

Toronto, October 13, 1915.

SOLVING COLORADO'S CIVIL WAR

By J. A. M.

"The plan ought to succeed. I am not only hopeful, but entirely confident it will succeed. When it does succeed it will change industry and life from what you call a 'jungle' to what you call a 'neighborhood.' And if it succeeds in these great mining camps in this half-lawless Colorado, I can think of no industry and of no economic or social conditions where it could not be made a success."

It was Mr. John D. Rockefeller, jun., who said this to me at midnight in Denver last night.

I had spent the whole day interviewing all sorts and conditions of men, and gathering all sorts of views about the one question of universal interest these days in all these mountain mining regions—Mr. Rockefeller's plan for the complete reorganization of the mining industry in the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, in which he holds 40 per cent. of the stock, and to whose conditions he has been giving a direct and personal interest during the past fortnight wholly without precedent in the history of capital and labor.

Last week in Toronto we had Associated Press despatches to The Globe describing this unusual trip by Mr. Rockefeller, his meeting with men of all grades in all the camps and in the pits, his conferences with them face to face, and his proposals to them for a fresh pack and a new deal. The despatches mentioned Mr. W. L. Mackenzie King as being the magnate's guide, philosopher and friend.

Mackenzie King's Work.

Almost the first man I met after reaching Denver, two days ago, in the rotunda of The Brown, was Mackenzie King. He has been in Colorado a great deal of his time since joining the Rockefeller Foundation. At the very beginning of his work as Chief Executive for the study at firsthand of industrial relations, Mr. King stipulated that the mining camps of Colorado, where long industrial strife issued in actual civil war, and where the Foundation itself is a large holder of corporate securities, provided an immense laboratory for a comprehensive study of the essential facts, the root causes of industrial disturbances and the lines of policy to be adopted if industrial war is to make way for co-operation, prosperity and peace.

The root idea of the old policy on both sides, both capital and labor, was competition. In the new policy the root idea is co-operation. If the seed of co-operation is nourished and comes to full fruition it may yield co-partnership. I did not find that Mr. Rockefeller balked at the idea of capital and labor coming to be partners in the industrial world.

Anti-Rockefeller Feeling.

Talking with all varieties of men about Denver, professional men, merchants, mechanics, I found some very strong anti-Rockefeller feeling and sentiment. "A curse on the name of Rockefeller; my father was ruined by the Standard Oil cut-throat methods," was a typical anathema. But the imprecation, when tested, proved to be on Rockefeller, sen., not on Rockefeller, jun.

It was both interesting and significant to observe the effect of the young man's personal touch on men whose hostility was deep-seated and

ferce. The great body of the miners, voting by secret ballot, after hearing him expound the plan and studying it in its fully-printed form for several days, voted almost unanimously for its approval. A newspaper man who went the rounds of the camps, and whose sympathies were socialistic and anti-capitalist, confessed to me that what he saw at close range convinced him that Rockefeller is absolutely sincere, resolved to meet the men far more than half-way, and has accepted the principles of industrial co-operation with an honest mind and a serious purpose. This view I found to prevail among the Denver newspaper men. A Chicago journalist who came to Colorado to curse returned to Chicago to bless.

A Straightforward Man.

This indeed was the impression made on my own mind by frank conversation and close observations. I did not find this young capitalist other than very straightforward and humanely sympathetic. He accepted the obligations of great wealth and stupendous industrial responsibility as a man "who must give an account."

It was not difficult to observe the reflex influence of Mackenzie King's personality and teaching on the life and program of John D. Rockefeller, jun. I confess that I had real misgivings about King's decision last year to undertake work with the Rockefeller Foundation. I feared its reaction on his own outlook and life work. After observing the situation in Colorado, the change of front not by King, but by Rockefeller, and studying the testimony of newspaper men and others, who assured me that all this that Rockefeller has done is in reality the result of King's careful study of industrial problems in the mines, and of his competent exposition of it to Mr. Rockefeller and his associates, I am entirely reassured. Nor was Mr. Rockefeller at all reluctant to give Mr. King full credit.

King Has Made Good.

The terms of the new policy have already been sent to The Globe by the Associated Press, but Canadians who have watched Mr. King's steady progress as a student of industrial problems and a leader in industrial reform will be gratified to know that, in dealing with this most gigantic problem of capital and labor at the time and place when strikes, murders, civil war and two hundred indictments were the chief features, he has made abundantly good, justified his own decision of last year, brought honor to Canada's Department of Labor, which he established on sound economic foundations, and gives promise of even larger services in industry and politics, in which Canada will share just as beneficially as the United States.

Mackenzie King will always be a Canadian, makes his headquarters in Ottawa, gives only a part of his time to the Foundation's work outside of Canada, and holds his added study and wider experience for the loyal service of his native country. Certain if this new experiment in Colorado achieves what its initial prospect promises, not Canada alone but the whole industrial world will have cause for gratitude that the misfortunes of politics in 1911 left Mackenzie King's hand free for a while to tackle a big man's job.

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