

the former cases with which Mr. Burns had to do for leading Republicans or Democrats to combine to break him down and support the accused merely because the accused belonged to their political party, and it would have been a wicked thing for big capitalists and big business men to make common cause with the capitalists against whom he proceeded merely because they were capitalists. Wherever any politician of either party or any capitalist did actually take this position, whether in the case of the men prosecuted by Mr. Burns or in any other case, The Outlook unhesitatingly and severely denounced them. In exactly the same spirit I state the convictions of The Outlook in expressing its hearty reprobation of the conduct of those labor leaders who, without waiting to know anything of the facts of the case, have at once flown publicly to the defense of the alleged dynamiters whom Mr. Burns has now arrested, and who talk about the arrest as being part of a conspiracy against labor unions.

No worse service can be rendered by labor union leaders to the cause of unionism than that which they render when they seek to identify the cause of unionism with the cause of any man guilty of a murderous attack of this nature. I have no idea whether the men arrested on Mr. Burns's statements are or are not guilty; the labor leaders in question have no idea whether or not they are. They are entitled to an absolutely fair trial. If they have no money to provide counsel for themselves, then it would be entirely proper for any body of men to furnish them the requisite funds, simply as an incident in securing them a fair trial. But it is grossly improper to try to create a public opinion in favor of the arrested men simply because the crime of which they are accused is one committed against a capitalist or a corporation, and because the men who are charged with committing it are members of a labor union. This is an iniquity as gross as it would have been if when, three years ago, the Sugar Trust was indicted for swindling operations in the New York Custom-House, the forces of organized capital had been put behind the indicted men on the ground that the attack on capitalists guilty of crime meant an attack on all capital.

Undoubtedly there have been in the past

MURDER IS MURDER

There is one feature of the developments as regards the arrest of certain alleged labor men in connection with the dynamite outrage perpetrated against the Los Angeles "Times" to which especial attention should be called. If the explosion was not an accident, but the deliberate act of any man or men, it was an outrage of dastardly iniquity, for it was one of those crimes in which the murderer, in order to gratify his spite against an individual, not merely wrecks that individual's property, but with callous indifference takes the lives of scores of innocent people as an incident to the achievement of his sinister and criminal purpose. The men responsible for dynamiting the Los Angeles "Times" building are responsible not only for the wreck of the newspaper offices but for the loss of many lives.

The arrest was made in consequence of testimony secured by Mr. Burns, who has been Mr. Heney's right-hand man in bringing to justice grafters who violated the laws of the United States in Oregon and grafters who violated the laws of California in San Francisco. He has proceeded with impartial severity against the most influential politicians and the richest business men. It happens that the men whom he has now arrested are members of a labor organization; just as men whom he formerly arrested were members of the Republican or Democratic parties or of great and wealthy corporations.

It would have been a wicked thing in

repeated cases where representatives of capital have thus endeavored to prevent successful assault on abuses committed in the interest of capital; and in every such case, no matter how wealthy or influential the offender, The Outlook believes that he should be condemned. It now takes the same attitude, when the question is one of identifying the cause of unionism with alleged murder, that it has always taken when the question was one of identifying the cause of capital with alleged corruption; and it appeals to the honest and law-abiding laboring man exactly as it appeals to the honest and law-abiding business man; for both are, first of all, American citizens, whose attitude towards the fundamental questions of morality and good citizenship must be identical.

The question of organized labor or organized capital, or of the relations of either with the community at large, has nothing whatever to do with this issue. All we are now concerned with is the grave and vital question of fact whether or not the accused men have been guilty of murder, and of murder under circumstances of peculiar foulness and atrocity. Whether we do or do not approve of the policy of the Los Angeles "Times"—and The Outlook very heartily disapproves of its policy on certain matters—has nothing whatever to do with the question. The stern repression of murderous violence—above all, of murderous violence under circumstances of such cowardly infamy as always accompany the use of dynamite—must, of necessity, be a prime need of any civilization calling itself such. Whether the man attacked is a capitalist or a socialist, a wage-worker or a professional man, has nothing whatever to do with the question; and whether the man attacking him does or does not belong to any organization, whether of labor or capital, whether social or religious, has nothing to do with the question. The one and only question is as to the guilt or innocence of the men accused. Any man who seeks to have them convicted if they are innocent is guilty of a crime against the State, and any man who seeks to have them acquitted if guilty is also guilty of a crime against the State.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.