

EDITORIAL

UN-MATHEMATICAL MCADOO.

By DANIEL DE LEON

SPEAKING on the 14th instant on the subject of “Guarding a Great City” before the Harvard Union at Cambridge, Mass., William McAdoo, ex-Police Commissioner of New York, stated he had made the experience in his official capacity that every year some atrocious crime was committed in New York, and yet the perpetrator could not be brought to justice “because of pull which the criminal has among men of influence.” McAdoo specified several instances, the most signal of which was that of a fellow, who stabbed to death an innocent man in a hotel near the Grand Central Station, and who, through the “influence of powerful men in the city,” was kept from the police until he reached a European city where he lived unmolested. Placing his fingers on these atrocities, McAdoo was ready with his medicine. It was this: some millionaire should donate a million dollars to hunt to earth the escaped murderers.

McAdoo had better go back to the benches of the lowest grades of the Grammar School. Elemental arithmetic should be enough to satisfy him that a million dollars would not reach “within a forty foot pole” of the escaped criminals whom he has alluded to.

What is it that enabled these criminals to escape? McAdoo himself answers the question—“men of influence in the city.” How come these men to be vested with “influence”? Why, by virtue of their millions, or if not themselves possessed of millions, nevertheless in touch with such men. It is safe to say that these escaped criminals had “pull” with not less than twenty men. It is safe to say that these twenty men averaged a million apiece. That makes a twenty million backing.—Query, what show would ONE million dollars have against TWENTY?

Nor is this all. In the instance of the influential murderer who escaped to Europe and was left there in peace, it is obvious that the “pull” was exercised, not

by “men of influence IN THE CITY” alone. There is not a European country with which the United States has not an extradition treaty. Murder is recognized as an extraditable offense, everywhere. How came the machinery of the United States Government to be kept from operating and demanding the extradition of the escaped distinguished felon? Obviously, “men of influence IN THE CITY” alone could not block the wheels of that gigantic Federal engine. The men of influence “in the city” are all connected with such other influential “Pillars of Law and Order” outside of the city. Safe to say that such men “in the city” are in touch with a hundred “outside of the city”—some even in Boston, the city contiguous to that in which McAdoo flunked in his arithmetic. Safe to say these hundred men average a million each. That would make a hundred millions—all told a 120,000,000 dollar power. How would a solitary 1 million look in a struggle with 120 millions? It would look like thirty cents.

McAdoo had better brush up on his arithmetic.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded August 2009

slpns@slp.org