

CURT COMMENT OF THE TIMES

Every honest trades unionists will demand that J. J. McNamara be given a fair trial—and the preliminaries indicate that he is to be "railroaded" if money and intensified hate can accomplish that purpose. So, also, every honest trades unionist will insist that McNamara, if guilty of the foul crime charged against him, be given the full limit of the law. Organized labor does not now, nor never has, countenanced violence. Individual unionists have been guilty of it, not because they were unionists, but because they were men. The general public is often misled by reason of having to secure information from a prejudiced source, and that not a union source. It is hardly possible that McNamara, an international officer of a great labor union, would conspire to destroy buildings with dynamite, and then keep the dynamite in his office, or practically openly stored in a barn which he was known to be using. A man with brains enough to become a general officer of a great international union is not likely to be so foolish even if he were willing to destroy lives and property. McNamara is to be tried in a prejudiced community. The reward offered for the conviction of men charged with complicity in the Los Angeles Times disaster is so great as to put a practical premium on perjury. Organized labor will see to it that the accused has a fair trial. Further than that organized labor will not go at this time.

A Los Angeles business concern has contracted to give its auditor, Miss Lelia M. Devine, a big block of its stock if she remains unmarried and in its employ until she is 34 years old—which will be in 6 years. Miss Devine says she will earn it—and then! We opine that it would be mighty easy to have such a contract set aside as contrary to public policy. Any contract that will seek to prevent a good looking, accomplished, womanly woman from becoming a wife and mother is an injury to the body politic. We hope Miss Devine earns her bonus, not because she agrees to remain unmarried, but because a good job in the hand is to be preferred above a chance in the matrimonial lottery under present industrial conditions.

Mr. John Dam of Rotterdam, accompanied by Mrs. Dam and eleven little Dams, to say nothing of a Dam brother-in-law and his wife, arrived at Perella, Iowa, one day last week. The dispatches fail to mention the Dam dog. But Papa Dam and all his little Dams are now in the land of the free. We venture the assertion that not a member of the whole Dam family is going to sit around and whine about the world "owing him a living," or complaint about "lack of opportunity." You watch this whole Dam outfit and you'll see every member hustling. A few years from now they will have too much money to haul in a hay

wagon, and a lot of idle, indolent and incapable native borns will sit around on drygoods boxes, spitting tobacco juice on the walks, and cursing the Dam foreigners for capturing the country."

The Commercial Club has issued a novel advertising calendar showing Nebraska to be the land of sunshine. During the five winter months 70 per cent of the days were sunny. The average temperature for the five months was 32.6 above zero. Only twenty-nine days of 150 showed a trace of snow on the ground. The total snow fall was 19.7 inches. Only on five days did the mercury register below zero. And only three days were lost to the building trades by reason of the weather. The more you study Nebraska from all angles the better she seems.

"As far as I am concerned this law is going to have such enforcement and application as will be calculated to make a 15-year old girl the most dangerous thing in this community for unprincipled men to tamper with," said Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis of Chicago in sentencing an Italian to the federal prison for trafficking in girls. The Italian who was a vaudeville performer, took a 15-year old girl from Chicago to Dubuque, Ia., and deserted her there. In sentencing the scoundrel Judge Landis took occasion to denounce the 5-cent picture shows as for their demoralizing influence, especially upon young girls. Parents should sit up and take notice of what Judge Landis says about these resorts.

Messrs. Broady, Post and King, the lawyers appointed to revise the statutes of Nebraska, have a large and very important task ahead of them. Their qualifications are unquestioned, and they are men of integrity and patriotism. It will be months before they finish the work, but when it is finished Nebraska will have a well arranged code instead of the miserable jumble it is now compelled to endure.

Elsewhere in this issue is published a report of the legislative committee of Nebraska State Federation of Labor. It is the first report of the kind made to any state labor organization in Nebraska. This committee registered as "lobbyists" under the law and devoted their time to securing of laws in the interests of the wage earners. Considering the fact that it was the first organized and continuous effort ever made by organized labor men in Nebraska to secure laws in their behalf, the success achieved is considered remarkable.

The sooner organized labor begins studying this liquor problem from the standpoint of economics, instead of from

the standpoint of selfish indulgence or "personal liberty," the better it will be for the labor movement. Labor bears the brunt of the enormous waste entailed by the liquor traffic, and for some reason or other—no man knows just what—organized labor has been fighting on the side of an institution that levies immense toll from it—the toll of money, of health, loss of efficiency and destruction of character. One need not be a prohibitionist in order to be strenuously opposed to the licensed liquor traffic.

The letter carriers want to be pensioned by the government. So, too, do the clerks in the various governmental departments at Washington. Will Maupin's Weekly has no objection whatever, providing the pension list is made broad enough to include all industrial workers. The average wage of government employes is far better than the average of mechanics and artisans not in government employ. If they are deserving of pensions, so are all the members of the great army of toil. And this newspaper is a strong advocate of the industrial pension system.

The mayor of a Kansas town announces that hereafter all sessions of the town council, will be opened with prayer. If we were a taxpayer in that particular Kansas town we'd keep an almighty watchful eye upon that mayor and council.

A writer in the "American Economist," the subsidized organ of the protective tariff barons, asserts that one million American families are directly interested in the growing of wool, not as millworkers, but as actual raisers and producers of wool. Of course he utters an untruth when he says it. One million American families means approximately 5,000,000 people, or 17 per cent of our population. There are fewer than 15,000,000 sheep in this country. According to this economist it takes one person to raise three sheep, which would mean an annual income per person of about \$10. There is just about one-seventh of a sheep per capita in this republic. The wool tariff taxes the people about \$7 per capita. In other words, it costs the average American family \$35 a year to protect five-sevenths of a sheep. The mutton and the wool are not worth the money.

"Iowa republicanism is in bad shape when Lafe Young is turned down for a half-breed free trader like Kenyon," shouts the Bath, Me., Courier. That depends upon the point of view. If republicanism means the best for the people the esteemed Courier is wrong. If republicanism means enlarged opportunities for grafting on the public through the operations of a robber tariff, the esteemed Courier is quite correct. The republicans of Iowa have given their decision, and