
The Brotherhood of Railway Conductors

by Eugene V. Debs

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Considering the policy of the ORC, it has required no soothsayer to arrive at the conclusion that it must either change its policy or make up its mind to lose power and prestige. We have time and again, in the columns of the *Magazine*, and in the most friendly spirit, warned the order and its organ, the *Conductor's Monthly*, of coming events, of the inevitable, but as none are so blind as those who won't see, the old policy, in defiance of common sense and sound judgment, was seized with a firmer grasp, and as a result, consequences predicted have followed, and another Order of Railway Conductors has been organized. We have before us the prospectus of the new organization bearing date of November 15th, 1888, and quote so much of the document as will afford our readers an idea of its purposes:

Los Angeles, Cal., November 15, 1888.

Gentlemen:—

It bring generally understood by the railway conductors of the United States, Canada, and Mexico, that the present status of the O of RC wholly falls to inert the requirements of organized labor, and in promoting that harmony which should exist between railway conductors and other organizations of railway employees, especially that of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and it has been deemed expedient and a move has been entered into by the conductors of the western country, especially those on the Pacific coast, whereby an organization has been effected to be known as the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors of the United States, Mexico, and Canada, whose object is to promote and protect the interests of railway conductors generally.

The foregoing tells the whole story. The old O of RC, having totally failed "to meet the requirements of organized labor, the new' order, the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors of the United States, Mexico and Canada, has been formed, and at the latest advices, December 26th, 69 applications for charters of subordinate divisions had been applied for. That this should have been accomplished in the short space of 40 days demonstrates, beyond all controversy, the absolute necessity for the new order.

That labor should organize for the benefit of labor, is a proposition, too self-evident to require argument, and when labor organizes to injure labor, to defeat labor in its efforts to secure simple justice, such an organization, whatever may be its fate, cannot retain in its membership, tile friends of labor. Such friends of labor in the old O of RC will naturally and inevitably drift to the new Brotherhood of Railway Conductors.

It is not required for us to state that this *Magazine* hails with undisguised satisfaction the organization of the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors of the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Coming as it does, when federation is demanded for the elevation and prosperity of railway employees, it becomes cheeringly significant. It voices sentiments of harmony and unity, and strengthens faith that the day is not distant, when all the organizations of railway employees will be united in the bonds of federation to promote the welfare of each and of all.

We suggest to locomotive firemen, members of our Brotherhood, that they can do much to promote the interests of the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors in many ways and certainly by seeking opportunities of calling the attention of conductors to the position occupied by their brotherhood towards the new order, and upon the subject of federation, as also to the fact, that the *Magazine*, the organ of the Brotherhood, is zealously endeavoring to aid in promoting the success of the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors, whose Grand Lodge is located at Los Angeles, Cal., and whose Grand Officers are as follows:

W.A. Osgood, Grand Chief Conductor; W.O. Mohler, Assistant Grand Chief Conductor; A.W. McLean, Grand Secretary and Treasurer; W.J. Bigelow, Grand Senior Conductor; G. H. O'Dell, Grand Junior Conductor; T. B. Whiteside, Grand Inside Sentinel; J.E. Hartell, Grand Outside Sentinel, and W.M. Usher, Grand Chaplain. These officers are gentlemen of the highest repute, and their names guarantee that every movement made will evince unwavering devo-

tion to the interests of organized labor. Should any of our readers desire to correspond with the Grand Lodge B. of R. C., the address of the Grand Secretary and Treasurer, A.W.McLean, is Los Angeles, Cal. P.O. Box 935.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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