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EDITORIAL

“PUBLICITY” BLACK-EYED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

UNDER circumstances more than mysterious, Linford L. Dilworth, described as “a member of one of the oldest, wealthiest and proudest families of Pittsburg,” lies dead in his brother’s house at Pittsburg with a shot in his head. Curiosity being on tip-toe to ascertain the facts in the case, all the more seeing that “a woman is said to be responsible for the tragedy,” Director of Public Safety Frank Ridgeway has issued the order to suppress all news in the matter, on the ground that “the prominence and importance of the family of the dead man demands that no prominence be given to the sad case.”

Already the instance is known of a leading Captain of Industry, who was shot by an irate husband, having been pronounced dead through “appendicitis,” and, due to “the prominence and importance of the family of the dead man,” the facts in the “sad case” were kept from the columns of our “guardians of information,” the capitalist press.

Next we will be told, when some railroad president has been caught stealing stockholders’ stocks, that “the prominence and importance” of the thief “demands that no prominence be given to the sad case.”

Or, some bank director being discovered to do away with the funds of depositors, that “the prominence and importance” of the embezzler “demands that no prominence be given to the sad case.”

Or, some manufacturer being discovered guilty of offering violence to a female mill-hand, that the “prominence and importance” of the dangerous brute “demands that no prominence be given to the sad case.”

Or, some cabinet officer being found to have plotted with some insurance directors to rifle the widows and orphans funds for the benefit of the Republican or the Democratic party, that the “prominence and importance” of the foul conspirators

“demands that no prominence be given to the sad case.”

It is no accident that at this very season when the criminal class of capitalism is pretending to hanker after “publicity,” as a sure cure for the “abuses of the Trust,” the identical gentry is seeking to stop the ears of that very “public,” in order to prevent it from hearing what they are up to.

Whether in private or public, domestic or official, business or sport-capacity—publicity is the last thing that the class which lives upon the marrow of workingmen, women and children can stand. To expect that class itself, or its politicians, to turn the light upon itself is to expect the marauding burglar to demand publicity for his prowesses.

PUBLICITY will come, but the sun of that day will see the WORKING CLASS at the electric button of illumination, and the CAPITALIST CLASS either in jail or at the chain-gang.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org