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LABOR VINDICATED.

Colorado Pays For Damage Inflicted on Union Property.

Eight years ago there was a great strike in the mining districts of Colorado that resulted in the destruction of considerable property and violent abuse of many miners. Numbers of them were taken to an open prairie in an adjoining state and there turned loose to shift for themselves as best they could. The Miners' union hall in Victor, near Cripple Creek, was destroyed by state troops, whose reckless commander, General Sherman Bell, violently declared that he was subject to no authority but that of God Almighty and the governor of the state and that instead of giving the strikers habeas corpus he would give them postmortems. His unbridled power ran riot for a time, individual liberty was overthrown, the courts were ignored, and a veritable reign of terror prevailed.

Now the state of Colorado has to pay for the destruction of property and after a careful investigation of what was done by the troops during the suspension of law and order has appropriated \$60,000 to settle the bills. In this sum the amount of \$4,280 is included for damage done to the hall of the Miners' union at Victor. In agreeing to make the appropriation the state legislature stipulated that the auditing board of the State Federation of Labor must prove to the state auditing board the justness of all its claims. The State federation auditing board had but little difficulty in proving its claims, and the state has paid the money.

The officers of the State Federation of Labor have a great deal of satisfaction in getting the money, but they have a great deal more in having their own and all other labor organizations vindicated from the charge of having done the rioting and destroying the property, showing conclusively that all the trouble of this kind was made by the state itself.

This is no new experience to organized labor. In all great industrial strikes in this country an honest investigation has shown that rioting, bloodshed and destruction of property have come from the hired thugs of the employers or from the state troops. These forces are employed from time to time to break the strikes of wage-workers who are struggling for better conditions, and frequently they find it necessary to turn public sentiment against workingmen by acts of rioting and violence. Usually all police powers are on the side of the employers, and there is no chance to catch the culprits while the trouble lasts. But when a dispassionate and careful investigation is made the strikers are absolved from blame, as they have been in the present case, wherein gross injustice has until now been done to the Western Federation of Miners.—Minnesota Union Advocate.

CHURCH AND LABOR.

Methodists Favor Short Workday and Oppose Child Labor.

The following recommendation was unanimously adopted by the Puget Sound annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal church:

"We recommend that this conference place itself on record as seeking for all classes of workingmen in the state of Washington a half day holiday in each week.

"Also that the hours of work for women in stores, factories, etc., shall not exceed eight hours in each twenty-four, and we urge the enforcement of the child labor law, and if this law is not sufficient to protect the child we urge legislation to that effect.

"And we ask that a copy of this recommendation be sent to the various labor organizations for their co-opera-

tion and that the trade unions of this state be invited to send delegates to our conference sessions and that we do all in our power to enforce the laws now on record."

Join the Label Ranks.

The new catalogue of the Denver Dry Goods company, one of the largest department stores in the country, bears the union label, and the management announces that in the future every piece of printing for the firm will carry the label.

Trade Union Notes.

Uruguay's labor bureau is preparing a workmen's pension bill.

The United Mine Workers donated \$500 to aid the Chicago garment workers.

Laundry wagon drivers of New York city are being organized by the Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The strike of the tobacco workers of Tampa after continuing six months has ended. The strikers failed to win recognition of the union.

London compositors demand a reduction in the hours of labor to a total of fifty hours a week, while the employers have offered to reduce the week's work to fifty-two hours.

The New York Building Trades council decided to disobey an order of the building trades department of the American Federation of Labor to unseat the locals of the carpenters and steamfitters.

Boston Bricklayers' union, No. 3, has voted against the proposition that it establish a minimum wage rate of 65 cents an hour on July 1. The present rate, which will continue, is 60 cents an hour.

The Sailors' Union of the Pacific, which during 1910 contributed \$50,000 in aid of the striking sailors on the great lakes, has submitted to the various branches on the Pacific coast a proposition to contribute \$20,000 additional for the same purpose.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

There is only one worse thing than war measures in settling industrial disputes. It is to settle in the wrong way issues over human rights. The one permanent issue at stake in the Chicago garment workers' strike is the right to bargain collectively for the rate of wages, the conditions of work and the redress of grievances. The employers have and exercise this right. Their claim to it is undisputed by their employees or by any one else. The wage-workers demand the same right in dealing with their organized and collectively powerful employers.

They justify this demand by the plea that they have no other way to exercise their right to "the freedom of contract," for singly and alone the individual employee is not and cannot be free to contract on equal terms with the collective, personal and financial resources of strong firms and great corporations. Combination is not more essential to business economy, safety and success than collective bargaining is an economic necessity to labor.—Graham Taylor.

Honor Above All.

Believe it to be the greatest of all infamies to prefer your existence to your honor, and for the sake of life to lose every inducement to live.—Juvenal.