

EDITORIAL

## ANTI-RUNNING AMUCK LEGISLATION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE Federal Senate has passed an Anti-Anarchy bill. This bill takes front rank among legislative idiocies. It is not a wicked bill, it is not a class law bill, it is not a steal bill, it is simply an idiotic bill. Who but idiots would legislate to abolish hail, or snow, or blizzards? None but idiots would go through the performance. The performance would fall so entirely within the province of Idiocy because it takes an idiot to ignore the sources of such visitations, and then, proceeding from such ignorance, to render itself ridiculous by the attempt to punish them. This is the nature of the Anti-Anarchist bill just passed in the Senate. It is actually an Anti-Running Amuck bill.

Whatever the sociologic or economic tenets may be of Anarchy, that particular brand of Anarchy that the Senate has tried to legislate against, Homicidal Anarchy, has a certain well-defined characteristic. Homicidal Anarchy is a phenomenon that has of late furnished so many specimens, that its characteristic is an established fact. There is no instance on record that forms an exception to the rule. The Homicidal Anarchist has regularly forfeited his life. Wherever any such "Anarchist manifestation" has been left unrounded up with the execution of the perpetrator, the manifestation was bogus. It was the deed of a non-Anarchist, who simply sought to make capital for himself. In such cases no lives are ever "taken along." The deed is always cautiously performed when there is nobody around; the doer, of course, goes free. Only last week there was an illustration of this. A clerical member of the Belgian Parliament caused a dynamite detonation in his own house,—and nobody was hurt, of course, and nobody will be punished, he and his in the meantime are raising the cry of "Anarchy" for all it is worth. Leaving aside such "Anarchist attempts upon life, law and order," which by their very peculiarity take them from the category of Homicidal Anarchy, the well established characteristic of Homicidal

Anarchy is the despair of life on the part of the Anarchist in question; his readiness to forfeit his life; and his determination to “take along” with him as many other lives as he can, one other at the very least. The thing is well known among the Malays in the Far East. They call it “Running Amuck.” The Malay, seized with the fit, rushes naked but armed among the crowd: does all the execution he can, and is finally stricken down.

Legislative idiocy has reached its acme when it provides “punishment” for such men. The Malay never sank to such a pathetic depth; the Federal Senate has.

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