

EDITORIAL

## THE SAN DIEGO OUTRAGE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**E**VEN the individual most manifestly guilty is in the eyes of Civilization a depository of Rights that demand respect. Even a Czolgosz, undeniably an assassin, is given full trial. To violate these Principles in the person of any individual, even where his criminality is certain, is to violate the Principles upon the innocent as well. Barbarism can not be practised upon any member of society, even tho' the guiltiest, without Civilization itself is assailed.

Nor does it matter in the least what the degree of provocation may be. The Guardians of the Law may not be "provoked" into imitating the manners of barbarism. Of them Civilization demands that serenity of poise that will prevent society from being dragged down and back to the standards of the Dark Ages.

Submitted to these tests, the San Diego event of the 14th of this month is of a nature to arouse the manhood and womanhood of the land to assert themselves in promptest manner, and most effective form.

It matters not that Emma Goldman's associations have been, and continue to be, those of Anarchist assassins and preachers of the doctrine—that matters not. If the woman is, by the laws of the land, allowed to be at large anywhere, California included, her summary ejection from San Diego was an outrage perpetrated upon us all; we, the rest of the citizens and residents of the country, all of us had our civic right of free travel trampled upon; her summary ejection smote us all.

It matters not that Dr. Reitman is an intime of the Goldman woman, and, through her, an intime of her intimates—that matters not. The lawlessness of which he is reported to have been made a victim, the unspeakable insult done to him, fell on us all. Every fleck of the tar that lacerated his body lacerates the body of every man and woman in the land; we are all singed with the fire that singed his flesh as it singed the feathers with which he was covered.

If the San Diego outrage summons Society itself to assert and to vindicate its rights, its dignity and its safety, the summons comes loudest to the Socialist Labor Party and to the Industrial Workers of the World, to them, collectively; to every one of their members, individually.

Long and repeatedly has the S.L.P., also the I.W.W., warned against the slightest touch with Anarchy. Sufficient unto the day is the danger of an honest confusion, on the part of the uninformed, of Socialism with Anarchism. Socialism can not too sharply draw the line, exemplify too clearly the unbridgeableness of the chasm between the two.

Towards Anarchism, Socialism can only hold the posture that it holds towards the Slums, the kin of Anarchy, often undistinguishable from it. Tho' pitying the Slums from the bottom of its heart, tho' holding up the tragic sight presented by the Slums as the worst count in the indictment against Class Rule, Socialism rigorously keeps skirts its clear of the Slums. Identically towards the suffering-crazed Anarchist, the very dementia of whose posture attracts the duper-parasites that fatten oil his flanks—the agents provocateurs, from one quarter, the “grinders of his sufferings into coin,” from another quarter. The slightest seeming touch with Anarchism, or the Slums, can but furnish the wished-for handle to Bourgeois Officialdom to pretend to believe Socialism identical with Anarchy and Slummery; once furnished with the handle, to extend to Socialism the treatment that Anarchy and Slummery call down upon their heads from civilized society; and, under cover of the dust thus raised, smite Civilization itself.

With this fire the Socialist party has long been playing. Due to the S.P.'s coquetting with the slum element that usurps the name of “I.W.W.” and whose Anarch standards of tactics and ethics endear it to Anarchists, the combination has naturally felt emboldened. Already at the late S.P.'s May Day celebration in this city a foretaste was had of what is in store for the good name of Socialism from the unhallowed fraternization. The San Diego outrage foreshadows a repetition of the visitation upon a larger scale, with deeper and more far-reaching effects.

Socialism consists not in the endeavor for a nobler Social Order, only. Upon the Socialist also rests the duty to save for Society all that previous revolutions, the Bourgeois Revolution included, achieved towards Progress,—and without which fur-

ther Progress is blocked. That path lies not via the route of Slum-Anarchy, or Anarch-Slummery. To the Red Terror follows, not Progress, but Reaction. To the Red Terror follows the White.

The San Diego outrage is a danger signal rung from West to East. Outraged Society summons all her children to the rescue. The summons appeals loudest to the carriers of the Socialist Social Order, of the Industrial Republic.

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Uploaded June 2013

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