

REFUSE TO MAKE GOOD.

National Association of Manufacturers Hide Behind Technicality.

(December Typographical Journal.) The press dispatches last month contained this item: "New York, Nov. 1.—Suit brought by James M. Lynch, president of the International Typographical Union, against John Kirby, Jr., and the board of directors of the National Association of Manufacturers, arising out of an alleged libelous resolution passed a year ago, in connection with the Los Angeles Times explosion, was dismissed today. Justice Newburger, of the Supreme Court, sustained the demurrer of the defendants, and said he failed to find that the resolution contained any reference to the plaintiff as an individual."

On the 13th day of October, 1910, the board of directors of the National Association of Manufacturers adopted the following preamble and resolution:

"Whereas, The long-continued, cowardly and recklessly illegal determination of the International Typographical Union to destroy the business of the Los Angeles Times and the influence of its owner, Gen. Harrison Gray Otis, in his efforts in behalf of the principles of industrial freedom, has terminated in the destruction of the Times plant and building by dynamite, the murder of more than a score of employees of the paper and the injury of many others; and

"Whereas, The plot contemplated the simultaneous destruction of the homes of Gen. Otis and F. J. Zeehandelaar, or no matter what sacrifice of life; therefore be it Resolved, That this board recognizes this act of destruction of life and property as in line with the general policy of criminal unionism, as exemplified by innumerable cases of resort to the use of dynamite to enforce its doctrine of rule or ruin, and that it places the responsibility therefor, not alone upon the human tools who actually perpetrated the crime, but in due proportion upon those who in any manner foster an organization whose line of conduct leads to such results."

Immediately on the publication of this resolution the president of the International Typographical Union, under instructions from the Executive Council, brought it to the attention of our attorney, Martin M. Hugg, and after examination of the libel contained therein, and consideration of the fact that the International Typographical Union is an unincorporated, voluntary organization, it was decided that suit should be brought against the National Association of Manufacturers by President Lynch in his official and individual capacity.

The matter was then referred to Alfred J. Talley, of New York, who for years had acted as attorney for Typographical Union No. 6. Suit for \$100,000 damages was later brought by President Lynch against John Kirby, Jr., Francis H. Stillman, George S. Boudinot and the board of directors, individually and as directors of the National Association of Manufacturers of the United States of America.

From the first it was recognized that the one weak spot in our case related to the right of President Lynch, or any other officer or member, to bring suit, as it was an unincorporated society, and not its officer, that was slandered, but it was hoped that as the representatives of the National Association of Manufacturers had declared that "the long continued, cowardly and reckless illegal determination of the International Typographical Union to destroy the business of the Los Angeles Times" had "terminated in the destruction of the Times plant," and that it "places the responsibility therefor, not alone upon the human tools who actually perpetrated the crime, but, in due proportion upon those who in any manner foster an organization whose line of conduct leads to such results," they would welcome the opportunity to go into a court of justice and present their proof. We are not surprised that the National Association of Manufacturers raised the legal technicality so that it might escape legal accountability for its intemperate and untruthful assertions, but we are keenly disappointed at the outcome of the case. We promptly accepted the challenge, picked up the gage of battle, right eagerly proceeded to the combat, only to find that our boastful and arrogant antagonists, like the veriest cowards, had flown to the protection of a legal technicality.

This association of employers, this preacher of morality and fair dealing, this critic of the trade union cause and its leaders, when put to the test of courage and sincerity, immediately run up the white flag. But our suit is useful, and the victory is with us, nevertheless. We did not want money, but we did desire vindication. That we have achieved our object is apparent to all fair-minded men.

In a suit against the editor of the Grand Rapids Tradesman we compelled that libeler to apologize for malicious and untrue statements. Now we compel the representatives of a rich and powerful association of employers, who have uttered slander, against the International Typographical Union, to seek the protection of a legal technicality. From now on the anti-union associations will be careful in their treatment of our union.

HARRIMAN MAKES STATEMENT.

Los Angeles Candidate for Mayor States His Views on McNamara Confession.

(By Job Harriman.)

LOS ANGELES, CAL., Dec. 19.—From every quarter calls are coming for a statement from me concerning the McNamara's plea of guilt, why the plea was made just prior to the election and what effect it had.

I knew nothing whatever of the negotiations, nor of their intention to plead guilty, until after their pleas had been entered. I cannot describe how keenly I felt the blow. I was convinced that it would defeat us, but the wonderful solidarity of our movement, manifested at our meetings that night, led me to think that my first judgment was wrong, but it was not.

Without such an experience no one can realize how hard it was to hold one's apparent poise and composure.

How manfully and nobly our splendid movement faced and handled that great crisis. The city of Los Angeles owes a debt of unspeakable gratitude to the magnificent conduct of the aggrieved people in that trying period following the shock of the news.

After the election I had a long conference with Mr. Darrow and the other attorneys. They showed me all the evidence recently developed in the case. The web had been made complete. There was no escape. It was so conclusive that even J. B. McNamara could not have been placed on the stand to deny it.

The cases would have required years to complete. The honest working people of this country would have had to pay one million dollars more for the defense, only to deny it.

Was that and the educational effect of it, and all that would follow in its trail, the best?

Messrs. Darrow, Davis, McNutt and Scott answered "No."

Should they withhold their answer because of our local campaign?

Again they answered "No."

Was it wise and proper to give their answer at that time or "never?"

This question cannot be answered by me. My word could go no further than theirs. My vision might be clouded because I was involved in the movement and was directly affected by the decision.

The movement must answer this question. I know it will be deliberate and fair in its final answer.

Now, I want to say a word to my countrymen. Whenever the masses of mankind abandon all hope of a peaceable solution of our social problem we will have with us all the elements with us that cause civil wars, and open warfare will then commence.

These men had abandoned all hope of a peaceable solution, and thus, misguided, began a guerilla warfare.

How much of this do you want? However much we bemoan it, I say to you, it will increase directly in proportion as the hope of the oppressed is crushed.

For years I have seen the hopelessness of such a course, and at the same time I saw why that course is sometimes taken and the warning it should be to our great movement. I have shown you an astounding fact, a grist, if you please, being ground from our economic and social mill.

Now listen, while I tell you the remedy: The great American labor movement, including the Socialist Party, must merge their political activities.

Their united power will inspire an abiding hope, for the philosophy of Socialism will furnish the reason for the hope, and at the same time a solution for the problem.

In our great movement in Los Angeles, we have done this very thing. The spirit of the Los Angeles movement was sweetened with the consciousness of its own power and a knowledge of the reasons leading to a peaceful solution of our social ills.

While victory was almost in our hands, the plea of guilty was entered. It was brought on by an act of the defendants, resulting from an abandoned hope, arising out of a failure to understand the causes that destroy their hope and failure to understand how to restore and maintain that hope.

The disintegrating influence of direct action arising from abandoned hope must be apparent to any one while the beneficent influence of a great political and economic organization with a hope inspired by their power and with the knowledge of social problems and how to solve them must be equally apparent.

THEN AND NOW.

(Stockton Mail.)

Twenty years ago the single tax was looked upon by most people as a queer Utopian proposition—one of those dreams which could not interest practical men. Today the people of this state are ripe for its adoption. We were amazed within these two days to hear the intelligent discussion of this topic on trains, in street cars and in business houses. The seed sown by Henry George and his disciples in the midst of derision and discouragement has sprung up and grown and blossomed, and now it is about to come to its full fruit. It will be indeed a day of triumph for the good cause of human advancement when California, where the pages of the Immortal "Progress and Poverty" were written, gives the endorsement of the referendum to this greatest and most far-reaching of all the economic reforms ever proposed. It is sober truth, that the adoption of the single tax in its entirety will revolutionize society and will lift the whole people to such a plane of comfortable living as never yet has been enjoyed by any community of men in all the history of the world. Beside the gigantic importance of this economic reform, the little political issues over which so much noise is made do, indeed, look ridiculously small and trifling.

LEAD OR FOLLOW?

County assessors of California in convention discuss single tax. California League of Cities discuss single tax. Governor of California an avowed single taxer. A big and growing Tax Reform League in California to submit to the people an initiative amendment providing for county option in taxation. One city in Washington already has adopted a charter amendment to exempt improvements from taxation. Somewhere, and in the not very distant some day, there is going to be a demonstration of it on this Coast. Shall Oregon lead or follow?



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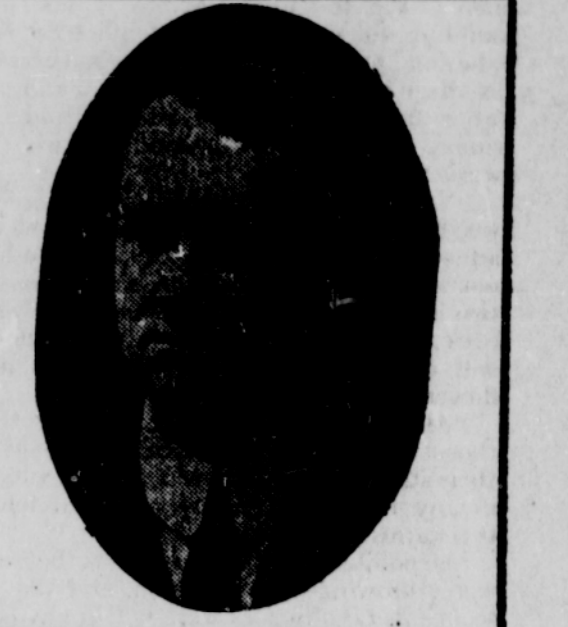
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