

CORRESPONDENCE

C.E. MAHONEY ONCE MORE.

TO the *Daily and Weekly People*:—By this time it should be unnecessary to take up any further statements made by C.E. Mahoney, “Acting President of the W.F. of M.,” concerning the late I.W.W. convention. After the gentleman’s performance in the *Miners’ Magazine* of October 4, where he stated that “about 200 members of the S.L.P.” at the I.W.W. convention “proceeded to elect a credential committee,”—in other words, after he saw in a convention of not half 200 delegates “about 200 members of the S.L.P.,” reliability of the gentleman’s statements is self-wounded beyond recovery. It is, accordingly, not for the superfluous purpose of re-convincing {re-convicting?} “C.E. Mahoney, Acting” of ranting that I wish to take up a certain statement made by the gentleman in the *Miners’ Magazine*, of the 18th of this month as his “report” of the convention. My reason for taking up the statement in question is that it affords an opportunity to make clear a point that, although made before, can not be made too clear, to wit, that the majority of the G.E.B. with which “C.E. Mahoney, Acting” acted all along, had all along been manoeuvring, even before the convention met, to prevent the holding of a convention, and that it was the cool-headedness of the Revolutionary element that thwarted the plot.

In the report, above referred to, Mahoney says:

“Upon the convention convening, the call for same was read, and President Sherman announced the appointment of the credential committee. The house was immediately thrown into a turmoil by De Leon and his followers taking the position that they proceed to elect a credential committee from the floor. Their contention was overruled by the president, and the credential committee announced that they were ready to receive the credentials of the delegates. The meeting was declared adjourned, and De Leon and his followers took the position of reconvening the meeting, made an effort to elect Trautmann chairman, and were going to take the position of electing a credential committee from the floor,” etc., etc.

Important allegations in the above statement, together with its spirit, are not in keeping with the facts. The facts were:

Sherman called the convention to order, ordered the call to be read, and announced the committee on credentials. Kinneally moved that the committee on credentials be elected by the body. Sherman ruled the motion out of order. Kinneally appealed from the decision of the chair. Sherman refused to recognize the appeal and declared the convention adjourned till 2 p.m. Order had prevailed until then, but Sherman's decision created an uproar. Sims rose and called upon the delegates to keep their seats. Some one, I know not who, moved that the General Secretary-Treasurer take the chair, and the convention proceed in regular order. Sherman, McCabe, Mahoney and Kirkpatrick, pulled together and looked upon the scene with beaming faces—their plan was succeeding. It was then that I asked for the floor, having been all that time a silent spectator of what was happening. The delegates, the large majority of them, gathered, credentials in hand, around the platform from which I addressed them in substance as follows:

“I appeal to you to keep cool. Do not play into the hands of an insignificant minority in this body who are conspiring to smash it, and to keep this convention from sitting. If the motion prevails, the conspirators will carry their point. The President's action is without warrant in the constitution; it is an autocratic act. The act is also an offensive one, seeing that on that committee on credentials are men who could have been put there only for the purpose of goading this convention into a rage. On that committee is at least one contested delegate, moreover on it is a member of the G.E.B., a body that this convention mistrusts. Your indignation is justified. For that very reason be wise. Shut your eyes, for the moment, to the doubly wrongful act. Do not elect a chairman of the convention. If you do, the conspirators will have triumphed on the spot. Recognize the committee on credentials, however outrageous its appointment and the President's action in refusing to recognize the appeal and adjourning the convention.”

My argument prevailed. A substitute was offered for the original motion; credentials in hand, the delegates adopted the substitute, and proceeded to headquarters where they submitted their credentials.

These were the facts, and this was the first defeat that the Sherman-McCabe-Mahoney conspirators suffered. Two days before, so I was informed by trusty John

Riordan, a casual remark was unguardedly dropped at a meeting of the G.E.B., expressive of the belief that there would be NO CONVENTION. That the conspirators actually played for that, so as to perpetuate themselves in the offices which they were desecrating, is proved by their affidavits, made in court after the convention, DENYING THAT THEY HAD CALLED A CONVENTION. Their tactics at the opening of the convention are an additional link in the circumstantial chain of evidence proving the conspiracy. The cool-headedness of the Revolutionary delegates thwarted the conspiracy at the start—hence the effort of the Mahoneys falsely to make the conspirators appear as “orderly,” and the majority of the convention that was conspired against as “disorderly.”

DANIEL DE LEON.

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