

The Butte Daily Bulletin

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FRIDAY, SEPT. 5, 1919.

SIGN UP!

Come down to the Bulletin office and sign a monthly pledge

LABOR! FREE YOUR PRISONERS!

The war is over. But the war upon labor still continues. Under cover of war legislation, although all excuse for its existence is past, men and women of progressive views and labor affiliations are still being imprisoned for exercising their civil and political rights. This imprisonment and persecution of people for free expression of opinions is not confined to any part or portion of the country. Men are being arrested in California, in Kansas, in Minnesota, in Pennsylvania, in New York, —in the north and the south—in the east and the west—men and women are serving time and others are still being tried and convicted and given long prison sentences for having done no more than express their views or for giving voice to their thoughts.

Encouraged by the success of the espionage act in jailing members of the working class of radical views, state legislatures have been passing special laws under the title of "criminal syndicalist bills," ostensibly to be used against the I. W. W.'s, the anarchists and the socialists, but as soon as the syndicalist bill passed the California state legislature, active members of unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor were arrested, jailed and charged with "criminal syndicalism" for their strike activities. The same tactics are being used against the organizers of the steel industry in Pennsylvania.

Unable to cope with the growing power of labor and the developing spirit of solidarity, the employing classes have cunningly devised this new means of fighting organized labor by passing laws with the avowed purpose of checking the activities of radicals, but virtually these laws are so construed as to enable them to arrest all active workers. Knowing that they are unable to defeat a strongly organized body, they are trying to catch the workers apathetic and unawares.

If these laws are passed in the various states, the courts can make a strike illegal and break it by calling the strike "sabotage," and under such legislation can send labor leaders to jail for long terms.

For self-protection, the men and women of organized labor must see (what the employing class so clearly sees) that so far as the great economic struggle is concerned, the capitalist regime makes no distinction between an A. F. of L. organizer fighting for a little more of the joys of life for the workers and the man or woman who holds the most extreme views. Anyone that threatens the regime of the bosses is the enemy of the capitalist class and is dealt with accordingly.

The American worker does not yet realize that he is as likely to go to prison for twenty years because of his participation in a strike as any of the extreme radicals who proclaim the strike the most powerful economic weapon that labor has. In the years to come the political and labor prisoners will no longer be counted by the hundreds, but by the thousands—the jails will be filled by men and women of some social vision—unless labor, recognizing its own power, refuses to allow it.

In Wichita, Kan., thirty-two workers have been confined since November, 1917, in a jail so filthy and insanitary that we cannot tell about it and pass the censor. One of these men went insane, one attempted suicide and one has died on account of the filthy condition of the jail. Every man has lost from 10 to 40 pounds in weight. They are not charged with anything but the open expression of their views. These 32 men have never been brought to trial, but have been kept in jail 23 months. Twice indictments have been quashed for insufficiency, but the men were immediately re-indicted.

There is scarcely a prison in all these United States but contains some tortured man who is there because he believed in labor's cause. Many of these are cases where the employing class have merely found a convenient chance during the war situation to strike a venomous blow at working men who have been a thorn in their side at other times.

It is necessary for the future liberty of this country that American labor see to it that the prison doors swing open and set free the men and women who are suffering under war-time measures. There are over 1,500 such prisoners in the American jails today. It is not only labor's absolute right, but if labor is to maintain its self-respect, it MUST stand back of every man who is now in prison because of labor's struggle. Labor must demand the realization in America of some of the things that we were supposed to be fighting for in Europe.

You may not agree with all the views held by the labor and political prisoners. But no country can progress without differences of opinion—no country can progress without the right to freely express these differences on political, social and economic subjects—and where there are differences of opinion, somebody must have the right to be wrong. Workingmen have suffered and bled and died in this war because they were promised more liberty and better economic conditions. Now the forces of labor must not rest until all repressive war-laws are repealed and all labor and political prisoners are freed. If labor does not take action in this matter, it will mean that more chains will be fastened that will be hard to break.

If the resolution that was passed at the last A. F. of L. convention in Atlantic City, that injunctions be ignored, is carried into action, more jails will have to be built to hold the labor men that clash with the employing classes. **Unless you stand by the men you do not agree with entirely, your turn will come next.** Solidarity now means strength for the future. Resolve

here and now that you will be readier than you have been in the past to leap to the defense of our labor soldiers threatened in the industrial conflict.

Do not be frightened by the capitalist press cry of: "anarchist," "Bolshevist," or "I. W. W." These epithets are now being hurled at liberal judges, editors and liberal-minded men and women who have sounded the warning to labor against the impending despotism.

Demand—not only demand, but see to it—that there is an immediate amnesty to all the labor and political prisoners in the American jails.

COONEY "HEA VES" AGAIN.

When the public history of the boobs who now preside as county commissioners of Silver Bow county comes to be written, a prominent chapter in the work will of necessity be devoted to the exploits of this man Cooney, who seems to have even less common sense and judgment than his fellow incompetents.

As we recall it, at the time Clown Cooney was running for office and immediately after the people of the county had played suckers by electing him, the irrepressible Byron burst into print frequently with statements of what he intended to do for the dear people. His actions since assuming the commissionership lead one to believe that the statements accredited to him were inspired by copious draughts of the stuff that cheers and that what Byron—old dear—really meant was what he would do to the dear people.

'Tis true, that Byron, as a newspaper man, realizes the value of publicity. And to his credit, be it said, he has managed to keep in the public eye consistently. First it was when he assisted his fellow members of the board to purchase a brand new Buick car, apparently for the social and political uses of Mrs. Byron. Then came that historic hair-pulling match between the "more deadly" member of the Cooney family and the county auditor, in which epithets were hurled as frequently as it appears, a curling iron. Later we were regaled with another evidence of Mr. Cooney's interest in the dear people when we learned that he had employed a ward heeler as a hounder of indigent widows and orphans, ostensibly, but really as a solicitor of votes in the interest of Byron's bosom friend, that doughy hero of the spruce forests, "I, Captain Cutts."

And it seems that Byron has not yet displayed his full bag of tricks. More recently, it has developed that Byron is very greatly displeased with the action of some special officers employed by the county attorney to stop bootlegging and to halt moonshining. And quite wrathfully, the classical Byron jumped into the fray with the demand that the "dry squad" be abolished. And this, be it said, is probably the most consistent action that Byron has taken since he took office. In attempting to do away with the dry squad Byron is simply protecting his friends.

And now, perhaps, Byron is tired of life. "I will no longer bear the odium of suspicion," says he. The only conceivable way in which Byron can get away from suspicions of some things and positive charges of others, including known incompetence, is to shuffle off this mortal coil.

With naive comedy Byron, too, states, with reference to the expenditures for the dry squad, "I will not see the public spending from \$1,000 to \$1,400 for something they do not get, nor will my sanction be given to it." In this connection we are impelled, from our knowledge of Byron's tastes, to infer that were the \$1,000 to \$1,400 spent by the public for the vile concoctions popularly known as "moonshine," Byron would approve, particularly were Byron to get his share of the goods purchased.

Probably as a means of proving an alibi for himself, with reference to the fact that authentic rumor at the courthouse insists that considerable of the seized liquors stored in one of the vaults at the courthouse had disappeared, the Honorable Cooney seeks to prove that he knows neither of the vault combinations. Perhaps if stirred up enough Cooney will be frank enough to enlighten the public as to what he knows of the mysterious movements of some of the county trucks, which on several occasions have been known to load up with some sort of cargo at the courthouse and whirl away in the dead of the night to the homes of some of the commissioners or their near relatives.

Byron closes his tirade against the county attorney with the statement, "I heaved a sigh of relief at having washed my hands of a matter which I fear will yet cast odium on the county government." Now, coming from the source it does, we claim that that sentence is a classic and should take rank in current public literature along with the famous "May I Nol's" of President Wilson.

We have heard of lots of drinks, but never before of one called "sigh of relief." Perhaps, though, if we took to drinking the same brand as our commissioner friend, we, too, might have a few "sighs," or other liquids, in the cold, gray dawn of the morning after.

TORTURE FOR SEA TITL'S BRAVEST.

Word comes from Seattle that Hulet M. Wells, a member of the Electrical Workers' union and formerly president of the Central Labor Council of that city, now confined in the penitentiary at McNeil's island for his activities on behalf of labor, is being manacled to the bars of his cell for four hours every day and confined in "solitary."

After a medical examination, Wells was declared to be physically unfit to perform hard labor.

In spite of this he was given the heaviest tasks in the prison; feeling himself breaking down, he asked for lighter work, but the request was not granted. In order to preserve his rapidly failing health—he has never been strong physically—he refused to continue at heavy labor and the solitary confinement and manacled is the result.

Wells is one of the finest spirits in the labor movement; subjected to the bitterest criticism by foes within and without the labor movement, no one ever heard him say an unkind word, even of his worst enemies; like Debs, he is eloquent and an untiring worker for labor's cause.

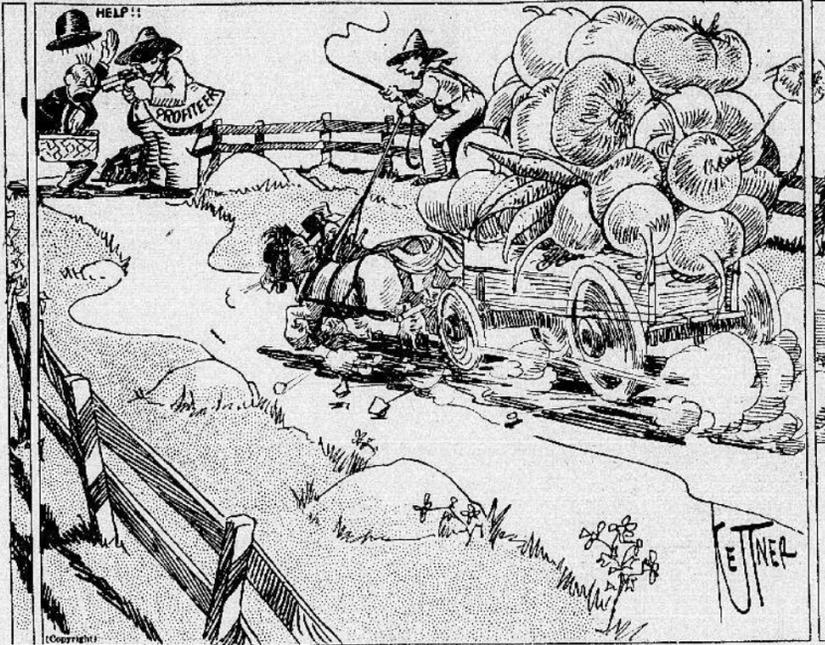
The least the Seattle workers can do is to force the uncalled for brutalities inflicted on Wells to cease by a united protest and action if necessary.

It is bad enough for the labor movement to be deprived of the services of men like Hulet Wells—and submit to it—without passively allowing them to be tortured to death by medieval methods.

We hope the Seattle workers will get busy.

The president says if the treaty is accepted that "the boys in khaki will never have to cross the seas again." He must have discovered a new route to Europe.

To the Rescue



GOOD NIGHT G... COLUMN "THE MUCKER"



catch a gamier fish. Well, seems like he was away up the Madison river country, now maybe I'm mistaken it mite uv been the Jefferson or the Gallitan river he said but any how it don't matter much where it was ez long ez the incident he mentioned is told truthfully.

It seems like he was driving along in his limousine and the roads had been just awfully dry and dusty when all of a sudden he run right into a mud hole wich must uv been sun hole arite becuz he got rite in the middle of it when his car refused to travel enny further. His astonishment was only ekward by the joy he felt when he noticed a farmer along the rode away. He had forgotten his hip boots an he cudnt figur out how he cud get enny wher to get help with out wading thru mud up to his neck when he noticed the farmer. You bet he felt pleased so he bothered and hollered to attract his attention. Finally the rube hurd the upore and he drove up an asked our hero wot he wanted.

Well, after a littel dickering the rube told him he wuld pull him out for \$5. The business man felt so glad about getting out of the hole he never raised a kick about the price—at the time—but after he got to thinking about the matter an began to put too and too together he thot maybe he had been bilked. So on his return jurney he stopped before he reached the mud hole and exclaimned it. It seems like the irrigation ditch which crossed the rode had been dammed up in a suspicious looking manner wich caused the water to run over the rode—wile he was loking at it he noticed a wagon and team half hidden in the bushes and he began to smell a rat espeshully when he see the very same fellow who had pulled him out on his way up.

"Huh! Believe me, I made up my mind that I'd get my car thru that mud hole," he said, "or I'd leave it stay there till it dried up." Oh yes I made it by skilful driving and wen I got thru I made it my business to enquire about that fellow. As a result of hiz investigashun he discovered that the rube was making all kinds of money hauling pore innocent business men out of that mud hole at \$5 per. His indignashun was aroused by the intymashun he received and he decided to make a trip around by the county seat and report it to the county authorities. The result wuz the farmer received a visit from the county commissioners and he wuz compelled to go to considerable expense to change the rode and I understand the money he had made from the littel graft wuznt neerly sufficient to pay for the improvements wich he had to put in.

Now wen the business man had told me the above incident he luffed and luffed and I luffed too, but just the same I cudnt see why the farmer didnt have as much rite to his littel graft as sum of our middel men an I don't just understand why the authorities cudnt spoil the middel man's littel graft just ez easy ez they did the farmers. Uf course Im owly a pore ignorant worken man an the subject may be too deep for me to savvy but maybe sum wun besides me can reezuin it out an see a moral in this littel story.

Yours ..specially,
PHIL BERT.

PACKERS PAY EXPENSES.

Washington, Sept. 5. At the hearing on the Kenyon and Kendrick bills for the regulation of the packing industry by the senate agricultural committee, Senator Kenyon, republican, Iowa, cross-examined W. D. Reynolds and J. H. Hall, two Fort Worth, Tex., ranchers, bringing out admission that they had been paid expenses by the packers after appearing before congressional committees on a previous occasion when legislation considered inimical by the "big five" was under consideration. Both men insisted they did not expect reimbursement for this trip.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

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- For the purpose of helping to maintain The Daily Bulletin;
- For the purpose of helping to make The Daily Bulletin independent of advertising;
- For the purpose of having the subscribers bear a portion of the deficit under which The Bulletin unavoidably operates;
- For the purpose of continuing to fight for the people who toil;
- For the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of The Daily Bulletin.

Subscribers to The Daily Bulletin on and after Oct. 1, 1919, will be asked to pay the following rates:

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The inauguration of the above rates on Oct. 1 will not affect subscriptions which have been paid in advance beyond that date at the old rate.

As The Daily Bulletin is conducted for the sole purpose of serving the people, and not for the benefit of those who exploit the people, the management feels sure that all the present supporters of this **FREE PRESS** will readily recognize the necessity for the increase in the subscription rates and continue their support.

THE BULLETIN STAFF.