

"AMASTONISHED" EXCLAIMS GOMPERS

"My Credulity Has Been Imposed Upon," His Comment on News.

"BOLT FROM CLEAR SKY"

President of American Federation of Labor Says Outcome Will Have No Effect on Organized Labor.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1.—"I am astounded. I am astonished. My credulity has been imposed upon. It is a bolt out of a clear sky."

The exclamations were those of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, when advised tonight of the pleas of guilty in the McNamara cases.

Mr. Gompers, on his way from Washington, was dining in a Pullman car on the Pennsylvania's Congressional Limited, when he was awakened at a New Jersey station by an Associated Press representative. He retired to the rear of the car, where there was a convenient light, and read carefully the accounts of the sensational developments at Los Angeles.

Labor Leader Deeply Affected. The veteran labor leader was visibly affected as he read how the men in whose defense he had spoken and worked untrustingly had admitted their guilt. Tears came into his eyes and the hand that held the typed pages shook. He said nothing, however, until he had finished the story, and he then broke forth with his exclamations of astonishment and indignation.

"If this is all true, my credulity has been imposed upon," he declared. "I am astonished at this news. We have had the greatest assurance given to us by everyone connected with the trial, either directly or indirectly, that these men were innocent."

Mr. Gompers said, with the greatest emphasis, that not the slightest intimation of such a change in the plans of the defense as developed today had been communicated to him. Absolutely the first news of the startling developments was given him on the train tonight, he said.

Money May Be Refunded. Asked if he would have anything to say about the prisoners personally, the labor leader replied: "No, I shall not add to the misery by condemnation."

"What effect do you believe this will have on labor unions?" was inquired.

To this Mr. Gompers snapped his fingers and ejaculated: "None."

When the fund raised by the American Federation of Labor for the defense of the McNamaras was mentioned, Mr. Gompers said that contributions to date amounted to about \$100,000, which had been turned over to the chief attorney for the defense, and the collection was still going on. He added that the money probably would be refunded.

Mr. Gompers bristled up noticeably when the statement by William J. Burns at Chicago was shown him.

"I don't wish to mention Burns," he said decisively. He denied, however, that he ever had charged "planting" the dynamite at Los Angeles.

"We have discouraged acts like these. We are patriotic and peace-loving men and we have only a wish to call out the best elements in human nature. Those two men must have been crazy. It is an act that condemns with all the force that is in me."

Asked again if he believed today's developments would injure the cause of labor, tears came into Mr. Gompers' eyes as he answered: "They are not going to do any good. But I want to repeat that the cause of the labor has been imposed upon by both supposed friends and enemies. The members of organized labor were led to believe that the McNamara boys were innocent and they acted on that belief. I read letters from them myself protesting their innocence. Only last September I visited them in the Los Angeles jail, and they asked me to deliver to the labor interests a message that they were innocent."

Such Methods Cannot Win. "The cause of labor cannot win by such methods as these men pursued. Damage to property and destruction of life we have denounced and done all in our power to prevent. Such methods as these have got to be stamped out."

"If, after it is known we have been imposed upon, we are denounced and attacked for supporting the defense of these men, then let them denounce and attack. The American Federation of Labor is a law-abiding institution."

Mr. Gompers said he had known John J. McNamara several years.

"John J. was a very self-contained man with a great fund of humor and he was a good fighter," he said. "I would never have suspected him of this. I always believed in his innocence, but I would condemn the act or these men even if they had been able to get away without being convicted. This unexpected self-conviction is nothing more than a failure of two individuals to live up to the high principles of organized labor, and cannot reflect just condemnation upon the cause of labor as a whole."

Asked what action the American Federation of Labor might take, Mr. Gompers said the news was too recent for him to make any prediction.

The American Federation of Labor only closed its annual meeting yesterday," he added. "As to a possible special meeting, it is too early to say."

DEATH PENALTY DEMANDED

Union Men of St. Joseph, Mo., Voice Intense Indignation.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Dec. 1.—At a meeting of the Central Labor Council of St. Joseph, resolutions were adopted unanimously demanding the death penalty for the McNamaras.

Indignation is at a high pitch among the union men on account of the affair.

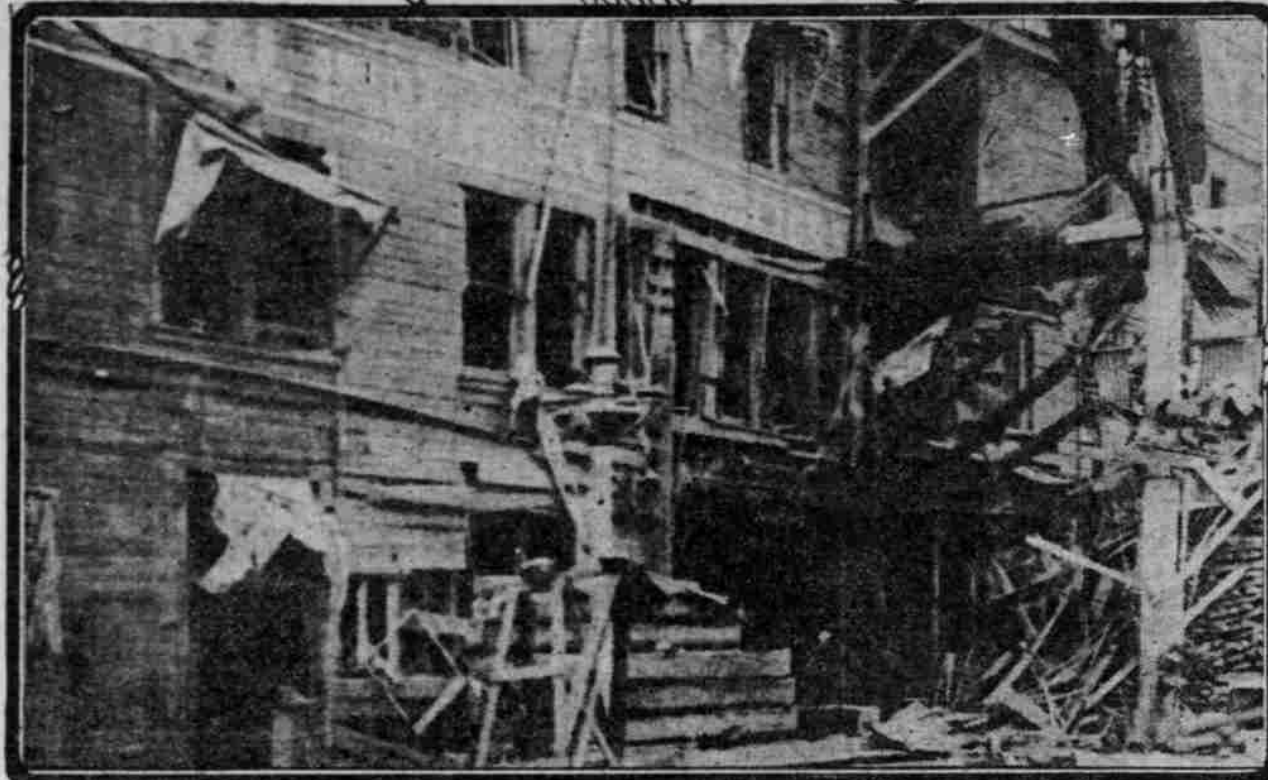
Postoffice Site for Rent.

The west half of block 8, the site for the new Postoffice, is for rent by the month under reasonable terms.

Government is not particular about leasing it, but the officials at Washington have notified Postmaster Merrick that, while no money is available for advertising purposes, he may rent the place. The property is available for immediate possession after the department decides the rental offered is satisfactory.

Among birds the swan lives to be the oldest in nature and the falcon to live the longest.

TWO PICTURES OF RUIN WROUGHT BY M'NAMARAS, MONUMENT TO THEIR VICTIMS, AND FIRST CONFESSOR AMONG CONSPIRATORS.



Above: Littered Iron Works After Dynamiting to Which J. J. McNamara Confessed. Center, Left: Mass of Twisted Iron and Steel From Wrecked Times Building, Which James B. McNamara Confesses Having Dynamited, and (Right) Orrie E. McManigal. Below: Memorial Erected by General Otis to Workers Who Died in Times Explosion.

WARFARE IS LONG

Crime Outgrowth of Deep-Seated Bitter Feeling.

THREE CITIES INVOLVED

Connection Thought Established Between Peoria and Los Angeles Explosions—Arrests Made in East Last April.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 1.—(Special.)—If the McNamara case had gone to the stage of taking evidence, the prosecution would have contended that the blowing up of the Los Angeles Times was only an incident in the general labor warfare in Los Angeles. The real organized movement of labor unions against the Times was begun in 1907, but there had been a general strike of

iron workers against the American Bridge Company, which had been begun in August, 1906. The conflict was made more bitter by the action in 1908 of the National Erectors' Association in beginning organized resistance to the unions' demands. The conflict became more and more intense as years went on.

Otis and Unions Fight Bitterly. General Harrison Gray Otis, owner of the Times, has conducted opposition for many years to the "closed shop."

The explosion that wrecked the Times building and caused the deaths of 21 men came at 1 A. M. October 1, 1910. Each of the 21 was the head of a family. It has been contended since then that there was a coincidence in dates between this explosion and the expiration of the agreement of the San Francisco machinists with their employers for a "closed shop."

The San Francisco machinists had won their strike in 1907 and the Los Angeles machinists, who lost their strike the same year, credited their defeat to the opposition of the Times. The union's three-year closed shop agreement in San Francisco expired August 1, 1910. It was asked for 60 days' extension, which was granted. On the day of its expiration the dynamiting of the Times took place. This coincidence made fuel for the flame of hatred which, for months

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT ATTORNEY, WHO HAS HANDLED M'NAMARA CASE, AND HIS CORPS OF ASSISTANTS.



LEFT TO RIGHT—DEPUTIES A. E. VEITCH AND G. ROY HORTON; DISTRICT ATTORNEY FREDERICKS AND DEPUTIES W. J. FORD AND A. J. HILL.

after the disaster, consumed the Pacific Coast communities.

Burns Called Into Case.

Rewards aggregating upwards of \$500,000 were offered for the apprehension of the men responsible for the dynamiting. William J. Burns, who had been working for a month on dynamite explosions in Peoria, Ill., was called in by Mayor Alexander to take charge of the investigation. In connection with his work on the Peoria case he had just got trace of one purchaser of nitro-glycerine, who later was identified as Orrie McManigal. Burns' men were watching the ironworkers' international headquarters in Indianapolis when the Los Angeles disaster occurred. Burns, satisfied that he was on the right track, continued to keep his men around John J. McNamara's office until connections were made with McManigal and James B. McNamara.

The brother of the union's international secretary-treasurer proved to be the "J. B. Bryce" or "Bryson" who had bought the dynamite in California to manufacture the Los Angeles bomb. Burns was convinced of this on finding outside the house of F. J. Zeehandelaar, secretary of the Los Angeles Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association, an unexploded bomb of exactly the same pattern as one that failed to go off on the Peoria job. This similarity in mechanism was the link that satisfied Burns that the outrages, East and West, were perpetrated by the same men, or by men working under the same direction.

Two Arrested in Detroit. James B. McNamara and Orrie McManigal were arrested in Detroit on April 12 last, after Burns' detectives had followed them for months. On April 11 the two met in Toledo, loaded their suitcases with clockwork dynamite bombs, fuses and other war material, and rode with this equipment to Detroit in a passenger coach. Just as they checked their suitcase arsenals in a Detroit hotel they were arrested and taken to Chicago.

McManigal confessed, implicating especially John J. McNamara as the brains of the alleged conspiracy. After requisition papers were procured from California the union's offices in Indianapolis were raided and John J. McNamara was arrested. In a storage vault kept by the secretary-treasurer in the basement of the office building, ostensibly for storage of old records, the detectives found in a safe 43 pounds of dynamite, 14 clocks of the exact type used in manufacturing the Peoria and Los Angeles bombs, batteries, fuse, wire and other component parts of the infernal machines. In a barn rented by John J. McNamara, in the outskirts of Indianapolis, ostensibly for storage of old records, Burns found more dynamite and nitro-glycerine under lock and key which had been found on James B. McNamara.

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LABOR HOSTS HURT

Duplicity of McNamaras Is Hotly Denounced.

SOCIALISTS ARE CRUSHED

Street-Orator Declares Denouncement Was Timed to Beat Party's Candidate at Los Angeles.

Just Sentence Asked.

"The cause of trades unionism has suffered a set-back of at least 25 years," was the frequent comment heard among groups of laboring men around labor headquarters yesterday following receipt of the news of the confession of the McNamaras. Leaders of organized labor were so astounded at the news from Los Angeles that they could scarcely express themselves. They showed more or less resentment for the McNamaras for their duplicity in first gaining the confidence of trades unionists throughout the country who promptly came to the moral and financial defense of the accused men, only later to confess their guilt. It is the consensus of opinion among prominent labor men in Portland that the McNamaras by their action have done infinitely greater harm to the cause of organized labor than could the most bitter enemy of the labor movement. The socialists were downhearted and nonplussed.

"Incredible," Says Daily. "In the circumstances surrounding the Los Angeles dynamiting case and the attitude of General Otis toward organized labor, it was only natural that members of organized labor should have been charged with the crime," said William H. Daily, president of the Oregon State Federation of Labor and president of the Central Labor Council of this city. "It seems to me incredible that any man in his right sense could have committed such a heinous crime and it seems equally irreconcilable that having done so the McNamaras at this time should confess in view of the fact that the only evidence against them, so far as it has been disclosed, is largely circumstantial, with every probability following a trial of escaping with their lives and particularly so when they had nothing to hope for from the prosecution."

The strain under which the two McNamaras have been for the last several weeks may have unbalanced them mentally. It is difficult for me to believe otherwise. However, if their confession is genuine, organized labor asks for them only what we demanded at the time they were first arrested—just and fair treatment. If they are guilty, they should be punished.

Just Punishment Demanded. "If the McNamaras were in their right senses at the time they made their confessions, then we, as trades unionists, expect the same justice for them as criminals as we demanded for them when we considered them innocent victims of what we believed was a conspiracy."

W. A. Marshall, editor of the Portland Labor Press, official organ of trades-unionists, was especially resentful of the fact that the members of organized labor had been deceived into believing the McNamaras innocent and had thrown the support of their organization to the defense of the accused

men. He made the following statement: "Assuming that the report from Los Angeles is true and aside from the crime itself, the McNamara brothers by their action have dealt organized labor a severe blow. On the strength of their denial of guilt trades unionists over all the country took up the cause of the McNamaras and demanded for them a fair trial, taking them at their word and believing them the victims of a conspiracy. No enemy of organized labor could have done the labor movement greater harm."

Socialists Are Crushed. Excited groups of men thronged Socialist headquarters and discussed the news that to them was entirely unexpected. Other than the secretary, the officers of the organization were not in the building, but the secretary referred the reporter to C. B. Ellis, one of the Socialist street orators, who was authorized to speak.

"We have suffered a crushing blow," said Mr. Ellis, "but it will not serve to retard the class war which is now in progress and will continue. We have telegraphed to Los Angeles for official confirmation of the report as it has been published in the press. If the confession of the McNamaras proves to be genuine, there is nothing further to be said and certainly no further defense to be offered in their behalf."

As socialists we have never believed that the McNamara boys were guilty of the crime with which they were charged. For that reason it was the duty of the laboring men of the country to rally to their defense, which they did. But if the accused men have confessed, there is nothing more for us to do."

"I am entirely convinced that the

confessions, if they really have been made, were purposely withheld until now for the effect they would have on the municipal election in Los Angeles next Monday, when Job Harriman, Socialist nominee, has more than an even chance for election as Mayor over the incumbent, Mayor Alexander."

Ruse of Darrow Suspected. Every delegate to the Central Council was shocked and depressed by the news from Los Angeles. The body last night took no official cognizance of the latest phase on the McNamara trial.

Only bare mention was made. The committee appointed to arrange for the showing of moving pictures of the brothers with a film which purports to tell in photoplay of an alleged conspiracy against them reported. The committee was continued until the next meeting of the council, when it will be discharged.

Individually the members expressed varying sentiments. Many asserted the cause of labor unionism had been set back 25 years by the official sanction given by labor unions to the defense in the belief that the men were innocent.

Others asserted that the end was not yet and that the plea of guilty was only a ruse of Clarence Darrow, that the detectives might be withdrawn so that those working on the defense might be able to make their own investigations.

"Many times members of the miners' federal wanted to shoot Darrow because they could not understand his acts in the Coeur d'Alenes," declared one member. "It is more than probable Darrow has not yet fired his last shot."

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