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THE ELECTRICAL WORKERS. Demands for Joint Convention Coming From Both Sides Now.

The Denver agreement in the Electrical Workers' controversy proved to be abortive. The Toronto agreement seems as distant from a solution of the vexed question as the Denver agreement. As long as there is a dollar to be spent or a per capita tax to collect, we are of the opinion that the arbitration committee appointed at Toronto will be powerless to make a settlement. The McNulty Collins faction has already sought the cover of the courts, claiming that the Reid-Murphy faction has not toted fair. We are still of the opinion that the Reid-Murphy faction has been in the right, but it is now time that the rank and file got into the game and forced a settlement.

Now comes the McNulty-Collins

local at Kansas City with a demand for a joint convention. It wants both factions to call conventions at Springfield Ills., on June 27, trusting to the good sense of the delegates to devise some plan of bringing the two conventions together in joint convention, settling the disastrous warfare and stop the dissipation of the thousands of dollars collected in per capita and assessments from the rank and file.

That proposition listens good to us. Reid and Murphy have both told us that they favored the convention plan. McNulty and Collins may object and doubtless will, for it would probably pry them loose, but the rank and file in the McNulty-Collins faction are just as anxious to have the matter settled as the rank and file of the Reid-Murphy faction.

Every affiliated union in North America is anxious to see the fight stopped. It is working a grave injury to the whole body or organized

labor, and destroying the Electrical Workers' Union.

By all means get together, gentlemen. The welfare of the membership at large is of vastly more importance to all of us than the welfare of any set of officers.

HERE'S A HOT ONE.

John Mitchell at the Civic Federation's recent convention in Washington said apropos of manual labor: "The man who boasts that he works with his head instead of his hands might be reminded that the woodpecker does the same and is the biggest bore in the business."

BEAR IT IN MIND.

Mr. Union Man, bear this fact ever in your mind: A labor law isn't worth the paper it is printed on unless union men enforce it. Labor laws will never be enforced by the employers.

TYPOGRAPHICAL TIPS

Lincoln Typographical Union held a special meeting last Sunday afternoon for the purpose of considering some matters touching on and appertaining to the strike of the Printing Pressmen and Assistants. It was current rumor that members of Typographical Union were "ratting" on the striking pressmen by making ready on presses, and in one or two instances actually doing feeding. Organizer Crowley of the Pressmen was invited to address the meeting and told in detail the events leading up to the present strike. He also urged the printers to lend their moral aid and influence to the pressmen. After considerable parliamentary fireworks a resolution was adopted warning members of Typographical Union to refrain absolutely from touching the presses. If the warning is unheeded severe measures will be adopted. This applies to proprietor members as well as other members. It might just as well be understood right here that the "inner circle" of the "Franklinites" is engaged in an effort to drive the allied printing trades label out of Lincoln, and it is up to the printers to get on the firing line.

Here's a little matter we want to know about. The International Bookbinder charges that the I. T. U. is giving the label to shops that do not recognize the Bookbinders; that the I. T. U. refuses to allow the Bookbinders' label on books that contain printed matter, but compels the Bookbinders' to let the allied label go on books bound by "rat" bookbinders. President Glocking says it's the truth. The International Bookbinder also tells a little story about a recent happening in San Francisco. It says:

"We will say to the bookbinders of Richmond and all other places where the same conditions exist, that the Allied Printing Trades Council of San Francisco caught the I. T. U. renegade at this game a few months ago and expelled from the presidency of the Council, George A. Tracy, first vice-president of the I. T. U., and for our union stand the Joint Conference board rewarded the council by dissolving the Council; that is, in other words, if the I. T. U. cannot rule the other printing trades, it would ruin them."

The charge is direct—the San Francisco Typographical Union was caught forcing the allied label on books bound by the non-union Bookbinders, and as a result George A. Tracy, president of the Allied Printing Trades Council and vice-president of the International Typographical Union, was expelled from the presidency of the council. The I. T. U. executive board immediately broke up the council. If the International Bookbinders' charge is true, it's high time the printers were made acquainted with the facts. George A. Tracy is a candidate for election to first vice-presidency of the I. T. U., he is now holding that office by virtue of appointment at the hands of President Lynch. If the International Bookbinder speaks facts, is Tracy the man for the vice-presidency? Of course Lynch will be re-elected president. No chance of defeating him with Reilly—and we wouldn't if we could. And Lynch may be trusted to pull through with him the men he can control. With Tracy and Hugo Miller as vice-presidents and Johnnie Hayes as secretary-treasurer, James M. Lynch will be the executive council.

But there is at least a chance to make a little gain. By electing Sam DeNedry of Washington and Charley Fear of Joplin as delegates to the A. F. of L., it will be possible to have something more than a "me too" delegation at the Federation conventions. DeNedry and Fear have backbone enough to stand alone, brains enough to think for themselves, and courage enough to speak their convictions. That would help a whole lot.

The election of international officers will be held in May. It will be as quiet as a bunch of non-union workmen when the boss is looking around. Lynch will be re-elected president by an overwhelming majority. Reilly of Texas will be left at the post, where he belongs. Tracy of San Francisco will be elected vice president, although Govan of New York is by far the better man and ought to win hands down. Hays will be elected secretary-treasurer. Hugo Miller will come back as the vice president from the German Typographa. That will make it the same old machine—nothing but James M. Lynch. Some of these days, maybe, we'll have a change, and then we'll be able to learn just how much of that four and a half million was spent in winning the eight-hour day for some of us, and just how much was spent in covering up defeat in other

directions. No, sir; we don't believe a dollar was misappropriated. But we do believe the membership is not fully acquainted with the details of the expenditure of that immense sum.

"Is this William Reilly They speak of so highly? Is this William Reilly of whom I've heard tell? Who followed Jim's capers And muzzled trade papers — If it's the same Reilly he can go plumb to thunder."

Every local that endorsed Charley Fear for delegate may count itself as on the "bad book" of the executive council. Fear has been in bad with the machine ever since the last Colorado Springs convention.

Wilson P. Hogard of The Wage-worker chapel, has announced his candidacy for delegate to the Minneapolis convention. Next!

Fred Brenner, who held a card in No. 209 for more than twenty-three years, and who spent twenty of those years in the Journal job rooms, has gone to Sheridan, Wyo., and set up in the job printing business for himself. They don't make any better union men than Fred Brenner, nor do they turn out any better job printers these days. And by the same token they don't turn out any more genial clever and companionable gentlemen than this splendid German-American printer who has left a host of well-wishing friends behind him in Lincoln. If Fred has as much success as The Wageworker wishes him he'll soon be sending his money to the bank on a hayrack.

It's a fact. One of 209's proprietor members undertook to "rat" on the striking pressmen in his own shop. He mounted the footboard of the two-revolution cylinder and started to feed costly book paper into the machine. After about 200 revolutions he threw off the power, peered around to the delivery and asked:

"Where are these sheets supposed to come out at?"

A little investigation disclosed about 75 sheets wrapped around the rollers and plastered over the ink table.

CLARENCE ORSON PRATT.

Hampton's Magazine Writes Fairly of the Noted Labor Leader.

The current number of Hampton's Magazine contains the portrait of the general organizer of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees. Mr. Pratt has visited Lincoln and is well known to local union men.

During the street railway strike in Philadelphia the daily papers contained long accounts of rioting, bloodshed and all that sort of thing, taking precious good care not to reveal the fact that the bloodshed was due to the constabulary and when the strike was settled those same papers made bare announcement of the fact, taking good care not to mention the fact that the strikers won practically every point at issue. Pratt managed that strike, and Hampton's story will perhaps explain how the strike was won. The story is as follows:

Back in the nineties a mild-mannered, energetic young man of twenty-seven was ringing up fares in a Cleveland street car. A strike was called and the young man went into it with so much enthusiasm that the strikers' committee made him a walking delegate or business agent. The strike was long and obstinate, and ended, as strikes frequently do, in a compromise. The company agreed to take back the men, but they drew the line at reinstating the walking delegate. "That fellow, that Pratt—not for us," they declared. "He's wasting his talents in Cleveland. He'd better go somewhere else to live."

The strikers would probably have held out in their comrade's defense, but he yielded gracefully to the verdict. "It's all right, boys," he said. "If I were a street car company I'd feel the same way about it."

Thus did a traction company, seeking to defend itself from a superior foe, let loose on all the other traction companies in the United States Orson Pratt, whose official title in his union, the National Association of Elevated and Street Railway Employees, is National Organizer. But the world knows him as Pratt the strike leader. Recently he has been managing the strike of car men in Philadelphia.

Sometimes Pratt manages strikes which were made by other people, but he is not especially fond of doing so, nor is he especially lucky with other people's labor wars. He wins sometimes and loses sometimes. When Pratt makes a strike all by himself he never loses. He is possessed of a personal honesty which has never been impeached. He is the son of a minister and among his ancestry numbers several other preachers of

the old school. It is said that his chosen calling is a manifestation of inherited evangelism. A bribe of \$5,000 was once offered Pratt by the alleged agent of a traction company. He accepted the money with eight of his friends looking on through holes bored in the walls. Then he deposited the money in a Cleveland bank to the credit of the union. Through the newspapers Pratt offered to give the money back to the street car company any time they called for it, but the company declared it did not belong to them. No one has attempted to bribe Pratt or to buy off his strikers since that incident.

Honesty may not carry far in this world, but when it is combined with a genius for diplomacy it wins. Pratt organizes a strike as carefully as old Von Moltke planned a battle. He goes into a town and looks the whole municipal association over. He finds out who the bosses are, and he learns as much as he can of local issues. Then he meets the men. He finds out if any of them have been soldiers, and if so, these men are set to drilling others in marching. Pratt believes in marching, and the more soldierly the parades are, he declares, the more public approval the strikers meet. He finds out the men who drink, and has committees appointed to keep them away from the saloons. He seeks out the men of family and tells them to carry their children in their arms as they march. He is well aware of the appeal home and children carry, as many of the banners displayed by the strikers testify.

The most diplomatic thing Pratt does, the method he takes to nonplus the companies, is to forbid violence on the part of his men. And they obey him, too. Much as the companies would like to see their property destroyed by Pratt's strikers, they are denied that sight. To be sure, the hoodlum element always present during labor troubles, men and boys—mostly boys—who never had anything to do with the union, furnishes enough trouble to give the newspapers "riot" copy.

Pratt's orders to his men are simple. During the cessation of work do not enter a saloon, and try to dissuade your friends from all drinking. Avoid all acts of violence or unlawful acts of any kind. A silent and orderly protest succeeds where violence fails.

Personally Pratt is a gentle, lovable sort of an individual. The reporters and the policemen all like him, and his men look upon him as soldiers often regard a great general, with love and reverence. Forty-two years old, in perfect health, energetic, vivacious, eloquent, persuasive, this describes Pratt the Strike Leader. To him the labor union is the symbol of justice and peace. He believes in industrial justice for the good not only of the workman, but of the community.

"This country needs union conditions," he declares. "For its good it needs them. Take motormen, for instance. They are not the same unskilled men the companies used to employ to drive horse cars. Any kind of a truckman served them. Now a motorman on a city line needs to be almost as highly skilled as a locomotive engineer."

The union and living wages for workmen is as far as Pratt's philosophy reaches, as yet. He is not a Socialist, he has no dream of forming a labor party, or even of occupying a high office in the American Federation of Labor. He wants to organize and he wants to get better conditions for street car employees. "No town in the country is safe from me," he has said, "unless the car men are paid twenty-five cents an hour for a nine-hour day." The average wage today is considerably less than twenty cents an hour.

THE BARBERS.

Unique Plan Adopted to Point to Unfair San Francisco Shops.

A small herd of donkeys has been hired by the Barbers' Union, of San Francisco, Cal., to be used for boycotting purposes. Each of the little animals will be entrusted with the task of carrying a union banner calculated to arrest public attention to the unfair establishments. The donkeys will be used only on Saturdays and Sundays against shops that violate the union rules dealing with the hour of closing on these days.

A movement is on foot in Illinois to secure the repeal of the law providing for a board of examiners and the licensing of journeymen barbers. It is backed by the opponents of the shorter day and Sunday closing.

COLORED MEN ORGANIZE.

One hundred colored men in Oklahoma City have organized a federal union, chartered by the A. F. of L. The president is an ex-slave and an enthusiastic unionist.

Underwood Standard Typewriter



A LEADER

The principle of construction in the Underwood was found first in the Underwood, and every typewriter seeking business in the same field with the Underwood which has been put on the market since the advent of the Underwood, has been an imitation of, and in general appearance like, the Underwood.

The last "Blind" advocates of importance have now fallen into line, and there is not today a single "blind-writing" typewriter actively on the market. Recall all the arguments you have heard in past years by Underwood opposition, and you will realize what an advance agent of progress the Underwood has been; then bear in mind that the Underwood was the first fully "visible," has had that to develop and improve, and is today the most perfect typewriter made.

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