

BIG BUSINESS CONSPIRES TO PLACE IRON- WORKERS IN PEN, IS CHARGE

A conspiracy on the part of the Manufacturers' Association to thwart the pardoning of the convicted iron workers is charged by organized labor, which is now circulating petitions for their pardon.

The Chicago Federation of Labor declares it has reliable information that the members of the Manufacturers' Association are flooding the mails with letters, asking the members of the United States Congress not to interfere or use their influence on behalf of the pardon petitioners.

The C. F. of L. openly charges that the steel trust is behind the persecution of the men.

Union labor has also in its possession fac-simile of letters showing that a train to bear the convicted men to Fort Leavenworth penitentiary was chartered forty days before a verdict was returned.

The petition, which is addressed to President Wilson, has the following preamble:

"The undersigned citizens of the United States, urge Your Excellency to pardon Frank M. Ryan, Eugene A. Cancy, Michael J. Young, Frank C. Webb, Philip A. Cooley, John T. Butler, J. E. Munsey, John H. Barry, Peter J. Smith, Henry W. Legleitner, Ernest C. W. Basey, Paul J. Morrin, William E. Reddin, Michael J. Hannan, Murray L. Pennell, Edward Smythe, George Anderson, Frank J. Higgins, Frank K. Painter, Fred J. Mooney, William Shupe and Michael J. Cunnane, for the following reasons, to-wit:

"1. We believe that the above-named persons did not have a fair and impartial trial before Judge Anderson. We are more convinced of it of the fact that a train was chartered for the conveyance of the men to the Fort Leavenworth penitentiary forty (40) days in advance of the verdict of the jury. After

sentence was pronounced, Judge Anderson "railroaded" the men to the penitentiary without giving them an opportunity to apply for a supersedeas in the U. S. Court of Appeals. That court later granted a supersedeas and released the men on bail.

"2. We believe in the innocence of the men. It was shown that the verdict of the jury was wrong, at least as to fourteen men, six of whom were granted new trials by the Court of Appeals, and eight men were released by Judge Anderson himself, and yet it was the same jury that convicted all of the defendants.

"3. We believe that the verdict of the jury was due to inflammatory speeches and misconduct on the part of Judge Anderson and ex-United States District Attorney Miller.

"4. We believe that the whole prosecution was and is an attempt to break up the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Workers and to discredit organized labor generally."

To this petition has been added a letter from Elijah N. Zoline, who with Chester H. Krum, represents the ironworkers.

In the letter Zoline makes the charge that Judge Anderson was prejudiced against the defendants and that when a petition for a change of venue was presented to him he flew into a fit of rage and threatened the attorneys for the defense with contempt of court proceedings.

"In the afternoon of the same day," the letter continues, "Judge Anderson sent for the attorneys and assured them he had no prejudice against organized labor and urged them to withdraw their petition for a change of venue. Thus by threat and intimidation and false promises Judge Anderson retained jurisdiction in the case. That he was manifestly unfair is shown in the petition.

"A special train to convey the de-