

THE FEDERATED PRESS RELIABLE NEWS

CONFERENCE FOR PROGRESSIVE
POLITICAL ACTION

(By The Federated Press)

Cleveland. — Drawing up a progressive platform and providing for effective organization by states, but refusing to take steps toward a third party, the second national Conference for Progressive Political Action came to a close here.

The storm that had risen the first day over the question of seating delegates from the Workers' Party of America, who had been ignored by the credentials committee, ended with the adoption of the committee report refusing to seat them on the ground that the party was not in harmony with the conference policy.

R. D. Cramer, representing the Minneapolis Trades and Labor assembly, and Dennis Batt representing the Detroit Federation of Labor, took the floor to inquire in the manner in which the credentials had been side-tracked and to testify that in Minneapolis at least the Worker's party had made every effort to educate labor forces to act in harmony and not for disruption.

The conference decided to hold annual sessions of delegates from labor, farm, and cooperative bodies while a national executive committee of 21 was instructed to call state conferences as soon as possible to form permanent state organizations.

The aim of the conference was stated to be for the purpose of obtaining the nomination of president, vice-president, U. S. senators, representatives to congress and state and local public officials pledged to the interests of the producing classes and to the principles of genuine democracy in agriculture, industry and government.

THE HERRIN TRIAL

(By The Federated Press)

Marion, Ill. — The complete defense to the charge of the prosecution that the five men now on trial murdered Howard Hoffman, a strikebreaker, at the Herrin strip mine, June 22, was outlined to the jury in the opening statement prepared by A. W. Kerr, the chief counsel, Illinois Mine Workers, who is directing the defense.

Otis Clark, Bert Grace, Leva Mann, Joe Carnaghi and Pete Hiller were not near the scene of the killing, according to witnesses to be produced by the defense; and in any case, the killing was committed in circumstances that could by no conceivable interpretation justify the term murder, Kerr maintains.

Kerr said that the defense would prove that the killing of armed guards was a result of the unlawful invasion of Williamson county by these armed guards and of many acts of brutality culminating in the ruthless murder of three unarmed union coal miners.

ASSOCIATION FOR LABOR
LEGISLATION WILL MEET

(By The Federated Press)

Chicago. — Wages, unemployment, industrial waste, and workmen's insurance will be the principal subjects to be considered by the American Assn. for Labor Legislation at its 16th annual meeting here, Dec. 27-29. Among the speakers will be Albert Thomas, who abandoned Jean Longuet and other French Socialists and became the French cabinet minister for armaments during the war. He is now director, International Labor Office (league of nations), Geneva, Switzerland. John B. Andrews, 131 E. 23rd St., New York City, is secretary of the Association.

FREE SPEECH FOR MISSOURI

(By The Federated Press)

Jefferson City, Mo. — Final efforts of the motion picture industry to gain immunity from the possibility of censorship legislation in Missouri by specific provision in the proposed new constitution is expected to be made this week. The constitutional convention, sitting as a committee of the whole, is considering the report on the bill of rights presented by the committee on preamble, boundaries, bill of rights, and distribution of powers. Section 14 of the bill of rights, providing that free speech shall not be impaired, is what the motion picture industry is seeking to change.

The committee recommends that the section read: "That no law shall be passed impairing freedom of speech; that every person shall be free to say, write, or publish whatever he will on any subject, being responsible for all abuse of that liberty, and that in all suits and prosecutions for libel, the truth thereof shall be given in evidence."

A CHRISTMAS TREE FOR
STRIKERS' CHILDREN

(By The Federated Press)

Richmond, Cal. — A Christmas tree and presents for the children of striking railway shopmen will be brought by Santa Claus to the Labor temple here. J. P. Reeves, chairman of the strikers, is making the arrangements, which will include a bag of candy, nuts and fruits for each striker's child under 12 years of age and a present on the Christmas tree. It is assumed that the federal injunction granted to U. S. Atty. Gen. Daugherty will not be invoked to prevent the holiday celebration for the children.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER SPEAKS

(By The Federated Press)

Schneectady, N. Y. — If American industry is to progress and permanent prosperity ensue, industry must be organized not only to bring capital a fair and reasonable return, but to guarantee to the worker a living wage, said Chas. P. Steinmetz, consulting engineer, General Electric Co., addressing an open forum meeting in All Souls Unitarian church here.

Co-operation in industry, he declared, is gaining ground as opposed to either the Socialistic or the capitalistic conceptions. If the co-operative tendency is to succeed, he added, the employe must have a living wage, continuous employment, and capital must have a return which is fair and continuous enough to attract it.

"The problem then arises," he said, "to harmonize these two requirements and to reorganize our country's industrial system so as to eliminate the alternate periods of depression and inflation."

Steinmetz gave it as his opinion that the most practicable and effective way of attaining this end is one in which labor and capital would be completely unified "by having them both, in some form or other, participate in the profits of the company through dividends, and in the management of the company through the board of directors."

SAFETY DEVICES COST MONEY;
MINERS' LIVES ARE CHEAP

(By The Federated Press)

San Francisco. — The mine owners of California are up in arms against the new adequate safety laws recommended by the industrial accident commission following the Argonaut disaster. "If the present commissioners cannot listen to reason," said Edward Higgins, president, California Metal Producers' Assn., "we have the power to get a commission that will." Among the members of the association are the owners of the Argonaut mine, where 47 men died but the mine property was saved from being destroyed.

GOVERNOR HENRY ALLEN'S
KU KLUXING GAME

(By The Federated Press)

Emporia, Kan. — "I have been Ku Kluxed, and a court that did not have the guts to pull out their shirt tails and give a real Ku Klux Klan parade."

Such was the indignant comment of William Allen White when he was notified that charges against him that he had violated Allen's industrial court law, were dismissed on instructions from the attorney general. Specific charges against White were that he had violated an order of the industrial court by displaying in his office window a placard expressing sympathy with the striking shopmen. White is editor and publisher of the Emporia Gazette.

White's hot shot at Allen's court was supplemented by a statement from District Judge W. C. Harris, presiding when White appeared. Judge Harris observed that three times White had appeared in court and demanded trial, and that three times the state had refused to try him, asking continuance.

"The state has a legal right to dismiss its case, but it is a great wrong to charge a person with a criminal offense and humiliate him by arrest, maliciously or without probable cause; the lay mind associates arrest with guilt," said Harris. "The court is forced to the conclusion in this case by the conduct of the moving party, that this case was commenced maliciously or recklessly, without any investigation of the facts to ascertain whether a prosecution was justified, and in either event the action was equally reprehensible. A defendant in a criminal prosecution is entitled to a fair trial. I do not think the defendant in this case has had it. He is left in a most embarrassing position."

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD

(By The Federated Press)

The federal reserve board is the most important body in the United States and one of the most powerful in the world.

The supreme court can veto any act of congress and so nullify the will of the people, but it does this only about twice a year. The federal reserve board comes in contact every day with the living arrangements and expenses of a hundred million Americans and can do whatever it pleases with them.

The power it possesses to raise or lower discount rates is a more tremendous and irresponsible power than was ever wielded by a king and the results are almost inconceivable. By an order issued in a fraction of a moment this board can ruin a million farmers and make a thousand rich men richer yet.

This board stands accused of the grossest favoritism in the exercise of its great power, so that, if these charges are true, it appears to have been trying to build up New York financial interests at the expense of the rest of the country and by boosting favored borrowers.

Some of the facts alleged in support of these charges are so staggering that they put into the shade all other phases of all public affairs. Thus it is asserted that in the fall of 1920 the federal reserve system in New York lent to one great speculative bank in that city sums of money three times as great as eight reserve banks in the same length of time lent to 5000 member banks in 28 states in agricultural and live stock loans.

Millions for speculation and 1 cent pieces for agriculture would seem to be about the size of these transactions. For the purposes of farming and production, money was hard to get; for the purposes of speculation, dead easy.

The speculators were financiers of great influence; the farmers were obscure persons trying to grub a living from the soil. For the farmer the swift kick; for the stock gambler the front rule.

It is further alleged that at about the same time the federal reserve system was lending to the national banks in the city of New York three times as much in proportion to their resources, as was being lent to all of the 7600 country banks in all the states in the union. Three times as much in proportion to their total resources, you understand.

Easy money for the great New York banking institutions already gripping the industries of the country; hard money for the bank of the interior with which the farmer does business and to which he must go for the loans by which he can live from crop to crop.

If this charge is true, then the federal reserve system is nothing but a gigantic machine to help sweep up all that is left of the money of the country into the control of Wall St. and make one group of financiers there of unlimited and irresistible power.

If in this fall season of 1920 the country banks had been upon an equal footing with the New York city banks in proportion to their resources, the country banks would have had a billion dollars more to lend than they really had. The result would have been a cheapening of money and an easing of the farmer's crushing burden.

By shutting off the money supply to the country banks, the farmers were compelled to sell their crops for what they could get and the speculators made billions. The suicides of farmers that were ruined by this proceeding are said to number scores.

Desperate efforts have been made to secure official attention to these charges and to cause the country to understand what is going on. All these efforts have failed. In one way or another publicity has been choked off and it looks now as if this particular process of gathering power into the hands of Wall St. had gone so far that it is beyond stopping.

NEBRASKA PROGRESSIVE PARTY

(By The Federated Press)

Omaha. — Independent political action was reaffirmed as the purpose of the Nebraska Progressive party's extension bureau. An executive committee consisting of President Chas. A. McDonald, Nebraska State Federation of Labor; W. H. Shropshire, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, and H. L. Swanson, representing the farmer organizations, was chosen. The Mid-West Labor News, a Federated Press member paper, was made the official organ. Amnesty for political prisoners was demanded by the conference.

WALL STREET'S IMPERIALISM
BOOSTED BY SECR. HUGHES

(By The Federated Press)

Washington. — Central America's first free champion to the Hughes peace conference here is Senator William E. Borah, of Idaho. The spectacle of five handcuffed delegations from the Spanish Main nodding "yes, yes," to the articles of suicide imposed upon them by the state department proved too much for Borah to endure.

In a powerful assault upon the sham peace conference, Borah recites the strong-arm methods employed by American corporations to upset governments and exact concessions from the five little "republics" and charges that the Hughes kindergarten now proceeding in the Pan-American building is designed simply to make the Latin-Americans write O. K. across the fraudulent contracts and surrender their freedom for a place within the empire of Wall Street.

Before the farce conference is many days older, a resolution will probably appear in the senate calling for an investigation of our imperialism in Central America from the time American troops took over the capital of Nicaragua in 1912. Senator Borah, second ranking member of the foreign affairs committee, will lead in the oratorical support of that resolution, according to the present outlook.

Debate will show that Mexico, which jointly with the United States called the conference of 1907, is barred from this conference by Secretary Hughes, although the alleged purpose of the meeting here is to confirm and extend the treaty of 1907.

It will show that the United States itself violated that treaty when, to retain a naval base illegally obtained in Fonseca bay and safeguard lands grabbed on the San Juan river by American capitalists, it violated a verdict rendered in favor of Costa Rica by the Central American court of justice, established by the treaty of 1907.

It will show that the delegates now sitting at Hughes' feet to confirm our mastery in their home lands are all members of families or factions brought into prominence by American bayonets or other coercion.

It will show that when President Herrera was thrown out and Orrellana put in control of Guatemala by American intervention and battleships, the little country was immediately forced to accept a loan from the Blair Co., of New York, amounting to \$15,000,000 with exorbitant interest.

It will show that Mexico is barred from this dummy conference because Hughes and the Mexican capitalists involved in Central America know that if Mexican delegates were admitted they would review the history of Yankee imperialism in Latin America and show that instead of a treaty the little republics are being forced to sign a last will and testament of their alleged sovereignty.

It will show that by excluding Mexico the United States aims to become the sole and exclusive "grantor and patron" of the new order in Central America and the single judge of when the new treaty shall be torn up and thrown aside, as was done with the treaty of 1907.

JURY OF PEERS (?)
FOR HERRIN TRIAL

(By The Federated Press)

Marion, Ill. — The jury for the first of the Herrin trials was finally selected Dec. 8, after a month of examination of talesmen. One coal miner and 11 farmers will decide the fate of the five union miners charged with the murder of Howard Hoffman, a non-union man killed in the Herrin cemetery last June. The jurors are Oscar Swaner, Henry Riddle, Samuel Watkins, W. H. Davison, James Weaver, Hiram H. McMillan, George Craig, E. S. Webb, Charles McInturn, Nathan Pendland, Avery Grear and George Cox, who is the lone miner. The average age of the jury is 44 years.

Judge Dewitt T. Hartwell said that the case would be conducted in perfect order "if he had to have ten times as many bailiffs as he has now." He stated that he would permit no expressions from the spectators of sympathy for or antagonism to the defendants. He then adjourned court until Wednesday, Dec. 15, when both sides will make their opening statements and the taking of evidence will begin.

HAVE YOU A FRIEND WHO IS INTERESTED IN REAL CO-OPERATION? SEE THAT HE BECOMES A READER OF THE LLANO COLONIST AT ONCE. ORDER A BUNDLE.

POLITICIANS SCORED

(By The Federated Press)

Baltimore. — Neither the hands nor the consciences of U. S. Senators Hiram Johnson and Samuel Shorbridge of California are clear in the Mooney case, declares the Rev. Mercer Green Johnston, in The Voice of the People, published here. The issue in which Johnston's article appears is devoted to "the four most infamous cases of injustice" which have disgraced our country during the last five years: Mooney and Billings in California; the I. W. W. victims of the tragedy at Centralia, Wash.; Sacco and Vanzetti in Massachusetts, and the 63 wartime political prisoners still in federal penitentiaries.

DEFEAT ILLINOIS CONSTITUTION

(By The Federated Press)

Chicago. — Nearly 900,000 of the round million and more votes in the Illinois special election, Dec. 12, were cast against the proposed new constitution. The measure on which the special constitutional convention worked two years and on which over \$3,000,000 was spent was hurled back by the voters at the corporation interests that had framed it.

AN ASTUTE FINANCIER

(By The Federated Press)

Seattle. — Frank Waterhouse, president of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, organizer of the first Associated Industries body in the United States, and regarded as an astute financier and industrial leader, invested \$11,500 in czarist rubles in 1920, it was revealed in superior court here recently in a suit to foreclose on notes which he had failed to meet. The rubles are now worth altogether approximately 25 cents at a liberal estimate.

NATION NEEDS BEING SAVED
FROM PROFITEERING PATRIOTS

(By The Federated Press)

New York. — The nation is being saved again. This time it is by the Allied Patriotic Societies, Inc., "with a membership of more than 6,000,000." The great idea of the Allied Patriotic Societies, Inc., is to introduce a bill at the coming session of the New York legislature making it impossible for the name of any party "that subscribes to principles subversive to the constitution of the United States" to appear on a ballot. The announcement was made at the annual meeting here of the Army and Navy club.

This ingenious scheme, however, is only part of the great idea. The Allied Patriotic Societies, Inc., has passed a resolution "to direct and control foreign-language newspapers." That, it was explained, will control foreign propaganda and at the same time issue propaganda favorable to this country through the United States commissioner of education. A bill to that effect is to be introduced in congress, the speaker said. And everybody cheered.

THE "REASON WHY" FOR
HIGH COAL PRICES

(By The Federated Press)

New York. — One-third of the nation's coal supply is being held up in its journey from the mines to the consumer; coal profiteers throughout the east are pocketing enormous profits on the coal which does reach the actual user, and millions of people are being forced to use makeshift fuels, at exorbitant prices, because of the refusal of the hard-boiled railroad executives in this section to make peace with their striking shopmen.

MAKE AUTOMOBILE KILLING
A CAPITAL CRIME

New York. — New York's recent Safety Week, headed by E. H. Gary, of the U. S. Steel corporation, with his slogan Don't Get Hurt, has been followed by such an increase of automobile slaughter in the streets that automobile killings are coming into the homicide court at the rate sometimes of five or six in a single day. So scandalous have conditions become that for the first time, motor car drivers who have killed pedestrians are being held for manslaughter. This occurs now at the rate of one or two a day.

One such driver has been sent to jail for from one to ten years; but that, according to Assistant District Attorney John R. Henning, is about the only case where severe punishment has been visited on offenders, despite the fact that more than 1000 are killed here annually by automobiles.

VICTIMS OF GREED

(By The Federated Press)

Mexico City. — With the single exception of the railroad men, every large body of organized workers of this capital has had occasion to bury its dead during the last six months. Not long ago, it was the tenants' union which carried to rest the coffin of a youth shot by an irate landlord. More recently it was the General Federation of Workers that mourned the death of an aged weaver shot by a squad of mounted police at the order of a bribed officer.

LET PRISONERS GO FREE;
DEMAND AMNESTY FOR XMAS

(By The Federated Press)

Washington. — Congress, churches, universities, and organized women were represented at the amnesty mass meeting held at Washington, Sunday, Dec. 10, in the Shubert-Garrick theater, to honor the memory of Ricardo Flores Magon, who paid with his life for his ideals of freedom, and to demand again the release of the remaining 62 wartime political prisoners still confined in federal prisons.

This memorial meeting, sponsored by a large group of Washington men and women, including 13 members of congress, was arranged immediately after the death of Ricardo Flores Magon, at Leavenworth, while serving a 21-year sentence for the writing of a "seditious" article in his Spanish paper at Los Angeles. The speakers, all of whom defended freedom of speech and of opinion, included Mrs. Abby Scott Baker, chairman; Mrs. Winnifred Mason Huck, congresswoman from Illinois; Dr. John A. Ryan, of the Catholic university and director, social action department, National Catholic Welfare council; Prof. Paul Brissenden, Columbia university, who conducted a special investigation of various labor organizations for the U. S. department of labor; and Mrs. Harriet Stanton Blatch, New York, daughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and herself a leader in the suffrage movement.

Mrs. Blatch made a fervent and moving appeal for the release before Xmas of the 62 political prisoners still in jail, which was followed by resolutions calling upon President Harding to grant a Christmas amnesty for all those imprisoned for war opinions and free speech.

Mrs. Winnifred Mason Huck, the only woman elected to congress this year, also urged general amnesty for political prisoners, saying:

"It has been said that the women—or rather the woman's point of view—will bring world peace. If that is so, we have no time to lose, and we must present and keep our point of view. * * * And it is from that woman's angle that I want to plead for these political prisoners; and, remember, I am not pleading from the prisoners' angle. His angle is individual, personal; and, although I, as an individual, would gladly plead the individual cases, I am here to-day to speak for humanity, and to urge that these prisoners be freed, not for their sake, but for the sake of our people, that we might clear the way of obstacles, that our road to world peace may be easier to travel."

CONDITIONS IN RUSSIA

Berlin. — The Federated Press interview with W. O. Thompson, formerly financial adviser, Russian-American Industrial corporation, does not reveal the bitterness of feeling injected into the interview as cabled by the old established news services. Thompson believes the project sound if the Russian government fulfills its part but doubts whether that will be done.

Savel Zimond, on leave from the Industrial Bureau of Industrial Research, New York, has returned from five months in Russia with a high opinion of the future of the soviet system and its benefits to the Russian people. He confirms the report of the National Information Bureau of America that famine relief continues necessary for at least 10,000,000 people in Russia.

FREE PUBLICITY FOR K. K. K.

(By The Federated Press)

New York. — Ku Klux Klan organizers and leaders in New York city have and are having the benefit of publicity that millions of dollars could not have bought outright, and they are making the best of it. They are capitalizing the stupidity of officials of the city administration and of the courts, and they are scarcely trying to hide their satisfaction at the fatuous manner in which the mayor, the police, and a judge are attempting to shoo them away.