

EDITORIAL

AWAKE, NEW JERSEY PROLETARIAT!

By DANIEL DE LEON

A WOMAN textile operative, on strike against the Schwarzenbach & Huber silk mill at Bayonne, N.J., having been arraigned before a local magistrate, Recorder Mara, on the alleged charge of assault upon a strikebreaker, and the court room being crowded with friends of the prisoner, all of whom were on strike, the prosecuting attorney interrupted the hearing with a speech to the audience of striking I.W.W. men and women. The speech was delivered “in the name of the Company.” It was an exhortation to the strikers to give up, accept the Company’s terms, and return to work.

Despite the objections raised by the attorney for the defence, and with the consent of the magistrate, the speech was started and delivered to the end; not satisfied with this, the court caused the court interpreter to translate the speech into three different languages.

Recorder Mara may claim that he was but illustrating the Socialist tenet to the effect that the courts, like the rest of the branches of the present form of government, but are agencies of the capitalist class. The Recorder may claim that, by allowing the precincts of his court to be turned into a capitalist firm’s employment agency, or as the vestibule and place of vantage for capitalist shanghaiers of workers to ply their trade in, Socialists should not blame him. The Recorder may even claim credit at the hands of Socialists and intelligent working people for having so signally served their cause by exhibiting himself as he did.

All this, be it as it may, is not all there is of it.

We know not the wording of the New Jersey statutes on the subject. But this we know: there is not a State, New Jersey included, in which the statute does not provide for the “sanctity,” the “non-partisanship” of the courts, and expressly lays down the procedure to that end.

We know not the wording of the New Jersey statutes on the subject. But this we know: there is not a State, New Jersey included, the statutes of which leave any room for the public and indecent exhibition of a court's being run by manufacturers, that Recorder Mara made of himself and his court.

We know not the wording of the New Jersey statutes on the subject, but this we know: there is not a State, New Jersey included, that does not provide for a magistrates' oath of office binding them to obey the law, which Recorder Mara has so flagrantly violated, and decapitating them from office for such violations.

We know not the procedure in New Jersey, applicable to the case. But this we know: there is not a State, New Jersey included, that has not ample provision for dealing with such a desecrator of the civilized theory upon which courts are constituted, as this Recorder Mara has proven himself a desecrator of, either by impeachment procedures, or by the swifter method of removal by the chief officer, the Governor of the State.

The dignity of judicial impartiality is not the least of the achievements that the bourgeois revolution has contributed towards civilization. That such miscreants, as Recorder Mara has proved himself a type of, should turn upon the noble achievements of their own bourgeois class, drag the same in the mire, and give exhibitions of the Dark Ages, is reason all the stronger for the Working Class, upon whose forehead the star of Progress shines, to insist that what Civilization already has won, shall not be forfeited.

It is the duty of the militant proletariat of New Jersey, at the head of whose columns the I.W.W. stands, not to rest satisfied with the Bayonne magistrate's failure to cheat and lure the Bayonne strikers back into the Huber & Schwarzenbach shambles of starvation wages. It is the duty of the militant proletariat of New Jersey to avail themselves of all the resources that the law provides in order to cleanse the Bayonne court of the unclean incumbency of Recorder Mara.

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