

GENERAL THOMAS C. KELSEY

Thomas C. Kelsey, better known as "General" Kelsey, one of the best known men in the labor movement of the west, died at his home in this city Tuesday morning after a lingering illness, in the sixty-sixth year of his age. Measured by the usual standard by which men of this day are judged, General Kelsey was not a successful man, for he died poor. Measured by service to humanity, by devoted labors for others, by self-sacrifice that others might be benefitted, General Kelsey's life was a success, and it is by that standard that final accounts are settled. It was my privilege to be intimately associated with General Kelsey during the last twenty years. I say "privilege," for it was indeed a privilege to know this broad-minded, generous whole-souled gentleman. Whenever opportunity offered to advance the cause of unionism, this man forgot self and threw himself into the movement for the benefit of his fellows with all of his warm heart and generous soul. No service was too great for him to undertake, no appeal for assistance ever found him unresponsive. He made a life study of the labor movement and that great struggle for the uplift of the toiler had in him an earnest and efficient champion. I have heard him accused of being a radical. Nothing could have been further from the truth. Time and again his judicious counsel has allayed bitterness, and time and again his diplomacy has won a seemingly hopeless struggle. For the past year he has been a constant sufferer, yet he took an active interest in labor affairs and his experience was a wise guide for his younger co-workers. In the campaign which resulted in securing the Labor Temple to Lincoln workers, General Kelsey played an important part. At the beginning of the war young Kelsey was working at his trade, that of saddlemaker, at Leavenworth, Kans. While never regularly en-

listed he performed gallant service for the union as a scout and guide throughout Missouri and Arkansas. At the close of the war he resumed his trade and worked in various cities throughout the west. He was honored with election to various offices of trust by his own organization, and was recognized in western trades union circles as a wise and safe leader. He acquired his title of "General" by leading a division of the famous Coxe army in 1894. For several years last past he has been unable to work at his trade because of failing health.

General Kelsey was a man of exemplary habits, a most genial companion, a friend to tie to under any circumstances, and a generous and always fair cancy in the ranks of unionism that will opponent. His death has caused a vacancy in the ranks of unionism that will be hard to fill, and his co-workers for many years will always hold in memory the splendid comrade and the staunch friend who, after years of struggle and sacrifice, has at last reaped his rich reward. He has answered the final summons that must, in time, come to us all. Would that all of us could answer that summons with a record of loving service to our fellows equal to the record of this comrade of ours who has gone on ahead.

I know I speak the sentiments of every union man in this section of the country when I tender, on their behalf, their sincerest sympathy to the widow and orphans who are today mourning the loss of a devoted husband and father. In time loving hands may erect to his memory a marble tablet. If so, it will have crumbled into dust ere the kindly influence of his life is erased from human memory. If life is measured by services, then General Thomas C. Kelsey was a successful man, for he served his fellow men, loyally, faithfully and joyfully. God rest his generous soul. —W. M. M.

A RIGHTFUL PRESUMPTION.

The Omaha World-Herald, which has always evidenced a warm friendship for organized labor, deprecates the spirit in which the war between the labor unions and the organizations opposed to them is being carried on. It rightfully denounces the violation of law whereby McNamara was practically kidnaped from Indiana, but it follows this up by some friendly criticism of the labor unions' methods of meeting this attack. It declares that "the labor unions loudly declared the innocence of the prisoner before a particle of evidence was submitted." It may be that the World-Herald is better acquainted with labor union matters than this newspaper, but so far as we are informed no labor union has so declared. True many of them have declared a belief in the innocence of the

accused, but that is quite different from "declaring his innocence." The World-Herald than asserts that "labor men almost unanimously assumed the innocence of the accused." And why not? In so doing they merely assumed what the law assumes—that every man is innocent until proved guilty.

Will Maupin's Weekly does not know whether McNamara is innocent or guilty. It assumes that he is innocent. It does know that the laws of Indiana were violated when he was practically kidnaped from that state. It therefore presumes that the case against McNamara himself is weak, and that the real attack is being made upon the labor organization, rather than upon the man. It does not declare McNamara innocent. It merely assumes that he is innocent. But it does declare that he is entitled to a fair and impartial trial, and that is just what organized

labor demands, and will secure, for him. If he is declared innocent, the men who kidnaped him, and the men behind the kidnapers, will be brought to book. If he is declared guilty, every trades unionist who is a good citizen will demand that he be punished to the utmost limit of the law.

But the fact remains that McNamara is entitled to the assumption of innocence until unanswerable evidence is produced to prove his guilt.

NOTE RHE DIFFERENCE.

This paper is not a Socialist organ but we appreciate the assertion of the Socialists that it is an easy matter to find a way to take a laboring man from one state to another for trial, but a hard matter to get the clutches of the law on a politician. When Moyer, Pettibone and Haywood living in Denver, were wanted in Idaho, out they went, law or no law. When a labor leader in Indiana is wanted in San Francisco, he goes. But we have some kind of recollection that when Gov. Taylor of Kentucky was safely across the line in Indiana, no way could be found to bring him back for trial. The laboring classes are right when they assert that the law seems to operate in strange and devilish ways, at times.—Fairbury Journal.

OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES.

Will Maupin's Weekly owes an apology to Mentor A. Brown of the Kearney Hub. A recent criticism of a Hub editorial was so couched as to make it appear that this newspaper doubted the honesty of the Hub editor's convictions. Nothing of the kind was intended. We've known Editor Brown for nearly a quarter of a century. We have often doubted his political judgment, but never his political honesty. With him his party is always right because he believes it to be always right. Often have we tried to convince him of the error of his political ways, and always without success. But we cheerfully admit that the failure is due to our lack of ability to convince, not to his ability to absorb the true political gospel. So highly do we prize the friendship of Mentor A. Brown—a friendship that has been of value to us—that we would rather see him forever groping in political darkness than to win him to political righteousness at the expense of that friendship.

TO BUSY.

"I never took a vacation in my life," boasted the man of millions.

"Well, that's about all you haven't taken," replied the man who had just had a business experience with the millionaire.

TRUSTWORTHY.

"Is Schemerly as honest politician?"

"Well, he has a reputation for staying bought."