
W.Z. Foster Defeats Ranger Autocrat: Labor Leader Returns to Denver and State Official Who Deported Him in Violation of Law Resigns. [event of Dec. 31, 1922]

Published in the *Miami Valley Socialist* [Dayton, OH]. v. 10, whole no. 566 (Jan. 12, 1923), pg. 4.

DENVER.— Triumphant vindicated, William Z. Foster came back to Colorado, which had illegally deported him last August, and was the principal speaker at a mass meeting in Painters' Hall Dec. 31 [1922], that turned hundreds of people away.

No sooner had Gen. Pat Hamrock, commanding the Colorado Rangers, kidnapped Foster from the Oxford Hotel in Denver Aug. 6 [1922], than arrangements were begun by the American Civil Liberties Union to bill Foster at a public protest meeting in Denver. Roger N. Baldwin, director of the union, carried on correspondence with Gov. Shoup, under whose authority Hamrock held his job, and finally after the November election, Shoup climbed down. His policies had been overwhelmingly repudiated by the Colorado voters, who had elected William E. Sweet, Democrat, as Governor. Sweet had denounced Hamrock's lawless Rangers.

At the mass meeting which Foster addressed, correspondence between Shoup and Baldwin was read, showing that Shoup had tried to pass the responsibility for the proposed meeting to Sweet. Sweet declared that he was a private citizen until he should take office Jan. 9 [1923], but that if his opinion was wanted he was heartily in favor of

holding the meeting.

Militarism is going to the dogs in Colorado. Hamrock, who first attained notoriety by his savagery during the Ludlow massacre of miners in 1914, has resigned both from the Rangers and from the National Guard. He timed his resignation to coincide with the public announcement of the Foster meeting, which was held under the joint auspices of the American Civil Liberties Union and the Trade Union Educational League. Other Ranger and National Guard officers have also resigned and some troops have been disbanded because there are no longer enough officers to command them.

Foster was making a western trip for the Trade Union Educational League last summer and had held successful meetings in most of the states on his itinerary, when his plans were broken up by Hamrock's orders to seize him and carry him out of Colorado. Foster was held overnight in a jail without warrant and deported by automobile to Wyoming, where a local sheriff continued the kidnapping, dumping Foster 6 miles from a railway station near the Nebraska line.

"We consulted no law," was Hamrock's subsequent boast. The election that forced his resignation followed in November.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Published by 1000 Flowers Publishing, Corvallis, OR, 2007. • Non-commercial reproduction permitted.