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A HEINOUS CRIME.

Frank Steunenberg, governor of Idaho during the Coeur d'Alene industrial riots in 1899; when the federal troops were called in and the district placed under martial law; when the "bull pen" was established and innocent and guilty men were incarcerated without discrimination by the hundreds; when class feeling ran high, and men were stalking about armed and threatening was murdered on the evening of December 30, at Caldwell, Idaho, while passing through the gate of his home, by a bomb fired by an unknown party. The daily press charges that the crime was the culmination of a dastardly plot conceived by the Miners' Union during the trouble six years ago. Whether this is true or not the evidence so far is purely circumstantial. It may be so and it may not. In either case a cowardly crime has been committed and the perpetrator or perpetrators should be apprehended and punished to the full extent of the law.

That excesses were committed on the part of the miners, and the state and military officers, must be admitted by any fair-minded person who have had the opportunity of seeing the situation as it was in the Coeur d'Alene in the year of 1899. Bartlett Sinclair, adjutant general of the state at that time, was placed in charge of the situation, and he was and is a man of mean traits, and anything but upright, broad and unprejudiced. Steunenberg was a different type of man and had a large circle of friends. He made a mistake, however, in letting the Coeur d'Alene trouble pass into the hands of Sinclair, who was responsible for the bitterness created then and lasting in the hearts of many until now. But whatever the mistakes of Steunenberg they did not justify the means employed by the murderer for revenge. And the Labor Press undertakes to say that the murder of Frank Steunenberg was not committed by an innocent victim of the "bull pen" atrocity. Many good American citizens, innocent of any offense, were detained in the "bull pen," in defiance of all civil and moral laws, but they went out of the "pen" as good as they went in, and they were members of the Miners' Union. The man who took the life of Frank Steunenberg is a criminal now, and was a criminal then, if the trouble of 1899 was the motive of his crime. There were many miners in the Coeur d'Alene at that time who were foreigners, brought there originally by the mining companies to take the places of American miners who struck a number of years previous for better wages and shorter hours, and although these men afterward became members of a union reorganized, their character and sentiments remained the same. They were a desperate set of men and dangerous to trust with any power. The trait of excess in their natures made them excessively bitter when they were confronted with methods as desperate as their own. There were hundreds of men outraged in the name of military law, and Governor Steunenberg was held responsible for the situation, when, in fact, Bartlett Sinclair was the moving spirit, and a

tool in the hands of the mining companies. It is more than likely, that among the five or six hundred prisoners there would be one and probably more who took a secret oath to avenge themselves at the first opportunity. But so far as the plot being planned by the Miners' Union, there was no miners' union in the Coeur d'Alene after martial law had been raised. Troops were kept in the district for some time after, many of the officers and leaders left the country, and the books of the union were confiscated by the authorities. It was quite impossible then for the Miners' Union to formulate a plan of any kind.

While it is not the purpose of the Labor Press to justify everything done by the Miners' unions of the Coeur d'Alene, as at times there was an arbitrary spirit expressed contrary to the principles of the American Federation of Labor, yet it wishes to show that crimes of such enormity should not be charged to the union, as the daily press seems pleased to do. The union cannot be responsible for all the acts of its members any more than the Associated Press can be free from "fake" stories and irresponsible reporters, but the whole movement should not be estimated by the individual acts of members.

The man who murdered Frank Steunenberg may have been a member of the Miners' Union in the Coeur d'Alene, and he may still hold a membership in the Miners' Union, but if so, it should not implicate the union of which he may be a member, nor should it have any bearing upon the penalty befitting the crime.

Organized labor repudiates crime in all its phases, and seeks only to improve the conditions of its people by pacific means, if possible. It realizes that unlawful measures will never secure the aims of improvement, hence it deprecates the intimation that labor unions are responsible for the death of Mr. Steunenberg.

The Motorman and Conductor, official magazine of the organized traffic workers, prefers the following charges against the new industrial savior, called the "Industrial Workers of the World," which is, in fact, a dual organization to the American Federation of Labor:

"The advent of the Industrial Workers of the World into the city of Detroit came to light in the works of the Detroit Cap Company. This company practically forced its union capmakers on strike by attempting to enforce unendurable and non-union conditions of employment, and demanding financial deposits. If there was ever a righteous contention on the side of labor it is that of the Detroit Capmakers' Union. As soon as the trouble was precipitated the Detroit Cap Company's institution became a rendezvous for the Industrial Workers of the World. Thus, this new savior of the laboring classes has identified its purposes in a most emphatic manner. An institution which has for its method of building up, the tearing down of the trades union movement, even to the extent of snatching strikers' jobs, cannot appeal very seriously to the progressive wage-earner for membership."

From the reports all over the country relative to the inauguration of the eight-hour day by the International Typographical Union the situation is encouraging. Out of a membership of over six thousand printers in New York City approximately one thousand are out. In Philadelphia many of the shops have agreed to the eight-hour day. In fact, in all of the large cities the situation is better than was expected. The only printing establishments that are holding out against the union are the members of the Typothetae. And judging from these there are not enough of them to cause any alarm. It will be a repetition of what transpired in San Francisco a few months ago. A number of the stubborn ones will hold out for a time until they discover themselves practically alone, after which the tall timber will look good to them. The printers stand ready to finance their position with an unlimited assessment and to defeat their object would entail the expenditure of more than the employing printers can stand.

On another page of this issue of the Labor Press is an article from Jonathan Bourne, Jr., defending and upholding the Direct Primary Law, which is threatened with attack from the secret chambers of politicians which the law has unhorsed. The article should be carefully read by every member of organized labor in the state, as it explains how the people can break into the United States senate, and do other things which party

machines have hitherto prevented them from doing.

The Labor Press takes pleasure in presenting to its readers this week the complete sermon of Dr. Hill, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, delivered from his pulpit last Sunday evening. It does so for the reason that many of our subscribers were probably unable to be present at the church, and the excellent thoughts should not be missed to them. Again, it is a departure from the ordinary expressions from the pulpit, in which the principles of organized labor are portrayed in their true sense. And yet another reason that we publish the sermon is that the daily press has not given it the usual mention of an ordinary sermon.

We are glad to call attention of our readers to articles contributed to the Labor Press during the past few weeks and this number, from the pen of Joseph H. Jones, vice-president of the Federated Trades Council and an active worker in the ranks of organized labor in Portland. Mr. Jones has a style of particular originality and excellence, and is dealing with subjects of great interest and importance to the labor movement. There is a sentimental side to some of his thoughts as well as practical, which adds warmth to the question under discussion and relieves it of that cold, matter-of-fact feeling. Mr. Jones' articles are well worth reading.

The Oregon State Federation of Labor, through its attorney, W. H. Stivers, has filed papers in the circuit court for an injunction restraining the civil service commission from carrying out its construction of section 163 of the city charter, relative to the residence requirements of applicants for employment in the city service. The contest is simply to determine the intention of the charter.

It is said that a disease germ cannot live in fresh air and the light of the sun. A little publicity seems to have the same effect upon the germ of the bodies social, financial and industrial. In re the McCalls, McCurdys and the rest of the frenzied pirates.

The banqueting of a city council by an applicant for a city franchise is a cheap way of doing business. It will take more than a square meal to get a Portland councilman's vote.

When the application for an electric lighting franchise comes up before the city council it will be well for the people to keep an eye on a few members of that body.

"SCAB" CHRISTIANS.

(By the Rev. Charles Stelzle)

To "scab" on a fellow worker, is, in the estimation of the trade unionist, very near to committing the unpardonable sin. The term carries with it only contempt. It suggests the parasite—the man or the growth that receives strength and comfort and some times life itself—another, without assuming any responsibility and without making any sacrifice.

There are various kinds of "scabs." The genus is not confined to the industrial world. He is found in the church. Sometimes he calls himself a Christian. Frequently he is the most prosperous, financially, in the congregation. His position in the social world has come to him because of his relationship to the church. He really joined the church because of the good society he would get into. It was a cheap deal. His stingy contribution—sometimes wrung from the helpless—may bring him a degree of comfort, but he is a "scab"—a parasite. He is receiving privileges for which he has not given to the measure of his ability. Not that these privileges are to be denied those who cannot pay for them but in justice to those who are bearing the burden of the church's work—and most of them are comparatively poor. There must be no shirkers in a movement which has for its supreme object the bettering of mankind's condition.

But there are others. I am sometimes told that a man need not belong to the church in order to be a Christian. That is true. The church hasn't a monopoly of the Christians men and women. But I want to say that the Christian who is in the church is the "union" Christian, while the Christian outside of the church is the "scab" Christian. Every charge that you hurl at the

head of the scab in the industrial world is a boomerang that swings back upon the professing Christian outside of the church who flatters himself that he is independent of the church. As a Christian he is enjoying privileges which cost the blood of the martyrs. For centuries men and women have been sacrificing themselves in order to give him religious liberty and a comparative Christian civilization. He is today the recipient of countless blessings which come directly as the result of the power and the influence of the church. In all probability he is sending his children to the Sunday school, where they are receiving the only religious training that comes into their lives. He knows the real pleasure and the genuine profit of this training. But so far as he is concerned, he is either indifferent to the claims of the church upon him, or, as is sometimes the case, he is fighting the institution to which he owes some of the best things in his life.

In a measure all this applies to every man who is out of the church, but it is especially applicable to him who says that he is a Christian, but who is not identified with that institution.

A "scab" Christian! Is there a more contemptible position?

"The Czar must take an oath to obey the people's will, or it will be a fight to the death," declares Ivan Pertzoff, the chief revolutionary organizer. "This is a general political strike, and it is meant to be a death struggle with autocracy. Our minimum demands now are a constituent, or as you would say, a popular, assembly, elected by universal suffrage, with absolute power to draft a constitution and decide whether the nation shall establish a republic or monarchy in place of autocracy. If the government uses force, we expect to reply in kind, with the army siding with us. The prospect of financial ruin will compel the government to give way. We demand the resignation of Count Witte, who is but a political time-server, and the installation of a revolutionary and popular leader. We will not at this time insist upon an eight-hour work day or the right of soldiers to elect their own officers—we can enact these laws afterwards. Our strike funds are small, but these things we will fight for until we win them."

What Labor Wants in Canada.

The government received a deputation representing the provincial executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. They asked for legislation along the following lines:

The prohibition of the employment of children under fourteen years of age in stores, offices, canning factories and other places not already prohibited by the act.

The providing of aisles or passage ways in open street cars.

Compulsory certification of engineers for stationary engines of 25-horse power or over.

Equalization of the tax rate on vacant city lots.

Prohibition of officers of the crown—crown attorneys in particular—from acting for the government and private corporations at one and the same time.

Compulsory removal of old wall papers, burlaps, etc., before putting on new ones.

The deputation also presented a resolution approving the work done by the Bureau of Labor.

Premier Whitney said the legislation regarding stationary engineers ought to have been passed last session. Some technicality had resulted in a delay, but the bill would be passed next session. He promised consideration of the other requests and referred humorously to the report that the government had surrendered to the street railway company in the matter of allowing them to enter Toronto.—Toronto Tribune.

The union people of San Diego, Calif., are building a labor temple and will have it ready for occupancy by the 1st of February. It is a handsome structure containing three halls, offices, reading room, and kitchen. The building will be formally opened upon the above date.

Police Judge Samuels of Oakland, Calif., has decided that a union card of the barbers' union that had been used by George Abbott in his shop on 51st street was the property of the union. He was ordered to return the card to the union.

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