

MINE WORKERS HEAR REPORTS.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.—The twentieth annual convention of the United Mine Workers of America heard the reports of President Lewis, Vice-President White and Secretary-Treasurer Ryan. After the recommendation of the committee on these reports has been submitted to the convention, a factional dispute on the "reforms" advocated by the officers is expected to occupy the attention of the delegates for several days.

In a number of speeches made this afternoon unfavorable comment was made on the decision of Judge Wright sentencing to jail for violation of an injunction of Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison. Mr. Mitchell, in a letter read to the convention to-day, holds that though he presided over the convention which passed the resolution putting the Lucks Stove and Range Company on the unfair list, resulting in Judge Wright's ruling, he was in no way personally responsible for the resolution, and was not cognizant of its existence until after it was adopted.

Secretary Ryan, in his report, having urged the organization of a labor party, and several other leaders being advocates of this policy, the subject is one of widespread discussion among the delegates.

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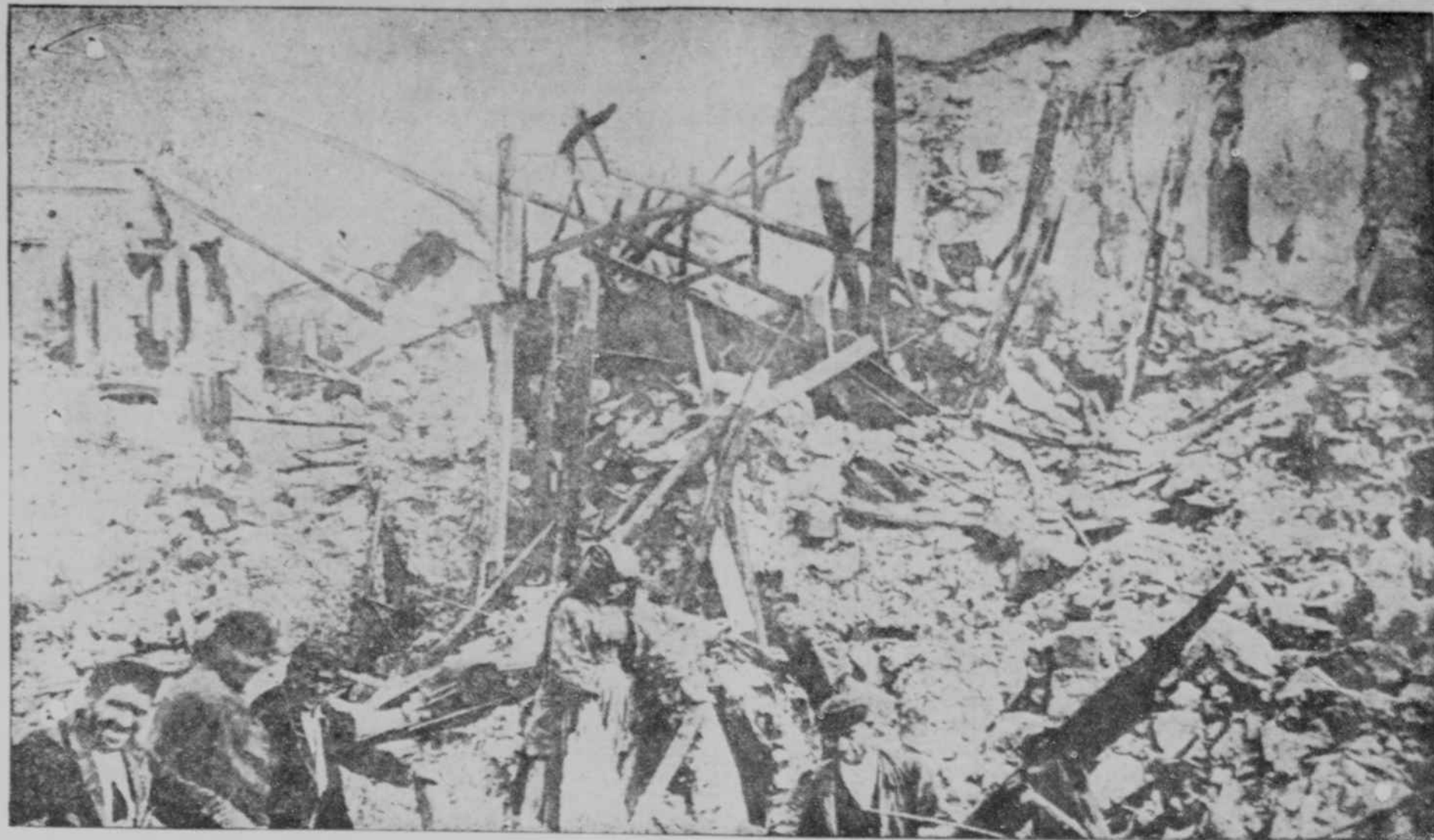
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Soldiers searching the ruins of Messina for dead bodies of earthquake victims.

LABOR LEADERS STAND BY GUNS

REFUSE TO APOLOGISE TO FEDERAL COURT FOR ALLEGED CONTEMPT.

DESIRE NO PARDON

Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison Arrested for Contempt, Issue a Statement—Declare Judges Sometimes Usurp Power and Become Tyrants.

WASHINGTON, Special.—"We have not asked and will not ask for clemency, and we hope our friends will not urge us to pursue such a course. Loving liberty as free men do—as we do—it cannot be difficult to appreciate what incarceration in prison would mean to us. To ask pardon would render useless all the trial and sacrifice which our men of labor and our friends in all walks of life have endured. That the rights and liberties of our people might be restored, is a wish which would only leave the whole case in confusion, and it would have to be fought over again from the beginning."

This is some of the language used by Gompers, Mitchell and Morrison in the current number of the American Federationist, in formal protests against the action of Justice Wright in sentencing them to imprisonment for contempt of court in the Burns Stove and Range case December 23d.

Some of Expressions. Samuel Gompers heads his statement, "Judge Wright's Denial of Free Speech and Free Press," and he declares: "We will not abate a single word or take a letter back."

Mr. Gompers refers to the "intemperate and vindictive spirit displayed by the justice, and to his trade of judicial abuse and misrepresentation," in a separate statement, but he joins with Messrs. Mitchell and Morrison in declaring that they would not "enter into competition with the honorable court in the use of invectives, rancor or scathing denunciation," and that they should protest "against the court's unprecedented and unwarranted flagellation of the cause and of the people we have the honor to represent."

That the trio of labor leaders fully understand the responsibility they assume in making their statements is shown by their declaration that, even though they may be held in additional contempt, "we are willing to accept the consequences. It may be necessary to the preservation of the liberties of the people that a judge should be disobeyed. Judges sometimes usurp power and become tyrants. Disobedience to a tyrant is obedience to law."

POWER TRUST IS INVADING THE EAST

Monopolization of Water Power in New England Is Planned by Great Combination—Government Officials Advised of Movement.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Special.—The water power trust which President Roosevelt in a recent message to Congress, declares "a fast acquiring control of the great power rights on the rivers of the country, is invading New England.

Government officials have recently learned that engineers representing interests allied with the General Electric Company are at work investigating all available water power propositions within 200 miles of Boston.

An effort is making to head off this invasion of the East with the water power scheme which the President and the Geological Survey believe aims at a monopoly of the river power rights of the country. The General Electric is looked upon as the leading one of

the group of corporations which are seeking these powers.

It is said that immense amounts have been spent in the efforts to secure the rights, and that the most careful study of water legislation, State and interstate, has been made by skilled lawyers, with the view to securing legal rights before the public is ready for a realization of the significance of the effort in hand.

Every means possible to prevent this monopolization of the water rights. In his message vetoing the James River, Mo., dam and power act, he pointed out that it has been brought to his attention that a group of closely related corporations now control about one-third the available undeveloped power, and are fast extending their operations.

The underlying charge is that the group of corporations concerning which the President set forth such information as he has been able to accumulate, is closely related to the Standard Oil interests. These interests have long been getting deep into the gas and electric lighting business, and control a great number of most valuable franchises, as well as plants in many cities. These plants, it is stated, they propose to provide with electric current from the various water powers they are developing.

MAYORS DENOUNCE RAILWAY SERVICE

With Speaker Richard E. Byrd as Leader, They Will Take Case of Valley Traffic Before Corporation Commission.

HARRISONBURG, VA.—Special.—The meeting of the mayors of the various towns in the valley, which met here to formulate plans for protesting against the service and accommodations afforded by both the Southern and the Baltimore and Ohio Railways, was a success from the standpoint of representation. Lexington, Staunton, Harrisonburg, Forestville, New market, Mt. Jackson, Stephens City and Winchester being represented, while other towns sent messages of indorsement of the move.

Hon. Richard Evelyn Byrd, Speaker of the House of Delegates, was elected chairman of the meeting, which heard specific complaints from the representatives present, which were taken down by a stenographer, and, after additional information is secured, the evidence will be presented to the State Corporation Commission.

In every instance the rolling stock and roadbed of both roads were condemned in no uncertain language, while depot facilities came in for a knock as well.

A permanent committee was formed, with R. E. Byrd as chairman, and as soon as the evidence can be put in legal shape, the same will be presented with a request that the roads be summoned before the Corporation Commission. Expressions of displeasure at the service offered were freely made, and it is said that the roads will be given a stiff fight unless they accede to the demands of the people.

LYNCHBURG MAN BUYS POPE MOTOR PLANT.

NEW YORK, Special.—The sale of the Pope Motor Car Company, of Toledo, O., to a syndicate headed by Richard E. Apperson, of Lynchburg, Va., was announced in this city to-day. Mr. Apperson is vice-president of the American National Bank, of Lynchburg, Va., but is not connected with any other automobile company.

It was stated that the plant, which is now in the hands of a receiver, will soon resume operations at full capacity under the name of the Apperson Toledo Motor Company. It will not be removed from Toledo.

SHERMAN MADE HEAD OF TRUST COMPANY

UTICA, N. Y.—Vice-President-elect James S. Sherman to-day was re-elected president of the Utica Trust and Deposit Company, of this city, capitalized at \$300,000.

Mr. Sherman came here from Washington to attend the annual meeting, and returned to Washington.

HENRICO VOTERS KILL BOND ISSUE

Citizens Failed to See the Value of the Movement to Neglected to Go to the Polls—Opposition of Supervisors Prevailed.

RICHMOND, VA.—Special.—Returns from Henrico county show that the proposition to issue bonds in the sum of \$200,000 for the improvement of the public highways had been defeated, the most striking fact in connection with the special election being the small vote cast. Seven out of the thirteen precincts give a total of 140 votes. In the presidential election last November Henrico's total vote was 1,980.

The defeat of the bond issue shows the effect of the opposition waged by the Board of Supervisors, members having frequently declared that they would fight it. This campaign on the part of the supervisors seems to have been remarkable in view of the class of roads given the people of Henrico Henrico, with the possible exception of one district.

It is now certain that for the next two years the county will be dependent for better roads on the same old system which has been in vogue for a number of years, which means that there will be practically no improvement until another election can be held, although the voting of the bonds at this time would not have increased the rate of taxation in any of the four districts of the county.

PUBLISHING RECORDS OF HOUSE OF BURGESSES.

RICHMOND, VA.—Special.—Dr. H. R. Melwaine, the State Librarian, is at work getting out the remaining six volumes of the proceedings of the House of Burgesses. Five volumes have already been published, the proceedings covered dating from 1776 back to about 1732. When this work was first started there was some doubt as to whether or not the records of all of the sessions could be found, and for that reason it was decided to start with the records of the last session and publish those that had been found up to the time the work began. Recently, however, Dr. Melwaine succeeded in unearthing all of the records from 1680 to 1732. Many of these are in manuscript form and came from England.

SLEUTHS GOT \$15,000 CHASING NEGRO TROOPS.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Special.—The services of Browne and Baldwin, the private detectives who were paid \$15,000 for their work in following up the members of the discharged battalion of the Twenty-fifth Infantry and securing a "confession" from Boyd Conyers, one of the number, have been dispensed with.

The War Department has not abandoned its effort to secure evidence as to the men who did the shooting, but has practically decided that private detectives have accomplished all that could be expected of them.

TOUCHED A MATCH TO KEG OF POWDER.

JOHNSTOWN, PA.—Special.—Three children between three and four years old were killed, another, aged five, was severely burned, and two women, mothers of the little ones, were painfully injured at Stoughton, Somerset county, when the children touched a match to a keg of powder to see it blaze.

All the dead and injured are foreigners. Their home was almost demolished by the explosion.

NINETY-NINE SNAKES DUG OUT OF A HOLE.

ONANCOCK, VA.—Special.—One of the crew of Warlops Island Life-Saving Station, in digging for a muskrat Tuesday, found a blacksnake. Others were seen, and his comrades were called upon for help. Ninety-nine snakes were taken out, varying in length from three feet to six feet, the whole aggregating 451 feet.

GOVERNOR ANSEL STARTS HIS SECOND TENURE

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Governor Martin E. Ansel has been inaugurated for a second term of two years. Lieutenant-Governor T. G. McLeod was also sworn in for another two years.

The inaugural ceremonies, which were held in the hall of the House of Representatives, began at 1 o'clock, and occupied less than thirty minutes.

Governor Ansel's inaugural address—a record-breaker for brevity—contained two recommendations of importance. First, that a drainage commission be named to look into the cost of reclaiming swamp lands, and, second, additional aid for good roads.

GEMS OF THOUGHT

A Memory.

The fire upon the hearth is low,
 And there is stillness everywhere;
 Like troubled spirits here and there
 The firelight shadows fluttering go,
 And as the shadows round me creep,
 A childish treble breaks the gloom,
 And softly from a farther room
 Comes: "Now I lay me down to sleep."

And somehow with that little prayer,
 And that sweet treble in my ears,
 My thought goes back to distant years
 And lingers with a dear one there;
 Again I hear the child's Amen,
 My mother's face comes back to me;
 Crouched at her side I seem to be,
 And mother holds my hand again.

O, for an hour in that dear place!
 O, for the peace of that dear time!
 O, for that childish trust sublime!
 O, for a glimpse of mother's face!
 Yet as the shadows round me creep,
 I do not seem to be alone—
 Sweet magic of that treble tone—
 And "Now I lay me down to sleep."
 —Eugene Field.

Beyond the Surface.

An old paper tells the story of a man who was washing the large plate glass in a show window. There was one soiled spot which defied all efforts to remove it. After hard rubbing at it, using much soap and water, and failing to remove it, he found out the trouble. "It's on the inside," he called out to someone in the store. Many are trying to cleanse the soul from its stains, says the writer. They wash it with the tears of sorrow; they scrub it with the soap of good resolves; they rub it with the charms of morality; but still the consciousness of it is not removed. The trouble is, it's on the inside.—Harry H. Crawford, in Christian Advocate.

Owning Up.

It is a healthy exercise to admit heartily and promptly when one has been in the wrong. Temperaments differ as to the ease of doing this; with some it seems to be a constitutional difficulty to "own up," with others it is less of an effort. But it is never an attractive task, and those to whom it comes hardest need its health-giving discipline most. There are none who can safely take the position of the magazine editor who, when he was asked to make public correction of certain misstatements that he admitted had found place in his pages, replied that he regretted that the magazine had no "department for corrections." A magazine may succeed on that basis, a life cannot. The best first step toward righting any wrong or error that we have committed is to admit the wrong, frankly and quickly, to those who have any right to expect such an admission from us. On tardiness or refusal to do this hurts ourselves and lessens others' confidence in us.—S. S. Times.

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