
EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

EMMA GOLDMAN IN OREGON.

Portland, Oregon, June 14.—Emma Goldman has come, given five lectures, and gone; and we are all laughing at the comedy you Chicago people played for Emma's benefit, and we shoot the lip at your big chief of police.

A small blue-eyed woman, and five interesting lectures. Oh, not nearly so violent as Thomas Carlyle, Bernard Shaw or Wendell Phillips. What's the matter with you people? Are you suppressing free speech just from pure tyranny because you don't agree with the thinker, or are you an advertising bureau for Emma?

She tells me she has been dragged off the platform in Chicago and New York before she uttered a word. Nice home of the free and land of the brave, this is!

Some of our hysterical people wanted her suppressed here. That's a catching disease—suppression. The wretch, whose grandfather was suppressed by jail or scaffold in Freedom's cause, no sooner gets freedom for his own ism or ology, but he immediately wishes to suppress all other isms and ologies. Mayor Lane of Portland told the hysterical ones that a document called the Constitution of Oregon, expressly reserved the right of the people to alter or abolish the government, and gave to every person the right to freely speak on any question whatever, subject only to a legal responsibility for the abuse of that right. And Chief of Police Entzmacher said that whenever she violated the law he would arrest her, as he would any one; and meanwhile she had the same right as every other American to utter her ideas. Rev. Mr. Eliot, the Unitarian minister, offered his church as a home for free speech. But this was not necessary. No difficulty was found in getting a hall, and Miss Goldman gave five lectures about as turbulent as prayer meetings, or a Chautauqua lecture.

They were attended by men and women of the dinner bucket, and men and women of the idle rich. Many came from mere curiosity, but most were thoughtful people, interested to know what Anarchism really is. And I am ashamed to say, many were surprised to learn that it is Christian Brotherhood of Mankind—not bomb-throwing. Help for the disinherited and oppressed, not murder of rulers.

True, rulers were considered as useless and oppressive, and forcible government supporting special privilege was considered a last survival of despotic institutions; but the remedy proposed was by thought and evolution, not by murder.

Emma Goldman said in a tired, weary way, that she supposed many who came from curiosity, having got their knowledge of her from the newspapers, would be disappointed. "But," she went on, "I have never advocated violence in my life. Anarchism expressly condemns force against peaceable men. And besides, violence as tactics would be folly. It only entrenches more firmly the ones assailed. Individual force against individual officials is worse than useless. It is not the official who is to blame; it is the institution; and the only way to destroy

the institution is to make it obnoxious to the human mind. An act of violence obscures the whole issue; creates sympathy for the one attacked, fear for the peace of society, and discredits the sanity of the cause."

"Of course," she explained, "poor, excited, unbalanced individuals do brood over the wrongs done in the name of government, and rush off to kill. They are insane; they have my pity. But such insane people are found among Republicans, as Guiteau; or Democrats, as Booth; or among religious denominations. It is only your ignorance, and the ignorance, or worse, of your newspapers, which makes you believe that I ever did advocate violence." "I am afraid," she said, in the same weary way, "if you have come to be excited by sensational utterances you will be disappointed."

One of her lectures was on the "Revolutionary Spirit of the Modern Drama," dealing in a very sympathetic and intellectual manner with Ibsen, Hauptmann, Shaw and Suderman, but especially Ibsen. As I witnessed these quiet meetings to discuss high thoughts, I felt how ridiculous the city would have made itself in sending in police, or shadowing this woman with detectives. You might as well send police to the meetings of the trustees of the Chicago University.

I admit the wisdom of police supervision over a political convention, or a meeting of the legislature; but Emma Goldman! Pshaw! You Chicagoans are making spectacles of yourselves. By the way, by what right do your police prohibit speech before it is uttered?

I notice that *The Public* has commented on the Buwalda case (p. 220)—the man who, after fifteen years' honorable service, was court martialed for attending in San Francisco these identical lectures given here in Portland. And for applauding during the lectures, and for shaking hands with Emma Goldman afterward, he was sentenced to dishonorable discharge and five years at hard labor in Alcatraz prison. (Commutated to three years by General Funston.) Think of it! and this "the land of the free!" Five years' hard labor and a dishonorable discharge, after fifteen years' service, for hearing Ralph Waldo Emerson or Abraham Lincoln! For hearing a woman simply plead for more freedom, less special privilege, more humanity, less exploiting of the masses; for more universal brotherhood and less of blind patriotism and glory, so-called, which leads men to destroy other men! Think of Buwalda being imprisoned for hearing the doctrines of Christ made practical and modern!

It is a shame and a disgrace to American manhood and American intelligence. Nothing before that Republican convention in Chicago was as important as this case of this obscure soldier, for it is the eternal cause of immortal liberty.

It does not appear that there was any evidence before the court to show what Emma Goldman said, and what Buwalda applauded. He is court martialed for going to hear Emma Goldman. He is court martialed and convicted on the testimony of two spies—hired detectives. It would be an educational act if the members of the court martial could be compelled to go and hear just what Emma Goldman says in those lectures. It might at least give them some

ideas beyond sword belts and Russian militarism! If the Grand Army of the Republic, which fought for human freedom, lets this man suffer in prison, I shall believe the times have changed, and the spirit of liberty is dead.

I suggest that those desiring to do so write to their Congressmen. If we are all selfish cowards and sunk in the mire of gold, with no thought but comfort, let us know it.

C. E. S. WOOD.

NEWS NARRATIVE

To use the reference figures of this Department for obtaining continuous news narratives:

Observe the reference figures in any article; turn back to the page they indicate and find there the next preceding article on the same subject; observe the reference figures in that article, and turn back as before; continue until you come to the earliest article on the subject; then retrace your course through the indicated pages, reading each article in chronological order, and you will have a continuous news narrative of the subject from its historical beginnings to date.

Week ending Tuesday, June 23, 1908.

The Republican Convention.

Following the address of Senator Burrows as temporary chairman of the Republican convention at Chicago on the 16th (p. 274), the convention adjourned for the day. On the 17th, after a session of fifteen hours, the committee on credentials reported that the delegates placed on the temporary roll by the national committee were the delegates entitled to seats, and recommended that the temporary roll call be the permanent roll call. The report was adopted without debate. Senator Lodge of Massachusetts was then elected permanent chairman. After speaking half an hour he evoked a long continued expression of enthusiasm with his climax to the following tribute to President Roosevelt:

For his performance of his sworn duty he has been bitterly attacked. It was to be expected. Vested abuses and profitable wrongs cry out loudly when their entrenchments are carried, and some one is sure to be hurt when the bayonets of the law are pushed home. In the great American electorate money has few votes, but it can command many voices and cause many birds to sing. The result is that the President is the best abused and the most popular man in the United States to-day.

The applause lasted 47 minutes.

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Meanwhile the committee on resolutions had been in a turmoil over the platform since the assembling of the convention. Mr. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, had appeared before the appropriate subcommittee with a request for the adoption of the following plank in the platform:

The Republican party is in accord with the great emancipator, Abraham Lincoln, when he declared that "labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor and never could

have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital and deserves much more consideration." Through his wise and humane policy the shackles were stricken from the limbs of 4,000,000 chattel slaves. The Republican party has been the staunch defender of property and property rights, yet holds and declares that personal rights and human liberty are and must of necessity be entitled to the first and highest consideration. Recognizing the new conditions arising from our marvelous industrial development, our people and our nation realize the fact that the wheels of industry and commerce of our time require that new law and new concepts of law must be enacted to conform to modern industry and commerce and advance freedom in line therewith. We therefore pledge the Republican party to the enactment of a law by Congress guaranteeing to the wage earners, agriculturists and horticulturists of our country the right of organized effort to the end that such associations or their members shall not be regarded as illegal combinations in restraint of trade. We pledge ourselves to the enactment of a law to prohibit the issuance of injunctions in cases arising out of labor disputes, when such injunctions would not apply when no labor disputes existed; and, that in no case shall an injunction be issued when there exists a remedy by the ordinary process of law, and which act shall provide that in the procedure for the punishment of contempt of court, the party cited for contempt shall when such contempt was not committed in the actual presence of the court be entitled to a trial by jury. We pledge the Republican party to the enactment of an amendment extending the existing eight-hour law to all government employes, and to all workers, whether employed by contractors or subcontractors doing work for or on behalf of the Federal government. We pledge the Republican party to the enactment of a law by Congress as far as the Federal jurisdiction extends, for a general employers' liability act, for injury to body or loss of life of employes. We pledge the Republican party to the enactment of a law to the extent of Federal jurisdiction granting women's suffrage and to submit a Constitutional amendment for ratification to the States for the absolute suffrage of women, co-equal with men. We pledge the Republican party to the enactment of a law creating a department of labor, separate from any existing department, with a secretary at its head having a seat in the President's cabinet. We pledge the Republican party to the enactment of a law for the creation of a Federal bureau of mines and mining, preferably under the proposed department of labor, and the appropriation of sufficient funds to thoroughly investigate the cause of mine disasters, so that laws and regulations may be recommended and enacted which will prevent the terrible maiming and loss of life in the mines. We pledge the Republican party to the enactment of a law for the establishment of United States government postal savings banks.

In behalf of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Firemen and Trainmen, Mr. H. R. Fuller asked the adoption of the following plank on the same subject:

We pledge ourselves to such legislation as will