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EDITORIAL

ANARCHIC PATERSON.

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NOT so many years ago—it was during the opening decade of this century—the municipal authorities of the city of Paterson in New Jersey issued an address to the people of the country.

The address was forced upon the said authorities by a number of untoward events, which, to use their own language, “placed our city under a cloud” in the public estimation, and thereby “injured property.”

Among the events that acted as a cloud upon “the fair name” of Paterson were devastating fires which strongly pointed to graft, and, above all, the fact that Paterson had become a nest for Anarchists.

The latter circumstance had given Paterson “an international reputation.”

When the world was shocked by the wanton murder of an old woman, the Empress of Austria at Geneva, the tracks of the Anarchist assassin Luchini were traced back across the Atlantic to Paterson; to Paterson were subsequently traced a number of Anarch “Direct Actions”; in Paterson was published the Anarchist *La Question Sociale* which preached undisguised arson. The “international reputation” that these and many other incidents of like kidney had given Paterson as a hot-bed and nest of Anarchists, the cloud that the reputation had raised over the “fair name” of Paterson, the municipal authorities sought to dispel.

Whether it is that the then efforts of the municipal authorities of Paterson failed, and the present incumbents have become devil-don’t-cares; or whether the then efforts succeeded, and the present incumbents have failed to learn from experience;—whichever way, the present municipal authorities of Paterson have converted themselves into trainers of Anarchy.

The policy of “acting first and discussing afterwards,” as the Paterson *Morning Call* of the 1st of this month fittingly, tho’ mildly, stigmatized “the programme of

the city authorities”; high-handed violations of the civic rights of the residents in obedience to the orders of labor-skinning employers; the desecration of the courts of Justice for the benefit of capitalists’ ledgers; the false arrest and imprisonment of innocent men, as illustrated in the arrest and sentence of Rudolph Katz, to gratify the cupidity of firms that live upon the sweat of the workers’ brow; the turning of the jails into Bastilles;—these and such misdeeds, while they test the fortitude of the strong and nerve him for the constitutional overthrow of a social system that can beget such cold-blooded iniquity, as they test and nerve the I.W.W. and the S.L.P., have a very different affect upon the weak. Then such official misdeeds be-reave of sense; then such official misdeeds goad to wild retaliatory acts.

The offices of the Paterson municipal authorities have been turned into Anarch dynamite-bombs-manufacturing dens. The conduct of the Paterson municipal authorities is a whetter for the dagger of the Anarchist assassin. The conduct of the Paterson authorities has converted their town into a breeding place for Anarchists.

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