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EDITORIAL

CLASS LAW SELF-EXHIBITED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IT is only lack of space that stays us from publishing in parallel columns the articles that the New York *Evening Post* recently had upon Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, and any one of the articles that same paper has since been publishing on the meat-packers.

When Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone were arrested, the *Evening Post* forthwith condemned them. Its language was that the Governor of Idaho had “carefully sifted the evidence”; that McParland, the detective, who “worked up the case” demonstrated the guilt of the men; that Orchard’s confession “left no doubt”. The *Evening Post’s* denunciation of the three prisoners was not affected by the illegal methods adopted in their capture; nor did the paper hesitate in its verdict in sight of the many other circumstances that pointed, at least, to a probability that the men were innocent and but the victims of a foul conspiracy. Not at all! Government officials and their subalterns had arrested the men and claimed the men were guilty—that was enough. To question the fallibility of these government officials and their underlings was in itself a crime, “anarchy”, etc.

And now, what is the tune that identical paper is singing with regard to the Neill-Reynolds report made to Congress and endorsed by the President? Just listen:

“The testimony against the meat-packers is ex-parte”—was it otherwise than ex-parte against Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone?

“It is wrong to cloth the report of Neill and Reynolds with the sanctity of infallibility”—was not the accusation of the self-confessed criminal, Orchard, held up as infallible? Why, if the opinions of a malodorous Pinkertonian like McParland and of a self-confessed murderer, like Orchard, must be believed and may not be disbelieved except by the “lovers of disorder”, why should not the conclusions of Dr. Neill and of Reynolds, neither of whom is a criminal, confessed or otherwise, and both of whom are men in good social standing—why should their word have less

weight than that of an Orchard or a McParland?

“A government official is just as subject to mistake or prejudice as any other man”—why should this fact be so carefully kept in mind, when the packers are concerned, and roughly ridden over, when workingmen like Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone are the subjects of accusation?

The answer is obvious. The *Evening Post* is the free trade paper that has prescribed the “rifle diet” for the workingmen. The *Evening Post* is the property of capitalists and is run, not for pleasure or for health, but for the express purpose of promoting the interests of the class whose manifold crimes, long known, are now being exposed on all sides. With such a paper honor and honesty are unknown. The language of justice and of morality in its columns is the language of hypocrisy, as that language is on the lips of the class for whom it speaks. What it says in favor of a suspension of judgment in the matter of poison-dealing packers, abstractly true though it all is, is foulness in the concrete, considering how oblivious the paper was of all those principles of justice and of civilization when the question was the contemplated murder of innocent workingmen, whose intelligence and bravery interfered with the plunder of the Working Class by the owners of that same paper.

Let those who have saw-dust in their heads, and not brains, deny the existence of classes. Read the language of the Wall Street gamblers' *Evening Post*. Read its language when capitalists, and its language when workingmen are concerned. The two languages are not remotely akin. “Justice” for the capitalist plunderers of Labor; “Iniquity” for the Labor victims of the capitalist class. For the former, all the safeguards that civilization throws, even around the criminal; for the latter all the outrages that barbarism showers, even upon the innocent. Such is class morality; such is class patriotism; such is class “Law and Order”; such is class “Christianity”.—Away, branch and root, with the triple-dyed Fraud! Onward to the ballot box to pronounce sentence upon the triple-dyed Crime, and to the industrial organization of the Working Class to execute the sentence, and rear the Socialist Republic.

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