The Santiam News.

Politically Independent

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WHO, THEN, ARE THE LAW BREAKERS?

The failure to convict a leader of one of the largest of our labor organizations of the crime of conspiracy to commit murder, by the Idaho courts, suggests the question in one's mind: "Who are the law breakers?" Because of the fact that there is generally more or less lawlessness connected with railroad troubles and strikes, the opinion has grown up in the minds of many people that this lawlessness is planned and directed by the leaders of the labor organizations. It is doubtful if this opinion is well founded.

Men who have sufficient ability to organize and direct the machinery of one of these large labor orders, are smart enough to know that the respect and good will of the law-abiding and law-respecting people is a necessary asset for the permanent success of any organization. Hence, it would be suicidal for any labor organization to allow the impression to go out that it was a society of law breakers. It is, therefore, unreasonable to think that the labor leaders, men who direct the labor unions, are wilfull law breakers. On the contrary, they have every reason to counsel their followers to obey the law.

Yet, it is a fact that there is more or less lawlessness connected with every labor strike. And it would be remarkable if this was not true. Labor organizations are composed of various kinds and classes of men. Some of them are exceptionably bright and men of good judgment, while others have room in their heads for but one idea at a time. Some are cool and level-headed, while others are excitable and rattle-brained. All that is necessary to entitle one to become a member is that he works with his hands at some particular class of labor. It is, then, not a question of wonder that men are received into the organizations who are rattle-headed and act impetuously. They commit depredations and crimes for which the leaders are held responsible.

Such was the case in the late trial at Boise. Yet, after a trial almost unprecedented in length, in which the state was aided by a star sleuth of the Pinkertons in the gathering of evidence, and tried before a jury that had no sympatny, particularly, for labor organizations, the state ingloriously failed to make out its contention.

Yet, because of the failure to convict in this case, the fact has not been disproven that the Western Federation of Miners organization is entirely free of crime. But the fact was pretty well established that Mr. Haywood was not connected in his official capacity with the commission of the crime charged. If the leaders of this organization are guilty of aiding and abetting crime, the fact is yet to be proven. Nor have labor leaders, in the many attempts in the past, been convicted of crime of any considerable importance.

If criminality is to be sought out, a far better field is to be found in the ranks of men who employ the members of the labor organizations. A much richer field in which to hunt for crime, in the State of Colorado, would be among the mine-owners, or among the people that a Gugenheimer unblushingly states he bought an election to the United States Senate. It is only recently that the Federal courts have commenced to hunt out the criminals in the various public land states and to investigate the railroads, trusts and other corporations. Wherever the dragnet has been cast, it has not been taken up empty. In these various fields just enumerated, crime exists in an abundance which humilitates us before the nations of the world. And in the investigations so far, we have but uncovered a small part of the rottenness, dishonesty and crime with which the capitalistic classes are infested. The big rascals have gone unprosecuted and unpunished so long, that they consider themselves almost immune of the law. They think law was enacted for the laboring and producing classes to obey without question, but that the matter is optionary with themselves. Another somewhat anomalous feature of the business is, these law-breaking, law-defying, predatory corporations and capitalistic classes are the people who instigate the prosecution of the labor leaders, whenever the labor organizations dare to assert their rights and privileges.

CLEAN UP!

In all small towns, which have not yet arrived at the sewer stage, there is a certain amount of cleaning up, periodically, which is necessary, if the health and beauty of the town is protected. Occasionally, however, a town is visited by epidemic or contagious disease in spite of the utmost care and cleanliness. How much greater, then, is the danger, if the residents of a town are careless in keeping the streets, alleys and lots cleanly and free from filth, cespools, etc. When the contagion arrives, a careful inspection will generally show the cause. A contagious or epidemic disease is limited to a few families and those families are usually careless in the disposal of the waste water from their wells, which cause the formation of cespools, and other disease-breeding filth about their premises. Again, there are other towns in which an epidemic seems to involve the entire town, the cleanly suffer the same as the filthy. It is then in order to examine the general water supply, which will, invriably, be found to be contaminated. This was true of the city of Eugene a few months ago, when typhoid had such a run in that city. The city water, when analyzed, was found impregnated with the typhoid bacteria and every drink of water simply spread the poison. Nor was the ravages of the disease checked until the water consumed was purified by boiling before using. When the water mains were examined, the cause was located and removed and no further trouble occured.

Scio, in the past, has been singularly free from epidemic diseases. Indeed no other town in the valley can show as clean a bill of health as we generally can, nevertheless there is a great deal of filth and trash about many of our homes. Our city water is taken from Thomas creek and Scio is located such a short distance from the mountains that our city water is uncontaminated. Analysis would show that no town in the alley has a purer supply than we. Yet, nevertheless our pure water, carelessness in disposing of waste water from their wells by at least by two of our residents, is responsable for the presence of an infectuous disease in our town at the the present time. Our city health board makes semmi-annual inspections to see that the city health laws are obeyed. But no one should wait to be told to abate a nuisance that imperils the health of his family. He should be sufficiently alert to look these matters up without telling. The matter is now being looked after by the city authorities, the afflicted family is now out of danger and was properly quarantined from the first. It is thought the disease will be confined to this one family. All of this painful sickness could have been avoided by a little care and expense. The waste from the well can be safely disposed of as follows: Thirty feet from the well dig another well about six feet deep. Fill the pit with river boulders and coarse gravel to within one foot of the top. Arrange the drain pipe from the well to flow into this receptacle and then finish filling with earth. By occasionally throwing a small quantity of chloride of lime into the trough or pipe, the waste water from the well is healthfully disposed of. Closets can be kept healthful and inoffensive by applying wood ashes.

In addition to the above, if we would beautify our town and keep it in a presentable condition to visitors, we must remove all rubbish, trash and unsightly weeds from the the streets, alleys and lots. True, Scio is handicapped by not having direct railway connection. But this should not cause us to be slovens. It should not prevent us from cleaning up and looking pretty.

Lately our business men have commenced the very commendable practice of policing the street in front of their business places respectively. Albany business men do this every Monday morning and Scio does well to follow the example. This spirit shuld spread through the entire town. An hour or two, spent weekly in cleaning up the street about our homes and places of business, will soon give an air of neatness to our town which is most desirable. If we will we can have the cleanest and healthiest town in the state.

Judge Landis, of Chicago, has assessed a fine of $29,240,000 against the Standard Oil company, for accepting rebates in oil shipments from the railroads. This sentence, of course, is no punishment to the Octopus. It can recoup in a few weeks, by adding a cent or two per gallon to the price of refined oil, or it can reduce the price of crude oil to the producers. A fine, then, is not punishment to this most complete monopoly in the world. Punishment to be effective must be unpleasant to the recipient and something that cannot be dodged at pleasure. Two or three years each in prison, for the people that control the Standard would be productive of better results than a fine, no matter how great. Confinment at hard labor is the only punishment that will make the millionaire criminal be good.

How the politicians do kick at our present primary laws. Especially is statement No. 1 most distastful to them. But, gentlemen, how are you going to help yourselves? The people like the primary and they have an especial fondness for statement No. 1. Nor will they readily surrender the privilege of selecting the U. S. senator. Of course you don't like the primary law. It was not suspected that you would. However, you will probably have to stand it and statement No. 1 included.

BRYAN AND GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP

IT IS BEING said by newspapers opposed to Mr. Bryan, Republican and Democratic, that he has changed ground on the government ownership of railroads question that he has abandoned the position he took less than a year ago, in order to secure the nomination for president next year. It is charged that he has completely altered his attitude on this question because he perceives that the Democratic party, particularly in the south, will not support him in it, and that he would rather give up a position that he still believes to be right rather than sacrifice the nomination. "It is said," to quote a Republican paper that believes in giving Mr. Bryan a square deal, "that Mr Bryan has turned turtle; it is said he has swiped down a quantity of his own rubbish to hide it from the resentment of his party—all in fear, and all out of crazy desire to be again named by his party for the presidency." But the paper goes on to say, "the statements to his credit are carelessly made by Republicans in a peevish way, or by Democrats who seek to find faults in him."

In his Madison Square Garden speech nearly a year ago, Mr. Bryan did not as his critics assume, push forward government ownership as a necessarily paramount or prominent issue next year. He said in that speech that he had "reached the conclusion that railroads must ultimately become public property and be managed by public officials in the interest of the whole community in accordance with the well-defined theory that public ownership is necessary where competition is impossible."

He doesn't have to take any of that back in order to say that public ownership will not be an issue next year because the people are not in favor of it yet and want to try government control first. Railroads of right ought to be public property, whether Mr. Bryan said so or not, to the extent of being operated in the public interest, and the government is already trying to exercise a good deal of ownership, or control, which amounts to about the same thing. But in that New York speech Mr. Bryan said further: "I do not know that the country is ready for the change; I do not know that a majority of my own party favor it; but I believe that an increasing number of the members of all parties see in public ownership the only true remedy for discrimination between persons and places and for extortionate rates for the carrying of freight and passengers."

Later, in writing to Mr. Whitney of Massachusetts, he said: "This, however, is not an immediate question; at least, I am not sure the people are ready to consider the question of public ownership, and until they are ready to consider that question the interest is centered in regulation."

What Mr Bryan has recently said and published is practically a repetition of the former statements, and with the added statement, due to a year's observation of the situation, that public ownership would not be an issue next year. Why? Because, as he suggested a year ago might be the case, the people are not ready for it, don't want it, want to try regulation instead; and Mr Bryan knowing this better than he did a year ago, simply says so. It may be that Mr. Bryan issued this statement in order to secure the nomination; this cannot be either affirmed or denied, except by himself; but it is not fair to him to say that he has "turned turtle" or faced about or flopped from one attitude into another for that purpose. Doubtless he still thinks that government ownership will be the "ultimate" remedy, but he is now assured of what he was in some doubt about a year ago, that the people don't yet want government ownership, and he says so.—Portland Journal.

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