

his eyes and the hand that held the page shook. He said nothing, however, until he finished the story and then he broke forth with his exclamations of astonishment and indignation.

"If this is all true my credulity has been imposed upon," he declared. "I am astounded at this news. We have had the gravest assurances given us by everyone connected with the trial, either directly or indirectly, that these men were innocent."

Mr. Gompers asserted with the greatest emphasis that not the slightest intimation of such a change in the plans of the defense of the McNamaras as developed today had been communicated to him. Absolutely the first news of the startling developments at the trial had been given him on the train tonight, said he.

Asked if he would have anything to say about the prisoners personally, the labor leader replied:

"No. I shan't add to their misery by condemnation of them."

"What effect do you imagine this will have on labor unions?" was inquired.

To this Mr. Gompers snapped his fingers and ejaculated. "None."

When the fund raised by the American federation of labor for the defense of the McNamaras was mentioned Mr. Gompers said contributions to date amounted to about \$190,000, which had been turned over to the chief attorney for the defense, and the collection was still going on. He added that in view of today's developments the money probably would be refunded.

Mr. Gompers bristled up noticeably when shown the statement by William J. Burns, at Chicago.

"I don't wish to mention Burns," he said decisively. He denied, how-

ever, that he had ever charged Burns with "planting" the dynamite at Los Angeles.

Reverting to the explosion, Mr. Gompers continued:

"We have discouraged acts like these. We are patriotic and peace-loving men and we have only a wish to call out the best elements in human nature. Those two men must have been crazy. It is an act that I condemn with all the force that is in me."

Asked again if he believed today's developments would injure the cause of labor, tears came into Mr. Gompers' eyes, as he answered.

"They are not going to do it any good. But I want to repeat that the cause of labor has been imposed upon, both by supposed friends and enemies. The men of labor were led to believe the McNamara boys were innocent and they acted on that belief. I received letters from them myself protesting their innocence. Only last September I visited them in the Los Angeles jail, and they asked me to deliver to labor interests a message that they were innocent men."

"The cause of labor can not win by such methods as these men pursued. Damage to property and destruction of life we have denounced and done all in our power to prevent. Such methods as these have got to be stamped out."

"If, after it is known we have been imposed upon, we are denounced and attacked for supporting the defense of these men then let them denounce and attack. The American federation of labor is a lawabiding institution."

Other Associated Press dispatches follow: Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 1.—John B. Lennon, treasurer of the American federation of labor in an interview on the confession of the

McNamaras in Los Angeles, said:

"Organized labor does not stand for violence or brute force in a struggle for human uplift. All good citizens must agree that the law should take its course and the men be punished to the limit provided by the statutes of California. The crimes are acts of individuals, not of organizations of any character, whether it be on labor or any other. The cause of labor can not be in any way affected by those confessions."

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 1.—Henry B. Perham, international president of the order of railroad telegraphers, told the Associated Press tonight he would not believe the McNamara brothers were guilty of the crimes charged against them, even though they had pleaded guilty.

"There is something wrong about this," he said.

Perham declared the investigation conducted by the Pacific coast labor organizations had shown the Los Angeles Times building was destroyed by a gas explosion.

Chicago, Dec. 1.—"By holding off for so long I consider the McNamaras have done labor unions a great injustice," said J. W. Kline, president of the international brotherhood of blacksmiths and helpers. "Their position right along has been to arouse sympathy and the unions responded not only with sympathy, but with money. Of course the money is a small part, but those who gave it will not be pleased with the facts as revealed. All labor unionism now certainly will condemn the McNamaras."

John Fitzpatrick, president of the Chicago federation of labor, declined to discuss the case.

It is announced that Russia is not satisfied with Persia's apology. It is rumored that Russia will demand

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The Testimony of an Eye Witness

San Antonio, Texas, Sept. 26th, 1911.

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