

WOMEN DECLARE WAR

Ladies of the Labor Congress Committee Design.

HOT SHOT FOR C. C. BONNEY

He Ignores the Programme of the Fair Ones.

Allegations That There Is a Disposition to Crush Industrial Discussion.

While men were walking about the streets yesterday with dockings on their ears, and having their coats furnished to various shades by Frosty Bureau, the temperature up in the office of C. C. Bonney, at the World's Fair headquarters, was soaring at the Eiffel tower altitude. The breeze below were glorious blizzards whose perigees are indifferently recorded in Sergeant Frankenkold's books. The storm raging in the Bonney atmosphere was a genuine oriental storm. It was fierce and burning, and the hot air of battle was in its breath. It raged with the day and far into the night, and will continue rampant for many weeks to come. The storm was produced by the following communication announcing the resignation in glides of the women's committee on labor congresses, World's Fair auxiliary.

The Siege at Battle.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—To the President and Board of Managers of the World's Congress Auxiliary, World's Columbian Exposition, and to the President and Officers of the Women's Committee of the Auxiliary: We, who upon your nomination accepted membership on the women's labor committee, World's Congress Auxiliary, present our resignation.

We have striven to be useful in the auxiliary by presenting for the approval of its President and board our ideas as to what would be a suitable programme for the Labor Congress. In joint session with the men's labor committee a tentative programme was arranged and unanimously adopted, and presented to the head official of the auxiliary. This programme, the result of a year of hard work, has been ignored. We have been made to see clearly that our ideas as to what subjects should be discussed, and the manner of their presentation at the Labor Congress, are entirely incompatible with those of the President of the World's Congress Auxiliary. We have also learned by experience that there is no hope that the unanimous wishes and desires of this committee will be carried out, for the reasons above given.

We feel sure that an adequate presentation of the labor question, which now engages the civilized world, is contemplated by the controlling power of the auxiliary, and we are not willing to have any appearance of connection with what will be offered as a substitute for a real labor congress.

We ask that the use be discontinued of all discussion, labor boards, etc., bearing our names as members of the Women's Labor Committee.

Mrs. J. D. HARTY,
Chairman.
AND C. SWERT,
Vice Chairman.
CHARLES S. BROWN,
CHARLOTTE C. HOLY,
ALMA P. STEVENS,
FRANK P. JONES,
JOHN C. LAFRANCE,
JANELL E. HEDDER,
JANE ADAMS,
FLORENCE KELLER,
ELLY WHITE STARR,
FLORENCE HATTON.

Mrs. A. P. Stevens Explains.

The battle entered on by the ladies whose names appear above has not been lightly undertaken. Neither will it be lightly abandoned. The fair ones say there are important principles at stake, and that their present position of revolt is assumed in the interests of the industrial masses.

The committee which seeks official relief from the duties assumed by it has been at work for over six months. It has opened up communications with the leaders of industrial agitation in this and in other countries, and in its attitude of hostility to the expedition authorities claims to voice the sentiments of the industrial world, as represented by recognized labor organizations.

Mrs. A. P. Stevens, a lady holding high rank in the Knights of Labor organization; editor of the Vanguard, a Populist organ, and an acknowledged leader among the radicalists, had the following to say with regard to the position of herself and her associates to a reporter for THE EVENING DEMOCRAT yesterday:

"I think there was no other course left us but to resign. Otherwise we would only be participating in what we know can not fail to be a farce, and would be wasting persons who trust us to take part in what we know must prove a miserable fiasco.

"To begin with," said Mrs. Stevens, speaking like one who had fully considered her subject, "it is preposterous to assume the sessions of the labor congress to be days. Nominally seven days are allotted, but one of these is Sunday and the other is Labor Day, when the industrial interests will naturally center in too great parade. The religious congress gets a full month, while the most important questions of the hour are crowded into the first day of a week. It is a deliberate slight on the industrial classes. That the slight is deliberate and carefully conceived is placed beyond all doubt by the manner in which our suggestions have been ignored. We labored diligently and seriously for six months. We gave the important subjects to be considered ample study and, after a joint session with the men's labor committee, submitted the following as a suitable programme for the Labor Congress:

The Rejected Programme.

1. The History of Labor.
2. Present Status of Labor, Condition of Labor, Labor's Productive Power; the Conditions in Which Production Is Carried On; the Causes that Retard It; and Labor's share in the Fruits of Production.
3. Displacement of Labor by Machinery and Immigration. The Effect on the Labor Market of Women's and Children's Labor.
4. Labor Troubles. Contracts Between Employers and Employees. Trusts and Combinations. Use of Force by Employers. Use of Public or Private Militia by Employers.
5. Industrial Organizations, embracing Trades Unions, the Knights of Labor, the Trades Federation and Trades Congresses and Agricultural Organizations, such as the Alliance.
6. Labor Legislation. Weekly Pay Days. Sickness. Local Holidays. Employment of Children. Compulsory Education. Hours of Labor.
7. Remedies for the Abolition of Industrial Warfare, recommended as follows: (a) Profit Sharing; (b) Industrial Legislation, such as a graded income tax; (c) Labor Tax; (d) Nationalization; (e) Communism; (f) Philosophical Monarchism; (g) Socialism.

Hard Words for Bonney.

"The foregoing programme," continued Mrs. Stevens, "was approved of at a joint session of the men's and women's labor committee. It was shamelessly ignored by Mr. Bonney, who was as hard for consideration what we called a tentative programme, one of the most ridiculous productions that was ever submitted to rational beings. I was appealed to the committee to consider the so-called tentative programme, but found it such a monstrous and silly jumble that I at once withdrew any and all further thought as I did. We, therefore, addressed Mr. Bonney's communication which told him very

plainly and without ambiguity what we thought of his programme. Our action was sanctioned by the general committee. We said:

A Ringing Denial.

"Having carefully considered the programme transmitted to us Dec. 8 through Mrs. Bennett, vice president of the women's branch of the auxiliary, we find it utterly impossible to suggest speakers upon the topics therein assigned:

1. We find this programme singularly free from all those expressions and ideas upon which working people are at present broadening their horizons of advancement, and in the discussion of which they are most interested.
2. We believe that upon so neutral a programme it would be impossible to secure the co-operation of the leaders representing the various labor organizations and schools of economic thought, and that a labor congress without the co-operation of such leaders would be useless.
3. We believe that a discussion upon the very general and vague lines therein indicated would be futile and justify across the suspicion of laboring people as to the sincerity and good faith of the committee selecting speakers.
4. The committee realize that a congress held at such a time must be somewhat judicial in character, but we believe that the programme of Dec. 8 is one which would have interest only in statisticians and special interests, but not to laboring people.

2. The Labor Congress should be of a broad and unsectarian character, and we feel that any reference to the proceedings of any ecclesiastical body, although bearing on the labor question, would not be judicious.

3. The women's committee of the W. C. A. and Labor Congress having carried on an extensive correspondence for months upon a tentative programme which has been submitted to you, out of which no topic or subtopic appears in the programme returned to us, do not believe that any attempt of ours to amend the programme of Dec. 8 would be successful.

"The meaning of clause 5 is explained by the fact that the programme of the proposed Catholic Congress is included in Mr. Bonney's draft for the Labor Congress. The following ladies signed the above rejoinder: Jane Adams, Jane Lathrop, Corinne B. Brown, A. P. Stevens, C. C. Hoff.

An Opposition Congress is Sought.

"I have given the true story of our position," concluded Mrs. Stevens. "There was no other alternative but to resign. I wish I could show you Mr. Bonney's programme. It is so diffusive that it is certainly the intention of the World's Congress Auxiliary to delegate the industrial question to a back seat. But I don't think Mr. Bonney and his associates will succeed. There may be a farce, but there will certainly be a bona fide labor congress. I can say nothing more. We will wait until we see what action is taken on our resignations."

Mrs. Ada Sweet was not at her office yesterday, but left a note to collect after information regarding the ladies' intrigues referring them to Mrs. Stevens.

"I wish you could see Mr. Bonney's programme," said Mrs. Florence Keller. "It is the silliest thing I ever read. There was nothing for us but to resign."

The ladies are evidently intended to fight the matter out. Nothing has absolute surrender on either side and secure peace.

BOARD OF TRADE CAUCUS.

Members of the Board Lancing Swords to the Election.

The annual election of the Board of Trade will be held on Monday, Jan. 9. There is to be chosen a president to serve for one year, five directors for three years and five members of the committee of appeals and arbitration for three years. There is a strong feeling in favor of the reelection of Mr. C. D. Hamill, the president, who has served the board faithfully during the past year.

A caucus was held yesterday afternoon in the call room, and Mr. Thomas A. Wright, in a new speech, nominated Mr. Hamill. Mr. Wright, in reviewing the acts of Mr. Hamill during the year, said that he had served the board faithfully, and that all the old arguments used for his election last year should be repeated with considerable emphasis. He had made strong fight against the anti-option bill, and attention was called to the fact that as the fight in Washington must be won within thirty days it was not a good thing to change in the middle of the battle. The nomination was overwhelmingly successful.

Edward S. Worthington, of Norman & Worthington, was proposed for Second Vice President, but he declined, and Robert Lindblom nominated Willie S. Jackson, of Jackson Bros. He referred to him as a clean man, who had been on the board for twenty years, and his nomination went through without a dissenting vote.

A committee composed of W. J. Pope, A. Poole, N. T. Wright, John Barrett, and J. M. Ward were appointed to select candidates for the directory, and for the committees, and report to-day at 2:30 p. m. An effort is being made to induce Charles L. Raymond to take the field against Mr. Hamill.

W. T. Baker, who retired from the Presidential chair at the opening of this year after two terms, has also been mentioned.

The retiring members of the directory are James T. Healy, R. F. Deaconson, E. S. Worthington, C. D. Van Kirk, and J. A. Edwards. On the committee of arbitration the outgoing members are W. B. Dugan, James Creighton, F. H. Dickinson, T. C. Ledward, and S. S. Whitehouse. From the committee of appeals they are J. B. Renna, J. M. Stachman, A. S. White, O. M. Armstrong, and W. H. Deuts.

WILL PROBABLY BE ACQUITTED.

The Elkhart Brothers Given a Chance for Their Freedom.

PERMA, Ill., Dec. 23.—Special Telegram.—The result of the trial of the Elkhart brothers, pilots on the steamer Republic East, is a foregone conclusion. The men were indicted for shooting at the pilot on the rival steamer City of Perth last summer after the boats had collided. The shooting was the result of a feud of long standing, and great interest centered in the result of the trial. The State received a heavy blow today when Judge Worthington ruled out the testimony of forty-six of the principal prosecuting witnesses on account of some technicality. This weakened the case so that there is now no doubt that the two men will be acquitted.

NOT STOPPED BY PRISON BARS.

Sheriff Reed Says Vera Are Not Abused His Confidence.

QUINCY, Ill., Dec. 23.—Special Telegram.—Sheriff Reed, of Kane County, was in the city today to see what valuables were here belonging to Vera Ara, who was arrested in this city some time ago, and who is now held for trial at Joliet, on the charge of stealing \$700 or more from a Kane County widow. During her confinement she has been living on the fat of the land, the sheriff running up quite a bill. She gave him a bill of sale for articles she claimed to have here, but Sheriff Reed says that as late to-day that she owns nothing here.

SLACK WON THE PRIZE.

Selected President of the Waukegan Board of Trustees.

WAUKEGAN, Wis., Dec. 23.—To-night at 8 o'clock there was a meeting of the previous board of trustees here, to decide by lot, according to the order of the Supreme Court, the tie vote for president of the village, W. B. Slack and J. J. Hadfield being the candidates. The former won the prize and was declared duly elected.