

# DAILY PEOPLE

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EDITORIAL

## AN OPEN LETTER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**O George Van L. Meyer,  
Postmaster General,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:—

It should be superfluous, nevertheless, in order to make assurance doubly sure, we wish to premise this memorial to you with the statement that this paper, being the organ of the Socialist Labor Party, a political organization that has been on the ballot regularly in this State since 1890, and also in many other States, has absolutely no sympathy with Anarchy. *The People* rejects both the economic and the sociologic, the theoretic and the practical part of Anarchy. *The People* rejects the theory of Anarchy as irresponsible to the facts in the case; *The People* rejects the tactics of Anarchy as repulsive to civilized man. With these introductory remarks your attention is respectfully called to the following facts:

The *Mesaba Ore*, a Republican paper published in Hibbing, Minn., contained in its issue of the 7th of last March the following passage:

“The *Ore* believes that every man who talks against the established form of government is guilty of treason and that he should be summarily dealt with—if there is no law to fit the case, pass sentence, execute it, and then make the law when time is not so pressing.”

The Goldfield, Nev., *Gossip*, a mine-owners’ paper, printed, we are informed, in Los Angeles, Cal., contains in its last January issue this passage:

“A cheaper and more satisfactory method of dealing with this labor trouble in Goldfield last spring would have been to have taken half a dozen of the Socialist leaders in the Miners’ Union and hanged them all to telegraph poles.

“Speaking dispassionately and without animus, it seems clear to us after many months of reflection that you couldn’t make a mistake in

hanging a Socialist. He is always better dead.

“Always hang a Socialist, not because he’s a deep thinker, but because he’s a bad actor.”

The New York *Globe*, a capitalist paper of this city, stated on last March 24:

“By ways unpleasant but quite legal they [the Paterson Anarchists] will be forced out. It is pretty safe to say that Caminita and Guabello and Widmar will be glad to go before Paterson gets through with them. If legal means fail, however, then the citizens will take the law into their own hands.”

We see that the privileges of the mail are refused to the Paterson *La Questione Sociale*, an Anarchist publication, on account of its advocacy of Lynch Law. We submit that Lynch Law can not be repressed by frowning upon it in one place and smiling at it in another. We suggest that the wrongfulness of tolerating the Lynch Law propaganda in some papers is not counteracted by its condemnation in others. The guilt of *La Questione Sociale* is not greater than that of the three publications we have quoted from above; on the contrary; if there is any difference, it is against the above named capitalist papers with circulations many times larger than that of *La Questione Sociale*. Those papers enjoy the unmolested privilege of the mail. We submit that such discrimination by Government is of the essence of Anarchy. The law must be applied with even-handedness. Where the law tolerates wrong in one place and punishes it in another—Lawlessness and not the Law reigns.

In the interest of that order, without which civilized society is an impossibility, the *Mesaba Ore*, the *Goldfield Gossip* and the *New York Globe*—bold, brazen, bloodthirsty preachers of Anarchy, who enjoy, undisturbed, the privileges of the mail, to the scandal of Conscience and Law—are hereby respectfully commended to the attention of your Department, in particular, and of the Federal Administration, in general, by

Yours, etc.,

EDITOR DAILY PEOPLE.

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

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