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## President Daly Makes Interesting, Comprehensive Report to State Federation Convention

### Introductory.

To the Delegates of the Oregon State Federation of Labor, Ninth Annual Convention—Fellow Workers:

I herewith submit my annual report as President of this Federation, together with suggestions.

The year 1911, from the standpoint of organization, has been a banner year in the history of this Federation. The roster will show not only a considerable number of new organizations formed throughout the state, but the affiliated locals of this Federation is far greater than ever before in its history. There have been several labor controversies during the year, and in the great majority the wage earners have been successful in securing either increase in wages or shorter hours, and sometimes both. Never have we had such perfect co-operation between the different crafts as now. Jurisdictional disputes have been almost unknown and the harmony of effort has been most noticeable.

### The McNamaras.

My last report to this Federation dwelt at some length on the horrible disaster in which the Los Angeles Times building was destroyed and more than a score of human lives snuffed out. In that report I expressed the horror felt by the trades-union movement at the then supposed accidental explosion. From the character of the Times in its villifying campaign against trades-unions, and the vindictive attitude of its editor, who openly and brazenly boasted that his mission in life and the mission of the Times was the annihilation of the labor movement, from the attitude of bitter antagonism of the M. and M. Association of Los Angeles, combined together for the express purpose of exterminating any combinations of labor; conscious of these conditions in Los Angeles, every trades-unionist had reason to anticipate that should any untoward accident either of God, man or the elements, happen to the Los Angeles Times, the blame would be laid at the door of trades-unionists. Therefore, we were not greatly surprised when a crime was lodged against a prominent member of organized labor. We believed then that McNamara was the victim of a conspiracy, by the conviction of whom it was hoped to disrupt trades-unions.

Labor, with the deep-rooted conviction of the innocence of these men, having donated its treasure and talent to secure for them a fair trial, was dumbfounded when the news was flashed throughout the country that the McNamaras at Los Angeles had confessed the heinous crime charged to them. This news was almost paralyzing and it required days to comprehend its real significance. Labor now realizes that these misguided men not only committed the great sin of taking human life, not only jeopardized the most sacred movement for the uplift of humanity—the organization of the toiling masses—but cruelly deceived their truest and best friends, who believed implicitly in their innocence, and whose confidence resting on earth could have shaken save their own confession.

Labor was deceived. It has nothing to apologize for. The law of humanity and justice deems every man innocent until proven guilty. Then in view of all these considerations, why should labor be censured for defending those they believed innocent?

Now comes a great clamor from all quarters that the labor unions should be purged of the radical element; that they should be converted into admiration societies and pink tea socials; that they should abandon by a policy of indolence and passiveness the great objects for which they have striven for half a century.

It is apropos in this connection to propose a local parallel for your consideration. Only a few weeks ago in the City of Portland a workingman, a striking machinist, a picket, was shot down by an employer, a member of the Association of Employers, in cold blood. From all the evidence thus far available this man was killed because he was a striker and a picket. When the case came to preliminary examination and a charge of murder had been found by the grand jury, dozens of employers, members of the employers' unions, openly proffered both wealth and influence to defend a confessed murderer, saying they were glad to shake the hand of the murderer of a striker. As an aftermath, both the press and some citizens clamored wildly for the suppression of strikers and the abolition of pickets, banners, or any of the methods employed by trades-unionists to win the co-operation and support of their friends and the general public.

While this clamor arose in this city, claiming that the picket and the strike included lawlessness and riot, and therefore should be abandoned, not one word has been uttered that the Los Angeles Times or its editor Otis should abandon their policy of villification of trades-unions, al-

though the densest intellect can discern that the primal cause of the Los Angeles dynamiting and the great loss of life therein is definitely chargeable to the anarchistic sentiments expressed by that publication and its editor.

In diagnosing disease, and crime is a disease, the experienced physician first endeavors to locate and remove the cause, knowing full well that the cause removed, nature will prove a powerful help in curing the ill. But what newspaper throughout the land has ever suggested the possible propriety of investigating the crusade of the Times and its editor against the trades-union. Union men have been vilified, their wives and children declared to be wantons, the very act of organization itself declared to be criminal by this publication, and still no great newspaper has been able to find this festering sore.

The crime of the McNamaras is not condoned, but under great provocation even rational men have committed violence, and since there are irrational men and violent men in every class of society, it is remarkable that some deluded, misguided, overzealous individual had not resorted to violent acts ere this.

Let us hope there will be no more McNamaras, no more Otises, one the effect, the other the cause.

On the whole, let us be thankful to McNamara for his confession. Had his lips remained closed and he executed for this crime, so firm were the unionists in their belief of his innocence, the great chasm it would have opened between capital and labor and its possible consequences we are loath to anticipate. The press has blatantly pointed out the effect. Will it now define the cause?

### The Grange.

The State Federation of Labor is to be congratulated upon its continued amicable relations with the Oregon State Grange. We can hardly exaggerate the value of this great organization as an ally in securing progressive legislation. During the last general election, the members of the Grange throughout the State did valuable service for labor's measure, and contributed in no small degree to its splendid majority.

At the coming general election the Grange will doubtless submit a good-roads law which will be of definite benefit to producer and consumer. It is equally certain that a wealthy group of citizens will submit a plan for good roads with the object of developing a magnificent system of boulevards or speed-ways of doubtful benefit to the general citizenship. Therefore this Federation should in appreciation of the Grange and the honesty of its measure give our ally its most enthusiastic support in its effort to secure better roads for the legitimate traffic of the commonwealth.

A former convention of the State Federation of Labor entered into a compact with the State Grange wherein it pledged its proportion of a fund to employ attorneys to defend the initiative and referendum in a case on appeal in the United States Supreme Court. This case is now up for hearing before the Supreme Bench and the Executive Committee of the State Grange has requested the amount pledged by the State Federation of Labor which is \$500. This convention should take up this subject and provide the necessary funds to discharge this obligation.

### Farmers' Union.

For the first time the Farmers' Union is represented in this convention by fraternal delegates. This action is a substantial step toward co-operation between the members of the two organizations and will no doubt result in great benefit to all concerned. Your Executive Board, lacking information as to the time and place of the last meeting of the Farmers' Union, did not select a fraternal delegate to represent the Federation at their convention, but I recommend that a fraternal delegate be nominated and elected to attend the next convention of the Farmers' Union.

### Labor Exploitation.

During the past spring and summer a group of employers and real estate promoters, with a view to flooding the labor market on the Pacific Coast, and thereby creating such keen competition among the working people as to reduce present wages and increase hours of labor, launched a system of advertising in the newspapers and magazines of the Middle West and Eastern States, inviting and urging mechanics and laborers to come to the Pacific Coast. These advertisements were almost without exception gross exaggerations and misstatements of fact, but to make them more convincing an address was appended in Portland, Oregon.

This advertising plan was productive of results in a measure. Thousands of working people there come to the coast, particularly Portland, and while the object of reducing wages has not been realized, the city is now facing the problem of providing employment for a vast horde

of idle people or start soup kitchens as a relief measure.

This method of deception of working people has been resorted to at times in different localities throughout the United States. It has rendered more workingmen homeless and penniless than any other agency. In view of the criminal nature of this practice I believe this convention should submit a most drastic law which will prescribe a penalty for such crimes against the human family.

### Convict Labor.

The year 1911 marked the passing of the convict contract labor system in this State. The stove foundry contract has been terminated, and the Governor has demonstrated his resourcefulness in providing labor for the convicts. Governor West deserves the everlasting gratitude of the working people for his conscientious effort to solve the problem of convicts competing with free labor.

During the year a Convict Labor Committee was appointed by the Governor of which your president was made a member and elected as its secretary. This committee has not done a great deal of definite work other than compiling data up to the present time, but has given most enthusiastic and earnest support to the Governor in his efforts in this direction.

I cannot pass this subject without calling the attention of the Federation to the great work the Governor has done in his inauguration of the parole or "honor system" among the convicts. The chief executive of Oregon is a pioneer in this line of endeavor and the splendid results thus early realized have attracted the attention of the entire country. Certainly it required a man of more than ordinary moral courage and fortitude to so far digress from the beaten path of governing prisoners through brute force; courage to withstand the criticism of enemies and the skepticism of friends; and only the conviction of right could nerve a man to hazard so much in the cause of humanity.

### Free Text Books.

I call the attention of the convention to the great need of a law providing free text books for the school children of the State. With all our progressive legislation, Oregon is lagging behind many States in this respect.

The education of the children of this commonwealth is an essential, and it therefore devolves upon the citizenship to provide it at the smallest cost.

I would advocate the submission by initiative the bill submitted to the last Legislature providing a system of free text books to the school children. I believe the adoption of that measure will go far toward breaking the combine in text books.

### Lien Law.

Our last convention instructed the Executive Board to formulate and submit a lien law that would more definitely and surely secure the interests of workingmen. This matter has been taken up a number of times with attorneys and the maze of lien laws of other States canvassed, but we are unable to submit a measure at this time. However, our attorney is drafting a law which he believes will amply protect the interests of workingmen under both contracts and sub-contracts, and in which negligence of the contractor will not abrogate the rights of the employee.

### Mileage of Delegates.

The Executive Board was instructed to submit to this convention a plan whereby the mileage of delegates to our convention would be paid out of the general fund of the State Federation of Labor and the per capita dues increased to provide therefor.

After mature consideration, your Board begs to report that the problem is so difficult and indefinite that it is unable to reduce the proposition to a practicable plan. The very fact that the conventions are held at different points in the State and the great bulk of our membership is located in Portland, precludes the possibility of presenting a plan of any value to the convention. If our annual meetings were held at any one place it would be a simple matter to compute the cost of transporting delegates to and from the convention. But the differential in carrying delegates to Portland and carrying them to Medford or Astoria or The Dalles or Pendleton is so great as to preclude an accurate or satisfying estimate.

### Hospital Fees.

I wish to suggest to this convention that a law be formulated regulating hospital enterprises or departments conducted by corporations. A number of large concerns within the State of Oregon are arbitrarily collecting from their employees fees in some cases excessive. The employees have neither voice nor vote in the disbursing of the funds thus accumulated. I would suggest State supervision over all such departments, prescribing that such funds shall be used solely for the purposes of relief of sick-

ness and injuries, that the employees shall have equal voice in the election of officers of hospital department and disbursing funds; that the reserve fund shall never exceed a defined per capita, and surplus shall be reduced by reduction in assessment or contributions.

At the last session of Congress an amendment extending the provisions of the federal eight-hour law to contractors and sub-contractors was passed by the lower House. The passage of this law shows the trend of public opinion to be in favor of the establishment of eight hours as the basis for a day's work and does much to forward one of the cardinal principals of our organization. I recommend that all the power at our command be brought to bear upon our representatives in the Senate to the end that this bill may pass the Senate, be signed by the President and become a law. That the enactment of this law will have a good moral effect upon State Legislatures, county commissioners and city councils is beyond dispute. The passage of this bill by the House of Representatives was largely due to the activities of the fifteen representatives who hold union cards, and emphasizes the fact that the election of our members to this and similar positions makes the establishment of the great economic principles underlying our organization more easily accomplished.

I recommend that this Federation endeavor to secure the adoption of an amendment the present 10-hour law for women, limiting the hours of labor for women to eight hours per day and 48 hours per week. In this connection I would call your attention to the fact that two Northwest States, Washington and California, have already established the eight-hour day for women, and while their laws have not as yet stood the test to which our law has been submitted, we should not permit ourselves to be outdone in this particular line of endeavor which means so much to the trade union movement in general, and to the women of our State in particular. I also recommend that we endeavor to secure the enactment of a minimum wage law for women, which would be of great benefit in relieving the disgraceful conditions under which many of the women of the State are now compelled to labor, and which in many instances are conducive to immorality. Similar laws are now proposed in many parts of the United States and are in operation in many foreign countries.

In accordance with instructions issued by the last convention to the Executive Board engrossed resolutions, expressing our appreciation of the work done in connection with the passage of the Employers' Liability Law, were presented to Hon. Henry E. McGinn, Hon. C. E. S. Wood and James Cassidy, ex-Secretary of this Federation. The resolutions were presented at an open meeting of the Central Labor Council of Portland. The meeting was well attended and all those who were fortunate enough to hear the speeches of acceptance can verify the statement that the resolutions were appreciated. In view of the results here obtained I recommend that organized labor never fail to publicly acknowledge assistance rendered to our cause by disinterested parties.

I wish to call especial attention to the efficient work of the Portland Labor Press, the official organ of organizer labor in Oregon.

The paper now has a circulation of approximately 7,000, the largest of any local labor paper in the United States, and numbers among its readers many who are not trade unionists but are interested in the work. The paper through its broad policy and liberal treatment of questions affecting the relations of the workers and employers has come to be recognized as a power in the affairs of the State. I urge that each and every unionist in the State see to it that he receives the paper each week to the end that its influence may be increased. I urge that the paper be more generally used by the membership as a medium for discussing questions in relation to the trade union movement. Through no other medium can the membership keep in touch with affairs of interest to them. The management is deserving of the fullest confidence and hearty support of all.

### Enforcement of Labor Laws.

The Federation should acknowledge its obligation to the efforts of the State Labor Commissioner in the enforcement of the industrial laws of the State. Never has there been so many successful prosecutions of the violations of the labor laws than during the past year. A multiplicity of laws is of no value to workingmen unless we have officials who will enforce their provisions without fear or favor. Oregon has been especially fortunate in this regard and while we have few labor laws, it is gratifying to note a closer observation from year to year.

### Submitted by Executive Board.

Following request for co-operation in enforcing Contract Labor Law from the

Department of Commerce and Labor is submitted to this convention and commended to give you for your most earnest consideration, also a proposed bill to provide security for laborers and the traveling public:

Department of Commerce and Labor, Immigration Service.

Office of Immigration Inspector (Sec. 24) Moscow, Idaho.

Officers and Members of Oregon State Federation of Labor.

Portland, Oregon.

Gentlemen: The Immigration Act of February 20, 1907, contains the following provisions:

Section 2: That the following classes of aliens shall be excluded from admission into the United States: All idiots, imbeciles, feeble-minded persons, epileptics, insane persons, and persons who have been insane within five years previous; persons who have had two or more attacks of insanity at any time previously; paupers; persons likely to become a public charge; professional beggars; persons afflicted with tuberculosis or with a loathsome or dangerous contagious disease; persons not comprehended within any of the foregoing excluded classes who are found to be and are certified by the examining surgeon as being mentally or physically defective, such mental or physical defect being of a nature which may affect the ability of such alien to earn a living; persons who have been convicted of or admit having committed a felony or other crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude; polygamists, or persons who admit their belief in the practice of polygamy; anarchists, or persons who believe in or advocate the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States, or of all government, or of all forms of law, or the assassination of public officials; prostitutes, or women or girls coming into the United States for the purpose of prostitution or for any other immoral purpose; persons who procure or attempt to bring in prostitutes or women or girls for the purpose of prostitution or for any other immoral purpose; persons hereinafter called contract laborers, who have been induced or solicited to migrate to this country by offer or promises of employment or in consequence of agreements, oral, written or printed, express or implied, to perform labor in this country of any kind, skilled or unskilled; those who have been, within one year from the date of application for admission to the United States, deported as having been induced or solicited to migrate as above described; any person whose ticket or passage is paid for with the money of another, or who is assisted by others to come, unless it is affirmatively and satisfactorily shown that such person does not belong to one of the foregoing excluded classes, and that said ticket or passage was not paid for by any corporation, association, society, municipality, or foreign government, either directly or indirectly; all children under 16 years of age, unaccompanied by one or both of their parents, at the discretion of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor or under such regulations as he may from time to time prescribe. Provided, that nothing in this Act shall exclude, if otherwise admissible, persons convicted of an offense purely political, not involving moral turpitude: Provided, further, that the provisions of this section relating to the payments for tickets of passage by any corporation, association, society, municipality, or foreign government shall not apply to the tickets or passage of aliens in immediate and continuous transit through the United States to foreign contiguous territory: And provided further, that skilled labor may be imported if labor of like kind unemployed can not be found in this country: And provided further, that the provisions of this law applicable to contract labor shall not be held to exclude professional actors, artists, lecturers, singers, ministers of any religious denomination, professors for colleges or seminaries, persons belonging to any recognized learned profession, or persons employed strictly as personal or domestic servants.

Section 4: That it shall be a misdemeanor for any person, company, partnership, or corporation, in any manner whatsoever, to prepay the transportation in any way to assist or encourage the importation or migration of any contract laborer or contract laborers into the United States, unless such contract laborer or contract laborers are exempted under the terms of the last two provisions contained in section 2 of this Act.

Section 5: That for every violation of any of the provisions of section 4 of this Act, the person, partnership, company, or corporation violating the same, by knowingly assisting, encouraging, or soliciting the migration or importation of any contract laborer into the United States shall forfeit and pay for every such offense, the sum of one thousand dollars, which may be sued for and recovered by the United States, or by any person who shall first bring his action therefor

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