

municipal purposes. Their petition will probably be granted, and then you will see in Johannesburg another Vancouver.

It seems funny to me to be writing in this strain, for I am a Socialist, and the Singletax was to me only a year ago a harmless and perfectly useless fad. But there must be some virus in the idea, for I feel quite enthusiastic about it now.

GEORGE C. MOSSES.

INCIDENTAL SUGGESTIONS

LOS ANGELES AND THE McNAMARAS.

In the California Mountains.

It may be interesting to have a few of the comments of the Sierra mountaineers on this remarkable affair. They are very plain, hard-working, out-spoken men and women. Many are Socialists, Singletaxers, supporters of trade unions, believers in La Follette and Woodrow Wilson, in Governor Johnson and in Right Things.

Until the McNamara confession there was a general disbelief that any man or men, in any union, would commit such atrocious crimes. There was a universal desire to see fair play, and to have the McNamaras clearly proven guiltless. The subject was very widely discussed, and quite generally with regret over the historic attitude of Los Angeles and especially of the Los Angeles Times toward organized labor.

Then came what seems to most of us one of the most surprising events of the century, and we could not but feel profoundly grateful to Lincoln Steffens, and to all who supported his suggestions. Nor could we fail to note the opportunity offered for the amelioration of class-feeling in Los Angeles and elsewhere.

I have never yet found a Socialist, a union man, an insurgent or any sort of reformer in these mountains who believes in dynamite or assassination. Plain, honest Americans will not stand for crime, nor for that ancient doctrine of evil—that "the end justifies the means." Perhaps, however, it is time for some re-reading of "Put Yourself in His Place," that great novel of 40 years ago, in which Charles Reade sets forth the blind and wicked terrorism which some trade union men have sometimes practiced.

That was a terrible book, but in its time it helped to clarify men's thoughts. Reade saw, as we are seeing to-day, that only by the words of education, argument and the ballot-box, can labor organizations come to their own.

It is gratifying to observe how general and widespread is the comment: "I am mighty sorry for the thousands of honorable union men who put up so much money and so much devotion for those fellows. Now let them weed that element out of all their organizations." Further, one finds among our more thoughtful citizens a very earnest hope that the people of Los Angeles will not fail to seize the psychological moment to grant to organized labor its rights, and so unite all classes in a common civic patriotism. For to us in the mountains it appears that Los Angeles has been as far wrong in one direction as San Francisco has been in another. Especially do we wish to have an end to class-feeling of the bitter sort

which has prevailed in Los Angeles, and we want more of the Golden Rule.

CHARLES HOWARD SHINN.



DYNAMITE VS. REASON.

Whitefish, Mont.

Labor is guilty. Yes, certainly. But do not think for a moment that Capital does not have to shoulder a share of the responsibility.

We read about the conflict between Labor and Capital. I prefer to consider it as a conflict between Labor and Dividends. The percentage of accidents in our industrial establishments is appalling; and a very large proportion of them are avoidable by the use of proper safety appliances. Unfortunately the furnishing of proper safety appliances cuts into Dividends.

Again and again we read of Labor stepping into the cage and going down into the mine where with light hearts and willing hands they dig the dusky diamonds which furnish the power to turn the wheels of our industrial system and warm our homes. Boom! Crash! and scores of them are dead in the dark depths of the mine. Their wives and children, mothers and sweethearts gathering in weeping groups around the mouth of the mine, know full well that proper safety appliances were not provided by the owners of the mine because they cost money; know that their loved ones are dead and that they must face the cold world as widows and orphans, in order that the stockholders of the mine may receive dividends.

We shudder at the enormity of the McNamaras' crime—we could not believe it until they confessed—but we shudder again when we read of scores of funerals occurring at one time in some little mining camp, the result of some clearly avoidable accident.

Labor spends its youth, manhood and womanhood laboring in the cotton mills. Old age, ill health and many other causes, avoidable and otherwise, impair their earning capacity, and to keep the wolf from the door the little innocent children are taken from play and school and put to work in the mill. Day by day their tender lungs are filled with the lint of the mill, their cheeks grow pale, their bodies thin. The helpless parents see these conditions and they know that the bone and sinew, the brain and nerve of the young and growing generation are being ground into factory of Dividends.

I might write of the avoidable railroad accidents, the sweat shops of the great cities, the fire traps of the big factories,—but our whole industrial system tells the same story of human sacrifice in the interest of Dividends.

Do these conditions warrant Labor in the use of dynamite to destroy the life and property of their so-called enemies? Certainly not.

The noble army of patriots under Washington were nearly all from the ranks of the working classes. In the face of untold suffering and hardships they fought and won for themselves and future generations a measure of liberty and freedom hitherto unknown in the annals of history. They placed in the hands of every freeborn American the all powerful, universal and unlimited ballot. The world at large will yield a certain amount of excuse for the serfs of Russia in the use of force and bombs to in-