BURNS WINS OVER A HOSTILE AUDIENCE

Detective Goes Before Lincoln Steffens's Club and Changes Its Views of Dynamiters.

STEFFENS 'BUNKED,' HE SAYS

Asks Help for an Accounting of Mc-Namara Fund—He Got Some of It, and Let Them Account for That.

Speaking to an audience of Socialists, philosophic Anarchists, and radicals of all kinds. Detective William J. Burns told a story last night of the dictograph and indictments he hopes to see returned in connection with the McNamara prosecutions, which brought applause from scof-

tions, which brought applause from scoffers who had started out to jeer.

Those who listened to him were intimate personal friends of Lincoln Steffens. They assembled at the Liberal Club, which Steffens helped to found and of which he was until recently the President. Burns told them that "poor" Steffens had been made the victim of a cruel hoax in Los Angeles. "They bunked him," said Burns, "and what is more, I was talking to Steffens the other day—he is a friend of mine—and I told him this with such detail that he believed it."

Burns then told the same story with such detail that the club members believed it. At least a very hostile tone which up to that moment had prevailed turned to one of friendly interest, and after that Burns had the radicals listening with rapt attention.

ing with rapt attention. In the first place,"

"In the first place," he said, "you who are interested in liberalizing the Government have got to get over the idea that those men who went to prison in Los Angeles were 'soldiers in a human cause.' I know they were not. If I believed for a minute they were that, they would have my profoundest sympathy. "I would dread to think of acting against a fighter for what he believes to be the right as I acted against those

"Now, I want all of you who believe in honest government to work to force an accounting of the expenditure of the Mc-Namara defense fund. I know they don't dare account for that money.
"I'll tell you why. I've got some of

it, and I want them to account for that They went about with that moncy buying

people up, not defending clents.

"And I'll tell you about Steffens. With the best of motives in the world he was simply taken in by the clever Darrow. Darrow led him to believe that his proposition was being given weighty consider. osition was being given weighty consideration. What he did not know was the pressure we had on Darrow that made the saving of Darrow a thing of prime importance. C. P. Connolly took the view of the case that Darrow moved to save Darrow, and Connolly was dead right.

"Now, I'll tell you about the McNamara boys. If we had clamped our fingers down on McManigal and the younger McNamara they'd have let us take them

McNamara they'd have let us take them away and shouted praises on us. They would have let us hang them with glee and would have shouted how they did not stand for crimes and murder.

"But in the older McNamara we had a man higher up—one of their inner circle—and they had to defend him. I'll tell you what motive stirred McNamara. It was lust for power. He thought that

violence was created, then certain mencertain men away up in the labor movement—would crook a finger and the economic world would answer respondingly.

"It was nothing but that. McNamara wasn't a big enough man—the one who planned things—to see that in these days only the straight game pays. He was crooked because he didn't know enough to be straight. He had to be taught the old lesson that 'hônesty is the best policy'"

if he won out in his course, if a terror of

Burns urged all the liberals to work for immediate reform of the criminal law. To indicate the need for this he told of a large number of "scoundrels" "helped to uncover who he had away with it."

"In one case in Philadelphia," he said, "I was making an investigation and was "I was making an investigation and was betrayed by one I had to trust. He was a scion of one of Philadelphia's best families. I was going to tell you his name, but he has served his time, and is trying to rehabilitate himself and I have lots of hope for that kind of a man. After he hetrayed me the crooks I was after said they would go to a prominent United States official, and that 'I couldn't afford to turn this man down."

"And then and there I made up my mind I'd rather let a whole battalion of

mind I'd rather let a whole battalion of little crooks go free to land a single man higher up' than fail to get the big one. Somebody wanted to know about

and Schmitz. Reuf, is terrible to think of what has ned there." said Burns, "but after Ιt happened there. all, from one standpoint it isn't the time they spend in jail that counts so much as the fact that the people find them out.
All the big crooks in San Francisco who we couldn't send to jail—the men who helped to raise the dust so last Happy at Heney helped to raise the dust so discredited-know that they what known by all the people for