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EDITORIAL

LITERAL, NOT FIGURATIVE.

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AN injury to one is an injury to all, declares the Preamble of the Industrial Workers of the World; an injury to one is the concern of all, thus runs the usual formula. Whichever wording is taken, the meaning is usually figurative. Literal, however, is the application of the saying, now, in sight of the Colorado-Idaho outrage that is perpetrated, and the greater outrage that is in contemplation.

The arrest of Moyer, Haywood, Pettibone and St. John—the first a national officer of the I.W.W., the second the able and firm chairman of the Chicago convention that launched that organization, and who stood as a rock against the combined efforts of pure and simple craft Unionists and pure and simple political Socialists to smash the convention, and the other two subaltern officers of the I.W.W., being officers of the Western Federation of Miners—is a direct assault upon every militant in the Labor Movement of the land; the threat against their lives is a threat against the lives of us all.

That the charge of participation or complicity in the murder of ex-Gov. Steunenberg is not believed in by those who advance it themselves is obvious. Not thus, riding rough-shod over the Law and over human conscience, is Right apt to proceed against what it sincerely holds to be Wrong. The charge of murder is but a pretext. If murder were really the ground, we could all feel at ease. We could feel at ease on the score of our imprisoned brothers, whose innocence would be bound to be established; and we could feel at ease on our own scores. Not murder, but its opposite is nurtured in the militant camp of Labor; not murderers but the opposite are drilled in our camp. What, then, is the real ground for these Colorado-Idaho proceedings? In the cynic confidence in the success of their conspiracy, the New York *Evening Post*, the special organ of the Standard Oil and of the Mine Owners'

Ass'n. in the East, declared that the Western Federation of Miners had become so strong that it was now able to stand its ground alone even after the support of Mr. Mitchell's and Mr. Gompers' organizations were withdrawn.

The real "crime" is thus uncovered. It is the "crime" of emancipating the Working Class from the apron-string of Belmont's Civic Federation. It is the "crime" of organizing the Working Class in such shape that it will not be led into the capitalist shambles by the labor-lieutenants of the Capitalist Class. Consequently, it is a "crime" that every militant in the Labor Movement is guilty of. Accordingly, the gallows, that are being prepared for Moyer, Haywood, Pettibone and St. John, are rising above the heads of us all, everywhere in the country; the noose, that is dangling to tighten around their necks is dangling to tighten around ours; the Lynching assassin's knife that is held in readiness for them, in case the perjured witnesses of the Capitalist Class break down, is being sharpened for our own breasts.

The declaration of the *Evening Post*, confirmed by the Pinkerton who admitted that "if St. John is left another year in the Coeur d'Alene, he will have the whole district organized", places beyond a doubt that the wrong that is being done, and the greater wrong that is being prepared against Moyer, Haywood, Pettibone and St. John is a wrong done directly to us all. It is the concern of us all; it is an injury to us all. To tolerate it is to put ourselves before the alternative of either desisting from the sacred task we have all undertaken, or to fall, successively, sacrifices to the felonious instincts of the Capitalist Class.

We shall do neither. Forewarned is forearmed. Understanding thoroughly the nature of the plot that is being concocted against the Working Class, the militants of the Labor Movement will see to it that the *conditio sine qua non*—popular ignorance—for the success of the plot shall be thwarted.

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