

The People.

VOL. VIII, NO. 6

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MAY 8, 1898

PRICE 2 CENTS

FIRST EDITORIAL

Take Note.

By DANIEL DE LEON

The Federal call for the enlistment of regiments of the National Guard brought out not a few interesting facts.

The New York Seventh Regiment refused, to a man, to enlist. The knowledge of what this regiment is, and the reasons its leaders give for their action throws valuable light upon the case.

The Seventh Regiment is called the “crack” regiment. It is composed of the sons and relatives of leading capitalists. Its motto is “Law and Order and the Protection of Property.” The occasional scandals that break out in its midst, due to the rarity of marriages in its ranks, the discoveries of thefts practised by its leading lights, as, for instance, when its member Manwaring was, quite recently, caught staling his sweetheart’s ear-rings: none of these affect its standing; on the contrary, all of these help to interpret what it means when it says: “Law and Order, and Protection of Property.”

What it means by this motto, is, furthermore, made clear by some of its official acts. Not many years ago, this regiment issued a circular to the public,—its special public. The circular was an argument why the Legislature should not stint appropriations for the militia in general, the Seventh Regiment in particular. It was argued that a large mass of poor people was springing up that endangered “Law, Order and Property”; this point was illustrated pictorially by a map of New York City with only a thin line of white in its midst (representing the “Law, Order and Property” neighborhood), while all around were deep and broad black patches, representing the workingman’s quarters. To keep these down, and thus protect the “Law, Order and Property” of the Manwaring class —such is the purpose of this “crack” regiment’s existence.

The refusal of the Seventh Regiment to enlist in the army against Spain was, accordingly, to be expected. But the regiment did not propose to leave any doubt on the

subject. Its patriotism being questioned, some one in authority explained that it would be unwise if the regiment left New York, seeing that "it might be needed at home to suppress labor riots."

The Seventh Regiment stands self-photographed. It is there only to fight unarmed workingmen, shoot down children and women, as it did during the Brooklyn trolley strike. Against such a foe it is at all times ready to prance forward and be brave, all the more as it thereby protects the robber class of society against the robbed; but against the Spaniard, an armed foe, that is too dangerous a step for the valorous Manwaringites. Whether the regiment will re-consider its determination, now that the Spanish Manwarings are found to have been robbing the Spanish government and appropriated to themselves the funds intended to arm the Spanish soldier with, remains to be seen. At all events the war has helped to make clear the close affinity there exists between the several divisions of the Manwaring class. Whether of Iberian or of American birth, the Manwaringites are there to plunder the people.

[Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.](#)

[Uploaded December 2003](#)