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SECOND EDITORIAL

Blood-Money.

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The Industrial Commission, so-called, to consider and recommend legislation in “favor of Capital and Labor,” has now its full complement of members. With the exception of two, these are all taken out of the outspoken ranks of Capital. The two exceptions are M.D. Ratchford, President of the United Mine Workers, and F.B. Sergeant, Grand-Master of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen. The exceptions, in these instances, are not of the nature of exceptions that “prove the rule”; they are exceptions that typify the Commission. Messrs. Ratchford and Sergeant are put on, nominally as labor men, in fact, however, as lackeys of the class they have long served by leading the working class into the shambles of capitalism. The appointment of these two men represents blood-money.

The fatuous have been wont to look upon anything that calls itself a “Union” as an “organization of Labor.” This fatuity is the quarry from which the vampire Labor Fakir draws the breath of his nostrils. Playing thereupon, the Labor Fakir gets for his organization the prestige and good will of the working class, and, with that as his stock in trade, he sells out to the capitalist class. Conspicuous among such miscreants have been Messrs. Ratchford and Sergeant.

The former, as the head of the miners’ organization, has kept these men in abject state of intellectual helplessness; and he, following the footsteps of his predecessor McBride, has systematically, like a lightning rod, led into the ground the electric spark of proletariat discontent. The spark of manhood is not quickly extinguished in the breast of man; despite their abject condition, the miners have again and again rebelled. Instead of guiding this noble sentiment to the advantage of the men, by imparting to them a knowledge of their class interests, Mr. Ratchford always guided the noble sentiment of the men into the ground by making it spend itself in futile and blind efforts; and when, as last year in Hazleton, the result of his manoeuvres in this line was the murder of several miners by a sheriff, he appeared as the apologist for the murderer, imputing the fault to the “foreigners—Poles and Slavs”; he saw to it that no expression of condemnation should escape the miners’ convention held soon after; and

he aided at the very next following election the very capitalists in whose interest the assassinations had been committed to keep in their hands the public powers with which they had taken the lives of their workingmen.

As to the second, it is known what a shambles the railroads are to their employees; it is known how legislation has nominally been passed in their behalf, notably the automatic coupler law; it is known that all such legislation has remained a dead letter; and it is known that these and many kindred crimes perpetrated upon the railroaders have been condoned by these {this?} very precious set of “Grand and Superlative Masters” of whom Mr. Sergeant is one; and lastly it is notorious that no more enthusiastic supporters of capitalist politics and misleaders of the railroad men from the path of their own class politics appears on the political arena than these same “Grand and Superlative Masters.”

No doubt, {an} other two could have been picked out to do as well as Messrs. Ratchford and Sergeant; but none could have been picked out to do better. The salary {salaries?} they now receive is {are?} the blood-money for their betrayal of their class; and the places they now fill are intended to broaden the scope of their pestiferousness.

But it {they?} won't. As an overdose of arsenic is not likely to kill, but is thrown out, so the overdose of the appointment of these two reprobates will only help brand them and their likes more generally, and more quickly cause all of them to be ejected from the stomach of the Labor Movement.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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