

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 312.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1906.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

HAS ORCHARD RAISED HIS ANTE?

By DANIEL DE LEON

GOV. Gooding of Idaho has issued an appeal for funds to the banks of the State to enable the government to prosecute the case against Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone. The appeal sounds like a distress call from San Francisco. The banks are asked to “come to the rescue of the State”, and they are told “there are no available funds for the work at hand”—the work of the prosecution, and that for the lack of that “the vigorous prosecution of the murderers of ex-Gov. Steunenberg”, may be hampered, indeed “is going to be almost impossible to push as vigorously as the good (sic.) citizens of Idaho desire”; etc., etc. All of which indicates that Orchard has been raising his ante.

It is a matter of court record that McKenney, a fore-runner of Orchard upon whose testimony a number of Western Federation of Miners men were to be sent to the penitentiary, if not to the gallows, turned around and testified against the Mine Owners' Association, declaring that he was offered \$1,000 for the job and transportation to any part of the world for himself and his family. The “job” was the commission of a crime and the swearing that the crime was committed by certain innocent miners. If \$1,000 and transportation for himself and family was the price offered, by the Association of which Gov. Gooding is a member, to a McKenney for a much less valuable “job”, how much more is not Orchard now entitled to for the infinitely more valuable job of seeking to rid the Mine Owners' Association of the leading miners' officers, whose alertness, intelligence and integrity has at every turn baffled the criminal practices of the Gooding crowd? Orchard would be dirt cheap at \$500,000, plus transportation to a castle on the Rhine, plus a paid-up annuity guaranteeing him \$10,000 a year. Probably the fellow did not at first prize his real market value; probably he sold himself for a drink of whiskey and a railroad pass to New York; probably the turn things have taken, through the wide publicity

given by the Labor press to the Gooding-McDonald outrage, opened the eyes of Orchard. A dollar to a doughnut Orchard has raised his ante; a dollar to a doughnut, Orchard, profiting by the eminently lawful company of Gov. Gooding, refuses to enter into a contract “void for lack of consideration”; a dollar to a doughnut, Orchard now demands a consideration commensurate to his services—

And that is the reason why “the good (sic.) citizens of Idaho,” headed by Gov. Gooding, are now suddenly sorely put to it for moneys “to vigorously prosecute”, etc.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded March 2009

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