

Collapse of the Conspiracy (July 7, 1906)

Still another postponement has been forced by the prosecution in the capitalist conspiracy against Moyer, Haywood, and Pettibone, this time until December.¹

The contention that this action has been taken pending the decision of the United States supreme court is the shallowest subterfuge.²

What regard have these criminals, official and otherwise, shown for courts and constitutions and laws in the prosecution of this infamous conspiracy from the time it was hatched into life in their festering brains?

The truth is that this stay of proceedings is due to the uprising of the working class and the threatening wrath of an aroused people. But for this the trial (?) would have been of a piece with the crimes that preceded it; promptly held and speedily terminated, and then — “guilty” and the gallows. That was the program — cut-and-dried — of Gooding and McParland, and we have their word for it.

With the extremest caution and minutest attention to details was the murderous kidnaping conspiracy concocted. Everything was perfectly ready before the trap was sprung. Nothing was overlooked. But one thing Gooding and McParland, in their whispered consultations over the plans and specifications, failed to take into account: the socialist and labor press!

This proved their sunken road of Ohain on their field of Waterloo.³

They were not to blame for overlooking this powerful battery. It is new and has never before been in action when capitalist conspiracies to murder labor have been evolved and executed.

When this battery, led by the *Appeal to Reason*, unlimbered and sent its shells crashing into the camp of the kidnapers and then trained its guns on the whole capitalist class and their venal and iniquitous system, consternation seized the conspirators, the capitalists of the whole nation were startled and alarmed, and many of their own papers began to denounce the crime against our comrades and demand for them a fair trial.

This and this alone thwarted the cruel and craven conspirators, and paralyzed the black hand of legal assassination.

A fine spectacle the vassal executives of Idaho and Colorado present today! They should be photographed with their pals and accessories, James

McParland and Harry Orchard, that future generations might have a picture of the foul degeneracy that masqueraded in the Rocky Mountains as twentieth century civilization.

It is but just to Harry Orchard to make generous allowance for his deficient and perverted moral sense. He is undoubtedly a born degenerate, and with all the crimes there may be upon his head he still is entitled to the profoundest pity. He has been the tool of others, and as such has been used for criminal purposes; and now that his usefulness is ended, he has been coached for his final role by McParland, his tutor, the mercenary creature of the mine owners.

The best citizens of Parsons, Kansas, where McParland had his criminal rendezvous some twenty years ago, when robbery and murder ran riot there, recently held a mass meeting to expose and denounce McParland, whom they well remember as the notorious consort of the most vicious and criminal elements that infested that early community. Among other things these people, his former neighbors and townsmen, say of him in a burning series of denunciatory resolutions: "There is not today in the United States outside prison walls a more conscienceless and desperate criminal than McParland."

Let me call on every reader of the *Appeal* to cut out that paragraph and post it for public inspection and pass it from mouth to mouth until our innocent comrades now in prison cells, the victims of this heartless fiend, are given their liberty.

Harry Orchard and James McParland — degenerate and criminal — are to furnish the sole testimony upon which brave and honest men are to be sent to the gallows.

Think of it! And if you have a single drop of red blood in your veins it will leap and burn with indignation.

In postponing the trial until December the persecution was influenced by another factor of prime importance — one the capitalists never lose sight of — and that is the political one.

This is the year of our state and congressional elections, and October and November are the months in which they are to be held. The trial has been postponed until after the elections with the hope and expectation that the working class will subside and popular interest in the case die out.

They are again reckoning without our hair-trigger revolutionary press, and we will continue to camp on their trail day and night, year in and year

out, until our comrades are rescued and restored to their homes and their loved ones.

They dare not go to trial and they know it. Their conspiracy has collapsed and they are hunting holes, like rats in a trap, through which to make their exit.

Yet we dare take no chances in dealing with these legal desperadoes. They know not what a conscientious scruple is. Only the fear of an outraged and avenging people will prevent such dastards from committing the hideous crime of judicial assassination.

Let all comrades and all friends bear these facts in mind, keep up the agitation, renew and enlarge the indignation meetings, and continue to raise all possible funds until the cell doors are made to swing open and our brothers shall walk forth free men, without a stain upon their honor.

They are innocent and no honest man who knows them has ever doubted it.

*Now for another point that must not be obscured: They postponed the trial until December to **get the case out of politics.***

Recollect it! Don't forget it!

If, in the face of these facts, you vote the Republican or Democratic ticket, or any part of them, *you vote to hang Moyer, Haywood, Pettibone, and St. John.*

The capitalists don't want this case to be a political issue; we do!

They started it; we will end it.

In the persons of our imprisoned comrades the whole working class is on trial.

Election day is the day of the trial.

If you want to save our comrades and secure their freedom beyond all doubt; if you want to strike terror to the craven hearts of capitalist conspirators and their murderous minions, go to the polls like a man and *vote the straight Socialist ticket on election day.*

Remember Moyer Haywood, Pettibone, and St. John, and roll up a million votes for *socialism and a square deal.*

Now is the time to spread working class literature broadcast over the land, and every comrade should have a hand in the work.

Now also is the time to increase the circulation of the socialist press to the maximum point. The circulation of every socialist paper in the country can and should be doubled this year. *The Appeal should go to 300,000*

before the campaign closes, and every nerve and fiber should be strained to do it.

Industrial unionism and socialism! The Industrial Workers and the Socialist Party!!

On and on and ever on, until the class struggles of the centuries are crowned with victory and *labor is free*.

Published in *Appeal to Reason*, whole no. 533 (July 7, 1906, p. 1.

¹ The trial would be postponed yet again, with Haywood finally being brought to trial as a sole defendant in a test case in June 1907. Jury selection was completed on June 3, with the prosecution's opening statement delivered at the Ada County courthouse in Boise next day. Haywood was unanimously acquitted on July 28. George A. Pettibone, a lesser figure in the Western Federation of Miners' firmament, was brought to trial later and was himself acquitted in January 1908. WF of M President Charles Moyer was released on \$25,000 bail at the time of the Haywood verdict and was never tried.

² The legality of the warrantless arrest and deportation of Moyer and Haywood was appealed all the way to the supreme court, which professed sympathy with the argument of the defendants but claimed no legal remedy existed.

³ The Chemin d'Ohain was a deeply sunken lane that bisected the battlefield at Waterloo which enabled Field Marshal Arthur Wellesley, the Duke of Wellington, to conceal his forces and entrap and defeat the advancing French army of Napoleon Bonaparte on June 18, 1815.