

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 8, NO. 29.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, JULY 29, 1907.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

GUILTY! GUILTY!! GUILTY!!!

By DANIEL DE LEON

HAYWOOD is acquitted. The jury, although impaneled with men all of whom declared they had formed a hostile opinion to him, pronounced him **NOT GUILTY**, without hesitation. This is as was expected. The evidence was of the flimsiest, most transparently dishonest nature. The State's important witnesses carried "Perjury" branded on their brows. For all this the verdict of the jury rises above the significance of the mere acquittal of an innocent man. The jury's verdict: "Not Guilty" translates itself into a thundering verdict of: "Guilty! Guilty!! Guilty!!!"—hurled at the whole capitalist class.

Yes, the whole capitalist class. 'Twas not the Mine Owners' Association only, 'twas not their political henchmen only, whose hands were deliberately raised to be reddened with Haywood's blood, or whose hearts were putrid with the guilty intent. It was a felonious attempt of the whole capitalist class of the land. The posture of their press, from the moment Haywood, Moyer and Pettibone were kidnapped, attests the fact. That press, owned body and soul by the capitalist class, and otherwise so "careful of the rights of man"; that press, which, when a capitalist is found guilty after official investigation, are so quick to utter a warning about "man being liable to err," and to utter the warning about a man's "being entitled to the presumption of innocence until duly proved guilty";—that very press, from North to South, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, immediately, in scare headlines and articles, pronounced Haywood guilty off-hand, upon the mere say-so, not of an official who is presumably trustworthy, but upon the say-so of a self-confessed multi-criminal, a wretch presumably untrustworthy. That press even had cartoons of Orchard in the posture of a saint. Through that press the whole capitalist class identified itself with the self-confessed criminal and now branded perjurer. And that felonious conspiracy was directed against the Working Class of America.—"Guilty!" said the

jury to the capitalist class. Haywood's acquittal is the most emphatic condemnation the capitalist class of America has yet received. For weeks the trial lasted. Both sides were heard. The previous opinion of the jury was changed. The law and the evidence all pointed one way. The victim goes free: the victimizers march into the moral felon's cell where the capitalist class belongs.

The Spirit of the Age vanquished. With its thousand several tongues, each tongue brought in a several tale, and each tale, by acquitting Haywood, roared into the ears of the Felon Capitalist Class—Guilty! Guilty!! Guilty!!!

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

slpns@slp.org