

Daniel De Leon

Editorial: Insolent Cleveland

The Cæsar enthroned in Washington, and who, under false pretenses, stole the purple from the people, has been “warning” in “semi-official” language the masses who contemplate visiting the capital, that “they must respect the laws and conduct themselves in a peaceful and respectful manner or suffer the consequences.”

If one looks back {over} the history of this country for the last 34 years he will find that in every instance of breach of law, of riotous conduct, of disrespectful procedure, the guilty ones were, not the class that contemplates assembling and presenting its petition in person in Washington, but the bandit class of which Cleveland himself is a perfect type.

In 1861 that class arose in arms to frustrate the will of the people as expressed at the hustings; last year it mutinied against the Governor of Kansas; this year it murdered a constable in South Carolina; three years ago it butchered about a dozen men who had been acquitted by a New Orleans jury; in '92 it waged war upon its own hook in Homestead, sent the whole militia of this State into Buffalo to aid the bosses in breaking the ten-hour law against the switchmen, let the military loose against the innocent Coeur d'Alene miners, and dragooned the free miners of Tennessee into slavery; in 1873 it broke up a peaceful meeting of workingmen in Tompkins Square in this city; in 1887 it again brutally clubbed the people in our Union Square; last year its judges trampled the law under foot in Toledo and New Orleans—but why continue this long catalogue of crimes committed by the capitalist class of

Daniel De Leon

this land? Its deeds of brutal and of cowardly breaches of law and decency are too numerous to mention. As he lives through wrong, the capitalist cannot but buttress up wrong with further misdeeds.

But to wrongs, grievous wrongs, inflicted by them, the oppressors of the people are now adding insolence. One would imagine that the monopolist who now usurps the people's White House would let well enough alone, and not goad the people with the additional affront of his "warning."

Yet the old saying holds good to-day. A divine Providence makes those blind whom it is about to destroy. Verily, verily, the day of reckoning is at hand; the day of real, even-handed Law, of actual Peace, of genuine Order can not now be far away.

The People, Vol. IV, No. 5. Sunday, April 29, 1894

Insolent Cleveland

*A De Leon editorial transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the
Official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.*

Uploaded October 2002