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THE HAYWOOD TRIAL

If the public is correctly advised of the local conditions surrounding the trial of Haywood at Boise certain lessons of hope can be drawn from the calm, dispassionate, impartial and unbiased nature of the proceedings, which should serve in the future to govern the actions of the press in handling the details of similar cases before trial.

More than a year has elapsed since the arrest and extradition from Colorado to Idaho of Haywood, Moyer and Pettibone charged with complicity in the murder of Governor Stuenkel. The prominence of these men as leaders of organized labor, the circumstances of their extradition, the position and character of the murdered man and the supposed motive for the crime gave unusual national interest to all subsequent proceedings. Since that time no occasion has been lost on the part of all the news agencies to prevent through the public press of the country, not only the facts in detail surrounding the commission of the crime and the subsequent developments that have arisen therefrom, but also many deductions and inferences from alleged facts, as to motives, interests and probable actions on the part, not only of the principals, who were to be involved in the consequent trial, namely, the state of Idaho and the defendants charged with the crime, but also of persons remotely interested in the final result.

The great mass of so-called news has been written the then approaching trial, and which per force has been accepted by the newspapers at large has tended to formulate class hatred, to suggest opportunities or occasions for the exercise of personal violence during the trial, or to encourage an unwarranted show of personnel at the trial could have the effect only of embarrassing the due administration of justice.

There is hardly a labor leader of prominence in the country who has not been reported to have expressed his intention of being present at the trial. It has been strongly represented that the fear of violence was so great, that difficulty would be experienced in getting a jury which, upon proper cause being shown, would bring in a verdict of guilty. As a final result of the method of handling the facts and the so-called inferences drawn therefrom by those who have been in a position to mould public opinion, the president has recently found it necessary to say that he would use such power as he may have to secure the defendants a fair and impartial trial.

In short the people of the whole country, and among all classes have been living in a state of anxious doubt and fear concerning the ability of the citizens of a prosperous and highly reputed community in a sister state, to normally perform a sovereign function, under the form of law and involving the administration of justice in a given case, to the satisfaction of the citizenship of our country at large.

The trial has at last opened and thus far has been characterized by no unusual incident. It is true that in anticipation of unusual and dramatic incidents, that have been so confidently anticipated, over forty newspaper correspondents are in attendance, but we are also advised that they constitute a large portion of "the interested spectators," and that so far a court room that will seat less than 300 is not tested to more than half its capacity. There has already developed, as might from the first have been expected, a studied effort on the part of the judge and counsel for both the state and the defendant to proceed carefully along the well beaten path of judicial form and precedent, and to respect fairly and impartially the safeguards, which so

far as they can be provided by human agency, protect both the state and the accused to the full extent of their respective rights. In fact there is today no other indication than that the people of Ada county can provide, and have provided ample means and agencies to meet the requirements of the time and occasion, and that they possess that equanimity of character and temperamental equanimity which we are pleased to think have always characterized the American people upon such occasions.

What has been the net gain to our people from these past expressions of doubt and fear with respect to what might be the possibly outcome of these trials? Have these expressions aided the people who must be held responsible for the due administration of justice in the given cases? Almost without exception the expression of a doubt or fear serves only to bring upon us the peril that we most expect; or as in this case, where the fear is proven groundless, it stands for nothing except the worry and anxiety which it naturally entails.

Americans are rapidly developing a confident belief in their own strength of character to perform the duties of citizenship without fear or favor, and the time will come when to express a doubt or fear that any considerable number of our people will fall short in the full performance of civic duties will be considered a national libel meriting the severest condemnation.

The citizens of Boise and Ada county, Idaho, are expected to do their duty in the present case both to the state and the accused; and, it should also be added, there are absolutely no grounds to doubt their ability and purpose to do so.

PRESENT OUTLOOK

There is considerable talk indulged in these days with regard to an expected depression following the season of remarkable prosperity which we now enjoy, and have enjoyed for some time past. It is pointed out that money is "tight" in eastern markets; that there is no very active market at the moment for securities; that the presidential election is pending with its disturbing conditions and that great prosperity is always succeeded by reaction and

depression. But the most serious of the expressed causes of apprehension is that the relations between labor and capital are strained and that strikes seem to be the order of the day.

That this general feeling and its causes are disquieting can not be gainsaid, but if we are to judge by all previous experience of financial depressions, it must be admitted, that whatever temporary setbacks or dullness may come, all the elements of general and complete immediate disaster are utterly wanting. In the first place—nearly a million and a quarter people came into this country to live in 1906. In the month of April, 1907, 115,000 immigrants were passed through Ellis Island. Everybody remembers that the whole nation was strained to take care of 200,000 soldiers whom President McKinley called into camp and that the energies of the whole country were called into action by the effort. In a far greater sense the energies of our people are strained to take care of the million and a quarter new citizens annually. Therefore, factories are behind in their orders—jobbers cannot supply their customers. Railroads are not equal to the increased demands of traffic and prices are constantly rising.

Yet, withal, labor is scarce and independent. Surely these are not the harbingers and forerunners of depression. In fact, all other depressions seem to have been ascribed to overproduction and our present difficulty is just the opposite.

So long as there is a demand for labor products—so long as the factories are behind in their orders—so long as the railroads have not sufficient trackage for the traffic—so long as the nation's output of gold is increasing—so long as labor is scarce and independent and the pop-

ulation is increasing at the rate of a million and a quarter a year—there is no danger that Wall street or even a presidential election can precipitate a general depression.

Croaking was never more sadly out of place and out of season than now.

In Union Is Strength.

The action of some of the members of the Marshfield chamber of commerce in attempting to organize that body and establish it on a solid footing is a worthy one. Whether or not there has ever been any friction in the body matters little now. The clouds of yesterday ought never to darken the sunshine of today. The fundamental foundation which supports chamber of commerce bodies is unity. Without unity there can be but little accomplished. Unity is a big word. It means brotherly fraternalism, co-operation, individual support and typifies "strength" in the broadest sense.

The chambers of commerce on Coos Bay have a mission. They have upon them the responsibility of placing before the people of the United States and the world a country that is surely destined to play an important part at no far distant day in the world's progress. The coal fields, the timber assets, the harbor and the topographical and geographical position seem indubitable facts for believing that Coos Bay was made for the world. The country is big. Let us try to equal in character and action the country of which we share the rich benefits and resources and working as a single unit, put forth every effort to forwarding the interests of the Coos Bay country.

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