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"Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way"

A Humiliating Position

There is something pathetic, as well as outrageous, in the spectacle of a group of men who are leaders in banking, finance and manufacturing pleading with a political boss to permit them to name one of their number to become a candidate for public office.

It must be humiliating to them, and especially to the candidate of the group, to have that boss place his brand so strongly upon the ticket through his nominations for other places that not machine henchman will doubt for an instant that the boss will control after the election.

That Coffin out-traded the financial group may be taken for granted from the fact that Coffin has selected one of his most servile as well as obnoxious henchman as his candidate for city clerk.

That office is quite important. It has power that can be used. Especially important is that job to such bootleggers as may have the protective sympathy of the boss. Every search warrant must go through that office. And usually twelve hours notice is enough for any bootlegger to clean up any evidence.

That official also sits on city election boards and passes on any petitions that may in the future be presented for a city manager election, if the next legislature can be prevailed upon to pass a law that will meet the objections of the supreme court or the supreme court is so amended as to find the law constitutional.

Does any one believe that a city clerk of Coffin's choosing would present any petition, no matter how many names it contained, to the city council for action?

In other cities the people have been robbed of a chance to vote on the question through the refusal of a city clerk to act.

That a man of fine record and reputation should be forced to the humiliation of having a running mate who bears so painfully the brand of Coffinism is a condition which every good citizen must resent.

The record of Coffin as a boss has shamed this city and county and state.

Only the statute of limitations permits him to deal and traffic and trade with the leaders of the city's industries. Had it not been for that barrier to prosecution, there is every reason to believe that he would be most actively interested in other of the state's enterprises than politics.

If there be a spirit of resentment against the sort of practices and acts which have come with Coffinism, the good people will end any chance of further power by this machine.

His control over the legislature has been unhappy and unwholesome. He has stood between the people and progress. He has blocked good laws and fostered bad ones. No one flaunts his power and serves notice to the people of the city that he, and not the group of business men, is in command.

Had he been merely frightened or had he possessed only a desire for a business man of fine reputation, he would not have objected to E. F. Gay, who offered himself as a candidate. That would have satisfied all such appeals. But it would not have satisfied Coffin and Coffinism for it so happens that Gay had ties of closer friendship with politicians who are not at present taking orders from Coffin.

What Coffin demanded was a chance to continue himself and his organization. And to prove it, he puts his brand upon the ticket.

The people will do well if they do not concentrate on the head of the ticket, but pay some attention to the neck and swat it.

Meet the Red!

Millions in this country still think Socialists have horns, carry bombs and want to divide the world's wealth every Monday morning. This is the quaint notion not only of the illiterate, but apparently of many government officials, business men, small college presidents and leaders of patriotic organizations such as the A. D. A.

In rather pathetic sincerity they go about sniping and persecuting and shivering because of the red menace—a red being any one from a mild progressive to a left-wing Socialist.

It must have alarmed these witch-burning patriots to read that one of the leading reds of the country, Norman Thomas, recent Socialist presidential candidate and now Socialist mayoralty candidate in New York, was on the dock when Premier MacDonald of Great Britain arrived to confer with President Hoover.

Investigation revealed, however, that Thomas had not gone to the dock to throw a bomb at the head of the most powerful empire in the world. Thomas was a member of the official reception committee, along with Secretary of State Stimson and J. P. Morgan.

The mystery finally was solved by the discovery that Premier MacDonald also is a "red." He is a Socialist, the leader of a Socialist party and a Socialist government.

He is more red than Count Karoly and others not allowed to land here. He is more red than the pacifists who are denied American citizenship. He opposed the war. He is working to change the capitalist system.

And yet the world did not come to an end when MacDonald became premier. The capitalists neither

were killed nor robbed the morning after. On the contrary, under MacDonald, England has more industrial peace than she had before, more factories are running and Britain's influence in world affairs is stronger than at any other time since the World War.

The conservative British government refused for years to agree to cruiser limitation and parity with the United States, but MacDonald, within a few months of taking office, has reached such agreement. Now he is here to arrange for extending that naval agreement in a formal conference and treaty with all the naval powers, and to increase Anglo-American co-operation generally.

Seen in action, this Socialist is not destroyer but a builder. Indeed he has become quite a popular hero at home, even among some British conservatives

Now the patriots are joining in his enthusiastic welcome to America.

Another Prison Massacre

To read of the massacre at the Colorado state penitentiary, and know that thirteen lives and maybe more were sacrificed, is terrible enough. But the degree yet to be determined.

Also, forty union workers have been arrested, charged with riot and rebellion under an old North Carolina law.

The authorities evidently intend to stage a good show, whether they can do justice, or even find out the facts.

M. E. Tracy

SAYS:

North Carolina and Colorado
Furnish Bad News of Killing
and Attempted Prison
Delivery.

BAD news from Colorado and North Carolina, with most people ready to jump at conclusions.

Lacking full information, it would be fruitless to attempt anything like a thorough, or accurate, analysis.

The incidents can and probably will be employed as an excuse to rail at states and systems.

Putting aside the question of whether it is worth that much, the remedy implied is beyond immediate reach.

In each instance, the trouble appears to have been due to a very small group of hotheads, and in each instance the academic issue of human rights seems to have played little part.

In North Carolina, a sheriff, nine deputies, and five men connected with the cotton mill where the riot occurred have been placed under arrest on the charge of murder, the degree yet to be determined.

Also, forty union workers have been arrested, charged with riot and rebellion under an old North Carolina law.

The authorities evidently intend to stage a good show, whether they can do justice, or even find out the facts.

It is a ten to one bet that those who did the shooting are known, and that some of them, at least, will get a dose of their own medicine.

That is not the kind of justice one would like to see administered in such a case, but it is the kind mountain folk have known and practiced for ten generations.

In Colorado, six desperados stampede, hoping to carry a large part of the prison population with them.

The fact that they did not succeed speaks volumes, not only regarding the character of the outbreak, but its causes.

Barring a few moments of excitement at the outset, it does not appear that any great number of the convicts participated.

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