

HIGH STUDENTS OFFER APOLOGY TO SCHOOL HEAD

All of Armistice Day Celebrations Express Regret, Except Giles, and He Must Retire.

An apology for the demonstration staged in front of the Moline high school Tuesday morning by Rock Island high school students was offered to Superintendent Mahoney and Principal Nutting of Moline by a committee of local students this afternoon. The apology was prepared in the form of a statement and was signed by each of the 40 students who took part in the celebration. It was taken to Moline by a special committee of three elected by the signers.

All of those who had a part in the affair, except Harry Giles, are back at their studies. According to Principal Arnold Lau, Giles has the opportunity to be reinstated in good standing in the school if he subscribes to the conditions accepted by the others, namely, the apology to the Moline school authorities for the action.

Mr. Lau had the following to say in a statement made this morning: "Of course, no one regrets the affair more than I do, and I would give anything if it could be undone. I want the public to understand and appreciate the fact that as an institution we certainly do our level best to foster anything but that kind of spirit.

"I certainly believe that the students participating in the affair at Moline are genuinely sorry and nothing of the kind will happen again. Possibly some people may criticize me for not being harsher in my treatment, but I want it distinctly understood that what I am more concerned about than punishment is the fostering of the right kind of ideals and spirit in the high school, and I firmly believe that the treatment I have accorded these students will bring permanent results for the future.

Only a few cents.

"The public must furthermore understand that this affair was participated in by about 40 students 5 per cent of the total student body. To those who made the mistake of walking out, we can show just as many who tried to prevent the mistake.

The following is the apology that was taken to Moline: "We, the undersigned, realizing that our action on Tuesday in disturbing the regular work of your school was wrong and in violation of the best interests and spirit of order in the Rock Island high school, because we earnestly desire its reputation for high ideals of order and conduct and school spirit to be unimpaired.

"Especially do we regret the forced entrance of your building against the orders of Superintendent Mahoney. We wish Mr. Mahoney to know that we are sincerely sorry for what happened.

"Again hoping that this regrettable affair will not be held as a blot against the Rock Island high school, we are, sincerely yours."

The statement was signed by all those who had participated in the walkout.

INSPECTION TRIP OF WORK DONE ON RIVER BEING MADE

Captain F. B. Martin and his assistant, E. F. McDonald, of the river engineers' department, left yesterday on an inspection trip of the upper Mississippi. The inspection is made every fall by the department to make a check on the supplies that have been issued during the past year for work on the river.

Stops will be made at St. Paul, Stillwater and Minneapolis. Captain Martin will be away about two weeks.

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Miners Ask Only That Wages Be Made Steady, Word of C. F. MacGowan

Charles F. MacGowan, former president of the Tri-City Federation of Labor, and now an international organizer for the bolshewik organization, visited in Rock Island today. He has been active in the recent labor negotiations in Washington, where his headquarters are situated, and has a store of knowledge about the national situation between labor, capital and the government, in the present coal crisis.

A new light is thrown upon the miners' side of the controversy in the statement Mr. MacGowan made this morning to a reporter for The Argus. He contended that the injunction which "ended the strike" is a serious mistake from several points of view, explaining about the stand taken by the men in the matter of wage increases and the fixing of a certain amount of time to be put in each week.

"The facts in the case are these," he said, "the injunction issued by Judge Anderson is particularly hateful to the miners and to organized labor for the reason that if the government had used the power granted it under the same law—the Lever act—it could have taken over and operated the mines while negotiations between the men and the employers went on.

Could Still Produce.

"The same wage scale could have been paid by the government as that in vogue at the time of the strike order. Out of the proceeds obtained by the government from this source it could have made the raise granted by the employers retroactive to the date on which the mines changed hands. In the meantime, while the mines were being operated by the government, coal production and delivery could go on at a normal rate. When an agreement had been threshed out by the employers and employees the source of coal running and present any shortages of coal.

"Neither the labor movement or the miners themselves wanted to bring about conditions in the country such as to paralyze industry and to cause starvation and coal famines. It wasn't mere wanton misuse of power. That is where the fault lies. If the government had taken the action of taking over the mines and operating them, no hardships would have been imposed on anyone.

Unions Hate Injunction.

According to Mr. MacGowan, another phase of the situation aside from the fact that the injunction "has not settled and cannot settle" the strike is, that it has made the miners and all of the trades unions dissatisfied, because the injunction power has been the black beast of labor all during its existence. He said the injunction has only succeeded in making the task increasingly difficult for the leaders, who wanted the arbitration to proceed in an orderly manner. The injunction, he argued, is "being so manifestly unfair to organized labor" has increased the tendency of some circles toward a more pronounced stand in the fight against capitalism and out anarchy, or bolshevism.

"Another phase of labor's stand," he continued, "is the fact that shortly after the armistice was signed, the United States government, through the agency of the fuel administration, told operators that



Charles F. MacGowan.

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According to this view of the matter as shown by Mr. MacGowan, the men are seeking to stabilize their income, so that they are assured of steady wages. Mines may close down for days at a time, or lay off all the men any time they wish to, and the pay stops during that period. If every man was sure of being paid at a fixed rate for at least of exactly 30 hours per week, he would be on the same basis as other wage earners.

Injunction "Deadly Blow."

"The whole thing," he said in concluding the interview, "is simply this, 'Aside from the miners' claims, and aside from their own errors and the errors of the operators and of the government, a government resorting to control by injunction when other means might be used is striking a deadly blow at our free institutions.

"This is no time for prejudice on the part of anyone. This country in order to be saved from enemies without and enemies within has got to exercise its very best judgment and that by all the people. Notwithstanding the success of the attempt of employers, should it come to destroy unionism, something will come out of its ashes which will prove infinitely worse. The labor movement is an American institution and when you try to destroy it you make way for un-American institutions to take its place. For the people of this age and of this country must and will be given a share in the government of affairs which vitally concern them."

Want Steady Income.

The demand that seems a bugaboo and stumbling block at present, the 30 hours per week working time for the miners, is very widely misunderstood, he claimed. It is not the desire of the men to reduce the working hours to that minimum. Their purpose is to insure to themselves that amount of work at the prescribed wage every week in the year, and thus to insure a regular income. The big trouble at present is the same as that of men who do piece work; that is, their income isn't steady. While big wages are paid to a few part of the time, their annual income doesn't reach a big figure. The great mass of miners are underpaid on the whole.

Worked 24 Days a Week.

"Why the department of labor

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Two Little Ones Suffocated When Bedclothes Burn

Two little children, Mary Bena, 5, and Annie Bena, 1, were suffocated by the smoke of a fire they started at their home in Davenport, at 6 o'clock yesterday evening. They are the daughters of Mrs. Joe Bena, Monday and East Twelfth street, East Davenport.

Mrs. Bena supports herself and her children by working during the day. She left the two children at the industrial home, Sixteenth and Brady streets, yesterday, as usual in the morning. Returning in the evening, she took them home and left them playing there while she went to the grocery a block away. The children found some matches and in playing set the bedding in one room on fire. The third child, Joseph, aged 3, ran out into the yard and escaped the flames, but the two girls, not aware of danger, remained.

The mother came hurrying to the spot a few minutes later, as smoke and flames were pouring from the windows, and tried to pour only to be driven back by the heat and smoke. When the flames finally died down, since the bedding alone was on fire, she rushed into the room, only to find the totality by side upon the floor, dead.

The father and husband of the family left the city some months ago, and his present location is not known by the wife.

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Men's Chorus of Sunday Campaign Plan Organizing

A movement is on foot to organize the Rock Island men of the Billy Sunday chorus into a permanent organization. All men who sang in the chorus at the labor strike are requested to attend the meeting at the Y. M. C. A. at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, when the matter of a musical organization will be taken up. The meeting will be held at the Y. M. C. A. at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, when the matter of a musical organization will be taken up. The meeting will be held at the Y. M. C. A. at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, when the matter of a musical organization will be taken up.

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