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EDITORIAL

## “SAW-DUSTERS” REASONING.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**M**R. A.M. SIMONS of the Socialist party, having recently written an article in which reference was made to Wm. D. Haywood’s endeavor, while in the Boise jail, to bring about the election of a Democratic judge in Idaho, Mr. Haywood turns up in the *Chicago Daily Socialist* of April 26 with a letter in which Mr. Simons’s statement is characterized as “a wilful, contemptible and malicious lie.”

Upon so blunt a denial one expects to find the rest of the letter taken up with some attempt on the part of Mr. Haywood to show that the Simons charge is unfounded. The honorable man, while he will demand proofs of a charge made against him, will not await that to confute a slanderer.

Mr. Haywood realizes this. That he does appears from his not stopping short after giving his fellow Socialist party member the lie direct. He does make an attempt to confute Mr. Simons. And in what does the attempt consist? Does it consist in the citing of witnesses to what he said or did when in jail and while the election was on in Idaho? Does the attempt consist in producing some letter by himself, telling his friends to be true to the Socialist cause even if his life were to be endangered by the election of a “Gooding judge”? In short, does he cite anything done by himself in demonstration? Not at all. What Mr. Haywood adduces as “proof” of the “lie” is that, while he was in jail, he was nominated by the “Socialist party comrades of Colorado” for Governor. In other words, his “proof” consists of what others did.

Upon the same principle—the *Daily People* having stated specifically the date on and the name of the hall in Paterson when and where William D. Haywood, a large and successful strike of the I.W.W. silk workers then being in progress, attempted upon the striking Paterson workers the trick that John Golden attempted upon the Lawrence strikers, by repeating the manufacturers’ vilifications of

Rudolph Katz, the leader of the strike—upon the same principle Mr. Haywood might endeavor to deny the *Daily People’s* veracity by quoting some act of support received by him from some bona fide workers outside of Paterson, and who knew not of his John Golden performance in Paterson.

That Mr. Haywood, when in jail, was nominated for Governor by the Colorado S.P. is not responsive to the charge. The fact is irrelevant—unless the allegation is accompanied with the further allegation that the nominators had information to the effect that Mr. Haywood was being accused of intriguing in favor of capitalist politicians, and of thus sacrificing the Cause of Socialism to the safety of his own neck, and that the nominators, having investigated the charge, found it false. The nomination of Mr. Haywood, accompanied with such allegations,—that would be an argument against the Simons charge—that would be, at least, prima facie evidence. Without such allegations accompanying the nomination, the nomination means nothing, one way or another, so far as the charge is concerned. All that the nomination means is that the S.P. of Colorado, from which motions have since emanated against Mr. Haywood, held of Mr. Haywood, in 1907, as I mistakenly favorable an opinion as the *Daily People* frankly admits that it then held of the gentleman.

Straightforward reasoning is one of the demands that the Labor Movement must make upon those who figure in it. Without that, the Movement will be exposed to be trepanned. The reasoning that shuffles is perfidious. It is the reasoning of the saw-dust sharper.

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