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EDITORIAL

BACK TO NORMAL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ONLY a few weeks ago the capitalist press was throwing fits on the subject of Anarchy. All manner of measures, forthwith and immediate, were to be adopted against the Anarchists. Rabid as was the Northern press, and the class it spoke for, on this subject, its Southern fellows were rabider. It was from the South that the suggestion came to offer a premium for the scalp of every Anarchist; and it was a Southern State Constitutional Convention that screwed up its indignation to the point of taking a long step towards abolishing free speech and thereby scuttling free political utterance, all under cover of “abhorrence of Anarchy.” That the excitement is over, and the capitalist class has returned to its normal condition, to wit, of dropping false pretences and standing out as a lover and inciter of Anarchy, many signs have been indicating. The latest sign comes from that identical South that but recently suggested the premium for Anarchists’ skull scheme.

From each of the Southern States a loud howl is going up against President Roosevelt. He has done a certain thing; and the white men of the South, and the white women of the South, are asking one another, How do you like it?

What may that certain act of President Roosevelt’s be that is stirring the indignation of the gentlemen and ladies, who but recently were ready to go on a hunt for Anarchist scalps and suppress free speech to spite Anarchists? Can it be a reminiscence of the fact that, when the now President Roosevelt was nominated for Governor in the State, that is to say, when he stepped on the first rung of the ladder, the top-most rung of which he now stands on—, his very first act was to invite and sit down to a luncheon and break bread with a dynamite Anarchist, convicted of the crime, and who “did time” therefor in a California jail,—Mr. Heinrich Weissmann? Or, is Southern indignation directed against the present conduct of President Roosevelt in aiding and abetting the candidacy for Mayor of New York of Mr. Seth Low, one of the “independent” pillars of whose “independent”

nomination is the aforesaid ex-convict Anarchist Heinrich Weissmann, now transformed from a labor-fakir into a “lawyer”? No, and yet again, no. The indignation of the aforementioned Southern gentlemen and ladies is not directed against that or those acts of President Roosevelt. The certain thing that exasperates them is—what?—that President Roosevelt sat down to dinner with Booker T. Washington, a man of breeding, culture and refinement of the negro race.

Malefactors will pardon everything except their victims. In the person of Booker T. Washington, the Southern capitalist class sees incarnated the working class that it has fleeced and mercilessly bled. The Southern capitalist class stands rebuked by the bare mentioning of the negro. Thrown off his guard, the Southerner drops the mask, and exposes himself in his normal character as a raw-boned Anarchist and sympathizer with such.

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