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EDITORIAL

CAPITAL AND LABOR ON TRIAL.

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OF all headings with which capitalist papers have entitled their reports of the Moyer-Haywood-Pettibone outrage, none comes so near clinching the subject as the heading used by the St. Paul, Minn., *Daily News*—"Capital and Labor on Trial in Idaho." Even this heading is somewhat defective. The theater on which Capital and Labor are on trial through the Moyer-Haywood-Pettibone affair is not Idaho merely, it is the whole territory of the United States. Barring this little defect, the title is perfection.

Capital is on trial. The trial began on the day when the three workingmen were secretly arrested upon obviously perjured papers; denied the right to be heard; denied the right of counsel; hurried to jail; taken out like the burglars' stolen goods at dark; rushed to a special train and carried out of the State. A dozen statutes were violated in the act; a dozen decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States were thereby reversed; and the Constitution of the land itself was trampled under foot. The act ranks among the roughest and most reckless of bandit acts. The circumstance is not of itself enough to put a social system on trial. The act may be the deed of individuals only. Society, like organizations, can be held responsible only for the acts of individuals that it countenances.

Capitalist society countenanced the felony; it even improved upon it. The first set of lawless acts being consummated, capitalist society throughout the land supplemented the initial felony with a further series of felonies. How solicitous of private rights is not capitalism! Whole months have just been spent in the national Legislature on the railroad rates bill. Crime upon crime was fastened upon the railroad corporations. The crimes were shown to be, not "local," but "constitutional." Yet capitalism cried: "Hurry not; justice can not be secured illegally; that will work more harm in the end than good; let the wrongdoing railroads have all the

guarantees that the law offers; let them not be convicted without trial!" At the same time that these homiletics were being read in behalf of Capital, and in the identical issues of the identical papers that struck such high moral notes, columns upon columns were devoted to Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, convicting them offhand; pronouncing them guilty of all imaginable crimes—all upon the uncorroborated testimony of a self-confessed murderer, all at the inspiration of detectives with a reputation for perjury, all in the interest of the Mine Owners' Association, an organization convicted by its own spies of paying for the commission of crimes.—That is the case of Capital in this affair. It was, it is on trial. Every day brings from the lips of its Goodings, its McDonalds and its other political agencies themselves further cumulative evidence of its moral and intellectual rottenness. The trial has proven that capitalist government is organized crime; it has proven that there is no limit to capitalist lawlessness; it has proven that, if civilization is to be saved from a holocaust of rapine and murder, with all the bands that hold society together snapped, the savior must come from some other quarter.

Labor is on trial. That trial also began with the initial felony of the kidnapping of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone. Civilization, Progress, is evolved through order. Chaos can not be the mother of Progress. The conduct of capitalism was an invitation to the ushering in of Chaos. Labor understood its mission, the mission of putting an end to that social system which keeps mankind in perpetual turmoil, to that code of morals whose motto is the survival of {the} fittest brute in brute surroundings. Labor refused the bait. Though exasperated at the outrage committed against it in the person of three of its leading men, it exercised that self-control that is the mark of conscious strength, conscious ascendancy and consciousness of goal. "Light!" becomes its motto. It set its face to the spreading of correct information on the Colorado-Idaho affair. It stirred the country from end to end to mass meetings where the facts were rehearsed; it deluged the country with literature, documentary literature; it counteracted the false news published by capitalism; it raised the tone of the discussion by appealing to sense; and, from their cells, the three prisoners themselves aided in the noble work by uttering the terse sentence—"They may murder us, they can not murder the cause of the emancipation of the Working Class; there are plenty of Moyers, Haywoods and Pettibones in the camp of the

proletariat to carry this fight to triumph, overthrow the capitalist political junkshop and set up the workshop of the Working Class industrially organized.”—That is the case of Labor, and that case is won now.

The formal trial will soon be on. The contemplated judicial murder is frustrated. The real criminals are actually pilloried. The trial will but drive a few more nails into their ears, fastening these more firmly to the cross-beam.

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