

EDITORIAL

COL. WEINSTOCK'S REPORT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THERE is a passage of peculiar interest in the report made to the Governor of California by Col. Harris Weinstock of San Francisco, the Special Commissioner appointed by the Governor to investigate the late San Diego disturbances.

Having recited the charges made by the Police of San Diego against the I.W.W. (the name which the Bummery falsely sails under) and the charges made by the Bummery against the Police; proceeding from the assumption that both sets of charges are truthful; fortifying the assumption against the Bummery with numerous citations from their own literature; and concluding that the victims of the wrath of the vigilante committee were guilty of less reprehensible actions than the members of the committee themselves; Col. Weinstock declares: "*No graver crime against society can be committed than a lawless act, committed in the name of law, against the law-breaker.*"

This is inspiring. In these days of widespread mental uncleanness, the declaration of Col. Weinstock feels like a refreshing bath. It is the announcement, it is almost the resuscitation of one of the leading conquests made by the bourgeois revolution for Civilization.

In order that readers of *The People* may fully share with this office the satisfaction we feel over the lofty posture of Col. Weinstock's declaration, we shall now take from our files, and quote from the letters that this office has for some time been pestered with from a friend, if not a member, of the Bummery, one C.L. Griffing of Jacksonville, Fla. We think the hour has sounded when Mr. Griffing's philosophy, or morals, should not be allowed any longer "to gather dust."

The incident will be remembered of the evening of last March 15 at the Paine Memorial Hall in Boston. Admission had to be paid for. On the tickets of admission

the promise was printed that questions would be allowed and answered. Mr. William D. Haywood, at once of the Bummery and of the N.E.C. of the Socialist party, was to be the speaker. Arthur E. Reimer paid his admission and attended. In the course of his address Mr. Haywood denounced John Golden for the efforts he made to introduce distrust among the Lawrence strikers. At the conclusion of the meeting Reimer asked in courteous, even fraternal language, the pertinent question how Mr. Haywood, by the light of what he had said about John Golden, justified his own conduct in going the week before to the city of Paterson knowing that there was a strike of the silk workers on, and from a public platform seek to discredit the leader of the strike. The answer, without warning, was a kick in the questioner's chest. Thereafter Mr. Griffing volunteered on April 4, by letter to this office the following principles:

“The only fault I have with Haywood is that he did not kick high enough while in action. I have seen in my time a good many Socialist Labor Party men, that was looking for trouble. *I believe in giving people what they want, from beef-steak to trouble.*”

In the contrast between Mr. Griffing's principles with the principles enunciated by Col. Weinstock is seen the distance that the human race has traveled from untamed ruffianism to self-control; from the chaw-bacon to the human; in short, from the savage to civilized man. Were Mr. Griffing's principles still dominant to-day, then, what the Vigilante Committee dealt out to his Anarch kindred, who went to San Diego “looking for trouble,” would be no more than they wanted; then, the only fault that society would find with the Vigilante Committee would be that it “did not kick high enough while in action”; then, the social bonds would be snapped, and society would be plunged into Griffingian, or Haywoodistic, in short, into the debasing chaos of mental, moral and physical anarchy. Fortunately that low level of human understanding and conduct lies far, far behind the race—how far, the standard of civic conduct proclaimed by Col. Weinstock emphasizes by contrast with that swaggeringly writ down by Mr. Griffing.

Society will, in self-protection, visit with condign chastisement the Vigilante's exercise of Mr. Griffing's Anarch principles:—the transgressions of the Bummery do not justify heavier transgressions against them. Inversely, Society will, in self-

protection, administer the necessary correction to the Bummary:—the heavier transgressions that they were made the victims of do not cleanse them of guilt.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org