

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Owned by the Rebel Clan of Toil

An Injury to One is an Injury to All

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NEWS FROM BUTTE

Butte, Montana, Nov. 27, 1914

The trial of our fellow workers at Boulder Montana came to an end Saturday night and resulted in the conviction of Bradley and McDonald and the acquittal of Shannon. Bradley was given five years and McDonald three. As I predicted in my last letter the hand-picked jury delivered the goods as per the instructions of the A. C. M. Co. who were represented at the trial by Judge W. A. Clark Atty. Gen. Kelly, county attorney of Jefferson county, a brother to the other rat and county attorney McCaffrey of Silver Bow County. A. T. Williams, rancher; F. M. Williams; Christ Wickersham; Chas. Ford; Cha. Brown; M. Davidson; Chas. F. Lyon; Peter Tonstel; D. P. Lake, hotel proprietor; D. P. Roberts, carpenter and contractor; Robert Wozder, clerk; Peter McCluskey, non-union miner. What do you think about that for a jury? Of the twelve men, ten are exploiters of labor; one a clerk than whom there is no more servile, while the other man is a non-union miner who would oppose a union man on general principles. These men stand for "Big Profits and Cheap Labor" and practice that idea, so you could not expect them to give a fair trial to the men who were active in starting a real union to replace the company controlled W. F. of M. outfit. Three of the most conspicuous witnesses at the trial were Dan. Holland and John C. Smith, Ex Deputies, under Sheriff Keller; three of the most notorious stool-pigeons in the employ of the company. Holland testified as to Bradley being a bad man and that he had disgraced him once during an election at miners union hall, while as a matter of fact, Bradley on this occasion was attacked by a bunch of thugs headed by Holland and the only thing that saved his life was that in their anxiety to kick his head off they kicked each other in the shins and started a free-for-all amongst themselves, thereby giving Bradley a chance to escape.

The defense objected to Keller being sworn as a witness because he was in the court room during the examination of the other witnesses, but the objection was overruled. He was very bitter towards McDonald, which was to be expected, as "Muckey" gave him a terrific beating about a year and a half ago. That memory of the mauling and the hospital bill were uppermost in his small mind was plain to everyone. McCaffrey and some of his imported pinks and gun-

men spent one whole evening, and several hundred dollars, in an attempt to get the witnesses for the defense so drunk that they would be unable to testify on the following day.

The company demanded that these men be sacrificed on the altar of Mammon to satisfy their revenge for the shock they received through fear of the new union, of which these men were considered leaders, also to serve as a warning to all others who have the manhood to fight for their class. This and other mock trials have proven to every intelligent person that they can railroad anyone whom they desire to. Lawyers are useless, law is a farce, and the constitution a mockery. The lines are clearly drawn and the workers must take a stand for or against us. How long the workers are going to stand by and see the best men in the movement beaten up, deported, imprisoned and shot, remains to be seen.

The masters have their vulnerable spots as well as we and its up to us to find them. We certainly cannot beat these courts by hiring lawyers and playing on the wrong side of their game. But there are two ways to beat them—sabotage and organization. They practice the former on us whenever they arrest us. WE are forced to hire lawyers with the result that our pockets and treasuries are depleted and we become weakened and terrorized. What is there to hinder us from practicing sabotage on them and terrorize them as they do us.

By doing this we can strengthen our position until we are united industrially as we should be. Then we can make our own laws in our own organization and ignore them entirely.

The company has warrants for 16 other fellow workers charging them with kidnaping. They got by so easy with the other cases, no doubt they think they can get by with these also.

Bert Riley, ex-president of local No. 1 of the W. F. of M., helped to deport a man named LaDuke several months ago and was not even arrested for it. They used him to testify against John Foley, who got 20 months in 20 minutes, on a charge of robbing the miners' safe.

Our friend, Conley, had several convicts making a road from big fork to Con Kelly's summer residence at Swan Lake. Four of these men deserted and the guards came

upon one while he was fishing and without warning shot him in the groin; this happened at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Without going to see how badly he was wounded they went on to Gordon's ranch, where there was a big supper await-

Later

ing them. Conley went with the guards the next afternoon at four o'clock and no doubt was much peeved on finding the poor fellow still alive. He said you so and so, I have a damn good notion to blow your brains out. They made preparations to tie him on a horse and take him back in that condition, but a trapper made such a strong protest that they took his advice and sent for a doctor.

The attorneys for Bradley and McDonald have applied for a new trial on the grounds of insufficient evidence and the fact that the state's witnesses were allowed to testify to things which had no bearing on the trial. Several fellow workers who have been in jail for several months, charged with stealing powder to blast the miners' hall, are to be tried in Bozeman next Monday.

They have it figured pretty fine. It costs a little more than three hundred to convict John Foley, and they seem to think it is cheaper to spend three hundred of the dear taxpayers' money on each rebel and pay their board, than it is to have them run at large and be on the job.

The company don't worry much about the taxes because they only pay about one-tenth of what they should. For instance, a mine might be worth a million dollars while the surface improvement would be valued at one hundred thousand dollars. They pay taxes on the surface improvements only. The real wealth is not taxed at all.

Fellow Workers Brett and Daley were arrested a few days since, Daley is charged with looting the miners' safe. Brett is charged with being an agitator. There is no law on our statute books which makes agitating a crime but these people don't worry about a little thing like that.

They make their own laws as they go along.

Fellow Worker Bob Noble was very sick in the jail for several days before any one on the outside knew anything about it. Several of the boys were being arraigned in the court on a charge of destroying prop-

erty and when Noble's name was called there being no response, a deputy was sent to look him up. Noble was unable to leave the cell and some of the boys sent a doctor to see him and the doctor ordered that he be removed to the emergency hospital at once and he is still there though considerably improved at this writing. They don't like Noble and would probably have let him lay there and die if his absence from the court room had not been noticed.

During the Bradley-McDonald-Shannon trial at Boulder some of the boys asked Attorney General Kelly why it was that only members of the new union were being prosecuted and informed him of McCaffrey's seeming desire to shield the Western Federation bunch. Kelly replied that he was not playing any favorites and would see that they, too, would be put on the rack if the informations were filed. This led up to the arrest of Bert Riley, ex-president of No. 1, and two other W. F. of M. men on a charge of kidnaping one LaDuc. The affidavits were secured and sent to Kelly as per his request and McCaffrey was forced to take action though much against his will. That he was greatly peeved was quite evident because he called up the new union office and informed them that he and NOT Attorney General Kelly was prosecutor for Silver Bow County. The fellow worker who answered the phone told him that the farce at Boulder had convinced him that Con Kelly was the chief prosecutor with the other two Kelly's running well up.

The trials of Winchester Malone Smith and Cary on a charge of kidnaping will come up in Bozeman in a short time. McCaffrey based his informations against these men on alleged dope that he picked up in Boulder.

The Industrial Workers were Jake with the pie-counter comrades for a month before election, but since the election it seems the rebels are not wanted, as they have no rough stuff to pull off. Some of these so-called saviors who tell the workers, before election, to vote for them, and they will see that they receive all of the benefits of "the world to come" here on earth, in their speeches at their hall Thursday night suggested that any rebel wishing to join the socialist party would have to forswear allegiance to the I. W. W. We are worried, I don't think.

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The Propaganda League of Los Angeles opened up their heavy artillery on the enemy on the 29th day of November. Our first assault on the enemy took place at First and Los Angeles St. Time, 9:30 a. m. F. W. Hickey Troy handled the first assault from the rostrum, ably assisted by the "Wobbly" choir.

At 11:00 a. m. we made our second assault on the enemy, and we sure won a great victory. After the meeting three men came to our hall and took out our cards. We then retreated to our hall and took a rest for the afternoon conflict. At two o'clock we came forth for the third assault on the enemy.

There was Holy Rollers on one side and Socialists and God Knockers on the other, but after we got started they had to beat it for want of an

audience. F. W. Phil Engle handled the meeting in real I. W. W. style.

At 6 p. m. we came forth flushed with the victory of the afternoon and we made the sky pilots and other fakirs hunt their hole and pull it in after them.

At 8 p. m. we held an Open Forum at our hall, with Phil Engle and J. Menke as the main speakers. Then we had the usual questions and five minute talks.

It sure was a great day for the

Wobblers here in Los Angeles. It is only a beginner of what we are going to do in Los Angeles this winter in the way of agitation, and if we get strong enough we might do more.

We took in eight members on Sunday, making a total of sixteen for the week. Industrial Unionism is the sentiment of the crowds, but owing to the depression in the markets they can't get enough to kick in.

THOS FITZGERALD