

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 247.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 1906.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

LYNCH LAW!

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE New York *Sun* of the 3d instant publishes a three-column article on the subject of the arrest of Moyer, Haywood and other leading officials of the Western Federation of Miners. The article retails as facts each and every stale calumny that the capitalist class of Colorado has set afloat against these men, calumnies many of which have been tried in courts, resulting in the complete exposure of the \$2 men whom the Mine Owners' Association had bought to perjure themselves, and the rest of which are transparently ridiculous. In order to give to these old calumnies, which convict only the Mine Owners' Association, a color of truth, the *Sun* now artfully weaves into them an elaborate eulogy of detective James McParland for the alleged fame that he earned in alleged successful endeavors to suppress the Molly Maguires in the anthracite region of Pennsylvania in the '70s, and it glorifies McParland as the man who has now again "run down the mine murderers" in Colorado. The *Sun's* conduct is a violation of that commandment of the Decalogue that orders: "Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor";—it is even more, it is LYNCH LAW—or, if not directly Lynch Law, in that the *Sun* is not actually hanging men without trial, it is as directly leading to Lynch Law, as the conduct of the elite and "washed" brigands of New Orleans, who issued a call in the spring of 1891 for a meeting at the foot of the statue of Henry Clay, adding—"bring your ropes along." It is intended to deceive the public; it is intended to dull public conscience, to diet it into condition to approve the assassination that the capitalist class has in petto; it is intended to drug the public mind into a humor that may lower it to the criminal level of the Standard Oil and the Wall Street gamblers on the flesh of the working class in general, the miners in particular.

As to the Molly Maguires, their history has so far been written only by the Baer

class. As to detectives, Pinkertons and otherwise, rafts of them have landed into the penitentiary for perjury; only the other day one of their ilk, Jacobs, long a glorified McParland and Orchard combination, became so incautious as finally to be put in a suit of stripes. Fresh upon the minds of all are the revelations made by Gov. Altgeld concerning the capitalist deviltry that, in 1887, plotted, guided, presided over and carried into execution the judicial murder of men, whose only crime was that they had protested against the butchery of peaceful workingmen on strike by the Illinois militia. These are not the days of 1887. In that year there was not, as there is now, the opportunity to counteract the conspiracy of silence with which the capitalist press outside of Chicago seconded the plotters inside of that city. This year the posture of the capitalist press gives evidence that it is aware of the fact that the times have changed in this respect. Their posture of attempting to deluge the country with false testimony, blood-curdling and reckless, justifies the belief that they know Moyer and Haywood are innocent, that they know it will be impossible to convict the men, that, consequently, they are but preparing the ground, in imitation of their 1891 New Orleans compeers, to put real, actual, raw-boned Lynch Law into practice. Their posture points to, it foreshadows the spectacle of “pillars of Law and Order” breaking by main force into the jail at Boise City and “making sure” by assassinating Moyer and Haywood.

The capitalist press of the land is preparing the public for a Lynching bee in Boise City. Will they succeed? Will they fail? Whichever may betide, the Cause of the Emancipation of the Working Class from the bloody terrorism of the Capitalist Class will triumph. Present events are poultices to the events that are approaching with rapid strides. The capitalist press of the land, a true reflex of its master, is blind—him whom the gods would utterly destroy they first bereave of decency, hence, of sense.

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Uploaded February 2009

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