

Portland Labor Press



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ITS OBJECT IS PEACE.

On page 14 of the Oregonian of last Thursday is a column article telling of the organization of a Citizens' Alliance. The article is headed, "Object Is Peace," and another headline says, "Will Deal With Unions." A careful perusal of the article discloses some very commendable ideas as seen from the side of the employer and business man, and it is to be hoped that organized labor can be made to feel that the movement is sincere and that in trying to deal with labor unions it will not early be found to contain within it the seed of utter disruption of the cardinal principles of unionism. The writer can see nothing wrong in organizations of the employers, nor does he care one whit by what name they designate their organizations, though he is frank to say that he believes every city should make movements of this nature local and independent as much as possible and that the present record of the Citizens' Alliance is hardly what might be calculated to give labor unionists in general a very favorable opinion of the name. No one will wonder at this, not even the conscientious member of the Citizens' Alliance.

While it is needless to admit there are those in organized labor who would advocate that the gauntlet be thrown down to this organization at its incipency, we do not share such a view for one minute, and shall counsel with every method of persuasion at our command that this organization be treated with earnestness, and that every possible effort be made to bring about those feelings and associations that shall make for industrial peace. Such movements are timely, indeed there is no time to be lost in perfecting them, and again, there is no time nor spirit for anything that is tainted by insincerity of either side. Organized labor is or should be ready to meet this organization frankly and freely. This organization can, if it will, make organized labor know from the start that it is sincere, and again, it must also understand that it will be impossible for it to conceal from organized labor any untoward designs for one minute.

It is not for us to say how organized labor will treat some of the avowed positions of this organization regarding certain vital tenets of unionism, neither is it for us to advocate a policy. It is high time both sides try to bury the hatchet if possible upon all mooted questions and keep it buried. Such a thing is possible, but both sides must know and understand in advance that this will cost concessions and concessions.

Indeed, while we must say the article above referred to contains inferences which will not be reassuring to many unionists, still all should regard them as coming from the business man's side of the argument, with probably as charitable a view for the side of organized labor as their understanding of labor's contentions will permit.

If there is one thing more than another that we do except to in the tenor of the movement as depicted in the article referred to, it is that this movement is sectional. It should have been mutual from the start to have received the largest possible measure of popular support. But from its name we opine it is a branch of the same Citizens' Alliance with which we are more or less familiar, in which case it must first perfect its own branch organization. But it matters not what its name or antecedents, if it is sincere in its desire for mutual relations with labor unions instead of being beat on their destruction.

As we said above, we believe it is high time. The industrial situation to-

day is in reality a mild form of civil war. When we view the terrible conditions in Colorado we must admit also that it is not over-mild in many instances. That this condition will not endure is an unwarranted assumption. That more than one locality is destined to suffer similar destitution is logical conclusion. That cities like this where labor and employer are enjoying comparatively peaceful relations should sincerely enter into an educational movement making for conditions of permanent peace is pre-eminently rational and desirable. That these ends may be reached in one locality between the same forces that wage bitter strife in another is equally possible, and is but a matter of having learned sufficiently the lesson of peace versus war in advance.

There is another and a very large thing to take into consideration. Witness the destruction and devastation of property in Colorado; and you will witness it in other places no doubt. Those cities (and Portland should be one of them) that solve these questions peacefully will form natural centers to which people from these devastated districts will flow, and take our word for it, the consideration from many appearances is one worth banking on.

Let us hope this movement will have the result most hoped for. Let us early arrange for public discussions (not debates) upon all sides of the question, and from this movement make an honest effort to secure a reliable, trustworthy and unbiased board of arbitration. Labor unionists must realize that these will not all result in perfectly satisfactory conclusions for them, but all should withhold irritating comment and agitation and all work hard for peace just as long as there is a possibility of reaching just agreements.

General Sherman Bell, who is governing Teller County under martial law, has issued another statement for publication, which in part is as follows: "There are 10,000 lies being written about me. I am acting under orders of the Governor of the State of Colorado. He stands for peace and quiet and good government, and has instructed me to see to it that the Western Federation of Miners shall not—directly or indirectly—murder any more men, and they shall not. So far as placing Denver under martial law is concerned, that rests solely with the Governor. Provided he should see fit to do so, I am his Adjutant-General, commanding the military forces of the state, and will see to it that hundreds of bad men are deported, and after martial law has finally been declared off, if the citizens permit the cattle I intend to permit to return that will be their business. No man who wants to work will be molested, but the person who lives solely and only by his mouth, provided Governor Peabody gives me the word, will have to emigrate. The time for temporizing talk in Colorado has passed. What we ought to do now is to act, and I guess we are going some."

If Colorado is to be relieved of those "who lives solely and only by his mouth," there ought be more deportations and this man Bell should head the list. His language would not only indicate that he is a braggart, but that he lacks the necessary elements of a gentleman to keep from appearing indecent in print. He implies "by his mouth" that all union men are "cattle," but he lacks the necessary elements of humanity to treat them so. This fast statement of Bell's ought to be sufficient to excuse him for the part he has played in the military outlawry of Colorado. He is simply a human abnormality, of the Javert stripe—Hugo's uncompromising minion of the law—whose conception of law overbalanced his sense of justice. Bell is unfortunate, perhaps, by being born so, for if by some mischance he should do someone a kindness he would undoubtedly take his own life through remorse.

"Oregon City, Or., June 29.—Eight and twenty indignant laborers created a scene on the streets tonight in giving vent to their feelings over the treatment they say they received at the hands of the Willamette & American Employment Agency, doing business on Morrison street, in Portland. Marx Dyer, the foreman, says the fees paid by the men to this agency must be repaid or suit will be instituted.

"The laborers say they were promised jobs at the pulp mills in this city, work to begin upon their arrival here. When informed that employment could not be offered for two weeks their wrath broke out, nor did offers of night work for a number serve to mollify them. A late car took the disappointed men back to Portland, bent on getting satisfaction."

The foregoing is an extenuation of a continuous stream of argument against the nefarious and unreliable work of these grafting concerns, and forceful and convincing evidence that they should be so restricted by bond or otherwise as to make them keep their promises. Indeed, we know of no more worthy thing that could be done by any city like this than the establishment of a public labor bureau. The cost would be very light compared to the measure of real benefit it would be to the working populace.

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A. F. OF L WILL AID

(Continued from Page 1)

Weeks have elapsed since the dynamite disaster by which many men were killed and wounded at Victor, Colo., yet not one scintilla of evidence, either official or unofficial, has been vouchsafed the public connecting the striking miners or their organization with that disaster. Yet men have been placed under military arrest, thrown into the bull-pen without any charge having been made against them by any complainant, judge or grand jury.

The mine owners, under the assumed name of the Citizens' Alliance, have unceremoniously summoned the officers elected by the people and demanded their resignation, and if either refused or hesitated ropes with nooses at the end were flung at their feet, the alternative given them for signing their already prepared resignations or be hanged.

Men against whom no charge, either direct or indirect, was made, were dragged bodily from their homes by armed guards, placed on trains and deported from the state.

The Citizens' Alliance has declared "Death to Unionism in the Cripple Creek District," and this is evidently its purpose, though its members have, for strategic reasons, moderated that declaration. Nor do they have in mind Cripple Creek district alone, but organized labor of the entire country, for all will readily understand that the mine owners' organization of Colorado, that is, the Citizens' Alliance, is an offshoot of the "Parry" species of antagonism, regardless of the attitude which the trade union movement may take.

In view of the critical situation of affairs in Colorado, and the fact that there is not now and may not for some time to be fair opportunity for the miners of Colorado to have accorded to them and maintained by the courts of that state the rights to which the men are entitled, both in accordance with the laws and constitution of Colorado and the United States, we are firmly of the opinion that their only redress is to and through Federal courts of the United States.

And inasmuch as there are unlimited millions at the disposal of the mine owners of Colorado in their lawless and brutal attempt to rob the men of their organization and their liberty (and if they deem necessary of their very lives), in the interest not only of the labor movement, but in the interest of justice and right, fair-dealing, the protection of the rights and liberties and lives, the rights for which the labor movement stands.

We appeal to all organized labor and friends to not only give their moral but financial assistance, so that the great question of constitutional liberty, human rights and civil government may be properly presented and defended, and we hope finally proclaimed and sustained by the Federal courts of our country.

A special session of the Colorado Legislature must be called at once to comply with the command of the state constitution by enacting an eight-hour law with proper penalty provision against its violation. The Legislature must hold to a strict accountability all who have violated statutory, constitutional and fundamental laws and human rights. In the meantime every effort should be made by all lovers of their fellows to bring to an amicable adjustment the industrial conditions which now obtain in Colorado. The freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the right to home are involved; the principles of our republic, the progress of civilization are hanging in the balance.

Send all financial contributions to maintain the legal rights of the Colorado miners to Mr. W. D. Haywood, secretary of the Western Federation of Miners, 625 Mining Exchange building, Denver, Colo.

Fraternally yours,
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR,
SAMUEL GOMPERS, Pres.
FRANK MORRISON, Sec.

CAUTIONS CENTRAL BODIES.

Care Should Be Exercised Against Harboring Dual Unions.
The laxity of discipline and carrying out of policy of the American Federation of Labor by some central labor councils working under charter of the A. F. of L., in reference to local unions being affiliated with said central bodies, has called forth a protest from headquarters in Washington, D. C., in the shape of a circular address.

Washington, D. C., June 14, 1904.
To Officers and Delegates Composing Central Bodies Affiliated to the American Federation of Labor,
-Greeting:

For some time past complaints have been filed in the office of the American Federation of Labor citing acts of disloyalty by central bodies in reference to laws of recognized international unions and decisions of American Federation of Labor conventions. Some of them show such flagrant action that the casual observer wonders why chartered central bodies, the purpose of which is uniformity of action and compliance not only with the fundamental law but

strict adherence to such decisions as may from time to time be rendered by conventions, should violate the principles of the charter and follow an antagonistic course, interfering with the loyalty of the organization to the highest court of labor appeals, and bringing tumult between and among national and international bodies composing the American Federation of Labor.

Conventions of the American Federation of Labor are composed of elected representatives of its affiliated parts, and when subjects of dispute are: First, investigated by the Executive Council; second, reported thereon to the convention; third, reviewed by a convention committee, and fourth, decided upon by the convention, all concerned have reasonable guarantee that the decision is the best that can be rendered. With such an assurance, central bodies, by virtue of their charter obligation and by everything which goes to insure permanency of the labor movement on practical lines, should respect and faithfully carry such decisions into effect. Non-compliance sets up the offending body as either in rebellion to constituted authority or as assuming right to individual decision at variance with the labor court of last resort, and either course can bring nothing but disregard of rights or a feeling that something else than the usual methods of securing justice must be resorted to, and which in time renders local decisions subject to force rather than to reason, and therefore sows the seed of disintegration.

To avoid this, and in order to maintain solidarity, discipline and progress, every central body should, and is, called upon to comply with decisions of American Federation of Labor conventions. This general principle covers laws and forms of procedure in general, but at present, and in view of the protests above referred to has special reference to recent decisions on disputed points of trade union jurisdiction.

Conventions will not give decisions until the evidence warrants that course; but, when rendered, central bodies, in as far as they are concerned, should give the general movement the best assistance of which they are capable by strict compliance with said decisions. To do otherwise prevents uniform action and contemporaneous progress.

At the Boston convention decisions were rendered putting in close relationship certain divisions of labor which instead of being in union were at variance, and the best of reasons were given for the course outlined, and unless central bodies comply therewith, and immediately place bona-fide and duly recognized unions in affiliation and require others to properly qualify for same by attachment to their constituted international associations, the object of chartering central bodies is a farce, and their usefulness, which heretofore has been a great source of good to the progress of our movement both from organizing and legislative standpoints, will be hampered and rendered shifty and unstable.

A charter of affiliation means that the body holding it will comply with the laws, resolutions and rules which it represents, and failure to do so means reaction and rebellion. If there are now any local unions in your central body which by American Federation of Labor decision should be component parts of a chartered international union, your body is harming our movement, and this circular calls upon you to adjust the irregularity, and thereby prove the utility of your central body to the labor movement. Delay in this matter is fraught with danger, hence in this fraternal appeal for regularity of procedure the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor expects to be in a position to publish that the protests against central bodies for lack of respect to convention decisions have been withdrawn, and that all are in harmony with our international bodies and the American Federation of Labor for the general good of all.

NOTICE OF SALE.

T. S. McDaniel vs. M. L. Grady.
By virtue of an execution and order of sale issued out of the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Multnomah County, in the suit of T. S. McDaniel, plaintiff, vs. M. L. Grady et al., defendants, directing me to make sale of the following described real property in Multnomah County, Oregon, to-wit: Lots 35 and 37, in block 22; lots 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 and 31, in block 29; lot 24, in block 21; lots 32 and 34, in block 29; lots 17, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 26, in block 35; lots 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, in block 42, all in Irvington Park, according to the recorded plat, will, on Friday, the 29th day of July, 1904, at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M. at the front door of the county court house of said county, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash all the right, title and interest had by defendants and each of them on the 11th day of April, 1896, or since acquired by them or either of them in and to said real property to satisfy said writ and accruing costs.
W. A. STORREY,
Sheriff of Multnomah County, Oregon.

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned administrator of the estate of Lucinda Gedamke, deceased, has filed his final account as administrator thereof in the County Court, and the County Court of Multnomah County has fixed, Friday, the 29th day of July, at 9:30 A. M. for final hearing of said account, at which time the undersigned will ask for an order discharging him as executor and exonerating his bondsmen.
Published in the Portland Labor Press by order of the County Court.
WILLIAM GEDAMKE,
Administrator.

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