
Press Release on the Forthcoming St. Louis Convention of Labor Leaders

Terre Haute, Ind., Aug. 28 [1897].

From information I have, it is safe to predict that the St. Louis meeting next Monday [Aug. 30] will be the most important convention of labor this country has ever witnessed. I am no alarmist, but I do not hesitate to say that if the people do not take cognizance of the awful and widespread suffering of the miners and their families, and adopt prompt and effective measures for their relief, something will occur to shock them into a realization of their obligations to their fellow beings.

What will be the result of the St. Louis meeting I am not prepared to say. I may venture the prediction that the injunction and its free and indiscriminate use in relation to organized labor will be the engaging theme. The injunction is the deadly bludgeon of corporate capital, and labor throughout the country is aroused to this fact. The heart of all labor is with the miner. From end to end of the country workingmen demand relief for their suffering fellows, and it will require little effort to precipitate a sympathetic strike that will simply paralyze the country.

Eugene V. Debs.

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