

Now for Action (July 27, 1905)

The convention has done its work and the new organization is in the field.

All hail to the "Industrial Workers of the World."

Now for action!

Every progressive unionist, and every other honest worker, should rally to the standard of the new union.

Let no lying press reports deceive or mislead you.

The convention was a splendid success and the results will make working class history.

The Chicago daily papers were uniformly loyal to the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated bodies, and uniformly hostile to the Industrial Workers. When capitalist papers become the mouthpieces of labor unions it is high time for the members of those unions to open their eyes, for there is surely something rotten in Denmark.

A few days before the industrial convention met all the Chicago dailies were publishing columns and columns of reports showing that the local labor leaders had accepted thousands of dollars of bribes, that the labor unions were honeycombed with corruption, and the grand jury, then in session, was urged to probe the foul disclosures to their depths without fear or favor, but presto! As if by magic, the investigation ceases, the grand jury is paralyzed, and the Chicago dailies are dumb.

Not another word. Not one.

The batteries are now turned upon the industrial convention which promises a clean labor movement which the Chicago press had been clamoring for.

Every lie that malignity could conceive was told about the convention, while the same capitalist press appealed to union men to beware of the industrial organization and to remain loyal to the good old "conservative" unions which a few days before they had been denouncing for their corruption and their crimes.

Do the Chicago papers, the organs of the capitalist class, and run for the profit of that class, want a clean labor movement?

Does not a clean labor movement mean death to the capitalist system and to the robbery of the working class?

Does not the salvation of the capitalist class depend upon a weak, perverted, and corrupt labor movement?

It can be set down as a rule that a labor organization that is sanctioned by the capitalist press has betrayed the working class and ought to be deserted by that class as an unclean thing to be shunned of honest men.

I shall always be proud of having been a delegate to the industrial convention. There was more class-consciousness there to the square inch than I have ever before seen in a labor convention. If there was a self-seeker in the whole delegation, I failed to see him. Not one wanted office; not one sought any personal favor, but all were seriously concerned about uniting the whole working class to fight the battles of the working class on the economic field, and it was this great object that absorbed the attention of the delegates and consumed the time of the convention.

The general officers of the industrial union are commanding types of the proletariat — honest, efficient, courageous, and unswervingly true to their class — while the rank and file are the stuff with which to build a revolutionary organization.

In May next another convention will be held to complete the work so auspiciously begun, and I want to make the prediction that it will be the greatest labor convention ever assembled in this country.

Let a local union be organized at once at every available point and let every member everywhere do his whole duty, and, in spite of all the opposition that can be brought against it, the Industrial Workers will hew out its pathway to victory.

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