

EDITORIAL

KATZ'S SMILE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WHEN the tragedy-outrage was pulled off in Recorder Carroll's court at Paterson, on last May 31, and Rudolph Katz, a National Organizer of the I.W.W. and also Socialist Labor Party nominee for Congress from the Paterson District, was "tried" and "sentenced" to 6 months in jail for picketing before the Siff and Cohen slave-pen;—when, in other words, the blood-sucking firm pulled for a moment its tentacles from the flank of the few strike-breakers whom it had lured within its factory, and, debauching the magistracy of the city, caused the same to step down into the gutter where the Siff and Cohens wallow, to assume their colors, and to "speak their pieces";—when, accordingly, there was enacted a scene that, meant to cover with the ermine of the judiciary, the putrefaction of capitalist "morals," in fact betrayed the smut that clings to an ermine by grace of the bourgeois;—on that occasion and at that moment Katz is reported to have smiled.

It was well—and the smile was ominous.

Blinded with the blindness that proverbially the gods afflict those with whose doom they have decreed, Katz's smile passed unnoticed by his Dishonor the Recorder—at least the smile left his Dishonor unaffected.

The day will come, in the ripeness of time, when his Dishonor will hearken back to that smile, and, along with him, the class that he represents;—the day when, the measure having overflowed, the Working Class of Paterson and of the rest of the land, together with all other decent elements of our population, will, at the hustings, hurl the Siff-and-Cohens together with their lackeys the Recorder-Carrolls, from the high places that to-day they usurp, and will, upon the industrial field, make good the popular, ballot-expressed will against any attempt on the part of Usurpation to desecrate the sanctity of the ballot. The day will come when a Final Verdict will be pronounced from the highest tribunal known—the Sovereign Will,

deliberately expressed by the people.

“When the French people laugh,” observed Emilio Castelar more than forty years ago in his history on the Republican Movement of Europe, “thrones tremble and tumble.” Castelar’s estimate, translated into the language of to-day, addressed to the issues of our generation, reads: “When the Working Class smiles, the day is nigh when the plundering ‘Captains of Industry’ and their ‘legal sanctifiers’ will be shivered and shattered.”

In Katz’s smile smiled the American Proletariat.

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