severely censured for their cowardice, and that they be declared not fit to represent the spirit, the will, nor the aspirations of the miners of Nova Scotia. The bosses quickly found a tool ready to hand, which thousands of honest men have given their lives to destroy these two things which are the heart and soul of every labor organization that is worth while.

The bosses quickly found a tool ready to hand, in the person of Van Bitner, henchman of John L. Lewis and infamous for his part in disrupting District 14, in Kansas. He is of that effrayed brood that goes hither and thither, playing the bosses' game, splitting and disrupting organizations to whom they are beholden, and who have given their homes and lives. Under the cloak of constitutionalism, this creature came into Nova Scotia to cement a shameful alliance between his chief, Lewis, and the British Empire Steel Company. He was appointed as their agent, to ill-advisedly address several meetings of the U. M. W. of A. and joined forces against the miners of Nova Scotia as though to oppose an invading army; machine guns, barbed wire entanglements, and other paraphernalia of war, were literally strewn about the coal fields, and troops were brought from points as far away as London, Ontario.

With all the provoke there was no disorder or no arrests. The miners withdrew the pump-sticks as special police, barricading the track with the bodies of themselves to the mercy of capitalist "conciliators," the ministers of capital, the "men of the people," who facilitate the policy of class collaboration, of delivering the labor movement to its death. Van Bitner was received with honors, stamped as the representative of plutocracy and endorsed by Besco, the Government, and all the powers that be.

But Van Bitner, with all the powers of the Lewis machine behind him, with the support of the capitalist press and the poor tools of reaction within the ranks of the miners, like Silky Barrett, found the ranks of District 26 closed solidly against him. The District Executive, to remove the slightest excuse for disruptive action from the strikers of Lewis, withdrew the application for affiliation to the R. I. L. U., which had been made an issue. The miners then stood pat behind their militant leaders, and all the efforts of Van Bitner have had the one paltry accomplishment of influencing one local to quit paying its per capita. Once more the milita,
tants demonstrated their ability and determination to protect the interests of the membership of District 26.

Smashing the Frame-Up

Outgeneraled at every turn, unable to smash the solidarity of the miners even with the willing aid of Lewis, Van Bitner, and Barrett, the British Empire Steel Company tried another card. They resorted to the frame-up to get the other end of the miners' winning combination, the leaders.

Their problem was where to begin; to start with members of the District Board, known and honored by all the workers of the district, would be dangerous. Therefore when Malcolm Bruce, editor of The Worker, was announced to speak on May Day, the word went out: "Get Bruce; he is an outsider and will be easy." It was hoped to thereby establish the precedent on which to bring a campaign of terrorism.

Again they failed. Detained by floods, Bruce arrived too late for the May Day celebrations. When he later addressed stirring meetings in the district, the frame-up had been prepared, but it had gone wrong in the meantime. He was arrested, charged with seditions utterances as reported in the Sydney Record, a local kept under surveillance by the Company's agents. He was compelled to resign his homes and office of the district officials, to create the proper "atmosphere." But at the trial all their elaborate preparations fell to pieces. In some way the Keystone had fallen from the arch of the frame-up, and the whole thing collapsed when the reporter for the Sydney Record, star witness for the prosecution, denied having telephoned in the story which had been printed and stated that Barrett had not uttered the words attributed to him.

As this is being written District 26 is meeting in convention. John L. Lewis again joined in the attack upon these miners, by sending that gathering a telegram demanding new elections and the ruling out as candidates of all who believe in the Red International of Labor Unions. The convention replied by a wire which reads, in part, as follows:

This convention declares that it shall firmly stand by the principle that in District 26 we shall defend freedom of speech, and will not consent to enact special rules to deprive any member running in election in this District because of their beliefs, and this convention is amazed at your request to violate the ideals upon which our great union has been built. Totally adopted by convention by unanimous standing vote.

(Signed) Dan Livingstone, President.

At the same time the steel workers union has been forced to declare a strike against the 12- and 13-hour shift, and wage of 32 cents per hour, in vogue in the belt of the Sydney mills. There are 3,000 workers involved, and they have the closest alliance with the miners. Before this story gets into the printer, the paper may be howling against the solidarity of these workers. The miners and the steel workers are preparing a united front against the dual front of both organizations against their common enemy, the beastly Besco. The struggle goes on, but the miners of Nova Scotia, with their wonderful solidarity and militant leadership, have covered themselves with glory and established their place in the vanguard of the American working class.
The proposed conference was duly held. The two arch-reactionaries of the miners' union, Lewis and Farrington, buried the hatchet and united their forces for a general war against the Progressive elements in the Union. This is the way Farrington describes the meeting:

**Springfield, III., June 15, 1923.**

Dear Sir and Brother,

Enclosed herewith is copy of letter written by me under date of May 21, 1923, and addressed to President John L. Lewis.

Enclosed also is a copy of my reply to my letter.

As a result of this correspondence, President Lewis called at my office on June 14, and we had a conference lasting several hours. As a result of this conference I am satisfied that there exists a close and harmonious relationship between us.

No doubt stories will be circulated, many of which will be false, as to why the old antagonism no longer exists between President Lewis and myself; therefore, my reason for sending you the enclosed subject matter, which will enable you to know how and why the change was accomplished.

President Lewis seemed to be in accord with my opinion as to the dangers and difficulties that are confronting the United Mine Workers of America and that it is only a matter of time until they will gain control of our Union and the red flag will be our standard, or else demoralization and division in the ranks of the Mine Workers will prevail and the effectiveness of our Union will be destroyed.

I have no political ambition to gratify, neither have I any desire to conflict with the hopes and aspirations of anyone,

Yours truly,

John L. Lewis, President.

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The following article is the statement of one of the leading Progressive elements in the United Mine Workers of America.

**Springfield, Ill., June 24, 1923.**

Dear Sir and Brother,

Re: Your letter of recent date I advise that...
August, 1923

The Labor Herald

LEWIS AND PERRINGTON UNITE

(Continued From Page 13)

members who have governed and regulated its affairs.

In virtue of these facts, it is, therefore, entirely proper that the United Mine Workers should give attention to the latest of the adventures which has issued a challenge to its integrity. This band of self-styled industrial crusaders have classified themselves under the high-sounding title of the "Progressive International Committee of the United Mine Workers of America." These men, without warrant for their acts, have undertaken from time to time to meet in secret conclave and therein, amid the enthusiasm which always prevails in the adoption of resolutions, have highly resolved to assume control of the United Mine Workers and then proceed to analyze the shortcomings and the lines conceived by their deranged mental faculties.

Crowding for position in the front ranks of these doughty warriors appear many faces known of yore as enemies of the American Federation of Labor and its affiliated international unions.

At a recent conference held in Pittsburgh, Pa., assembled under call from this aggregation, appeared William J. Foster, the moving spirit and counsellor of the "Trade Union Educational League" known and recognized as an adjunct of the Communist Party in America. From the prolific mind and facile pen of Foster came the various resolutions that constituted the International Constitution to all members affiliated with the United Mine Workers and to the officers and members of all affiliated local unions to apply the provisions of the International Constitution to their respective local unions in accordance of the United Mine Workers of America. The Constitution, with a few modifications, was adopted by the International Executive Board at Indianapolis, Indiana, June 30, 1923.

Adopted by the International Executive Board at

Seal

Wm. Green, Secretary-Treasurer,
United Mine Workers of America.

The United Mine Workers of America must purge itself of its secret enemies who draw substance from its bosom, as well as contest with its avowed enemies who openly-state its fronts and disseminate their influences. Our officers and our membership must awaken to a proper appreciation of this moral industrial menace and loyalty to our laws and support to our ideals must be given by all.

The International Executive Board feels warranted in warning the members of the United Mine Workers and other trade unions in the organized labor movement against giving aid or membership in dual organizations or to dual unions. Instruction is hereby given to all affiliated local unions to apply the provisions of the Constitution and to purge itself of its secret enemies who draw substance from its bosom, as well as contest with its avowed enemies who openly-state its fronts and disseminate their influences. Our officers and our membership must awaken to a proper appreciation of this moral industrial menace and loyalty to our laws and support to our ideals must be given by all.

The Constitution of the United Mine Workers definitely classifies such organizations as the Progressive International Committee as being dual in purpose and membership in dual organizations is expressly prohibited.

The International Executive Board through the adoption and issuance of this authoritative document definitely places the so-called Progressive International Committee as being dual in purpose and membership in dual organizations is expressly prohibited.

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