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EDITORIAL

## WHY DOES IT STOP?

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE Post Office Department has suppressed, by barring from the mails, *La Question Sociale*, an organ of Anarchists in the silk-weaving city of Paterson, N.J. The specific charge against *La Question Sociale* was that it “attempted to incite attacks on enlisted men and officials, and advised Anarchists to arm themselves with knives and dynamite.”

If *La Question Sociale* did these things, the act of the Post Office Department is good. It did the working class a great service thereby. The working class, in its march upon the capitalist state, which it aims to capture and abolish, rearing in its stead the Socialist or industrial state, can not keep its skirts too clear of the propaganda of physical force only. This fight must be fought out, if fought out at all, on the civilized plane of expression of will of the majority by the ballot, and the counting of that ballot. Only if the manifest will of the majority will have been ignored and contemned by the defeated minority will physical force be justifiable. Until then, only harm and disaster can come of the teachings of the dynamiter. Hence, in suppressing *La Question Sociale*, providing always that that paper made use of the language it is accused of, the Post Office Department has done good; it has aided the Social Revolution better than it knew.

But why did the Post Office Department stop there? The alleged objectionable utterances of *La Question Sociale* are said to be not yet a week old. Much more than a week old, several months old are the utterances of an organ of another group of Anarchists, the gold mine owners of Goldfield, Nevada. In its issue for January, this capitalist Anarchist organ, the *Goldfield Gossip*, said:

“A cheaper and more satisfactory method of dealing with this labor trouble in Goldfield last spring would have been to have taken half a dozen of the Socialist leaders in the Miners’ Union AND HANGED THEM ALL

TO TELEGRAPH POLES.

“Speaking dispassionately and without animus, it seems clear to us after many months of reflection that you COULDN’T MAKE A MISTAKE IN HANGING A SOCIALIST. HE IS ALWAYS BETTER DEAD.

“ALWAYS HANG A SOCIALIST, not because he’s a deep thinker, but because he’s a bad actor.”

Is inciting to attacks on Socialists permissible, while only “inciting to attacks on enlisted men and officials” is cause for suppression of the paper uttering the incitation? Is advising mine-owners to arm themselves with the hempen noose an act of good citizenship, while only “advising Anarchists to arm themselves with knives and dynamite” is an act of Anarchy? Why does the Post Office Department stop in its suppression of Anarchy before it has reached all the Anarchists, gold mine owners as well as silk-mill weavers, rich ones as well as poor ones, capitalists as well as workingmen?

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