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Current Literature

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A Review of the World



IF THE long story of crime which Harry Orchard (whose real name is Alfred Horsley) told in the court room of Boise City, Idaho, last month had the effect upon the jury that it seems to have had upon the numerous newspaper correspondents, then the fate of Haywood, Moyer and Pettibone was as good as sealed when Orchard ended his testimony. Here and there could be found an editorial comment indicating doubt as to the truth of the amazing tale; but the correspondents, who were present at the proceedings, indicated in their dispatches nothing of doubt. In fact, they had nearly all been convinced of Orchard's sincerity before he began his testimony. A dozen of them were allowed to interview him just before the trial opened. One of them, Oscar King Davis, said of that interview:

"These men all went out to the penitentiary expecting to see a man suited to the tale he is to tell. They saw instead a man who convinced them all that he was indeed truly repentant for what he had done, and meant to do what lay in his power to afford redress. His motive is openly avowed. It is the motive that has been put forward so many times by cowardly and insincere repentants-for-the-sake-of-clemency, that every man of those who saw him that day was prepared to reject it with scorn. Yet every man—with one possible exception—was amazed to find himself accepting it as a matter of course, and fully convinced of its sincerity."

EVERY report that we have seen in other than the rabid Socialist press represents Orchard's testimony as unshaken in a single point by the five days' grilling cross-examination to which he was subjected. The *New York Tribune* comments as follows on his general manner:

"By his own account he had made a trade of murder, and he retailed assassinations in that

matter-of-fact way in which a man speaks of his trade. There is no glory in a trade, and there is no shame in a trade, and if a man be of such a nature that he may make murder his trade there is neither pride nor shame in it. If he had exulted we should think he was lying. If he had recoiled from the telling of his tale half as much as the average man recoils from the reading of it we should doubt if he were not too much like the rest of humanity to have gone about murdering in such a wholesale way. But his brutal lack of feeling on the witness stand bespeaks a brutal character that could have made murder a trade. There is nothing in the way it was told that makes the tale inherently incredible."

THE murders of twenty men are testified to by Orchard, and many other attempts at murder were made by him which failed. Arson, burglary, theft, wife-desertion, planning to kidnap a child and common swindling were all admitted. Once and once only he had "peached" on his associates, and that was when somebody else had been given the easy job of blowing up a train while he was yet unpaid for a more dangerous job that he had attempted just before. Otherwise he remained loyal to his alleged employers and accomplices until after the Steunenberg murder, when he was placed in a prison cell on suspicion and given time to reflect on the course of his life. The psychology of that interesting period will be well worth knowing if it is ever revealed in detail. Even before the killing of Steunenberg, the man's mind seemed to have been unconsciously revolting at last against his trade. Several times he left Caldwell for no particularly urgent reason, postponing the fatal job as long as possible. Perhaps he was simply losing his nerve. Perhaps the sub-conscious mind that we hear so much about was asserting itself. Newspaper men speak of his course during the period following the murder and down to the present

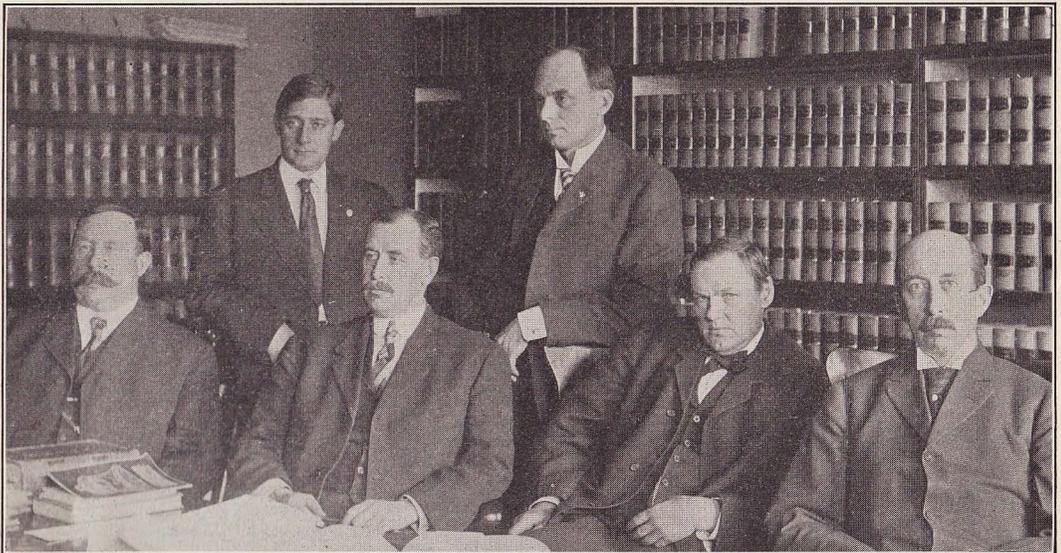


COUNSEL FOR THE PROSECUTION

Hawley, the attorney on the reader's right, and Borah, a state senator, on the left, have charge of the case against Haywood, Moyer and Pettibone. Borah is the bulldog of the prosecution, and is probably the worst hated man, by the officials of the Miners' Federation, to be found in Idaho.

time as a great riddle. But there is one man who will think he can read the riddle and that is the Methodist revivalist. He will tell you that there are three well defined stages in the work of the Holy Spirit upon a man's

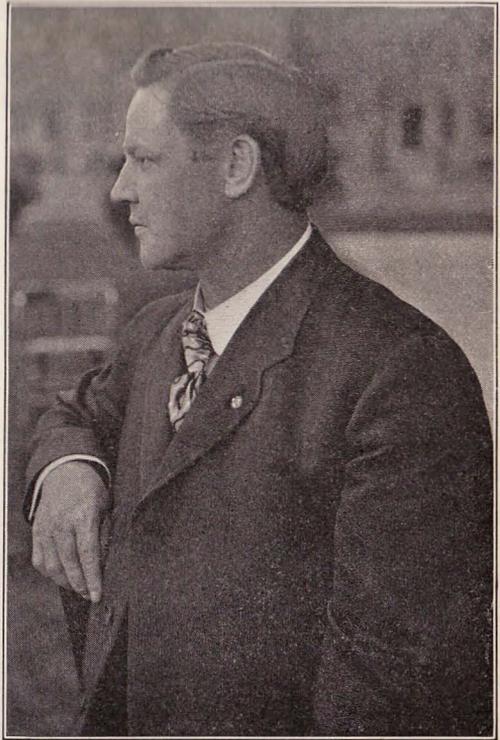
heart,—first that of conviction of sin, second that of repentance, third that of acceptance. When Orchard made up his mind, after his arrest, to break his watch crystal and then cut a vein or artery and end it all, he was "under



THE COUNSEL FOR THE DEFENSE

Richardson (on the reader's right), Darrow (next to Richardson) and their associates. The fate of their clients seems to depend upon their ability to convince the jury that Harry Orchard was an assassin in the pay of the mine owners, not in the pay of the Miners' Federation.

conviction." He was desperate, he says, and had come to look upon himself as a monster whose crimes could never be forgiven. Then he got a Bible sent by a mission society in Chicago and began reading it. McPartland, the Pinkerton detective, saw the drift of his mind and helped it on by telling him Bible stories—of David who sinned deeply and was forgiven, of Saul of Tarsus, and other Bible characters. Then came the second stage, Orchard's repentance and hope of forgiveness. The confession, of course, was an essential part of the repentance. And with that resolve to confess, irrespective of the consequences to himself or others, came, the revivalist will tell you, the consciousness of pardon and the strength that has enabled him to go through with the ordeal in court in such an amazing way. You can hear essentially the same story in any Salvation Army meeting. They don't call it a "riddle" there. They call it "a work of grace," "a miracle." If that is what has happened to Orchard, then his story must be accepted, including its implication of the leaders of the Miners' Federation.



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THE GREATEST RASCAL OR GREATEST MARTYR WHO EVER LED A GREAT LABOR ORGANIZATION

William D. Haywood, secretary of the Western Miners' Federation, is said by Orchard to have instigated scores of murders in order to put out of the way the enemies of the Federation. Throughout the trial his wife and child sat near him, listening to the charges of his accusers.



IF THERE WAS AN "INNER CIRCLE" HE WAS ITS NOMINAL CHIEF

Charles H. Moyer is the President of the Western Miners' Federation and, according to Orchard, one of those who selected the victims for Orchard's bombs.

BUT this case at Boise City is the trial, not of Orchard but of Haywood, for a particular murder committed while the latter was in another state. The question whether Orchard's story, true or not, had any place in this trial except as it related directly to Steunenberg's murder, will have to be decided, in all probability, by the higher courts. That Orchard committed the crimes of which he tells can hardly be doubted in the face of the corroborative evidence that is at hand. That, however, is not the vital point in this particular trial. The vital point is to establish the connection of Haywood with the crime. To establish the guilt of Haywood is obviously a very different thing from establishing the guilt of Orchard. Says the *New York World*:

"It is not enough to show that the Western Federation of Miners was responsible for a record of cold-blooded atrocities from which a savage might have shrunk. Even tho every person in the courtroom be convinced that Orchard told the exact truth, and that all these crimes were plotted



AUTHOR OF THE MOST STARTLING CONFESSIONS OF CRIME EVER HEARD IN AN AMERICAN COURT ROOM

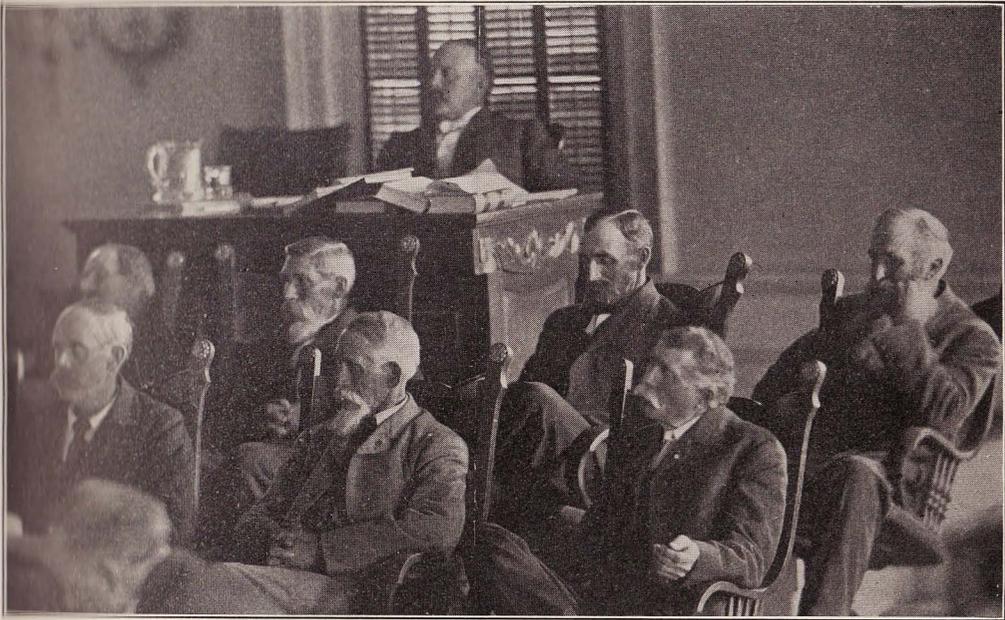
Harry Orchard explains his apparent change of character in the following words: "I began to think about my past life, and the unnatural monster I had been, and I did not care much what happened to me. I was afraid to die, too, for I came to believe the grave did not end it all. It was after I received a Bible from a missionary society in Chicago that I came to the conclusion that I would be forgiven, if I truly repented and made a clean breast of it all. And I have never been in doubt from that moment."

and executed precisely as he says, the higher courts will not accept moral certainty as legal proof, whatever the trial jury may do. Stranger things have happened than that the United States courts, which Haywood and his socialistic friends have so often denounced as 'tools of capitalism and plutocracy,' should eventually be the instruments to protect the defendant from the consequences of local passion and to safeguard him against an invasion of even the most trifling of his legal rights."

ON the jury in the case are nine farmers, one real estate agent, one builder, one foreman of a street railroad company. There is but one man who ever belonged to a labor union, and he has not belonged to one for

Their theory is that Orchard was an emissary of the capitalists, and whatever crimes he committed were the result of a conspiracy on the part of the mine owners to bring discredit upon the Federation. A verdict of guilty will be taken as further evidence of a capitalistic conspiracy. And here is the sort of utterances with which Mr. Debs is preparing his followers for such an adverse verdict:

"If the trial proceeds, and if such a terrible event as the conviction by the servile minions of plutocracy should follow, and if a single one of our comrades is condemned, it should be the signal for the working class of America to rise—let that mark the date for the beginning of a Great



Photograph by Underwood & Underwood Co.

LISTENING TO ORCHARD'S STORY

This picture represents a majority of the jury trying William D. Haywood for his life in one of the most remarkable criminal cases ever in a court of law. Three-fourths of the jurors are farmers. The gentleman behind the desk is Judge Wood.

fourteen years. Eight are Republicans, three Democrats, one a Prohibitionist. They are said to be well above the average in intelligence and self-reliance. The defendants have able counsel who seem devoted to their cause. The hearing of the judge seems to be above criticism, except, again, that of the radical Socialist papers, which declare that both judge and jury showed prejudice against the defendant in advance of the trial. Eugene V. Debs and his followers are certain to denounce the verdict if it is adverse to the accused men and to do so in the most lurid of language.

National General Strike. Let every workingman who has a heart in his breast make a mighty oath that not a wheel shall turn in this country from ocean to ocean until the verdict is set aside and every one of the accused is set free. Let our factories be closed; let our mills stop grinding flour and our bakeries stop baking bread. Let our coal mines close, and let us die of hunger and cold if necessary to make our protest heeded. Let us show the world that the workingmen of America are not so lost to shame, not so devoid of the red blood of courage, that they will allow one of their comrades to suffer death at the hands of their enemies. Hurrah for the General Strike."

All Socialist papers hurrah now.