

CURRAN, UNION MAN, ANSWERS JUDGE ASHFORD ON UNIONISM

James P. Curran, San Francisco union man and said to be an organizer for the Ironworkers' Union in the following letter to the Star-Bulletin answers the criticisms of Judge Ashford, made last week when Curran was sentenced to four months' imprisonment for assault on a non-union man:

Editor Star-Bulletin:
Sir: As Judge Ashford saw fit to discuss matters pertaining to the Ironworkers' Union and labor unionism in general in the United States at the time he passed sentence on me, and such statements not being in accordance to the true state of affairs, for the information of the judge and for the information of the public, to correct such impression I beg to make the following statements:

The judge stated that it would take him a long time to repeat the names of the various crimes committed by the ironworkers for which he accuses the blowing up of the Los Angeles Times and various other crimes. I want to state, there is not an ironworker in prison for the blowing up of the Los Angeles Times or for assault on persons or property. It is true the McNamara brothers are in San Quentin prison. J. B. McNamara, who pleaded guilty to the blowing-up of the Times building, is a printer and not an ironworker and never was convicted with that organization. J. J. McNamara, who pleaded guilty for conspiring with Ortle McNamagal to blow up the Llewellyn Iron Works, and for which crime he is now serving sentence in San Quentin prison and not the Los Angeles Times building.

As to those that were convicted in Indianapolis not one for any assault or for any injury to any person or property. They were convicted for an alleged violation of the inter-state commerce law, being charged for conspiring to carry high explosives on common carriers, which is against the law. I will admit that at times ironworkers have been charged with other offenses, as have other people, for example:

The case of President Woods of the American Wool Trust of planting dynamite and trying to prove that Lawrence Mill strikers did it, why Woods was not convicted some of his hirelings were, and one of the prominent men connected with his dastardly scheme committed suicide.

I will also call your attention to a more recent date. In the latter half of 1914 the Merchants, Manufacturers and Erectors' Association of Stockton, Cal., locked out all their union employes and there being no demand for increase of pay or decrease in hours or any other advanced conditions by the union. Just a few tyrants who had got control over the Employers' Association and had started out as they usually do to ride rough shod over the backs of labor and when they found all the labor of California had come to the rescue of their brothers in trouble in the city of Stockton with financial aid, they resorted to more drastic measures by employing the silly sleuths of detectives, and one of these detectives in the employment of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association of Stockton was caught at Martinez depot with a suitcase full of dynamite, which had been stolen from a freight car at Pittsburg, Cal. This being the second lot of dynamite that this gang of thugs were taking to Stockton, the other being transported in an automobile. The purpose of this dynamite was to be placed in various plants so as to be found, with the idea of bringing discredit upon labor.

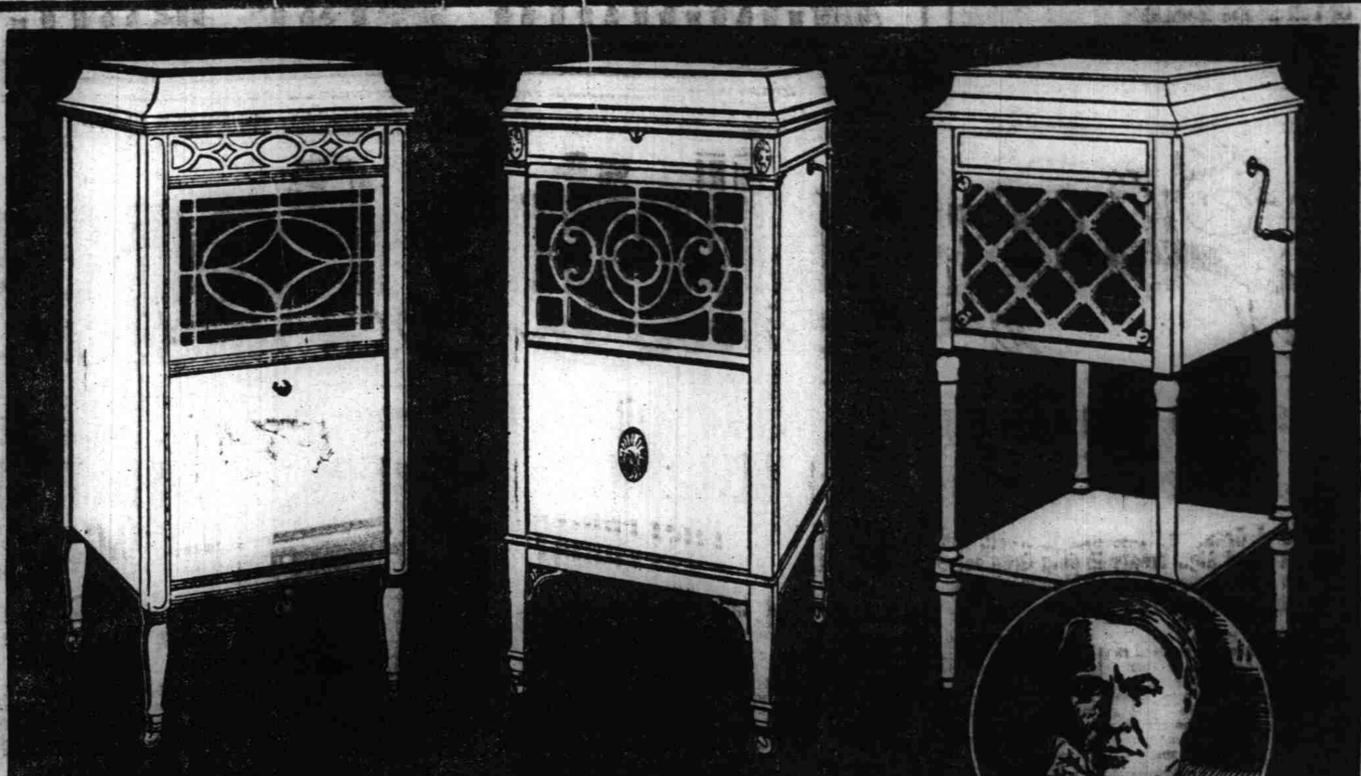
I only state these facts to show that others besides labor men have committed unlawful acts of conspiring during labor trouble and I have often wondered, as any good citizen should, why the opponents of labor organizations are not prosecuted with the same energy by the government officials as labor is. It's beginning to look as if there were a chosen few to be prosecuted, which consists solely of the ironworkers, and the only reason I can see for this is that they will not surrender their manhood or citizenship to the giant corporation known as the steel trust, which has practically driven every American mechanic and laborer from the plants, which every committee which has investigated this condition of the plants throughout the United States has reported of the non-citizenship employed therein. Those committees have consisted both of religious and government appointments.

I also wish to state that the judge's statement that the Ironworkers' Union countenanced violence is not a fact. The union as such has always been opposed to any act against the law, and where unlawful acts have been committed, those who committed them were acting for themselves and not for the union.

JAS. P. CURRAN.

[In some of his statements made above, Curran has failed to bring out all the truth. Thus he says that J. E. McNamara, who pleaded guilty to blowing up the Los Angeles Times building, had no connection with the Ironworkers' Union, but was a printer. As a matter of fact, the confession of Ortle McNamagal, on which the foundation for the successful prosecution of the McNamaras rested, showed that J. B. McNamara, the printer, was acting under the instructions of his brother, J. J. McNamara, who was chief instigator of the plot. J. J. McNamara was secretary-treasurer of the International Association of Bridge and Structural Ironworkers of America. Both brothers were charged with murder as a result of the Times explosion. He declares that the ironworkers and unionism in general is opposed to violence. When the McNamaras were arrested, union organizations all over the country raised a huge fund for defense, at the same time denying any responsibility whatever for the murderous explosion. Even after the arrest of the McNamaras J. J. McNamara was re-elected secretary of the union. The wholesale arrests of union iron workers and other union men in what are known as the "Indianapolis cases" was a result of the McNamara expose, and in passing sentence upon the defendants in these cases Federal Judge Anderson said "The evidence shows some of these defendants to be guilty of murder." It is true, as Curran says, that the Indianapolis defendants were not convicted of assault or injury on any person; that was a technicality, as the judge declared that murder was among their crimes, which, he added "were all committed in the name of organized labor." Furthermore, among those convicted were so many members of the structural ironworkers' organization that little doubt existed that the organization was deeply involved in the nationwide dynamiting conspiracy, the judge himself stating that McNamagal's story was "corroborated by the records of the international association."

It is fair to say that many unions and union men have repudiated such methods of violence and such conspiracies as those promoted by the ironworkers. The question might also be asked whether the ironworkers' union has ever repudiated the defendants convicted and sentenced in the Indianapolis cases.]



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MORE AND MORE OF LONDON'S BIG THEATERS DEVOTED TO 'REVUES'

Frothy Dramatic Offerings,
Without Much Plot, Popular
With Soldiers

LONDON, Eng.—The craze for the revue has extended from London's variety theaters to conservative playhouses. Five of the leading West End music halls took up the revue early in the craze, leaving only three true to variety, and now a well known home of comedy, which has brought out more successful light plays than any other in London in recent years, has just announced a revue, making the fourth legitimate theater to go over to the revue as against 17 producing plays and musical comedies. The revue has swept all before it in the suburban and provincial theaters. Differs From French.

The English revue is quite different from its French original. It lacks the wit, political satire and topical bits of the French and simply aims to amuse an audience of the tired business man type. In its general scheme, it is little more than the conventional English musical comedy robbed of its remnants of plot and made frothier than ever. Its trimmings either come from or are modeled on New York. A knockabout comedian or two, a dapper actor with a good voice for sentimental songs and a chorus of girls, who appear in new costumes at every entry, go to make the current revue.

The chorus man has almost entirely disappeared, owing to the prejudice against "slackers" or men of military age who are not "doing their bit." In one of the road companies to appear here recently the male chorus was composed of small boys, dressed in the latest Piccadilly cut. But girls ordinarily take the place of chorus men. Popular With Soldiers. Revues apparently fill a niche of

their own in wartime. Officers on a short visit from the front or just out of the hospital or away from the camp and soldiers on similar leave seem to crave mental relief of this sort. They make up by far the most of the male part of the audiences. Manners are informal at the revue, and smoking is allowed, which are further attractions.

American influence predominates in English revues. American dances, ragtime songs, slang and even a touch of twang in singing are not more notable than the striving for rapid action, novelties and surprises in costume and scene that are typical of the American concoction.

The word "some" in its American slang sense figures in many of the titles of these revues, and the past week a copyright infringement case was heard in court where the proprietors of the rights to "Splash Me" sued the producer of a similar revue called "Some Splash." "Some Glee," was the title of a revue appearing in a district theater at the time this case was heard.

DISSENSION AMONG SWEDISH OFFICERS ON PERSIAN FRONT

LONDON.—A despatch to Reuters Telegram Company from Petrograd says: "Advices received from Teheran are that dissensions have broken out among the Swedish officers of the Persian gendarmerie. 'The insurgent general, Genarmeir, together with mercenaries, are occupying the Mohammedan road, where under the direction of German officers they are fortifying the mountain passes in order to cover the region adjoining the Turkish border.'"

British Columbia's annual mineral output is valued at \$30,000,000.

MORE OF CUBAN CENTRALS BUSY THAN LAST YEAR

Seventeen Grinding on December 10, With Good Weather, and Others Preparing

Sugar market conditions are summarized up to December 10 in the weekly market review put out by Nevers & Callaghan, 99 Wall street, which follows, in full: "The week opened with buyers willing to continue purchasing sugars in all positions at former prices. With practically no prompt shipment Cubas offering, refiners in need of ready supplies turned their attention to offerings from store, and sales of about 2900 tons of Philippine Muscovados at 3.90c basis 88° from warehouse and 350 tons of Mexican granulated sugar at 4½c basis 96° in bond, reduced the importers' stock to about 900 tons, held in store. The sale of these Mexican granulated sugars figured the equivalent of 5.38c duty paid

and caused sellers of spot and nearby sugars to advance their asking prices to 4½c basis 96° c.&f. for the few small parcels of prompt shipment sugars that were offering and 4½c basis 96° c.&f. for Cubas for all December shipment.

"For new crop positions sellers were correspondingly firmer and asked 4c basis 96c c.&f. for Cubas for first half January clearance, 3½c basis 96° c. & f. for all January shipment and 3½c basis 96° c.&f. for all February shipment. After sales of about 40,000 bags Cubas for all January shipment and clearance at 3½c basis 96° c.&f. to operators and an outport refiner, the market developed an easier tendency and this price of 3½c basis 96° c.&f. was accepted for one small cargo of Cubas for first half January shipment. The light demand for refined coupled with the report of several factories having started grinding operations in Cuba with favorable weather conditions prevailing there, caused buyers to withdraw from the market. While offerings from Cuba had been moderate at the higher levels being asked, the quantity increased when sellers modified their prices in their efforts to find levels for trading. Although a local refiner paid 4.15c basis 96° c.&f. for 5000 bags Cubas afloat and speculators paid 3½c basis 96° c.&f. for 20,000 bags for first half January clearance, yet fair quantities of Cubas for prompt shipment held at 4c basis 96°

c.&f. were not taken.

"At the close, speculative buyers have paid 3½c basis 96° c.&f. for 25,000 bags Cubas for first half January clearance and are willing to buy more on the same basis. Refiners, however, are very indifferent and prompt and December shipment is offered at 3½c, first half January shipment at 3½c, last half January at 3.7-15c and first half February at 3½c c.&f., without finding buyers.

"During the week H. A. Himely announced his estimate of 3,175,000 tons production for the present growing crop of the entire island of Cuba. These figures, although over 600,000 tons in excess of last season's final cut-turn, are no greater than had been expected. Today, 17 Centrals are reported in operation in Cuba, as compared to 12 Centrals at the corresponding date last year. The increase in the number of factories now grinding and the prospects of a rapid gain from now on, on account of the favorable weather, indicates a rather earlier start of general grinding operations than was anticipated. "On account of the advancing tendency of raws at the close of last week, the trade decided to extend their commitments for refined to cover their requirements until the end of the year, and although a good part of their purchases were domestic beet granulated at concessions under refiners' prices for refined, still the amount of orders taken by refiners at

6c less 2 per cent, being quoted by the American S. R. Co., National S. R. Co. and Arbutle Bros., caused these three refiners early in the week to raise their list price to 6.15c less 2 per cent, which price the Federal S. R. Co. and Warner S. R. Co. were already quoting. All refiners are now firm at 6.15c less 2 per cent, but the amount of new business coming in at this price is very limited."

A CHRISTMAS SOLILOQUY.

To give or not to give—that is the question!
Whether 'tis nobler from the purse to take
Two-bits and buy a Christmas novelty for a friend,
Or to keep the change and get a cup o' tea, to drown
At New Year's all the troubles that weigh us down?
To buy—to send—and not to keep!
And, sending, say we end the heart-ache of indebtedness
And the thousand obligations that the flesh is heir to—
'Tis a consummation devoutly to be pushed!

American manufacturers of lead pencils now have the business of the Far East practically to themselves. The 18,000 regularly established libraries in the United States contain more than 75,000,000 volumes, or an increase of 20,000,000 since 1908.

NEGRO GIRL HAS \$20,000 DAILY AS HER INCOME

OILTON, Okla.—Because of a late ruling of the county clerk in which the owner of an oil lease is forced to turn over to lessee the royalty oil instead of its equivalent, Sarah Rector, the richest negro girl in Oklahoma and probably in all the world, now is receiving in royalties \$2000 more a month than formerly. Six hundred dollars a day was her income from one of the most valuable oil land allotments in the entire Oilton district. Her tract of land, which is operated by B. B. Jones, millionaire oil man, is now producing in the neighborhood of 160,000 barrels of crude oil a month. For her share, one-eighth, or 20,000 barrels a month she was getting 90 cents a barrel, or a total of \$18,000 a month, giving her a daily income from her oil royalties of \$600. There is one grocery store to every 300 inhabitants of this country.