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## LABOR LEADERS AT WAR. Charges Against the American Federation's President.

A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE PASSED.

After Discussing the Charges of Political Activity the Convention, by Unanimous Vote, Indorses Mr. Gompers' Secretary McCraith, the Accuser, Retires.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 18.—At yesterday's session of the American Federation of Labor convention Delegate Mahon, of the Street Railway union, created a sensation by rising to a privileged question and stating that very grave rumors were being circulated against the general officers and moving that a committee of five be appointed to investigate these charges. It was finally decided to consider the charges in executive session.

It is stated by delegates that the charges have been made against other officers by Secretary August McCraith, who circulated them privately this week. The charges are willful negligence in co-operating with the officers of different unions during strikes and on other occasions. The principal charge is that the officers co-operated with certain political leaders during the recent campaign, and that some of those who revoked the commission of W. C. Pomeroy as organizer were themselves guilty of the same offense in using their official prestige for political purposes.

The executive session continued from 5 p. m. until 8 p. m., and resulted in the vindication of President Gompers and the retirement of Secretary McCraith, whose term expires next month. While the rumors of charges surprised President Gompers and all others except a select few of the delegates, there seems to have been much agitation Wednesday night over the sensation that was to be sprung. Ex-Secretary A. G. Wines and Secretary August McCraith were separated by friends while quarrelling in a room at the Dennison House in the early morning hours, and revolvers are said to have been drawn.

The trouble was between President Gompers and Secretary McCraith, and dated back to the last campaign. In the absence of President Gompers it is said that McCraith edited the Federationist. McCraith is considered a socialist, and was afterwards a silver man, but in the absence of President Gompers he kept out articles on the silver question that had been previously appearing in the organ of the federation. At a subsequent meeting of the executive council this matter, with other differences between the president and secretary, were considered, and Secretary McCraith was compelled to apologize to President Gompers.

It is charged that after this action of the executive council Secretary McCraith conspired against President Gompers and tried to make a case against the president on the correspondence of the latter with certain prominent political leaders in the silver movement. Secretary McCraith held that in replying to the letter of the silver leaders President Gompers went beyond the power of the president of the federation. While Secretary McCraith is called an anarchist by many delegates, he is recognized by all as a consistent trade unionist, and as being averse even to any sort of affiliation with political parties. It is claimed that President Gompers does not affiliate with any party, but that his correspondence with the advocates of free silver was in accordance with resolutions adopted at the last three national conventions of the federation. It was out of this correspondence that sprang the rumors about President Gompers being closely associated with National Chairman Jones and others.

The debate in executive session was turbulent and acrimonious. President Gompers was finally requested to make a statement, but he said only a few words, and announced that all his correspondence and his actions in the official capacity of president of the federation were open to the delegates and the world as the correspondence which Secretary McCraith had seen fit to bring to this convention.

After considerable discussion, which reflected more on those who had circulated the rumors of serious charges on President Gompers, Delegate Penna, of the Miners' union, offered the following: "Having heard the charges of alleged wrongdoings by President Gompers during the recent political campaign, resolved, That we indorse the president's position, dismise the charges and exonerate him from all blame."

There were only three dissenting voices for the resolution, and the three voting in the negative announced that they did so on account of their opposition to free silver, which they would not indorse in any form, although they desired to indorse President Gompers.

Another resolution, adopted without a dissenting voice, "declares in unqualified language our confidence in President Samuel Gompers as a man worthy of the cause he has espoused and for which he has sacrificed his time, health and ability." A similar resolution of confidence was unanimously adopted in indorsing the five members of the executive council.

## The People's Favorite.

A Man of Affairs, Who Has Long Been a Leader in Politics, and Whose Popularity Extends Beyond the Limits of His Town, Relates An Experience.



Alderman GEORGE FRY, Allentown, Pa.

It would be difficult to find a more popular city official than the gentleman whose portrait appears above. He has been so closely identified with all that relates to the well being of Allentown and Lehigh County, and been in public life so long that his numerous friends will be particularly interested in what he has to say. His neighbor, Mr. H. H. C. Smith, in commenting on Mr. Fry's case says: "It was pitiful to look at him, he was so nervous and wasted. He told me every day that he could not live long. I watched this case from day to day and noted the changes. The doctors could not help him, but since he began taking Dr. Miles' Nervine I never saw a man change so. He now looks better than he has in ten years. Everybody ask him what brought about the change and he answers, Dr. Miles' Nervine."

Mr. Fry sends us the following statement, dated May 11, 1895. "In June 1894, I was terribly afflicted with nervous rheumatism, which was particularly severe in the shoulders. Physicians said it was the result of La Grippe which I had in 1891. They claimed my spine was affected, and this would weaken my nerves. I took medicines from many doctors without relief. Last November I commenced taking Dr. Miles' Restorative Nervine and Nerve and Liver Pills. I took five bottles of the Nervine and several boxes of pills and the result is a perfect cure. I am as well now and feel better than before I was sick. I am now 64 years of age. I cannot praise your medicines too highly, and would advise all those afflicted with nervous troubles to use them."

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## MACEO'S SAD DEATH. The Cuban Junta Admits That the Leader Was Killed.

THE TRAITOR ZERTUCHA'S VICTIM.

It is Even Suspected That the Treacherous Physician Himself Fired the Shot That Ended the Gallant Soldier's Life—Weyler Strongly Fortifying Havana.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Dr. J. Castillo, of the Cuban junta, says that in the opinion of the junta there can be little doubt of Maceo's death, and that it generally is believed that he came to his death through treachery on the part of Dr. Zertucha. In order to learn the facts about the engagement in which the patriot was killed, emissaries have been sent from Havana to find the troops which he commanded.

Several had returned and reported that they could find no trace of the insurgents, showing that they had retreated further inland. Five soldiers, who were wounded, were found in huts which had been turned into hospitals, and they told the agents of the junta that Maceo was not dead. However, not much faith is placed on the assurance of the wounded men of Maceo, since the latter may have been shot after the former had been rendered hors de combat.

The suspicion is extant that Zertucha fired the bullet which ended Maceo's brilliant career, but it is pretty well established that the treacherous physician had informed the Spaniards of the plans of the Cuban chief. With the information in their possession about the intentions of Maceo, the forces under Major Cirujuela permitted Maceo to cross the trocha without molestation, and then fell upon him in largely superior numbers at a convenient place. It is certain, in the opinion of the local junta, that Weyler and Abundado knew all about the prospective movement of the insurgents. It is even possible that Zertucha advised the expedition to cross the trocha.

As inquiry proceeds further no additional confirmation of the story that Maceo was lured to a supposed peace conference can be obtained, although it seems to be certain that Maceo was entrapped into an ambushade through the machinations of Zertucha. Subsequent events are likely to show that the latter account is the correct one.

Efforts are making to bring an officer, who was on Maceo's staff and present when he was shot, to this country, so that he may be sent to Washington to appear before the foreign relations committee of the senate. This plan is expected to be very fruitful of results if successful.

The Cuban League of the United States has, through its president, Edwin Allen, issued an address to the people of the United States appealing for funds to carry on the war. The address says in part: "Arms and ammunition, and more than this, food for hungry troops and people, will be shipped to insurgent ports with full permission of our statutes, since, with no formal blockade against us, we may as freely traffic there as with the ports of continental Spain." Contributions may be sent to Daniel R. James, the treasurer, at No. 203 Broadway, New York City.

**ACTIVELY IN HAVANA.**  
Weyler Fortifying Fortifications, as Though Anticipating a Siege.

KEY WEST, Fla., Dec. 15.—Passengers by last night's steamer from Havana state that rumors of fighting near the trocha were rife in Havana yesterday. The movements of troops in the streets were more frequent than usual, indicating important operations under way. The reports in Havana that Maceo is not dead have bewildered the people. All the newspapers state that this matter must be sifted out as carefully as possible. They call upon the officials to have Maceo's and young Gomez's bodies exhumed and brought into the city for identification. All the papers say that the present sensational acts and rumors injure the Spanish cause. Cubans are still divided in opinion, though the general belief is that Maceo is dead.

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