

LOS ANGELES IS MOST GULLIBLE CITY OF WORLD

Aimee McPherson's Success is Prime Example

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE.

LOS ANGELES, Cal. (By Mail).—"Los Angeles has been the center of continuous prayer every moment for the past 22 months. Since the dedication of Angelus Temple . . . from the dark hours of midnight, thru the dawn, on to midday and round the clock again, there has been a steady outpouring of prayer to god that has brought down showers of blessing upon thousands and thousands of persons. Up in the Watch Tower of the temple, night or day, prayer never ceases . . ."

So wrote the Los Angeles Examiner some time ago before the amiable Aimee, whose exhortations scooped out the shekels to build her mammoth temple, was drowned, kidnapped to Mexico and enjoying a vacation from righteousness in beautiful Carmel-By-the-Sea. The mere fact that this consummate actress and religious faker has been caught with the goods does not diminish the attendance at her temple. On the contrary, crowds battle with each other every evening to get in, and the size of the collection is greater than ever.

A Famous City.

But this is to be expected in a city which Bob Shuler's Magazine (a local weekly) credits with being famous for three things:

"First as a city where more suckers are stung . . . than in any city of like size in America. Second, as a city where . . . sex-stimulation is at the maximum. Third, as a city where there is more religious vagaries, more cults and isms, more psychic manifestations and delusions, more commercialized miracles and more flagrant deceptions in the name of the gentle child, Jesus, than in any other city possibly in the entire world. Los Angeles is fertile soil for every kind of an imposter that the face of the earth has been cursed by. The suckers all come here sooner or later and the whole twelve months is open season."

New Boom Every Day.

Chicago or New York may get all fussed up about a Krishnamurti, but Los Angeles launches a new Messiah boom every day. If Aimee should suffer an immaculate conception as a result of her kidnapping or drowning or whatever it was, in place of losing followers she will no doubt create a new cult of the Virgin that will back the Mormon prophet of Salt Lake City off the map.

It is hard to say why this wonder-thirst and religion-seeking and cult-faddism prevail in Los Angeles. It would be an interesting study for an American Marxist to undertake. Its population is continually increased by retired farmers from the Middle West, by New Englanders fleeing their hard winters, by people broken down in health and despaired of by the doctors. And California has more passenger automobiles per capita than any other state in the Union and has most of its dirty work done by Mexicans. All of these things help to explain the atmosphere that prevails in Los Angeles.

Explains Things.

They also explain why the city of Los Angeles is an open-shop town, where the Better American Federation, the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association and similar organizations unite to smash unionism and boast to incoming business men that "there are no labor troubles."

At present the Merchants' and Manufacturers' Association is all het-up about a successful strike that just took place in the city. True, it was not in a basic industry, but the workers are the victims of so much open-shop oppression here that the M. & M., as it is known here, is rightly afraid that the inspiration furnished by the militant tactics and successful strike of the cleaners and dyers here will stir up other industries.

Fight Cleaners' Union.

Moreover, the anti-picketing ordinance was openly violated by the striking cleaners and dyers. Consequently the word has been passed around to frame-up and smash the Cleaners' and Dyers' Union and the few unsettled shops are meeting with sabotage, violence, ruin and destruction of property, etc., all of which is done by hired agents of the bosses and promptly blamed upon the union officials. Judging from present indications, we may hear of a frame-up case here any day.

There is a whole tribe of professional frame-up men here, who live on the prosecution of Wobblies and A. F. of L. union leaders, as well as under the criminal syndicalist laws. When I made an appeal for new members at my meeting here seven applications were made out. One of the seven, according to my informants, was a stool pigeon.

K. K. K. Again.

A recrudescence of ku klux klanism is also possible here in this city of so many notable things besides climate. An organization known as the Southwest Chamber of Commerce is endeavoring to prevent colored families from moving into their district.

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