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EDITORIAL

THREATENING EVENTS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE Colorado papers that are running in contain strange matter. The matter is all the stranger seeing that the capitalist press of the city, which, no doubt, is receiving full press dispatches on the subject, sayeth not a word.

The matter in question indicates that the State of Colorado is traveling on a volcano. Peabody, defeated, according to the election returns, claims error, and issues a proclamation announcing his intention to “uphold the law” (sic) read “to wade to success through floods of blood that will compare to the bloodshed initiated by Gen. Bell like an ocean to a puddle”. Adams, the elected Governor, issues a counter-blast announcing his intention to “maintain his right”. In the meantime sensitive “business” is growing scared; as one of the papers puts it: “the shopkeepers are fearing a civil war”.

Peabody may or may not carry out his threat. No doubt there are capitalist interests vast enough to back him up at home with cash and other sinews of war, and outside of the State with false newspaper despatches. But that will not suffice to determine him. What will determine him will be estimate made of the property-holding class that voted for him.

The pre-election accounts from Colorado were unanimous in the view that the Gen. Bell incident had caused a general re-alignment of parties among the property-holding classes. Few were the prophets who dared decide in whose favor the balance sheet of the element would pronounce. All they claimed was that the property-holders who either stuck to or went over to Adams were “purely sentimental”. The question that will determine Peabody’s action is, how large is that “purely sentimental” capitalist vote. At this distance it looks small. From all accessible sources of information it looks as if Adams drew to himself the bulk of the Labor

Vote, and that he owes his election to that. So woefully untutored are the Colorado workers, that the Socialist Labor Party could make but an imperceptible impression upon them, and even the Debs party could not take hold of their imagination. Still at that primitive stage of the Labor Movement that consists in imagining relief can come from individual vengeance, the Colorado workers were carried away with the desire to “do up” Peabody. Of course they could not see far enough to aim at Peabodyism, which would have caused them to bury Adams, the Democrat, in the same election grave with Peabody himself.

If this estimate is correct, if the “purely sentimental” capitalist contingent that wheeled in line for Adams is trifling, and the real overwhelming mass that elected him was furnished by Labor—then ten to one Peabody will carry out his threat to “uphold the law.”

Poor Colorado deluded workers!—Poor deluded workers of the land if much longer they miss the beacon-fires of the S.L.P.!

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