

EDITORIAL

“DIRECT ACTION” ON EXHIBITION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

AS the wild goat tends to the hills, as swine tend to the swill, so is it impossible for “Direct Action” to “keep its shirt on.”

The fact was exhibited in Boston on the 15th of this month at the Paine Memorial Hall meeting addressed by William D. Haywood, as has been previously reported in these columns.¹

Haywood having, in the course of his speech, administered merited chastisement upon the Civic-Federationized and Militia-of-Christized John Golden; and, at the close of the meeting, Arthur Reimer, a wage-slave member of the National Executive Committee of the Socialist Labor Party, who, together with others, had come forward to the platform, having addressed Haywood as follows: “Comrade Haywood, I heartily endorse your condemnation of the traitorous conduct of John Golden in going into the city of Lawrence during the strike and seeking to divide the workers on strike; but how do you justify your conduct in going to the city of Paterson last Thursday night, knowing as you did that there was a strike of the I.W.W. silk workers on in Paterson, and from a public platform seek to discredit the leader of that strike, Rudolph. Katz?”—Haywood’s first answer was: “Well, did you see the circular that Katz sent out?”

Here we have “Direct Action” in one of its natural poses—trying to see whether it can successfully deceive.

Obviously, Haywood did not know who Reimer was; obviously, Haywood thought Reimer may not be informed on the facts; obviously, Haywood sought to convey to Reimer the impression that the circular in question was a vicious act, so vicious as to provoke, cause and justify his coming to Paterson, whereas, as readers

¹ [See “Slummist Haywood Cowardly Assaults Reimer,” page 3.]

of *The People* are aware, the circular was a firm, but temperate presentation of the facts bearing on the occasion.

But Haywood’s low cunning missed its mark. Reimer was thoroughly posted. So well posted that he immediately replied: “Yes; you mean the circular issued by Local 25, I.W.W., and there was nothing in that circular which would warrant your interference; and what is more, the circular was not issued until your coming was publicly announced.”

The attempt to deceive having failed, “Direct Action” forthwith struck the second of its natural poses—ruffianism—and off went the shirt. As the report puts it: “Without a single word of warning, Haywood suddenly kicked his right foot, with all the force of his huge bulk behind it, into Reimer’s chest” and, not satisfied with that, attempted again to hit the man whom his cowardly brutality had rendered helpless.

Guilty of having deliberately attempted upon the I.W.W. striking silk weavers of Paterson the identical act that John Golden had attempted upon the Lawrence mill hands on strike, which he had just been condemning—to stab them in the back; and finding his endeavor to play scuttle fish vain, the Anarchist leaped forward in all his gorilla savagery, and with the only argument that his nature knows.

Some may cry: “Fetch the felonious assailant to the bar of the law!”

We say: “No! Fetch him before a loftier tribunal—the bar of the Labor, or Socialist Movement. Hold him there, a specimen—and, no doubt, an admired specimen by his breed—of “Direct Action.” Pillory through him, that menace to Labor’s integrity and progress—many-named and manifoldly-disguised Anarchy.

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CORRESPONDENCE

SLUMMIST HAYWOOD COWARDLY ASSAULTS REIMER.

To the *Daily* and *Weekly People*:—Last night at Paine Memorial Hall a meeting was held under the auspices of the Cigar-makers' Socialist Propaganda Club, and despite the rainy weather the audience nearly filled the hall, due to the fact, perhaps, that William D. Haywood was billed as the principal speaker. Aside from the obvious attempt on Haywood's part to boost the S.P., the talk he gave was well above criticism, and no reference to direct action or physical force was made.

The admission was by ticket, for which a charge of ten cents was made, and upon the tickets it was stated, "questions invited," but evidently due to the lateness of the hour, the audience, or at least many of them, left the hall at the close of Haywood's remarks, as the chairman did not request them to stay and take advantage of the invitation to ask questions; nevertheless quite a few of those remaining crowded around the platform, and after shaking hands with the speaker, put some questions which were answered.

Among those who came forward to the platform was Comrade Arthur Reimer, who, after getting Haywood's attention, spoke substantially as follows:

"Comrade Haywood, I heartily endorse your condemnation of the traitorous conduct of John Golden in going into the city of Lawrence during this strike and seeking

to divide the workers on strike; but how can you justify your conduct in going to the city of Paterson last Thursday night, knowing as you did, that there was a strike of the I.W.W. silk workers on in Paterson, and from a public platform seek to discredit the leader of that strike, Rudolph Katz?"

Haywood answered: "Well, did you see the circular that Katz sent out?" Reimer answered: "Yes; you mean the circular issued by Local 25, I.W.W., and there was nothing in that circular which would warrant your interference; and, what is more, the circular was not issued until your coming was publicly announced."

Without a single word of warning, Haywood suddenly kicked his right foot with all the force of his huge bulk behind it, into Reimer's chest. Reimer reeled back, visibly painfully hurt, and half fell to the floor. Haywood began to swear in an undertone, jumped from the stage and started in Reimer's direction, evidently with the intention of again hitting Reimer, when Reimer was stunned and helpless. Bystanders and witnesses to the attack held Haywood back and persuaded him to leave the hall, thereby preventing what was already a most cowardly and brutal assault terminating in an all-around smash up.

The assault was witnessed by many strangers who had come to the hall to hear

Haywood speak and who had roundly applauded his remarks, but the cowardly attack soon changed the opinion of many, who, while leaving the hall, expressed themselves in no uncertain tones; and Haywood, who up to the present has enjoyed an enviable reputation among the workers here. has shown to the world what

a cowardly streak runs through his huge make up. Let it be known to the world what he actually is.

John Sweeney,
Morris Becker,
Fred Houtenbrink,
Charles Luck.

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