

EDITORIAL

## WHERE M'GREGOR SITS, ETC.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**L**ET us not allow the capers cut by the collection of child minds in adult bodies who gathered a few weeks ago in the Anarcho-Syndicalist convention at Chicago, to go wholly to waste.

Already at the second convention of the I.W.W., fully two years before the Anarchists started their sore finger on a hand split, their representatives raised the hue-and-cry against having a "President."

"Presidents," said they, "are vestiges of monarchy, of autocracy, of despotism; a truly democratic body needs no President, will tolerate none"—and more to the same effect.

The objection was met with the argument that, whether the body should have a President or not was a matter too trifling for serious men's consideration. Organization implied control authority. Whatever name was given to a central official, he would be de facto President, if at all fit; and, if not fit, someone else would exercise the functions of President. It mattered not where "McGregor sat"—"where McGregor sits there will be the head."

Circumstances contributed to aid the Anarch puerility. The then President, Sherman, had to be done away with, none too quickly; the imprisonment of Haywood at the time, the only person who could be thought of for President, placed him out of the question. With no one whom the convention could think of for the office, the office was canceled.

With no President to "tyrannize" them, the recent Anarch convention spent most of its time in kicking against the central authority of their body, and in advancing general theories against concentration. A discussion of that nature, supplemented with the self-laudatory speeches of the delegates, typified the bunch as mentally undergrown and physically overgrown,—truly representative of Anarchy.

Democracy is not dependent on titles, or names of offices. Democracy depends upon the democratic, that is, the sane structure of a membership's mind. Where the membership is democratic there can be no centralized tyrant post. The post would no sooner show its head, then off its head would go. Where the centralized tyrant bobs up, and keeps the saddle, it is an unerring symptom of a child membership, hence a membership that is not democratic.

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