
Raids and Riot.

by Olive M. Johnson

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Attributed to editor Olive M. Johnson

Again, not only New York City, but every large city throughout the country has been convulsed by official raids, lawlessness, and riot; again, we are forced to emphasize, what we have so often emphasized before, that such raids, riots, and rackets are the result of a clash between the “upper” and the “lower” strata of anarchy. Crazed by the Russian Revolution, possessing neither the necessary scientific training, nor the statesman-like views or imagination to differentiate between the revolutionary tactics of antiquated feudal autocracies like Russia, Spain, and the like, stupid leaders of masses of workers, who know little or nothing about the institutions of this country, aided, abetted, egged on, and driven to extremes by police spies and agent provocateurs, are unburdening themselves of whole avalanches of nonsense in the name and to the tune of Social Revolution.

If the newspapers are to be believed, quoting directly from the report of the Department of Justice, which gives direct quotations from pamphlets and leaflets circulated by the so-called Russian Union of New York City, the “Union” is shown to be an avowedly anarchist conglomeration, anti-Bolsheviki, anti-Socialist, openly physical force. As is usual, nests of anarchy are hard to distinguish from purely criminal institutions; thus it is reported that the police have found bomb factories and, in Newark, a complete counterfeit plant — this, however, may or may not be true and must always be taken with a grain of salt, whenever the agent provocateur has a chance to

be active. That these anti-Socialists “Unionists” are theoretic anarchists is, however, pretty plain, and through them anarchy has, as usual, fulfilled its “historic mission” and is furnishing a club armed with which the authorities may someday swoop down upon the heads of the legitimate labor movement. Already the Lusk Committee is renewing its howl for more stringent legislation.

But the crazed manifestations of anarchy, cries for “mass action,” “mass strike,” “red guard armies,” “dictatorship of the proletariat,” and the like in the “lower” stratum are no more ominous than the purely anarchic manifestations, the utter disregard for decency, law, and order from the powers that be in government or industry and their official, semi-official, or self-appointed henchmen. No better illustration of this could possibly be had than these so-called “raids,” which in truth are but riots in disguise.

Armed with clubs, the police raiders broke into peaceful meetings. As many as 4 to 500 plainclothesmen, so one paper states, dashed into one Eastside hall and laid about freely with clubs and bludgeons. Men and women were clubbed and their shrieks resounded through the neighborhood. Celebrations, concerts, jollifications, even a little package party, given to commemorate the 2nd anniversary of the Russian Revolution, were invaded and broken up. More than a thousand people in New York City alone were dragged into the police stations only to find that there were no charges whatsoever upon which they could be held. The machinery of justice is, we all know,

well enough organized, so that a few criminals — if such really exist — could easily be found out and captured. To dash into peaceful assemblies, to bean men, women, and children indiscriminately over the head, to hurl innocent people into police wagons and drag them to court, looks more like deliberate attempts to provoke anarchy than to stem the tide.

All of which plainly proves that what the powers that rule are after is less to apprehend, punish, or deport a few really criminal anarchists, than to cause a sensation and a scare which will prepare “public opinion” for some greater move in the future.

The vicious circle, anarchy from below and anarchy from above, is now complete. The two have met and formed a compact whole. Within, hemmed round by it, stands the legitimate and orderly labor movement of the land. Sound SLP and WIIU agitation alone will be able to smash the iron ring of anarchy.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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