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EDITORIAL

A NEW CHAIR FACTORY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE San Francisco *Chronicle* of the 17th of April has an account of the banquet given the day before by the officers of the First Battalion of Artillery, National Guard of California, at the St. Francis Hotel. “The feature of the evening’s festivity,” says the *Chronicle*, “was General MacArthur’s address.” What did the general say?

The gist of Gen. MacArthur’s address is found in two of its sentences. The first:

“The country is on the eve of great industrial disturbance, a convulsion in society is inevitable.”

Arguing up from these premises the general reached his second decisive sentence:

“One of the most essential of the moving forces which are molding and shaping the destinies of the nation is a well-organized militia in every State of the Union.”

If it is an accident, it is one of those providentially contrived accidents that the general’s address was delivered in a neighboring State to Colorado and at a time when the militia of that State cannot be denied the glory of “molding and shaping” things—it has suspended the writ of habeas corpus, it has exiled people, it has disbanded courts, in short it “molded and shaped” conditions in a way that would have turned Attila the Hun green with envy.

General MacArthur may be right and he may be wrong as to the final success of the militia in “shaping and molding;” but if he is right, then what the militia has been actually turned into is a furniture factory, with chairs or seats as a specialty—the kind of seats that Horace Greeley had in mind when he said that

“bayonets are an uncomfortable and intolerable seat for the Goddess of Liberty.

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