrest of the mine-owning criminals. Now, however, it must be admitted the affair presents itself under a different aspect. Criminal though the issue of private money is, the language of the article quoted above presents an even more serious issue.

The article quoted above is not a letter coming from some crack-brained correspondent, and slipping into the paper by accident, as happens occasionally. The article is an editorial utterance, cool, calm, deliberate. It breathes murder at every letter; it incites to murder; it raises vistas of immunity and reward to professional assassins. When such language is held by the leading organ of a community the fact is clear that the said community is under the rule of Bill Sykes and Co. The Constitution guarantees to every State a “republican form of government.” The Nevada form of government is that of brigands, literally. In a case like that there is work for Federal troops. Their duty is to build a cordon around the people who uphold, write, publish, and subsidize the *Goldfield Gossip*. They are nothing but an organization of murderers, for murder. Where such vermin holds sway the bonds of society are snapped. Nevada has to be “reconstructed.” The State has read itself outside of the pale of the Nation. It is in rebellion. The rebels should be put where they belong—at the chain gang, where their murderous instincts may be chastened by hard work.

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

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