

"It is a right to be maintained in peace or war. It is a right that cannot be invaded without destroying constitutional liberty. Hence this right should be guarded and protected by the free men of this country with a zealous care, unless they are prepared for chains or anarchy.—Daniel Webster on Free Speech.

SHIP COMPANIES DISCREDITED

The local shipyard strike situation never looked better for the workmen than it does this morning. For in addition to the request from the government investigating board at Portland for evidence of bad faith on the part of the Astoria ship companies, a wire from Spokane states that the Lawrence Labor Agency, agent for the McEachern Ship Co., of this place, is being prosecuted for violation of the labor laws, and a half dozen or more of the recently imported men left town last night for Spokane to appear against them.

Things are figuring out about right. The ship companies are becoming more discredited in the public eye every day. Their stubborn greed is fast bringing them to the brink. All the shipyard workers have to do now is to continue to do nothing and let the shipyard owners hang themselves.

They have been given plenty of rope, and it is now entangling them in a mesh of their own making. They made pledges to their workmen which they never kept. Their agents are charged with violating the criminal laws of the land, and they stand exposed to the public for what they are—a merciless, greedy, unpatriotic band of profit-mongers willing to betray the country, even as they violated their word to the workmen.

All the workmen have to do now is continue to do nothing. The employers are convicting themselves. "Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive."

CANADA'S LABOR DISPUTTS ACT IS FAILURE

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a total of 100,608 employes, whose time loss was 4,838,647 working days. In 44 cases, involving 44,086 workers and a loss of 3,665,969 days, application was made for investigation. Of these, 18, affecting 20,330 employes, with a loss of 1,822,803 days, did not result in strikes or lockouts until after the board made a report. These strikes were, therefore, "legal."

204 "Illegal" Strikes Thus there have been 204 "illegal" strikes and lockouts, affecting 80,278 employes, whose loss was 3,015,844 days. Of these 178 strikes, involving 56,532 employes and a loss of 1,172,678 days, occurred without either party to the dispute seeking the aid of the act.

The act also breaks down as a conciliatory agency. Its penal provisions have been lightly regarded. In the nine years ending December 31 last there have been 11 prosecutions—seven for illegal strikes and two for illegal lockouts.

The investigators conclude: "In the face of this record, it does not seem probable that a wholesome respect has been fostered for such provisions. On the contrary, whatever success has attended the act has been due to the conciliatory effort of the Canadian department of labor through its fair wage office and its boards of conciliation and investigation."

Such a report, coming from such a source, will probably put a damper upon attempts to enact similar laws in this country. Up to date only Colorado has such a law, in operation about two years.

BIG AUSTRALIAN STRIKE BLAMED ON GOVERNMENT

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crisis on account of high prices, and the strike supplied the tangible ground for united action. Early in the difficulty the government introduced scab labor under the picturesque name of "volunteers," and the unions replied by declaring everything "tainted" that was handled by these "volunteers." Thus the strike spread over practically every railroad and government owned tramway in the commonwealth.

The government cry of I. W. W. had little effect, as nearly every union affected joined the strike. It was argued by the

unions that if the introduction of the time card was the innocuous thing the government declared it to be, it was not worth precipitating a strike for by persisting in its introduction, and, further, they took the stand that the government was bound by its promise not to interfere with labor during the war.

For some time previous to the strike matters were in a very unsatisfactory state; in fact, the condition was in the nature of an armed truce. Several matters of long standing crept into the affair and the general upward tendency of the prices of the necessities of life did not make for peace.

In Queensland the trouble was mainly confined to the wharves, while Tasmania, which is an island, was completely isolated by the stoppage of interstate steamship traffic. South Australia and West Australia have both suffered severely on account of the interruption of the steamship service. Particularly was this the case in West Australia, as the East-West Transcontinental line was affected, and the outlying position of the state made it impossible for other means of transport to be used effectively.

For a time the fight or fights were confined to the individual states affected, but with the spread of the trouble the commonwealth government stepped in. W. M. Hughes, the prime minister, in the speech notifying of such intervention, made an impassioned plea for strike-breakers or "volunteers," at the same time trying to reassure unionism; but, as actions speak louder than words, he was successful only in obtaining "volunteers," and this success was accomplished by other means than words.

War Measures Taken The next step was the issuance of a war measure making it a crime to interfere with the working of shipping or hindering industrial operations, punishable by a fine of \$500 or six months' imprisonment or both. Then nation service bureaus were established at which to recruit "volunteers," and immediately followed the order that none of the "volunteers" were to be dismissed with the termination of the strike.

Several leaders already have been imprisoned for six months and under a later war measure about half a dozen unions have been deregistered. Unions deregistered are deprived of all the benefits they may have obtained from awards by the federal arbitration court, or, in other words, unions deregistered are practically outlawed. The I. W. W. has for some time past

been declared an illegal organization and the efforts to link up some of the unions with it are designed to make them illegal also. The determination of the government not to dismiss the "volunteers" is at present the greatest obstacle to the termination of the strike, as the unions are fully determined not to work alongside this class of labor.

Weinberg Trial Starts

By Ed Gammons

The Weinberg trial started on Tuesday last before our old friend Judge Seawell of Santa Rosa. Judge Seawell is said to be of the opinion that the road to the Supreme Court benches via the conviction of Rena Mooney or whichever of the defendants may have the ill luck to appear before him.

The absolute partisan spirit of the little Santa Rosan is well known in San Francisco. During the Rena Mooney trial, he seemed to take delight in fining the defense attorneys whenever they scored a point. He admitted into evidence a photograph of the scene of the explosion taken three days afterwards by the police department, and a few minutes later he refused to admit into evidence an alibi photograph of Tom and Rena Mooney on the roof of the Eilers building taken one hour after the explosion. Because Ed McKenzie made a fight to get this important photograph into evidence, Seawell fined him \$50.

Almost every word and every ruling of Seawell's was against the defendants. He allowed the prosecution to bring in a lot of alleged dynamite, Maxim silencers and aluminum-painted shot guns to "prove" a conspiracy against capital on the part of Rena Mooney. This testimony already had been ruled out in the previous trial by poor old Judge Dunne. "You can't prove a conspiracy against the whole world," Dunne told Jim Brennan during the Billings trial. Seawell knew that this evidence was illegal, yet he deliberately withheld his ruling on the admissibility of this testimony till the jury heard every word of it. After all this stuff had sunk deep into the minds of every jurymen, Seawell, with a play of impartiality, also ruled it out.

There is practically no evidence against Weinberg. Poor old Oxman is back "mavericking" in the hills of Oregon. John McDonald is taking the rest cure. And nothing seems to remain of the principal witnesses save the unsavory Edeau women of Oakland. The death of witnesses is made up for by the introduction of Seawell into the case. He is so rankly hostile to the defendants that any of them going before him is severely handicapped.

It is a question though if Seawell's bias alone can convict Weinberg. It is a fearful handicap in a battle of life to be tried by a judge so obviously indifferent to fair play as Judge Seawell.

The Usual Jury Scandal The case started with another jury scandal. Every case tried so far has disclosed the deliberate manipulation of the jury panel which showed clearly that Fickert and the game feared a clear impartial trial before an honest jury.

During the selection of the Billings jury a few of the prosecuting gang went to certain clergymen in town and asked them to influence members of their faith who might be selected on the jury, to convict Billings. We have also found out since that one of the Billings' jury has secured the release of a woman convict from San Quentin though she had served but a short part of a long sentence for forgery of a will.

In Tom Mooney's case the prosecution were caught trying to plant a gunman on the jury. He wasn't on the ordinary jury panel. He was kindly provided on a "special" venire by Sheriff Tom Finn, who loves the "common peepul" around election time but seems ready to help the gang in their dirty work whenever he is called upon. J. W. Miller, hardware merchant, told President Lothhouse of the Millmen's Union that he voted

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for a conviction in the Mooney case because "Fickert wanted Mooney hung." "I don't know whether Mooney is guilty or not," he said. "We convicted him on his past record. I'd like to hang Rena Mooney too. We didn't discuss the verdict at any length. We wanted to get Mooney out of the way." Fickert showed the jurors evidence which couldn't be introduced before Judge Griffin, according to Miller, and poisoned the minds of the jurors against Mooney in every way possible.

Malpiede, Forger, Still Bailiff

The inevitable jury scandal marked the early days of the Rena Mooney trial too. Gaetano Malpiede, the bailiff in Judge Dunne's court, forged a "friend's" name on the jury panel. Malpiede also surreptitiously slipped a copy of the jury panel to one of Fickert's deputies, against the order of the court. Fickert, therefore, had an opportunity to investigate the entire panel though the defense had been denied access to it by order of the court. Malpiede was never punished, but, instead was given charge of the Oxman jury panel and jury. At the moment of writing he is again officiating in the Weinberg trial.

Failing in the policy inaugurated by the Chamber of Commerce of "stringing them up without ceremony," the Fickert-Cunha-Koster combine brazenly manipulates the jury system so that legal lynchings are assured. "That's Law and Order."

BOMB PLANTED BY U. R. R. SAYS BOURKE COCHRAN

Hon. W. Bourke Cochran, who defended Tom Mooney, the California trade unionist now under sentence of death for setting the preparedness parade bomb in San Francisco on July 22, 1916, charged at a meeting of labor leaders last Saturday night at the Hotel McAlpine that the bomb was not set by Mooney and his alleged accomplices, but by "the interests that are now determined to hang Mooney." He alleged that these interests were the United Railroads of San Francisco and other financial interests. Mr. Cochran's charge will be presented to the President's Commission.

At the trial of Mooney, Mr. Cochran said, he worked on the theory that the bomb had been set by a madman, as at that time he could discover no motive which a sane person could have for setting it. But, he said, acquittal of Oxman had convinced him, together with other developments, that the explosion was a part of a plot by the United Railroads and others to get rid of Mooney who was trying to organize the street carmen of San Francisco. He also charged that District Attorney C. M. Fickert, and his assistant, E. A. Cunha, were involved in the plot, and knew they had convicted Mooney on perjured testimony.

Mr. Cochran called attention to the charge, not denied, he said, that Martin Swanson, secret service agent of the railway system, had offered \$2500 and \$500 to Israel Weinberg and others to give perjured testimony against Mooney the day before the explosion took place. He said that several days before the explosion the railway company had issued a statement that "a dynamite named Mooney" was working among the men.

SUFFRAGETTES BEGIN A MONSTER DEMONSTRATION AGAINST ORDER

Washington, Oct. 16.—Police Judge Mullowney today sentenced four suffrage pickets to six months each in the work house. They were arrested after picketing the white house with banners demanding woman suffrage. Declaring that women refuse to recognize the law they didn't help make, the suffragettes here this afternoon announced a monster demonstration to be held before the white house November 10.

ALLIANCE DOES NOT SPEAK FOR LABOR, SAYS EDITOR

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 17.—Paul Scharrenberg, editor of the Coast Seaman's Journal, one of the most powerful labor editors in the United States, vigorously dissents from the position taken by Samuel Gompers in support of the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy in the current issue of his journal, which speaks for the International Seaman's union.

So far, the seamen have been the only outspoken critics of Gompers in the labor movement, although there is considerable resentment toward his policies in connection with the war, which is kept down by fear of the denunciations expected from "patriotic" sources.

The editorial in this issue of the Seamen's Journal is headed "57 Varieties," and reads as follows:

"57 Varieties."

"Says Editor Frey of the International Molders' Journal: 'No other group, except our own, is competent to speak for the trade union movement at this time, and no trade unionist is competent to speak authoritatively until the trade union movement itself, through conference and convention, has adopted an official attitude. An examination of some of the hasty, undigested expressions of policy which have been expressed by some local members of trade unions here and there throughout the country would lead a person who was not better informed to believe that the trade union movement had "57 varieties" of policy in connection with the present tremendous problems which face both trade unionism and the country. There must be unity of purpose and unity of action if we are to succeed in making our movement the power which it should be in the present crisis.'

"This is comment well taken and right to the point. The last convention of the American Federation of Labor did not mince any words on the subject of militarism. The report of the special committee on militarism was both clear and concise. It certainly set forth the views of the 'authorized representatives' of the American labor movement, for it received the unanimous vote of the convention.

"Later, when it became evident that our country would become involved in the world war there was a conference of all the executives of the national and international unions comprising the American Federation of Labor. This conference again set forth the position of the American labor movement. It was a conference composed of authorized spokesmen for organized labor.

"Now we have just had another kind of conference claiming to speak in the name of labor. It was composed of at least 57 varieties of parlor Socialists, prohibitionists, trades unionists and others. True, it was called by Messrs. Gompers and Morrison, but no one who pretends to be fair would call it a truly representative conference of the American trade-union movement. If the executive officers of the A. F. of L. had been desirous of holding a really representative labor conference to formally assure the president that labor is loyal, they certainly had it in their power to do so. Instead they stuffed their meeting with all shades and varieties of highbrows. Then they talked and resoluteed and declared in effect that any one who disagreed with them was necessarily either a fool or a knave, most likely the latter.

"Gompers probably had his own good reasons for holding his personally conducted highbrow conference. But with all due respect to him and his high position we must agree with the declaration in the Moulder's Journal that 'no other group, except our own, is competent to speak for the trade union movement at this time.'

"Skill is the united force of experience, intellect and passion in their operation on manual labor."—John Ruskin.

DUTCH DANCER SHOT IN FRANCE

Paris, Oct. 16.—Mata-Hari, the Dutch dancer, who two months ago was found guilty by a court-martial on the charge of espionage, was shot at dawn this morning.

Mata-Hari, otherwise known as Marguerite Gertrude Zelle, was taken in an automobile from St. Lazaire prison to the parade ground at Vincennes, where her execution took place. Two sisters of charity and a priest accompanied her.

Mme. Mata-Hari was accused of conveying to the Germans the secret of the construction of the entente "tanks," this resulting in the enemy rushing work on a special gas to combat their operations.

LIFE IMPRISONMENT IS LIKELY FOR KORNILOFF

PETROGRAD, Oct. 17.—General Chablosky, president of the commission of inquiry into the Korniloff affair, has returned to Petrograd, and in an interview with local newspapermen declared that he did not see in the actions of General Korniloff and the other accused officers any character of high treason. It was proved, he said, that General Korniloff throughout the movement committed no act of a nature to weaken the fighting front. General Chablosky expressed the opinion that General Korniloff can be sentenced only under article 100, dealing with attempts against the established government and involving the penalty of life imprisonment.

SUGAR FACTORY TIED UP BECAUSE OF STRIKE

BILLINGS, Mont., Oct. 17.—Several hundred employes of the Great Western Sugar company went on strike here last night because they were refused an increase of 7½ cents an hour, and the mechanical department of the factory was closed in consequence.

With all due credit to the activities of the American Bankers' Association, we believe that in the long run labor will have about as much to do in saving the nation.—Mont. Socialist.

And while they are at it, why not carry the investigation far enough to see if any American money has been used to influence any member of congress?—Mont. Soc.

High up on the slopes of Mount Mariveles in the Philippine Islands dwell the last remnants of an ancient and mysterious race—the negritos, or "little negroes." Though disinclined to work, the negrito is indefatigable in the chase. He will hunt all day without eating anything but the mango, or banana, that he may seize as he rushes by. If the dogs are scarce for any reason, women are pressed into service, and these go loping through the brush, yelping in imitation of the canines for whom they are substituted.

"United We Stand, Divided We Fall"

The time has arrived when the workingmen of the country must unite! Organized capital is strongly united in its efforts to crush the rightful demands of the workers. The so-called capitalist papers are always trying to form public opinion against the workingmen. They publish news and articles in the interest of the master class only.

The workingmen of Astoria and vicinity know this to be an absolute fact. The workingmen of this community can see there is only one paper in Astoria that is publishing the facts about the strike and that paper is "the Daily Toveri" (The Daily Comrade).

This paper has been published in the Finnish language only, for about ten years, but we saw the urgent need of a paper that could be read by the English-speaking people also, so we decided to do all we could to let all the people know the real facts about the strikes and all other matters important to the workingmen, which are kept dark by other papers.

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