

## ONE MAN'S OPINIONS

BY N. D. COCHRAN

The Past of Mother Jones.—I have received an interesting note from H. H. Kohlsaas, former publisher of the Record-Herald and Inter-Ocean, concerning charges made against Mother Jones in a speech in congress by Rep. George J. Kindel of Colorado. Mr. Kohlsaas's note is as follows:

My Dear Mr. Cochran: Until I read the enclosed I had always supposed "Mother Jones" was a real friend of the men, WOMEN AND CHILDREN who suffer during strikes, and respected her for her humane efforts to alleviate suffering. This is a terrible indictment to charge her with being a procuress and keeper of a house of ill-fame. Do you know whether it is true or not?

Yours sincerely,

H. H. Kohlsaas.

I am glad Mr. Kohlsaas wrote that note to me and gave the inspiration for this opinion. In the first place, it shows that Mr. Kohlsaas's heart is in the right place, because he respected Mother Jones when he thought her the real friend of men, women and children during strikes, when her humane efforts were directed toward the alleviation of human suffering.

Enclosed with the note was a copy of the Congressional Record containing the speech of Congressman Kindel. In this speech the Colorado congressman quoted extracts from a Denver publication known as "Polly Pry," in which reference was made to Mother Jones and others who were billed to address a union labor mass meeting at the Coliseum the night of Jan. 3.

The issue of "Polly Pry" of Jan. 2, 1904, referred to the mass meeting to be held the next day to be addressed by Moyer, Haywood, Mother Jones and others. No reference was made to the past of any of the men speakers, but space was given to what purported to be the record of Mother Jones; and the charge was made that

in the Pinkerton detective office there is a record which shows that back in 1889 Mother Jones was a "well-known character" in the redlight district of Denver, Omaha, Kansas City and Chicago.

The issue of "Polly Pry" of Jan. 9 (evidently a weekly publication) reported that Mother Jones didn't appear at the mass meeting on the preceding Sunday, and then proceeded with additional charges against the character of Mother Jones—back in 1889.

I will not repeat the vile charges made in those two issues and then spread upon the records of congress by a cowardly congressman, who was evidently representing the Colorado mine owners while supposedly representing the people of Colorado.

I have given the main charge, however, so as to have my readers understand my answer to Mr. Kohlsaas. This is my answer:

I never heard of the charges before and do not know whether they are true or false. I would not believe such charges, however, on the authority of a publication whose very name indicates its character and whose policy toward a woman friend of labor indicates the vicious cowardice of its editor.

But even if every charge made by the cowardly tools of the mine owners of Colorado were true it would not alter my opinion of Mother Jones' great service to humanity or lessen my respect for her nobility of character.

Mother Jones is an old woman, well past 80 years of age; and a remarkably well-preserved woman for her years. I had a long visit with this heroine a few weeks ago, and she impressed me as being the most sincere an ablest labor leader I had ever met. She FEELS the suffering of the men, women and children who suffer because of our industrial injustice, and I am satisfied she would gladly give up her life for oppressed humanity.