

Prepare for Action!

(February 26, 1906)

[Boone, Iowa],¹ Feb. 26, 1906.

What I have to say about the latest and boldest stroke of the plutocracy will require but little space. It is not talk that is wanted, but action.

The issue is clear. There can be no mistake about it.

The labor leaders that cannot be bribed or bullied must be ambushed and murdered. That is the situation in a nutshell. How shall we meet it? In just one way: *We have got to fight.*

Another Haymarket attempt will precipitate a revolution.

If murder must be committed it is not the working class alone that will furnish the victims this time.

Moyer, Haywood, and their colleagues are absolutely innocent. The writer knows them to the heart's core and will stake his all on them.

The only crime they are guilty of is that they have been unswervingly true to the working class, and the working class can do no less than to stand by them to a finish.

A million men at the least will meet the issue with guns.

All workingmen and all other men who have red blood in their veins will rise up against this murderous plot of the plutocracy.

They have stolen our country, debauched our politics, defiled our judiciary, and ridden over us roughshod, and now they propose to murder those who will not abjectly surrender to their brutal domination.

Totally regardless of all other differences, organized labor from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from Canada to the Gulf can unite in one solid phalanx against plutocratic tyranny and crime.

We have no courts to appeal to. They belong to the plutocracy. We have tried them for years, and for one I am opposed to squandering our means going up against a brace game² judiciary.

We are men and we have got to prove it. This fight is not of our seeking. It has been forced upon us and we can only evade it by showing the white feather of cowardice.

If we stand by supinely and see our loyal leaders murdered in cold blood, we deserve a similar fate and shall not escape it.

Let mass meetings be held all around the country and the workers aroused.

if they put our leaders in the penitentiary without trial we will pull them down as they did the bastille in France a hundred years ago.

The governors of Colorado and Idaho are but executing the mandates of their masters, the plutocracy.

The issue is the Workers versus the Plutocracy.

If they strike the first violent blow we will strike the last.

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¹ Debs spoke at Sioux City, Iowa the afternoon of Sunday, May 25, 1906, and at Boone, located about 150 miles away, the evening of May 26, the published date of this article.

² A corrupt gambling game organized for planned swindle.