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EDITORIAL

THIRTY YEARS LATER.

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ONLY thirty years ago MacParland burst upon the horizon of the Labor Movement as a bright particular star. It was a star that was to “teach Labor its place.” It was to bring “order into a disordered community” and place King Capital securely on his throne. The background to the star was a string of innocent workingmen strung up by the neck. The orchestration to the shining of the star was a flood of calumnies spread broadcast by the capitalist press against the Molly Maguires. The heroic star of MacParland was boosted for all it was worth. To-day there is none so poor to do the star reverence. The speedily arrived at conclusion of the Haywood jury that Orchard’s testimony was not to be believed is a blanket judgment that blankets forever the one time refulgent star of MacParland.

The judicial murder of the Molly Maguires with the Pinkertonian MacParland as the deus ex machina in the performance;—the prompt acquittal of Haywood, the intended victim of a Molly Maguire repetition, again with MacParland as the deus ex machina of the conspiracy,—these are landmarks in the history of the Labor Movement in America. Only thirty calendar years separate the two. In point of fact, centuries of progress are marked between the first occurrence and the last.

When Haywood, Moyer and Pettibone were kidnapped from Colorado, MacParland confidently predicted “Haywood will never leave the State of Idaho alive.” The confidence of the prediction, on the one hand, its utter failure, on the other, tell a tale to cheer the most pessimistic. Haywood is vindicated, as no man ever was before; he is alive, a free and honored man, outside of Idaho, having left with head erect and re-entered his own State triumphantly. MacParland, on the contrary, together with the whole clique of which he was the active center in Idaho, remains there morally dead, moral corpses floating on the Stygian waters of capitalist society.

If thirty years can mark such a long step out of the barbarism of capitalism, who will dare deny that thirty years more, and the steps that human progress will have made, will have left capitalism behind, remembered only as a horrid nightmare, and the Socialist Republic reflecting the full majesty of a liberated and happy human kind?

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