

EDITORIAL

CARNEGIE, FATHER BELFORD AND RICHELIEU.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WE know it now, as well as it will be generally known later, that the January 3, 1899, letter of Andrew Carnegie, which was read at the hearing of the Government suit to dissolve the Steel Trust, will be used in manifold ways as an evidence of the wickedness of Carnegie, and his un-Christian spirit.

In the letter Carnegie quoted Richelieu's advice: "First, all means to conciliate; failing that, all means to crush." He quoted the advice approvingly. He quoted it as a principle applicable to rivals in the steel industry. What else does that mean but the enunciation of the policy: "Rivals must be silenced, if necessary with a blow that crushes them."

To some that may look very wicked and Anarchistic. And yet the opinion is wrong, and is founded on a reasoning that is false. Did not the *International News Letter*, issued from Berlin by the International Secretariat on May 1, prove that it was a slanderous charge against the A.F. of L. leaders, who were arrested and convicted in connection with the Indianapolis Dynamite affair, to say they were Anarchists, a slanderous charge because most of them were found to be in possession of rosaries and talismans—38 rosaries and 14 talismans being found? By parity of reasoning, is it not obvious that the policy of smashing where you can not silence can not be Anarchistic, seeing it was proclaimed by a Cardinal, Richelieu, and was adopted by a Presbyterian deacon, Carnegie?

Moreover, what is the difference between the advice of Richelieu and adopted policy of Carnegie, on the one hand, and the advice, or policy, proclaimed by Father John L. Belford of Brooklyn in the April, 1912, issue of his *Nativity Mentor*, to wit:

“The Socialist is the mad dog of society, and should be silenced with a bullet, if necessary”?

Whichever way the Richelieu-Carnegie policy is tested, it is the policy of Father Belford. Whichever way the Father Belford advice is considered, it is the Richelieu-Carnegie advice over again. Hence Richelieu, Carnegie and Belford; or Belford, Carnegie and Richelieu; or Carnegie, Richelieu and Belford are free from all taint of wickedness, Anarchy, or un-Christian promptings. Amen!

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