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Politically Independent

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LAW OFFICERS SHOULD OBEY THE LAW

WHEN OUR FEDERAL CONSTITUTION was made, the makers thereof were scrupulously careful to guard the interests of the private citizen. They tried to remedy some of the injustices which had existed when the colonies were under the rule of Great Britain; in the way of arbitrary arrests and the transference of the arrested to England for trial. They tried to so enact fundamental law, that a citizen could not be, even, taken from one state to another, without due sanction of the courts of his own state. They tried to create a condition by or through which the courts of the state in which a citizen was arrested should be fully satisfied, that there was reasonable cause for the removal of the arrested from his home state to another state for trial.

Last week three men were arrested in the state of Indiana and, without being taken before any judicial officer other than a police magistrate, who was without jurisdiction in such cases, then were hurriedly and secretly taken beyond the limits of the state and hurried to California, the state in which the alleged crime was committed, and a state where more or less prejudice existed against the perpetrators of the supposed crime.

An officer of the law should, more than any body else, be careful to conform to all of the requirements of law. He is supposed to know what the law is, conferring upon him the authority to execute the duty which he undertakes. He should, therefore, be most careful to carry out the letter of the law.

Whether the McNamara brothers are guilty of dynamiting the Los Angeles Times building, remains yet to be proven. It is asserted that J. J. McNamara had not been in Los Angeles for months prior to the explosion and while the other McNamara may have been in the state at that time and is alleged to have purchased dynamite, it is, also, asserted that he was under the influence of McManigal, who is a confessed professional dynamiter. It is, also, asserted that McManigal has been in the employ of Detective Burns for several months, for the purpose of placing the responsibility of the Los Angeles horror upon somebody's shoulders, probably those of some members of Union Labor. Labor leaders say the whole proposition is a "frameup" and that the infernal machines and dynamite found in various places, had been placed there by minions in the employ of Burns. If Burns is guilty of such dastardly conduct as this, he should be confined in a dungeon for the rest of his natural life and be fed upon bread and water. On the other hand, should it be developed that the McNamaras are guilty as accused, surely they should pay the full penalty of their crimes, nevertheless they were taken from Indiana, contrary to the provisions of constitutional law.

The fact that these men were kidnapped, in positive violation of the law, gives color to the thought that evidence has been constructed against them. Whether guilty or not, their surreptitious removal from Indiana was a crime, which is wholly inexcusable in the officers who committed it. If "big business" is the inspiration of this arrest, as was the case in the Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone affair, and who were cleared of the charge of the murder of Ex-Governor Steunenberg, of Idaho, another evidence is added to the claim that "big business" cares nothing for law, if it can only carry its contention. It is really the lawless element of the country today.

If the Times building was dynamited as claimed, every law abiding citizen would be glad to see the

guilty dynamiters punished as they deserve. But they do not wish nor will they tolerate Russian methods of picking up innocent men and sending them over the road without due process of law, just because some emissary of the Burns character accuses them. If, as above stated, the capitalistic classes are aiming this blow at organized labor and if the matter should prove to be a frameup, as alleged, the sentiment against the predatory capitalistic classes will be increased fourfold.

There are, no doubt, members of Labor Unions, who are so radical that they would stop at nothing to carry their contention, and there are members of "Big Business" who are equally lawless. So far as the NEWS can see, both classes are equally guilty and should be punished in accordance with their merits. But under no circumstances, are officers of the law warranted in violating law in the execution of their duty. It is not necessary, if the law is executed without favoritism. Burns made a grave error in the manner in which he conducted the arrest and the railroading of these men to California. He and men of his character, are the greatest danger the government has to confront today. Dynamiters inspire the hatred of all classes of law-abiding citizens. Officers of the law, who violate law in the discharge of their duty, are men who generally have a strong following of men who pretend to favor the execution of law. Such men sap the very foundation of law and cause a disrespect for legal procedure which ought not to exist.

NEW ALIGNMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES

JUDGING FROM THE DIVISION of congress on the question of reduction of the tariff, the Canadian reciprocity treaty and the general conduct of the government, a new political alignment is due in the near future.

On tariff matters, there is division in both parties. Congressmen from Louisiana are as firm high protectionists as are those from Massachusetts or Rhode Island.

President Taft must rely upon democrat votes to carry his Canadian reciprocity measure. A few misguided democratic senators of the Bailey pattern, join republican senators, to resist the expulsion of the briber Lorimer and to protect the predatory interests in general, etc. Political parties are formed by men who have a community of thought and interest. It was the common desire of the old whigs and democrats of the north, which gave birth to the republican party. Likewise the resistance to greedy encroachments of the railroads, tariff barons and special favorites of congress, resulted in the populist movement of a few years ago and the resultant reform laws in nearly all of the states. A community of interests on the part of the people of California, regardless of the old political party lines, has broken the political power of the Southern Pacific railroad in California politics. Then why may not the insurgent republican and progressive democratic elements in congress form a defensive and offensive alliance? In other words, why may they not form a new political party? They unite on all measures wherein the people's interests conflict with those of the interests and with small effort in organization and, a party can be formed which will sweep the country from stern to stern.

It would make no difference who the standard bearer for 1912 might be. The people would support Roosevelt as willingly as they would Bryan, LaFollette as willingly as Woodrow Wilson or Cummings as willingly as Governor Folk.

What the people want is a president and congress which will patriotically stand for the interests of all the people and not for the few people who, heretofore, have been the recipients of special favors from congress.

The people want the income tax and the postal savings banks completely established in every city, town, hamlet and country post office throughout the country. They want the parcels post and above all, want the protective tariff laws, as now administered and understood, abolished. In other words, they want a square deal for all. A new political alignment will bring this result about much more quickly. When the men who favor high protection and general congressional favoritism, are grouped together in a separate party formation, they will be so lonesome that our national campaign will relegate them to innocuous desuetude.

Whenever the common people can be brought together under one political organization, they will be irresistible, for their interests, as a rule, are common. They all want good government, a square deal as between capital and the classes and a government in fact, of the people, by the people, for the people.

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