

McNAMARA SYMPOSIUM

(Continued from Page Two.)

years to come. They have done irreparable injury to a righteous cause, and now that they have proclaimed their guilt, the hand of organized labor will not be raised to stay the punishment which their crime so justly deserves."—Frank Farrington, of the International Executive Board of United Mine Workers of America.

"I am so astounded at the confessions, I hardly know what to say. I received such assurance from the American Federation and from the prisoners themselves of their innocence and such apparent proof that we took up the cause and made every effort to aid in their defense. Our delegates to the National body came back and doubly reassured us that the McNamaras were innocent. On these assurances we tried to defend these men and the cause of labor."—Charles Perry Taylor, Tacoma, secretary State Federation of Labor.

International President Lynch of the Typographical Union received at Indianapolis this significant telegram from the Typographical Union at El Paso, Texas: "El Paso Union suggests that you call all subordinate unions telegraphically to pass resolutions demanding that McNamaras be given full penalty of the law, special meetings to be held immediately."

There are many more opinions of labor leaders of similar nature which might be quoted.

At Labor Temple, Portland, there appeared on the bulletin board the day following the sensational denouement in the McNamaras' case, the following significant statement:

"John J. and James B. McNamara are two of the greatest traitors the world has ever known. Judas was an angel compared with them. They have sold the entire working class to save Otis and his bunch from losing their big land and water steal. They have defeated Job Harriman for mayor, and that was the aim Otis and his bunch would pay any price for."

GUILTY.

Union labor has blundered. It has been led by incompetent leaders into an appalling error. Union labor backed the McNamaras, and the McNamaras are self-confessed murderers in a crime of the century. Union labor went down the line for the McNamaras, and the McNamaras betrayed the cause of union labor.

In a Los Angeles court Friday, James B. McNamara confessed that he placed the dynamite under the Times building and blew twenty-one people into eternity. At the same time and in the same court John J. McNamara pleaded guilty to a charge that he was principal in placing dynamite under the Llewellyn Iron works.

Twenty-one graves in a Los Angeles cemetery are physical evidence of the McNamara crime. Fatherless children and bereaved families in the same city are other testimony.

But, atrocious as was this destruction of life and property, it is not the largest factor in their unspeakable crimes. The larger issue is the black spectre of anarchy brought on the scene in this country by the McNamara method.

It was attempt to govern by dynamite. It was attempt to silence free speech by slaughter. It was effort to overthrow liberty of the press by wholesale assassination. It was endeavor to Russianize America with a bomb.

It was attempt to turn to the wall the Declaration of Independence, on which it is inscribed that every man has the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It was attempt by midnight butchery to overthrow that for which the revolutionary war was fought. It was attempted assassination of one of the most priceless of American institutions.

All these things, the McNamaras did. They have confessed that they did them. What is worse, they claim to have used the murderous dynamite to further the cause of union labor.

This country is not to be Mexicanized. Nor is it to be Russianized. It is a land of reason and not a land of slaughter by explosives. Words, not bombs, are the only legitimate weapons for fighting a cause or converting an opponent. The fruits of controversy must not be graves. The product of disputes must not be death by dynamite.

The confessions stagger the country. They are the most momentous events that ever happened in an American court room. They appall, because they suggest that such as the McNamaras have employed similar means of assassination under a free flag and in a fair land, and done it in the name of a meritorious cause, a cause that such atrocities betray and belie.

The confessions will fall heavily on union labor, because union labor foolishly suffered itself to be drawn by incompetent leaders into an appalling blunder. Instead of leaving it to the courts to determine the McNamara's guilt or innocence, leaders of union labor everywhere adjudged them innocent, and declared the prosecution a persecution.

Samuel Gompers, the chief official of union labor, pronounced the McNamaras guiltless, but all the time the McNamaras were murderers.

Union labor councils and organizations everywhere proclaimed the McNamaras innocent, and raised funds for their defense, but all that time, the McNamaras were guilty to the core.

Portland laboring men paraded the streets, made speeches and passed resolutions in which the prosecution was denounced and the McNamaras defended, but all the time the 21 graves in Los Angeles were terrible testimony of the McNamaras' guilt.

Labor newspapers everywhere fulminated and howled about the guiltlessness and martyrdom of the McNamaras, but all that time the blood of 21 victims was on the hands of the McNamaras.

These were criminal blunders. They placed the cause of labor in a false position. The honest masses, and most of the leaders, of union labor would never knowingly countenance assassination. Thousands upon thousands of union labor men will be staggered at the revolting crimes of the McNamaras, and be unspeakably chagrined that incompetent leadership has drawn the whole body of union labor into the false position of espousing the cause of two murderers paramount.

The public heart beats in sympathy with the unionized laboring man, for the reason that it believes that without the force of organization, labor would be driven to the level of serfs by the master class. But the conduct of labor and leadership of labor must be intelligent. Its masses must think and act for themselves, and not permit themselves to be drawn into such foolish blunders as claiming beforehand, without information and without evidence, that guilty men are innocent.

Every suspicion against the McNamaras has been justified. The moral of this tragedy and its outcome is that workingmen—and workingmen means all who toil—should have the benefit of a court or commission under the authority of the state, to which they could go for redress of their grievances and adjudication of their rights as to wages and hours of labor.—Oregon Journal.

GEN. OTIS' OPINIONS.

General Harrison Gray Otis, of the Los Angeles Times, had this to say:

"The result of confessions of the McNamara brothers in open court is a great triumph for the truth and law. It vindicates our contention. It is proof of what we suspected from the outset—that this unexampled crime was inspired by organized labor or was done by desperate members of organization who knew beforehand that they would have the sympathy of their lawless fellows—their lawless, not their lawful, fellows.

"The result may be and ought to be of great service to organized labor itself, which with the criminal and monopolistic elements eliminated, may go on in a career the like of which it can never achieve by further making itself an ally of violence, prescription, monopoly and crime. With these elements eliminated, there is no reason why organized labor may not take a defensible stand in this country, a stand which shall bring it always within the pale of law, always with-

in the pale of reason, moderation and justice, never again pursuing the bad tactics which have so often marked its course in the past, where and when resort has been so frequently had to prescription, industrial monopoly, violence, boycott and the cruel persecution of workmen having every right which organized labor can possibly possess under the constitution and law.

"I say these things not because I am a believer in the wisdom of many of the tenets of organized labor or in the necessity for its contentions, but because I had never had any purpose to deny the right of labor to organize lawfully.

"I never denied the right of laborers of all classes to unite and act within the limitations of the law, but the necessity of obedience to law on the part of all workmen, citizens and all employers, large and small, is a supreme necessity, if we are to have peace in the republic and preserve the government under which we live."

LET US MARCH ON.

Organized labor has been led astray in the defense of two of its minor leaders who resorted to violence and murder.

Too many times in the past innocent men have been accused and convicted because of the cunning and power of the higher anarchists of privilege. The hosts of labor were not to blame for springing to the conclusion that another scaffold for good men was being erected.

Organized labor at all times and places has condemned violence and lawlessness.

It has a right to presume its members innocent until proven guilty, for too often are its leaders accused unjustly.

Let us close up the ranks and march on.

—Portland Labor Press.

SAMUEL GOMPERS' LETTER.

A few months ago Samuel Gompers sent out the following letter, which, in view of the turn events have recently taken, is rather rich reading:

An Appeal to Read.

Dear Sir:

In the great struggle in which organized labor is involved to secure for the men of labor equality of opportunity, that high ideals of American citizenship may be perpetuated, many obstacles are encountered. History's pages are replete with acknowledged grievous wrongs committed against those who, by force of circumstances, do the world's work.

The only haven where the workers of America can find succor and sympathy is within the organizations formed for their mutual protection. Organized labor only asks that a fair and impartial trial be accorded to the McNamaras—nothing more, nothing less.

Yours sincerely,

SAM'L GOMPERS,
President American Federation of Labor.

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TO THE EMPLOYER.—THE TIMES will ever be open to the employer of labor, that he may have, through its columns, an opportunity to place the truth before the public regarding the business conditions which govern him and his environments. The co-operation of the employer and the employee are the substantial proofs of what has made the Pacific Coast what it is today. Their interests are identical, are inseparable. The mutual experience, foresight and confidence between the business man and the wage-earner have made and are making for success. The investments of the one coupled with the efforts of both are solid bulwarks of present prosperity and the assurances of the future. Minus these, advancement along the lines of industrial and commercial progress of the Pacific Coast is impossible. Without this hearty co-operation, a continuance of the highest possible development of our agricultural, horticultural, timber, mineral and other resources is out of the question, and we must retrograde and decay.

TO THE EMPLOYEE.—The columns of THE TIMES will always be open to the employee, whether he may be an independent toiler or claim affiliation with a trade organization. THE TIMES hopes that by thus affording a medium for the interchange of opinions and by untrammelled discussion of labor questions in its columns, that a better understanding will be brought about between the employer of labor and the man who earns his bread by the sweat of his brow. THE TIMES believes that by this method the rights of both will be conserved and advanced.

In the field of labor THE TIMES will champion the principle of "equality of opportunity," with all that it means to independent labor and to the average good citizen. This paper will be the staunch and undeviating friend of all honest toilers, of all unshackled, law-abiding, sincere workers; and while never denying the right of workmen to organize lawfully, this paper will be the unyielding foe of lawless, proscriptive, monopolistic and exclusive labor organizations, because they are the selfish enemies of their own class, and the common danger of the industrial world. Our position in this matter is unmistakable, and will be maintained.

THE TIMES will at all times stand for the conservation of human life and energy and character, with all their tremendous potentialities; for the preservation of the community and the nation; for the protection of property; for the flag and its glorious traditions; for the national life and honor with their pregnant possibilities; for the continuance of a brave, virtuous and patriotic citizenship, without which no nation can be either truly great or really good.

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