

Editorials by Commoner Readers

C. W. Bowne, Mica, Washington.— Law is force. It is supposed to be used to suppress wrong and to uphold right. It is also supposed to be based upon justice. The constitution of the United States is the basic law of the land. That instrument guarantees to every individual certain rights, one of which is a fair and impartial trial by jury, and no man shall be considered guilty until he is proved so. The constitution of the United States and of the several states were so formed that no man could be railroaded through to death without an opportunity to prove himself innocent, but it appears from recent events that there is a class of people who are ready to override all law in order to get revenge. Now, the Lord has said, "Vengeance is mine," and certainly the governors of Colorado and of Idaho, and those who have aided and abetted them in breaking the laws of the land, are courting the wrath of God. God no longer comes upon the earth in the form of man to argue with man about the evils they commit, but the sword of justice hangs by thread, and "he who kills by the sword shall be killed by the sword." The only thing that protects any man in the possession of property is law, and those who have the most seem to be anxious to educate the people to totally disregard law. Those in authority seem to think that the mass of people are fools, and will not see that law is being bent to protect the guilty rich and broken to punish the innocent poor. The president protects his friends in the same act which arouses his ire when done by the courts. We imprison the corporation in effigy while the individual criminal is allowed to run loose, but if some brainless idiot or some hired assassin murders a man who has been an enemy to organized labor we punish organized labor by hanging, without reason, and in spite of law, the leaders of the organization. I am not a union labor man, nor an anarchist, nor even a socialist, and I believe in law. As long as man is human laws must be made to protect man against man's injustice, and they should be respected by all; but if law is to be disregarded by one class then let anarchy reign until we can reduce the rich to a realization of what law is for. Newspapers and magazines have for years been telling us how the rich and powerful override law and buy exemption from punishment, and then, if we get angry and cry out in our indignation, many of these same papers and magazines advise us to "let the law take its course." The powerful lawbreaker says, "To h— with the constitution," and the papers and magazines take it as a matter of course, but if an avowed anarchist should make such an assertion and a crime should be committed by

another avowed anarchist, anarchist No. 1 would be considered an accessory to the crime and would be hanged. Under the same ruling if innocent men are murdered judicially by courts that are prejudiced, the men who said "to h— with the constitution" are and ought to be considered murderers. I know nothing about the facts in the Moyer-Hayard case, but I do know that there are monopolies, men and newspapers that are and have been trying to influence the public to a determination to execute these men, whether innocent or guilty, and by their course they are really creating public sentiment in favor of the suspected men. It has created a suspicion in the mind of every thinking and fairminded man that the authorities are but the tools of the trusts that are determined, at all hazards, to crush out unionism. As a farmer I know that my interests are not with union labor, but as a citizen I am in favor of exact justice, and exact justice demands a fair trial; and a fair trial cannot be given by men who are themselves lawbreakers and criminals. The dangerous anarchists of this country are not the men who howl in favor of anarchy as an antidote for injustice, but they are those who talk law and order in public and who practice a perversion of the same in order to rob the public. Law keeps the ordinary individual in fear and trembling lest he do wrong, but if the masses of men take many more lessons from the corporations and from the officials who persist in overriding laws in order to punish the innocent laboring man while they ignore justice and law in dealing with the rich and powerful, all people will soon have the same contempt for laws that the strong now exhibit. You can no more hang a mob than you can a corporation, and some day the laboring men of the north will realize this just as the negro-hangers do now, and they will deal with their enemies in the same spirit with which they are dealt. Government investigation showed that the mine owners of Colorado and of Idaho have been in a state of anarchy for years, but although the national government could send troops to Chicago in 1894 to protect the property of a powerful corporation it can do absolutely nothing to protect the lives of presumably innocent men in Idaho in 1906. Here is an opportunity for the president to use his "big stick." He should see that these men are returned to Colorado where they belong, and that if they are again arrested the forms of the law shall be followed just as they would be in any other case.

DIAGNOSED HIS CASE

"Woman," said he, in agonized tones, "you have broken my heart." She laid her ear to his manly bosom. "No," said she, after listening intently, "there is not the slightest evidence of organic lesion. There is a slight palpitation, due, perhaps, to cigarettes. That is all." And now the young man swears that hereafter when he makes love to a girl he will be sure that she is not a medical student.—Tid-Bits.

Too Previous

Alexander was weeping because there were no more worlds to conquer. Suddenly looking upward he exclaimed: "What a pity that life insurance has not yet been invented. It would offer a splendid field for genius for grabbing such as mine." Realizing, however, that he was several centuries too previous, Alexander resumed his weeping.

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