

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 6, NO. 284.

NEW YORK, TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1906.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## BAD FOR McPARLAND.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE news from the East Boston district of the western Pennsylvania coal fields must have sent a cold chill down the spine of McParland in his Boise office, where he is now scheming to duplicate in 1906 his feat of 1877 in Pennsylvania. Sergt. Dimon and his troopers, who, contrary to the constitutional guarantee that the right to keep and bear arms shall not be abridged, and protecting the citizen against unwarranted search, invaded private homes and searched for arms, were all arrested and held under bail. These be ominous signs for McParland.

In 1877, the period when the Pennsylvania railroad companies had begun to act as carriers for their own coal, and thereby to crush out the independent coal-mine owners by discriminations in rates, those railroad companies found themselves greatly hampered in their piratical career by incipient labor organizations, particularly by certain workingmen who stirred their fellow wage slaves to resist capitalist extortion. Against the independent mine owners the railroads were well armed. There was Congress and there were the Courts. The iniquities perpetrated upon the independent mine owners were of the subtle-logical capitalist sort; the independent mine owners were helpless; though the roof-trees of their homes broke over their heads and scattered their families in ruin, their cause was smothered under the shout of triumphant capitalism. It was otherwise with the Labor end of the proposition. The simple workings of capitalist law could not be depended upon exclusively. It was rather too slow for the pushy capitalist. Evolution had to be given a "helping-hand", a lift, so to say. The goal to be reached was the killing of the "pestiferous" labor leaders. The helping hand was partly found and partly offered itself in the person of one James McParland. The then infinitely ruder conditions of the country lent themselves to the plot. It was this: McParland was to join the Molly

Maguires, a legitimate though crude miners' organization; he was to stir the leaders up to crime; and soon as the crime was committed, he was to "make a confession" and thus lead the victims to the gallows. The program could not be put through in full. Uncouth though the Molly Maguires were, they were not murderers. They listened with approval to McParland's Philippics against the employers, but, despite all his incitements to murder, the men could not be drawn so far. Finding that the original plan would not work, it was amended. A rural constable was found dead somewhere. By the light of the revelations made at recent trials of Colorado miners, the suspicion would seem justified that the murder of the constable was the act of some agent of the railroad-mining companies themselves. Be that as it may, that corpse was seized upon; McParland appeared as a witness for the prosecution; and, although his testimony was uncorroborated, and the accused labor leaders could nowise be connected with the corpse, yet, contrary to all law, contrary to all precedent, in violation of elemental principles of justice—eleven men hanged from the gallows. The Molly Maguires were crushed. McParland became a tutelary saint in the pantheon of capitalism. Those were the days of the early Goodings and MacDonalds in the land—that was the source of the modern Baers.

Nearly twenty years have since gone by. As westward moves the star of Empire—westward moves Baerdom. It now reappears in the person of Gooding-MacDonald, now, in the west, the Baers of Pennsylvania of 1877. Lo and behold the identical McParland also turns up with them, and he turns up with the identical, stale old methods. Up to a point he has succeeded. A corpse—ex-Gov. Steunenberg's—was found; thereupon followed the arrest of three obviously innocent men—the Western Federation of Miners leaders Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone—upon obviously perjured papers, and a series of official crimes keeps the men in jail to await "trial". Not a week can have passed after the arrest but McParland must have sniffed that conditions were not in 1906 what they were in 1877. The old trick of stampeding the country into a fury against the Molly Maguires by the reptile capitalist press by means of false testimony, was attempted now again against the "Inner Circle of Murderous Western Federation of Miners". But that failed. Not, as in 1877, was there now no Labor Press to raise the counter cry for Truth and beat down Falsehood with. The Socialist press took up one by one

the allegations of fact and disproved them; it took up one by one the arguments and tore them to shreds; it then carried the war into Africa and, with documentary evidence, pilloried the Gooding-MacDonald Mine Owners' Association as a conspiracy of criminals. McParland must have felt the effect of this; dark misgivings must have crowded upon his mind regarding his bearings; but worst of all, now comes, crashing upon him, the news from Pennsylvania, his old stamping ground, the field of his old "glory". The law-breaking, uniformed agents of the Eastern Gooding-MacDonalds are now held to account for their lawlessness!—can less than a chill run down the spine of McParland, the Central figure in the Colorado-Idaho Outrage, the chief manipulator of the Western Baers?

Not around the necks of the Moyers, Haywoods, Pettibones and St. Johns is the noose tightening: it is tightening around the necks of the McParlands.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded March 2009

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)