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EDITORIAL

THE CRIPPLE CREEK STRIKE.

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A MINERS' strike is now in process in Colorado of deep importance. How deep the importance is to be gathered, not merely from the facts that are leaking out, but from the silence thereon by the Republican and Democratic press of the East.

A struggle has been long going on for the eight-hour day in Colorado. The organizations of labor in that State either are not aware of how illusory such a law is, so long as they leave the capitalist class in power: either they do not know that the effect of such laws elsewhere has been the introduction of improved machinery whereby labor is greatly displaced and those at work must toil with an intensity so greatly increased that they lose more than they gain; either they do not know that, even so, the law is ridden rough-shod over whenever it proves inconvenient;—either they do not know that, or they know all that, but are of the opinion that their local capitalists are not able to introduce the neutralizing improved machinery soon enough, and that Labor in the State is still powerful enough to see to it that the law be enforced. Whatever the case, the Colorado organizations have been struggling for the eight-hour day. Unable to secure it by law, they decided to secure it by a strike. The Western Federation of Miners took the lead. It picked out its stronghold, the Cripple Creek district, as the field of battle. And the strike was on for the eight-hour day.

Immediately, without even the pretence that there was violence, there being none, the militia of the State was mobilized and hurled upon Cripple Creek. As a Colorado paper, in a lucid moment of veracity, puts it, “at Cripple Creek the measures taken by the military are the same as the United States army used in occupying the Philippines, with the exception that the Governor grudgingly and slowly respected the habeus corpus.” The militia took county and town officers into

custody, they entered the homes of private citizens, they surrounded the meeting places of the workingmen, they invaded even the local courts and seized the civil officers. In short, the mailed hand of the brigand class of capitalism exhibited itself, is now exhibiting itself at its worst in Cripple Creek against the working class.

While these remarkable occurrences are transpiring in the country, the Eastern associates of the Western brigands are suppressing all information on the subject. Like the accomplices of a murderer, at work inside of a house, they, on the outside, are “keeping the deed dark.” While, on the Colorado soil of America, rapine is rampant, these Eastern pals of the Western felons are filling the columns of their papers with “Macedonian Outrages,” “Bulgarian Outrages,” “Russian Outrages”—anything and everything, as far away and foreign as possible, except the home iniquity, the COLORADO OUTRAGE!

Let the working class of America attend to the home outrages, and stamp these out with all the might inherent in their own class; in the only way in which the stamping out can be done—by mopping the earth with the Republican and Democratic parties’ arms, of the capitalist class!

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