

Joseph J. Ettor and Arturo Giovannitti

(May 18, 1912)

The word comes to us direct that the cotton and woolen kings of New England are determined to send the two union leaders above named to the electric chair. They were organizers for the IWW in the strike of the textile workers at Lawrence, Massachusetts, where the outrages perpetrated upon women and children by the authorities, backed by the mill owners, sent a thrill of horror and indignation over the entire nation.

Ettor and Giovannitti, along with their associates, directed the strike along peaceable and orderly lines, but rioting was incited in spite of them, and in one of these outbreaks, provoked by the brutality of the police and other authorities, a woman was shot and killed by a policeman and upon the charge of being “accessory before the fact,” Ettor and Giovannitti were arrested, locked in jail, and indicted; and although they are absolutely innocent all the powerful milling interests of New England are in conspiracy to pronounce them guilty and put them to death.

These men must be saved, if it is within the power of the labor movement to save them — and it certainly is.

They are innocent — there is no stain of crime upon them. Reputable witnesses are prepared to prove this beyond any question of doubt.

No one knows better than the mill owners themselves that Ettor and Giovannitti are innocent of the crime charged against them, but they believe that with all the authorities and all the legal machinery at their command they have the workingmen at their mercy and can with impunity send them to the electric chair for having espoused the cause of the slaves of the cotton and woolen mills and directed and inspired them in their struggle against inhuman conditions and starvation wages.

Such men are dangerous to the cotton and woolen trust and there is but one way to deal with them and that is to fasten the charge of crime upon them and lock them up for life or shock them to death by electrocution.

Do you remember that even pregnant working women were clubbed and their own children torn from their arms by the soldiers and police at Lawrence, at the command of the brutal mill owners?

Do you remember the pitiable stories that were told by the little slaves of these mills at the congressional investigation?

Do you remember the facts that were brought out in the investigation regarding inhuman working conditions and starvation wages paid in the mills while their owners were pocketing millions from the earnings of the wretched slaves?

It was against these brutal conditions and the indescribable suffering that resulted therefrom that Ettor and Giovannitti and their associates bravely took their stand, and for this they deserve the commendation and support of every workingman and woman and every decent citizen in the land.

The *Appeal to Reason* is with these men and recognizes clearly its duty to do all in its power to save them. Every socialist paper and every labor paper should come promptly to the rescue. There is not a day to be lost. *The trial is set for May 27th!*

Indifference on the part of the working class or but half-hearted support will certainly mean the judicial murder of these brave young fighters in labor's ranks and their death would leave a foul and indelible blot upon the labor movement of this country.

Publicity is needed, agitation is needed, protest is needed, and money is needed. Contributions for the defense fund should be sent to William Yates, 9 Mason Street, Lawrence, Mass.

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