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MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

UNION HOSTS OF THE GOPHER STATE TAKE FARGO BY STORM

Hospitality of Citizens of North Dakota Metropolis and Weather Man Conspire to Make Reception to Minnesota Labor Delegates Warmest in History of State Federation—Matters of Vital Interest to Organized Labor Ably Disposed of—Howley and McEwen Re-Elected to Old Positions.

FARGO, N. D., June 24.—The spirit of hospitality is strong in this city and the two hundred delegates to the annual convention of the Minnesota Federation of Labor, assembled here, are to a man willing to bear witness.

From the time of the arrival of the first guest up into the closing days of the week this benign welcome has waxed even more pronounced; in fact the thermometer and the citizenship of the North Dakota metropolis have together conspired to make this one of the warmest receptions the Gopher state unionists have ever experienced.

When Fargo invited the Minnesota State Federation of Labor to hold its annual convention in that city, and declared itself able to meet all the requirements of the gathering and of the entertainment of the delegates made it no idle boast. For Fargo has proven itself metropolitan in essence and spirit, and has sustained its claim to distinction as to the intensity, comprehensiveness and sweep of its industrial, commercial, educational and social vitality.

Fargo is pre-eminently a convention city.

In the Convention Business.

By the time this season ends it will have entertained about ten general conventions, and a large number of state or sectional assemblies. Its bounty is royal, but its resources seem sufficient for every requirement, and it appears to have no greater desire than to employ them for the entertainment of all the guests that come within its gates.

The convention of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor tried the facilities of the city for entertainment to the utmost, but did not by any means exhaust them. It met there at a time when another large convention was in session, and was in itself an unusually large one, the largest, in fact, in the history of the organization. There were more than 200 regularly accredited delegates present, and they had a host of friends with them. The interest in the proceedings was at fever heat from the beginning to the end, and every detail of the business transacted received the most careful and deliberate attention.

Executive Council Meets.

At 8 o'clock Sunday evening the executive council held its last meeting for the year and finished up its business preliminary to making its full report to the convention. All but three of the congressional districts in the state having members in the council were represented, the absentees being the representatives from the First, Second and Ninth districts.

The members of the council present made reports of conditions in their several districts, which on the whole were favorable, but also noted some difficulties in places. Among these an impending strike of the carpenters in Duluth, who have demanded that the employers establish the non-union shop, which has been refused.

Vice President Hall reported that the various committees appointed to work up interest in the proposed labor exhibit at the next state fair were industriously engaged in interesting central bodies and unions in the project and were making good progress.

Bunanimous consent Mr. Hall was selected to read the annual report of the council to the convention.

A number of bills for organization and other work were passed and ordered paid. The council then adjourned without delay.

Monday's Sessions.

By unanimous consent Mr. Hall was morning with an attendance that packed Pirie's hall, and an atmosphere prevalent in the gathering that betokened the most intense interest in the proceedings.

Charles A. Frazer, president of the Fargo Trades and Labor Assembly, called the meeting to order, and welcomed the convention to Fargo on behalf of the city over which he presides and in the name of all organized labor in the city. He was emphatic in the declaration that the city wished every delegate to feel that the fullest hospitality of the city was extended, not only by adherents of the labor movement there, but by the Commercial club, the municipal officials and the citizens generally, all of whom had co-operated in every effort looking to the success of the convention.

Mr. Frazer is an old-time printer of the Twin Cities, who is well-known and highly esteemed in each. He concluded his remarks by introducing Rev. C. R. Adams, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, who invoked the divine blessing on the labors of the convention and all who attended it and the cause which it represented and worked for.

Welcome from the Mayor.

Mr. Frazer next introduced Hon. V. R. Lovell, Fargo's progressive mayor, who said: "It affords me great pleasure to welcome to Fargo that element in any community which is the most respected. I don't pretend to be acquainted with the problems of capital and labor. I do, however, accord to labor the same right that other interests on the country enjoy—the right of organization. For the purpose of organization and co-operation I welcome you and hope your convention will be profitable and pleasant."

Mayor Lovell was tumultuously applauded throughout his speech and when, in introducing him, Mr. Frazer announced him as the "mayor of the biggest little city in the world," the declaration aroused the enthusiasm of the audience to a high pitch.

Labor Commissioner Delights All.

W. C. Gilbreath, state labor commisisoner of North Dakota was the next speaker and warmedly welcomed the convention to Fargo.

Mr. Gilbreath said among other things:

"While I have had the opportunity on several different occasions of addressing the farmers of this state, this is my first appearance before an assemblage composed of mechanics, artisans and other who form this federation, and I wish to assure you that I am delighted to meet and greet the men who have the reputation and skill to do something.

"The rapid change that has taken place in the past twenty lears in the industrial outlook of the world is developing the best thought and invoking the greatest minds of our day and generation to meet and solve economic questions that are constantly arising. The great problem that the present generation is working out is the placing of the industries of the world on a new and more equitable foundation. The task of reconciling the apparently irreconcilable differences between capital and labor without degrading the toiling masses, to elevate instead of pulling down, to enthrone law without resorting to force, to establish a commercial nation on the basis of a republican form of government and peacefully and amicably solve all the great and grave issues of the present and future, are as momentous questions as ever agitated the world. The history of North Dakota shows that she has been no laggard in the contest for the rights and liberties of her people, and while young in years, she cannot afford to be backward in the advancement of the general welfare of all of her citizens.

"There is no more important personage in this state of ours than the honest laboring man.

In Union There Is Strength.

"While labor may not be designated as a profession, yet this does not prevent the advisability of organization for mutual benefit and common good. 'In union there is strength.' The doctors, lawyers, merchants, publishers and farmers organize and find it not only beneficial but profitable. There should be no criticism of the rights of laborers to closer organization or the privilege of the exercise of their inalienable rights.

"The laboring men are real flesh and blood, filled with human hopes and high aspirations. They have human needs and possess as generous impulses as other men, and that they have as lofty ambitions and mental capacity has been shown in all the avocations of life.

"Labor and capital are so closely interlinked as to be inseparable. Labor cannot live without capital to furnish employment, and capital, without labor to enable it to become effective, valuable and profitable, is as useless as the gold that lies in the mountain side. When capital selfishly strives to secure unfair proportions of the profits by reducing the laborer to conditions which endanger the health, morality and education of his family it is certain to invite a revolt which will end in its impairment and destruction. When labor pushes its demands beyond a point where capital receives no return, but sustains a loss, it necessarily produces stagnation in business and works an injury to the daborer.

Glad Hand Extended.

"We are glad to meet the people of Minnesota and Fargo and to show them courtesies which have often been extended to us when we have visited the Twin Cities. Minnesota is a great state. It could not be otherwise, because it was at one time attached to North Dakota. It possesses the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, the great trade centers of the Northwest. These cities are inspirations to the good people of Fargo, which is striving to rival, if not surpass them in many ways. A kindred spirit stirs the minds of the people of both states, for many Minnesotans have relatives who are either living at the present time in North Dakota or expect shortly to become residents of this state.

"In the name of the state of North Dakota, and as commissioner of labor of this state, I extend to you the glad hand and welcome you to the best state in the union."

Cheer Howley to Echo.

Following the address by Commissioner Gilbreath, Chairman Frazer introduced President George B. Howley and it was then that the convention went into an uproar.

The first mention of the name of President Howley brought forth storms of applause. The hall resounded with cheers which were time and again started afresh. The president of the Minnesota federation, personally known to nearly every union man in Minnesota, is popular both officially and personally.

Response By President Howley.

President George B. Howley responded to the several addresses of welcome with great force and excellent judgment. He clearly voiced the sentiments of the convention in appreciation of the courtesies tendered the delegates by the people of Fargo, and gave them assurances that they

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NEXT MEETING PLACE.
Mankato, Minn.

THOSE ELECTED:

President—Geo. B. Howley, Minneapolis.

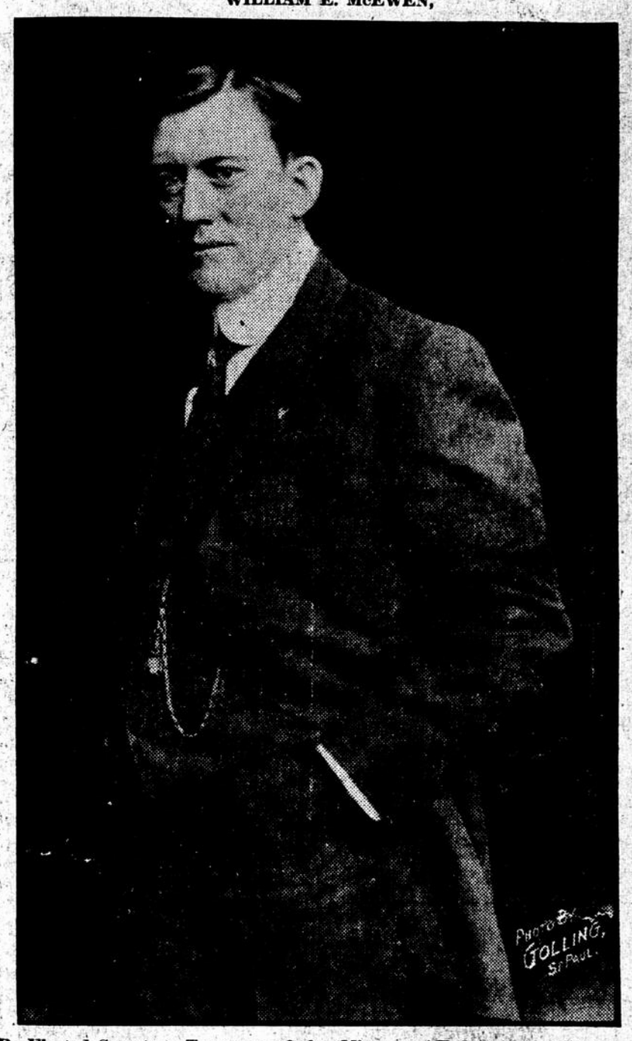
Vice Presidents—First district, N. A. Kreuger, Winona; second district, to be selected by Mankato assembly; third district, Wm. Schilling, Red Wing; fourth district, Joseph Maiden and F. E. Hoffman, St. Paul; fifth district, F. G. Hall and Frank Hoffman, Minneapolis; sixth district, L. R. Porter, St. Cloud, and Geo. W. Pippy, Brainerd; eighth district, S. S. McDonald, Duluth; ninth district, C. A. Frazer, Fargo.

Secretary-Treasurer — W. E. McEwen, Duluth.

Delegate to American Federation of Labor—C. H. Joyner, St. Paul.

Official Paper—Minnesota Union Advocate, St. Paul.

WILLIAM E. McEWEN,



Re-Elected Secretary Treasurer of the Minnesota Federation of Labor at the 28th Annual Convention Held at Fargo, N. D., This Week.

ORGANIZED LABOR'S FUTURE IS BRIGHT WITH GREAT PROMISE

—Says Prest. Howley.

FARGO, N. D., June 24.—The following is the full text of the annual address of President Geo. B. Howley of St. Paul:

To the Officers and Delegates of the Twenty-Eighth Annual Convention of Minnesota State Federation.

Fellow Representatives of Organized Labor:

In submitting my annual report for your consideration on this twenty-eighth occasion of your assembling in annual convention, to confer and take counsel of one another concerning matters of the greatest importance to each and all of us, and vitally involving in many ways, the great interests we have in charge, I greet you with the glad tidings that the labor movement in this jurisdiction is peaceful and prosperous, it's future is bright with promise and its sky on all sides is radiant with hope.

Mainly Engaged in Organization Work

During the past year my work in the service of the movement has been mainly in the domain of organization. It has been devoted either to stimulating, directing and defending unions already in existence, or to forming new ones. And in both lines of endeavor, I am happy to say, without taking any great credit to myself for the results, considerable success has followed my efforts.

In some few places I have found the fields white with the harvest and only waiting for the sickle and the strong hand of the reaper. But in most cases the obstacles to progress were many, the conditions were obdurate, the situation was almost beyond control, unless it could be re-arranged from the ground up, and in some instances even the ground had to be prepared. The work was laborious and required constant industry, sleepless vigilance, and unceasing patience and forbearance.

Necessity of Organization.

Knowing as I do what is involved in the domain of organization, I feel that I have been employed in the most important part of the great work the labor movement has to do—a department of that work, in fact, which is the foundation and indispensable support of all the others.

Organization is the inevitable condition if not the impelling cause of all material life. Around the minutest seminal principle or germ of vitality, matter collects, disposes itself, attracts, organizes, until the insignificant acorn becomes the shapely and towering oak, a thing of stern endurance and infinite uses. The principle of organization once lost, this storm-defying monarch of the hills is helpless, doomed and perishing. The same principle cannot but be equally vital to all forms of human endeavor if they are to succeed and be effective.

Man has organized and continues to organize despotism, carnage, desolation, all with the most palpable and stupendous results. A drilled and well-equipped regiment of one thousand men is more than a match for ordinary rabble of ten times the number.

These illustrations, and numerous others that might be given, would emphasize the absolute necessity for constant organization work in our movement, if any argument on the subject were needed here. Even in the absence of any such need, the suggestions that they embody are pertinent to the place and hour, if they have no other force.

Good Help Employed.

To be specific on the subject, in addition to my own work in visiting different cities of the state, excellent results have followed the activity of others whom I found it necessary to employ in this connection.

Mrs. Maud Batlo of Minneapolis was sent to Red Wing, where she started and perfected the organization of a Woman's Union Label League, which has been in a flourishing condition and has rendered great service to the trade unionists of that city ever since.

I had Mrs. Katherine Dempsey of Duluth visit Brainerd, and she also was successful in organizing a Woman's Union Label League, which, from all accounts, is giving vigorous and valued help to the labor movement in that city.

In addition I placed Mrs. Knox of Fargo in the field for a week to build up an organization of women in this city. The good results of her efforts are seen in the increased vitality and efficiency of the movement here.

Other Valuable Aid Given.

On account of my necessary activity in behalf of the American Federation of Labor, I was compelled to place a

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GEO. B. HOWLEY,

Re-Elected President Minnesota Federation of Labor at the 28th Annual Convention Held at Fargo, N. D., This Week.

SHEEP'S FLEECE TORN FROM SENATOR SHOWS HIM AS TRUE WOLF

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 24.—Senator Nelson of Minnesota, who had gained considerable notoriety as a shameless champion of the Morgan-Ballinger-Guggenheim interests while acting as chairman of the Ballinger-Pinchot inquiry, has in a most cowardly manner insulted three legislative representatives of organized labor, simply because they asked him to support a bill for an investigation of the subject of workmen's compensation.

After having received the indorsement of President Taft, the department of commerce and labor and many members of the hose and senate, for this measure, Arthur E. Holder, representing the American Federation of Labor; Albert A. Roe, of the Brotherhoods of Trainmen and Locomotive Firemen, and Herman E. Wills, of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, called at the office of Senator Nelson, who is a member of the committee on judiciary, before whom the measure is pending.

The Minnesota senator, who resembles one of the elderly gentlemen connected with the comic exploits of the "Katzenjammer Kids," walked out of his private office with his dignified head tilted towards his left shoulder, and "received" the labor men in the ante-room.

"What is your wish, gentlemen?" mechanically said Senator Nelson.

"We came," replied Mr. Roe, who acted as spokesman, "to ask your support for the bill providing for an investigation of the subject of workmen's compensation. This is a matter of great importance to—"

"Important? This matter is not important at all," almost screamed the Aldrich puppet. "It's only important to a lot of demagogues and labor agitators, not only outside of congress, but inside. This bill," yelled Nelson with rage, "is only a scheme to give a lot of soft jobs to labor agitators who—

"Roe, you are a demagogue," was Nelson's breathless peroration, and the man who poses as the "friend of labor" before the workingmen of Minnesota, then slammed the door of his private office as he hurriedly sought its shelter.

The labor men looked at each other in surprise, and then smiled.

AFFIRMS JAIL SENTENCE FOR CARPENTER LEADERS

CHICAGO, June 24.—The appellate court has affirmed the order of Judge Julien W. Mack, who, on July 8, 1908, held that John J. Brittain, George H. Lakey and Charles G. Grassell, members of the district council of Chicago of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, were guilty of contempt of court and sentenced them to thirty days in the county jail.

The order sentencing the men to jail was because of alleged violation of an injunction issued in behalf of the Slayton Lumber company against the union and its members.

ORGANIZED LEAD AND ZINC MINERS IN OLD MISSOURI

JOPLIN, Mo., June 24. — After years of unsuccessful efforts to organize the mineral miners in the Joplin lead and zinc district, from present indications this will at last be accomplished.

A union has been started in Webb City and one in Joplin, and judging from the spirit manifested by the miners the time is ripe for a thorough organization of the entire district, which means the addition of thousands of wage earners to the labor movement.

UNION MEN IN OFFICE.

SAN JOSE, Cal., June 24.—San Jose has done itself proud. In spite of antagonistic press and pulpit, the vote registered at the recent municipal election shows: For mayor, Chas. W. Davison, union labor, 1,290 majority; Walter G. Mathewson, councilman-at-large, union labor party, 658 majority; Theodore Brohaska, councilman, union labor party, 1,196 majority; J. E. Robinson, councilman, union labor party, 1,167 majority.

MF'RS KEPT WIRES HOT TO KILL AMENDMENT TO UNFAI RSHERMAN BILL

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 24.—That the telegraph wires fairly sizzled with messages from the leading manufacturers' and employers' organizations to Senator Gallinger, of the committee on appropriations, immediately after the adoption by the house of an amendment to the sundry civil bill, introduced by Representative Hughes, of New Jersey, providing against the spending of the special funds to prosecute labor organizations under the Sherman anti-trust law, has been learned today.

What direct influence these telegrams had on the members of the senate committee is not definitely known, but it is a fact, nevertheless, that the committee did exactly what the manufacturers wanted and submitted an amendment striking out the house amendment to the bill for the appropriation of $100,000 to enforce the Sherman act.

Demonstrating beyond doubt that the manufacturers have a secret office in Washington for the purpose of fighting labor legislation and to keep posted, is this latest information that telegrams by the hundred poured in the national capital from different parts of the country as soon as the house, after a stiff fight, passed the Hughes amendment.

JOKER MAY NULLIFY EFFECT OF STEEL CO. PROBE RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 24.—The Stanley steel trust resolution which has been adopted by the house, calls upon Attorney General Wickersham to give "all the facts in his possession" concerning the alleged conspiracy in restraint of trade between the United States Steel corporation, the American Steel and Wire company, the National Tube company the American Bridge company, the Federal Steel Company, the American Tinplate company and the Carnegie Steel company.

Labor representatives in Washington believe that the resolution was greatly weakened by the phrase "all the facts in his possession," for Wickersham is not in the habit of gathering facts tending to shake the value of steel trust stock or make life unpleasant for Schwab and his kind.

Wickersham's recent declination to take any action whatsoever against the steel trust until the Supreme Court of the United States has decided the appeals now under consideration in relation to the American Tobacco company and the Standard Oil company, is significant as to his probable reply to the resolution of Representative Stanley.

In the meantime, say the labor representatives, the prosecutions of farmers, and union men, who are attempting to combine and mutually sell their products, will proceed with all dispatch, for Wickersham knows his master's voice.

It is also pointed out that Wickersham's days of official activity are undoubtedly limited, owing to the scandals which have connected him with Ballinger and Alaska and Lawler and Mexico, the attorney general will not hesitate to do whatever "the interests" may require despite all consequences.

ADOPT RESOLUTION CENSURING NELSON

FARGO, N. D., June 24.—An important action of the convention body was the adoption Tuesday of a resolution condemning United States Senator Nelson of Minnesota for his general attitude of hostility toward labor and especially for his recent discourteous reception of a delegation of labor leaders who called on him to urge his favorable consideration of a bill providing for disability compensation for workingmen.

SHELVE BOILER BILL SPITE OF MILLIONS ASKING ITS PASSAGE

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 24.—Still locked in the desk of the secretary of the senate sub-committee on interstate commerce the locomotive boiler inspection bill is as far as ever from becoming law and saving the lives of thousands of passengers and trainmen now wantonly sacrificed by the railroad corporations.

Aside from the petitions sent in by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers, the members of the boilermakers' union have written approximately 75,000 personal letters to their senators and congressmen.

A conservative estimate shows that nearly one million people have signed the petitions circulated by the brotherhoods for this law.

Many hundreds of telegrams have been sent to President Taft asking his aid in the matter, and it goes without saying that if the president wished to bring the same pressure to bear upon this life-saving measure that he saw fit to bring upon the rate-raising of the railroads the locomotive boilers of this country would soon be officially and legally inspected.

Congressman Mann and Senator Cummins are the chairmen of the two committees having this bill under consideration. What will they do with it? And what will the railroad brotherhoods do with them if this measure is throttled in committee?

SEAMAN LEADER NAILS SHIP SUBSIDY FALSEHOOD SENT OUT BY WALL STREET

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 24.—Denying that ship subsidies would benefit American sailors and declaring that despite our national boasts seamen enjoy better wages and conditions under the Stars and Stripes, Andrew Furuseth, president of the International Seamen's Union of America, appeared before the house ship subsidy investigation committee and spoke against the scheme to mulct the United States treasury for the benefit of the "Wall Street pirates."

Furuseth called the attention of the committee to a law passed by the United States in 1884 which gives the ship-owners the right to hire a crew in a foreign port without re-shipping them when the ship leaves this country, thus making the sailors practically slaves.

When asked by a member of the committee to state why American sailors oppose the subsidizing of American ships, Furuseth pointed out the fact that the ship subsidy bills have a provision requiring sailors to join the naval reserves in order to get work on subsidized vessels. All sailors would then become conscripts, said Furuseth.

"Well, do you object to working men joining the militia?"

"No," replied Furuseth, "but I do object that sailors be compelled to put themselves under obligations in order to get work that other citiens are not."

The arguments put up by the agents of the "Wall Street pirates" in behalf of ship subsidies are so similar to those that had been made for a high tariff on steel that it has elicited comment from many labor men present at the hearing.

"It's the same old story," said one, who was formerly a steel worker. "Why, weren't we told that if congress would grant the steel manufacturers of this country a high tariff, American labor would receive the benefit. Yes, American wages and the American standard of living would be supreme in this land. So they said, and congress gave them high tariff.

"Now, the conditions in the steel plants are 'shocking,' according to the United States commissioner of labor."

GARMENT WORKERS GAINING.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., June 24.—While there are still in the neighborhood of eight hundred garment workers on strike in this city, both side are reticent about their troubles and no bad feeling is being engendered thereby. All of the small employers have signed up and their employes have gone back to work.

CUTTERS STILL OUT.

BUFFALO, N. Y., June 24.—The strike of the cutters in the clothing factories of Herman Wile & Co. and M. Wile & Co., in this city which began a fortnight ago, is still in progress and may become state wide. It has involved all the other branches in the factories, as the members struck in sympathy with their co-workers.

PROBLEM OF HUMAN LIFE CONSERVATION MOST PRESSING ONE

—Says McEwen.

FARGO, June 24.—The following is the full text of the report made by Secretary Treasurer W. E. McEwen to the convention:

To the Officers and Members of the Twenty-Eighth Annual Convention of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor.

Greeting:

In submitting a report of the condition, the needs, the work and the progress of organized labor in this jurisdiction during the year that has just closed, I feel that there is no necessity for me to offer any apology or even any explanation for incompleteness or want of comprehensiveness in the review, although such defects may be considerable and plainly manifest. Recent events of the greatest moment to me, and, I trust, prolific in good to the labor movement in general in this part of the country, must plead for me in extenuation of any imperfections or short-comings my annual report may exhibit. More and more as time passes and I see further, do I realize that the labor movement is a highly vitalizing entity, with a soul as well as a body, and not in any sense a dead cumberer of the ground, or even an accidental and temporary offspring of the needs of mankind and the forces that from time to time awaken to provide for them. As the sweep of my vision has been extended in recent years to reach farther and farther horizons in our own country, this conviction has grown and been intensified in me. Now that I have been enabled to look at the movement as it shapes and manifests itself in foreign countries, where both social and governmental conditions are so different from what they are in this country, I find no possible escape from the conclusion that organized labor is one of the disguised angels whom God is ever sending to illumine and bless his earth, having in view the elevation of the human race to the stature and comeliness its creation contemplated, and its incitement to more rapid and satisfactory progress in the course it was destined to pursue.

But we must deal with our problem as we find it. The human family is not yet thoroughly harmonized in feeling, exalted in purpose or convergent in effort. Elementary perversion, physical obstruction and moral dissonance still obtain and are potential in our midst. This earth is far from being among the truly loyal provinces of God's empire. And it is now, as never before, the high privilege of all right thinking persons to labor for the desired ends through such agencies as are available to them.

The labor movement is a new Christianity, for it is a Christianizing industry. It is a new democracy, for it is democratizing privilege and injustice out of the world of business. It is a new philanthropy, for it is humanizing the relation of the employer and employe, buyer and seller. It is a new political economy, for the greatest destroyer of wealth in the modern world is wealth, and the labor movement, by striving to put all to work and open to all riches of nature hitherto locked up, shut down, or reserved for exclusive exploitation, is creating a true wealth beyond the wildest dreams of avarice. It is a new emancipation, and the logical sequence of all the great emancipations, reformations and patriotisms of the past. For it will emancipate the only two kinds of slaves that yet linger as blots on the fair face of universal freedom—master and man—the slave to starvation, Gatling guns and court injunctions, and the slave who uses them.

Fellow delegates and friends, we

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