

# Labor Protecting Its Good Name

A movement on foot, spreading rapidly throughout the continent, is to rid labor's ranks of men classified as "agitators." The "agitator" is described by one labor man as a type of individual who, if given a reserved seat in heaven, and guaranteed eternal bliss, would still kick. The "agitator" is further described as either a writer or a talker; very seldom a worker—in any calling save the aforementioned.

Labor men, the very best among them, are very suspicious of criticism aimed at Labor "agitators," and for the reason that they are not so sure that it does not emanate from the counterpart of the Labor "agitators" to be found in the capitalistic class, namely the man who has a strong prejudice against the Labor class, and who is obsessed with the stupid idea that the world must have its "upper ten" and its "lower strata"—as he calls it.

These are the extremes who help in keeping this old world of ours socially asunder, the few arrogant among the so-called "upper classes" and the few professional "agitators" among the Labor classes. Of the former, much has been written by those thoroughly familiar with the breed. We have before us the Labor view of the "agitators," who so frequently mislead Labor. The Spokane Labor World, in a recent issue, said:

In and out of season this paper has fought every attempt upon the part of agitators to pull off a Mooney strike in this city, and in the state and nation. We did it because we knew the calibre of some of the gentry who were loudly howling about Tom Mooney being incarcerated in prison and how we owed it to him to lay down our tools, go out on strike, and, above all, contribute generously to the defense fund.

As we knew the tricks of the trade, we opposed any such program. We knew from past experience just what the program would be. First of all, the irrationalists wanted to create industrial unrest and trouble in this country. They had to have a motive, so they happened on Tom Mooney and played their game across the boards, as the old saying is.

They knew they must play the sympathetic racket to get the attention of the tollers, so they used Tom as the central figure. And so began the great campaign for Mooney's release (?).

Now we believe honestly that Tom Mooney was convicted upon framed testimony. We believed it at the time of the trial, we believe it now, and will go to the very end of things to secure him a trial where the real facts will be brought out and his freedom obtained; but we refused at the beginning, and we refuse now to permit the working people to be robbed by these bunko artists who recognize neither honor, misfortune nor truthfulness.

Secondly, this crowd of "mourners" for Mooney realized that it would be an easy matter to get away with a lot of the money collected for the defense and that the Mooney committee would furnish fat jobs for a lot of fellows too lazy and too crooked to be making a living by honest toil.

So the campaign began, and an appeal for funds was sent broadcast throughout the land. In our own fair state this gang made a clever clean-up. The committee, with headquarters in Seattle, collected, as the statement shows, almost \$10,000, and not one cent was spent for the defense of the imprisoned man.

More than \$6,000 went for salaries, while almost \$3,000 went into the pockets of the "committee" for "miscellaneous" expense.

Not only did these "defenders" of Mooney rob the workers of thousands of dollars, but, as the letter of President Short of the Washington State Federation of Labor points out, used the funds sent in good faith in a desperate attempt to disrupt the American Federation of Labor movement.

Yes, it is the same old story, with a few variations, and it is just such things as those cited which bring discredit upon the movement. Our path is not any too easy as it is. With the clean, honest, earnest effort put forth by the American Federation of Labor and its auxiliary organizations to bring labor and its true position favorably before the public it is a crying shame that such people are permitted to bring discredit and disgrace upon us. Yet President Short and the executive committee are doing the right thing by exposing the fakers.

We suppose the movement, as long as it exists, will harbor such creatures, but the labor movement as a whole is clean and wholesome. These petty grafters will always be with us. But we have one course to follow. Where there is crookedness and dishonesty we must expose those responsible.

These "agitators" are at work everywhere. They are at work in Canada. Genuine Labor leaders in the U. S. resent the interference of the "agitators" who are permitted to "bring discredit and disgrace" upon Labor. How is it in Canada?