

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 365.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1906.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

ARTICLE IV, SEC. 4.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE proclamation issued by President C.O. Sherman of the I.W.W., in the matter of the continued detention in prison of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, and the continued postponement of their trial, in violation of that constitutional provision that guarantees a speedy trial to everyone arrested, comes none too soon. The anarchistic conspiracy of Govs. McDonald and Gooding in the West, is assuming the threatening proportions of an Anarchistic conspiracy to overthrow even the republican form of government in the land.

Article IV, Sec. 4 of the United States Constitution provides that "The United States guarantees to every State in the Union a republican form of government." The provision tied a knot, as it were, to the string of provisions that marked the triumph of the bourgeois revolution in America. The path of social progress from feudal autocratic rule runs via the civic rights implied in the bourgeois republican form of government. Few utterances indicate as strongly as does Art. IV, Sec. 4 of the Constitution that the Revolutionary Fathers sized up well the nature of the work they had wrought. A republican form of government is essential to the orderly ventilation of the clash of opinions. Autocracy renders such orderly ventilation of the clash of opinion impossible. A distinctive method of autocracy was, and has continued to be, the summary arrest of distasteful adversaries, and THE PROLONGATION OF THEIR IMPRISONMENT AT WILL. Under the feudal regime of France these summary orders of arrest and detention at will in the Bastille were termed "lettres de cachet"; "administrative orders" is the official name given to the identical prescripts that issue from the Czar's closet. Where the "lettre de cachet," or the "administrative order," holds sway the Government is the Law, and it knows no Law beside it. Autocracy is the form of government; the republican form of government is absent. It was by the light of this experience that the

constitution of every State in the Union guarantees a speedy trial to prisoners.

The State Government of Idaho is violating this provision. The violation thereof supplements the methods resorted to by the governments of Idaho and Colorado in the arrest of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone. The method of the arrest was summary, it was in violation of the law of the land, State and Federal; the policy that is now observed, in unnecessarily delaying the trial of the men, is of a piece with the method of their arrest; the one and the other establish the character of the proceedings against the men. IT IS A RESORT TO THE OLD "LETTRES DE CACHET" OF FRANCE, AND THE APPLICATION IN AMERICA OF THE CZAR'S "ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS." This spells "Down with a republican form of government!"

That point being reached the question ceases to be one of a locality, or State; it becomes a national one. It falls plump within the jurisdiction of the Federal government. In its keeping is the Constitution and its enforcement. It is the duty to preserve "a republican form of government." The government at Washington is neglecting its duty. IDAHO'S GOVERNMENT IS IN REBELLION. Is the Federal Government at present so busy at ferreting out the anarchists on the Boards of Directors of railroads, mines and packing houses, that it has overlooked the anarchists in political power at Boise?

Sufficient has been said during the last months to demonstrate beyond cavil that the arrest of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone was felony. The Working Class of the land reserved for a later day the redress of this wrong. It remained satisfied for the present with having frustrated the further felony in contemplation—the summary murder of the prisoners, under the guise of a trial. The mighty voice of the Working Class having done that, having by its protest frustrated the scheme of a repetition of the Chicago outrage of 1887, the Working Class expected a speedy trial. The Idaho anarchists, baffled in their original scheme, are now resorting to another. If they can not remove Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone by a judicial murder, that having become impossible, they now seek to encompass the next best thing—THE INDEFINITE IMPRISONMENT OF THE MEN BY THE TRICK OF INTERMINABLE DELAYS OF THE TRIAL.

The note of protest, struck upon the arrest of the men, must now be struck

again—now, however, against the apathy manifested at Washington. Gov. Gooding may now be neglected as a negligible quantity. The Federal Government now must be the objective point.

Every day that the Federal Government allows the “lettre de cachet” Idaho scheme to be successfully put through is AN EVIDENCE OF CONNIVANCE THEREAT.

We call upon the Government at Washington to be true to its oath of office. We demand it. The republican form of government is overthrown in Idaho. Autocracy with its old French “lettres de cachet” and Russian “administrative orders” is rampant there.

THIS MUST BE STOPPED.

The Working Class demands the IMMEDIATE TRIAL of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, or their IMMEDIATE DISCHARGE.

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

slpns@slp.org