

ONE MAN'S OPINIONS

BY N. D. COCHRAN

Ironworkers and Judge Anderson.

—Did YOU notice that when the convicted ironworkers went to the penitentiary at Leavenworth from Kansas City they were escorted by a large body of union workers?

That is something worth thinking about. There is a deep meaning in it. It means that union labor quite generally believes these convicted ironworkers are martyrs instead of criminals, and that in their minds there is no disgrace attached to this imprisonment.

After reading carefully the testimony and argument submitted to President Wilson in support of the petition for a pardon for these men, my sympathies are with the convicted men; and I have much more respect for any one of them than I have for U. S. Judge Anderson, who bullied the lawyers for the defense and acted like a tyrannical czar during the trial at Indianapolis.

For years a few federal judges, who are on the job for life and not gettable by the people, have been making penitentiaries respectable and courts disreputable.

I think human society would be better off if some of those federal judges were wearing stripes instead of the workmen they have railroaded to the pen.

These men were convicted mainly on the testimony of Ortie McManigal, a sneak, turncoat, informer and betrayer of his class; and during their trial Judge Anderson acted as if he were the leader of the prosecution instead of a man sitting in judgment, presuming innocence until guilt was proven.

Value of Loop Property.—Favoring action by council that will permit Levy Mayer to build a hotel 265 feet high in the loop, the Daily News says:

"Values of lots in the central dis-

trict of the city have been established on the basis of the earning power of various high buildings already constructed; consequently the owners of the lots cannot secure a reasonable return on those values by erecting 200-foot buildings. . . . Owners of lots which had a certain value up to the time the 200-foot ordinance was passed cannot afford to write off a large part of that value because some foolish aldermen have attempted to legislate value into outlying real estate by limiting the height of downtown buildings."

Personally I don't care whether they build 200 feet high or a mile high in the loop, but I don't think much of Lawson's argument.

It isn't at all important to the people outside the loop that fool values in the loop be held up. What Levy Mayer is asking is that council legislate value into his property by letting him violate the building ordinance.

If he can't get a return on a fictitious valuation with a 200-foot building, then squeeze some of the water out of the valuation.

Mayer didn't create that valuation. Property owners in the loop didn't do anything to increase the population and send valuations sky-high in the loop.

The truth is that Chicago newspapers and other loop interests have secured legislation that cramped most of the value-growth of this town into the loop district, instead of letting it spread all over town.

The street railway game has been played for years to bring about congestion in the loop district and favor loop property owners as against owners of property outside the loop.

A comparatively few property owners have been shaping government in Chicago so as to permit them to absorb much more than their share of the values which have been created by the people of Chicago.

It would be better for Chicago if the town were permitted to grow normally north, south and west rather