

THE SYNDICALIST

VOL. 3. No. 5.

CHICAGO, ILL., MARCH 1, 1913.

WHOLE No. 53

The Passing Show

THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION.

With the downfall and death of Madero, Mexico has been plunged into a state of war more serious and desperate than ever since the revolution started. Madero betrayed the revolutionists, and, by a conspiracy with the Wall street gang of exploiters, made himself president. Now that he has been brutally murdered by Huerta, the rebels have little sympathy for him. He merely got a dose of his own medicine.

The workers of Mexico, who are fighting for land and liberty, have no interest in the mutual slaughter between the followers of Madero and Huerta, except to take advantage of the split in the ranks of the enemy to push their fight nearer to victory. While the Madero and Huerta followers are fighting for the opportunity to rule them, the workers may accomplish their freedom.

Of course, the massing of troops at the border by Taft is a warning to all concerned that the American interests will be taken care of; and should the real revolutionists get the upper hand in the fight, they will have to deal with Uncle Sam before they achieve a final victory.

The god of property reigns on this continent, and Uncle Sam is his high priest. The yellow press is howling for intervention in the name of "humanity." Wall street is moving slow and cautious, not wishing to arouse "unnecessary opposition" to its scheme. And the great American public is silent.

That is the great shame of it—silence. Not a word of protest goes up from the "liberty-loving Americans." And what else but silence can we expect from it, since it is letting its own liberty slip away, since it is bending its neck to the very halter the Mexican peon is bravely struggling against?

Taft has not sent the troops over the line for the reason that he wants to throw the responsibility on Wilson. He will let the Democrats do the dirty work. But the real dirty work is being done by the people of this country, who silently acquiesce in the proposed invasion of Mexico—the most damnable and atrocious crime against liberty ever planned by the master class.

A liberty-loving people would rise as one man and protest in such unmistakable tones that Wall street would not dare give orders to march.

THE ETERNAL CONFLICT.

The friendly relation between capital and labor is constantly manifesting itself in violent outbursts of mutual love. The latest evidence of the deep regard they have for each other comes from the coal fields of Mucklow, West Virginia, where they exchanged gifts of lead the other day. The peaceful striking miners, whose natural pursuit is industry, not brutal arms, met the hirelings of capital on the field of battle.

It is indeed a curious civilization we live in,

where the producers of wealth are so hard pressed for food and shelter that they find themselves under the necessity of taking up arms in defense of their right to a bare existence.

A bare existence! That's all they ask, and they get lead for an answer. Lead is the logical answer to an unanswerable question, and with unerring logic has it been pumped into the lean bodies of the poor for ages. And no sooner do the slaves resist than soldiers in great numbers are rushed to the seat of war, with the object of crushing the rebel spirit at once.

The Master Dream.

To stamp out the rebel spirit and keep it out has been the master dream of the parasites for ages. The Lord never intended the slaves should harbor the spirit of revolt, and it is very inconvenient at times that they give expression to it.

When the slaves rebel, our pretenses at civilization are at once exposed and our brutal savagery comes right to the surface. Our system is stripped of its hypocrisy and laid bare before the eyes of truth, showing the hideous monster it is.

Labor, on the other hand, by its insistent and persistent forcing of the issue by strikes, in the face of the monster plunderbund of capitalism, is demonstrating its fitness to survive in the struggle, and that it must eventually engage the enemy in a life-and-death fight, out of which there will be no compromise, but a complete and absolute victory for the exploited toilers.

The conflict will not cease while there is a laborer and a capitalist left to keep up the fight.

Peace is impossible, and the shooting of strikers has become so common that we pay but slight attention to it.

We are so used to capitalist murder and outrage we are no longer disturbed by it. It is only when the worm turns, when the toilers strike back, that our righteous indignation is aroused. Then we call to high heaven for vengeance; then we want to hang all the "anarchists."

It is then we prove ourselves long-eared jacks, for the workers' fight is the fight for progress, for humanity, and its victory is not far off.

LABOR AND LOBSTER.

At a recent meeting of the American Association for Labor Legislation, a speaker drew a remarkable parallel. In speaking of child labor in the canneries, he said:

In many of our states it is a high crime to molest the young oyster or lobster. Business demands that they be permitted to prosper until they reach maturity. But human beings are, through lack of proper labor legislation and improper enforcement of existing laws, stunted, crippled, and incapacitated.

You cannot get away from the logic of that parallel. It is unimpeachable, as the lawyers say. If one kind of lobster can prosper and

grow to unstinted maturity under the motherly protection of the law, why cannot another kind of lobster do likewise? Lobsters is lobsters, ain't they? The only difference is in the functions the lobsters are destined to fulfill in society. Surely the lobster who serves the lobster is as much entitled to the protection of lobster laws as the lobster that tickles our lobster palates. If you do not see the logic of this line of reasoning, then you are a lobster.

Ease the burden of the poor? Yes, that is a worthy and a safe recreation for the college men and their comrades of the pulpit, the law, and the press. But make no hint about removing it. Insult the toilers with lobster parallels; perhaps they deserve no better comparison. For, like the lobsters, they are here to serve the delicate taste of the rich and powerful, whose lickspittles these intellectuals are.

WILL HAYWOOD BE OUSTED?

The vote in New York City on the referendum to recall the big miner from the National Committee of the Socialist Party is as follows: For recall, 1,174; against recall, 273.

The New Jersey vote was equally proportioned. At that rate one can easily guess that the party which not long ago elected Haywood to this committee will recall him by an overwhelming vote.

It is evident that politics and economics won't mix. It is logical that those who believe in politics as an end cannot believe direct action. Haywood is occupying an illogical position.

Tom Mann resigned from the party when he became a direct actionist; Haywood should have done likewise. Politics and direct action mutually exclude each other, and no amount of hair-splitting will keep them together.

SOMETHING FOR MOTHER.

The daughter is going to make a present to the dear old mother at home, and the fond girl knows just what the devout old Christian lady likes most of all. No, not an Oxford Bible—nothing so cheap and useless in this practical age. A battleship? Yes, three of them—36 million dollars' worth. Such is the token of gratitude Canada offers to England.

Mylius, the journalist, who was refused admission to this virtuous country because he had been convicted in England on the charge of "libeling" the king, has been finally allowed to enter the sacred portals. Mylius had friends who fought for his admission. Workers of Europe, beware! Say nothing but "God save him" about a king if you would enter here.

Capitalism aims to develop a military class on the one hand, and an industrial or slave class, such as Rome had, on the other. The conquest of Mexico is part of this scheme.

After an absence of four years I got back to Chicago in time to see this issue go to press. An account of my trip will appear in next issue.

JAY FOX.

THE SYNDICALIST

FORMERLY THE AGITATOR

W. Z. FOSTER

I. A. JONES

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cago, Ill.

Force of offense is the principle of the state, while
force of defense is one aspect of the principle of
liberty.—Benj. R. Tucker.

ORGANIZING THE WOODSMEN.

No field was riper fruit for the I. W. W., when it rode into the world on the wings of fiery oratory, than the woodsmen of the great Northwest. There was no A. F. of L. to compete with, no organization of labor to oppose them. The gate was wide open. Step right in, boys, and fulfill the promise of the convention, to go out and "organize the millions of unorganized," those unskilled hords so shamefully neglected by the jobtrusty A. F. of L.

There is a quarter of a million in these woods and mills, and not one Jack of them organized, except the few thousand shingle weavers. What an excellent opportunity to show your organizing ability; what a fine field in which to get a solid footing for the new Industrial Union! Here was a chance to demonstrate the superiority of the form and tactics of the I. W. W. and set a concrete example before the workers that would set the labor world afire, and sweep the besotted A. F. of L. out of existence. Lumber is the basic industry on the great Northwest coast of the United States and Canada. The quarter of a million woodsmen feed all the parasites. With their blankets on their backs they hike to the tall timber. We see the logs as they come floating down to the mills. We see the lumber going away on ships and flat cars to the ends of the world. That's all the general public knows about the lumber jack, and that's all it wants to know. It wants lumber. It wants the profits it can make from lumber. It wants the comforts and luxuries, the fine homes and offices other slaves will fashion from it. It has no interest in the lumber jack and millmen. Lumber, that's the magic word. Lumber.

The A. F. of L. has neglected the woodsman also. It, no less than the general public and the parasites, see him only in their product. Surely the I. W. W. will hasten to his side and rally this quarter of a million bulk into the one big union! It will invade the vermin-ridden camps and the shack-surrounded mills and sound the clarion call in his ears, and gather him under the protecting folds of its red revolutionary banner.

The I. W. W. came, but nothing happened. Why? The question remains unanswered. Numerous theories have been advanced. But why bother with theories? It's a condition, a quarter of a million large, that confronts us. The woodsman is still the exploited tool of the lumber trust; without organization, without an instrument with which to improve his wretched economic condition.

The I. W. W. has been amongst him for seven years and the result of its endeavors is very meager indeed. Some say it talks too much on the street corners and not enough on the job, that the efforts of its organizers are centered upon selling literature to the citizens instead of visiting the workers in the camps. Whatever the cause, it has failed to make good; and, after waiting seven years for it to organize the woodsmen, others are now going to step into the field and try their hands at the task.

They tell us they are not going to use the street corner method. While agreeing that for general agitation the street corner may be good, still a

man's voice, let it be ever so loud, does not reach out into the woods. They say: "We are not going to sell literature on the street, we are going to organize on the job."

"But," I said, "that is a part of the I. W. W. slogan." "That," they made answer, "is how we have organized two and a half million workers in this country."

Two years ago the I. W. W. made a strenuous effort to persuade the Shingle Weavers' Union to desert the A. F. of L. and join the one big union. The weavers refused. Now the weavers have extended their jurisdiction to include the loggers and millmen—in short, become an Industrial Union—and will begin organizing the big woodsman. Will the A. F. of L. succeed where the I. W. W. failed? We will watch developments with keen interest.

An estimate of the number of paid-up members who are woodsmen was given to the writer by an organizer of the I. W. W.: Such an estimate will be naturally optimistic. He places the number of woodsmen organized by the I. W. W. at 1,400, an average of 200 a year since the organization was started. If the A. F. of L. cannot do better than that it had better let the loggers alone and turn its attentions in directions where they will get better returns. The woodsman is almost hopeless at that rate.

Now, if the I. W. W. cannot organize him, how is the A. F. of L. going to do it? Hasn't the I. W. W. got the advantage of a broader field of knowledge and up-to-dateness? Isn't it abreast, yea ahead of the times in methods and tactics? Aren't its organizers sincere in their work? Unlike the A. F. of L. organizers, they are not out for the graft. They are not "meal ticket artists"—a happy phrase, coined, I believe, by the I. W. W. to fit the case of A. F. of L. officials. In a word, haven't the I. W. W. organizers got their hearts, not their stomachs, in their work? Now what showing can the A. F. of L. make in the face of such great odds?

If the A. F. of L. does succeed in organizing the woodsman, there is only one deduction every loyal I. W. W.-ite can make—the bosses helped the A. F. of L. Not that the bosses want the loggers organized in the A. F. of L., but they must do something to prevent their mad rush into the I. W. W.; and the A. F. of L. is a capitalist organization, anyway, so it won't hurt them as good, efficient slaves to be in it, and it furnishes the necessary protection from the I. W. W.

The reader is advised to watch the I. W. W. press for the proof of this forecast. Of course, the A. F. of L. may not meet with any success. Such an outcome would be proof that the bosses are not opposed to the stampede of the woodsmen into the I. W. W. But we are not saying anything about that.

I am advised the I. W. W. is rushing all its available organizers out West now, to put the kibosh on the A. F. of L. pie artists. If this is true, the contest will be interesting, and Lumber Jack will surely reap some benefit from the contest—from competition. He will be organized in two opposing unions, but he will be organized, which is the first essential to his progress.

Once organized, the Syndicalists will begin to work on him, and they will not bother about the organization of his body. They will look to the organization of his brain and see that he gets it associated with the right ideas. Once he has been imbued with the Syndicalist ideas he will soon see to it that the organization he belongs to serves him, instead of he serving the organization.

In other words: When he has become imbued with Syndicalism, the organization he belongs to, whatever its name or form, will immediately accommodate itself to the Syndicalist idea.

So the Syndicalists have no favorite in this approaching contest for the organization of the big woodsman. What interests the Syndicalists most is that the big chap does get corralled in one or the other, or both, of the unions. The Syndicalists contend that the difference in the organizations will be in name only, so far as the woodsman is concerned. He has still to be taught after he gets into the organization. Round him up, boys, we are waiting to tap into his think tank.

JAY FOX.

Subscribe for THE SYNDICALIST.

INTERNATIONAL SYNDICALIST CONGRESS.
To the Members of Labor Unions and Syndicalist
Propagandist Bodies Everywhere:

Comrades and Fellow-workers, Greetings:—At present there exists no organization for bringing together the revolutionary Unionists of the world; this militates against effective Solidarity and hinders our progress to Emancipation.

There is the International Socialist Congress, with its permanent Bureau at Brussels, but we cannot be rendered impotent by having our International relations conducted through a body that exacts a pledge of parliamentarism and is composed of glib-tongued politicians who promise to do things for us, but cannot even if they wanted to. We must meet as Syndicalists and Direct Actionists to prepare and develop our own movement for economic emancipation free from the tutelage of all politicians.

There is the International Conference of Trade Union Centers which is held about every three years and which merely consists of the president and secretary from each country; thus there is no direct representation of the rank and file, and the officials are mostly conservative. We want a Congress where the militants of all countries can rub shoulders with each other, discuss tactics and methods, and by thus removing misunderstandings contribute to the growth of International Solidarity.

The International Bureau of Trade Union Centers at Berlin refuses to allow the vital questions of the general strike for Expropriation, Anti-militarism, and Sabotage to go on the agendas for the Conferences, but it would not count for much if they did, for the whole of the permanent officials are politicians; most of the delegates are conservative if not absolute reactionaries; and the whole business is controlled by Social Democrats.

At the present time, Unions sending resolutions dealing with Anti-militarism and other matters considered "political" are referred to the Congress of politicians—the International Socialist Congress.

We Syndicalists want a Congress of the rank and file, not of officials. We want to confer on means of action, not merely on pious resolutions. We want common action against war, no parliamentary palaver. We want International Solidarity expressed in direct action.

At a Congress of Trade Unionists held under the auspices of the Industrial Syndicalist Education League, held in the Holborn Hall, London, November 9 and 10, 1912, a resolution was passed instructing the I.S.E.L. to make arrangements for the holding of an International Syndicalist Congress in London.

The Syndicalists of America are asking for it.
The Syndicalists of France desire to see it.
The Syndicalists of Germany wish it.
The Syndicalists of all countries need it.
The Syndicalists of England are preparing for it.
The date has been provisionally fixed for May next during Whitsuntide.

Fellow-Workers, no International Syndicalist Congress has ever been held; therefore no time should be lost in forging the chain which is to link up the workers of the five continents. An International Syndicalist Congress has been desired for many years by Revolutionists of all countries; now is your chance to realize that dream. Let the first International Syndicalist Congress bring together the militant workers of all countries.

Select your delegates at once, send in your resolutions for tabulation, and communicate your decisions to me immediately.

On behalf of the I. S. E. L.

GUY BOWMAN, General Secretary,
4, Maude Terrace, Walthamstow, London.

EMMA GOLDMAN.

The noted revolutionist will lecture in Chicago on Syndicalism, politics and sex, at Oakland Music Hall, Cottage Grove avenue and Fortieth street, beginning Sunday afternoon, March 16, at 3 p. m., and continuing at 8 p. m. on following dates: March 16, 17, 18, 20 and 21.

Admission, 15 and 25 cents.

JAY FOX

Editor of THE SYNDICALIST, will speak at The Open Forum, Masonic Temple, March 9th, at 8 p. m. Subject: "Syndicalism."

LEAGUE No. 1, NELSON, B. C.

No. 1 is doing not so bad, thank you; though the work is necessarily being done in a quiet manner, owing to the lack of a competent speaker.

Our chief propaganda efforts of late have expressed themselves in a good-sized, free, circulating library, consisting chiefly of books on the "dismal science," social problems and other educational matter, interspersed with some fiction as a bait; and the free distribution of the English and American "Syndicalist," and of several anarchistic books and pamphlets—not that we subscribe to the anarchist philosophy, but from the standpoint that we have found the anarchists fairly consistent in their support of the working class, and therefore deserving of consideration and support.

Some six or seven months ago the W. F. miners in the surrounding district decided they could stand a raise in wages; but not seeing their way clear to ignore (as the U. M. workers did) the Dominion law regarding these matters, known as the "Lemieux Arbitration Act" (and among the miners as the "Lemon Act"), or possibly through the legally inclined disposition of their officers, a conciliation board was called.

At the time the miners decided upon this action, conditions were favorable for the enforcement of their demands. Work was fairly plentiful, and the supply of men not by any means excessive. Also, the price of the staple metal products soaring.

Now that the board has sat upon their demands—(and "sat" upon them very effectively, too, an unfavorable decision having been handed down a week ago) the miners are just as they were, and in fact more so; the price of metals having dropped.

They have thus lost half a year, with less favorable conditions to contend with; and will now have to gather their forces together to enforce their demands through the regular channel, or else hunt their holes and be good.

The Lemieux Act, like all arbitration acts, has thus faithfully fulfilled its mission to the capitalist class, by stifling the workers when ready for action; and the Socialists may now parrot to their hearts' content, "Why don't you vote right?" In fairness to the miners it must be said that their demand is based mainly upon the high cost of living,—which is by no means a decreasing quantity—and the fact that their wages have remained practically stationary for about ten years; so there is still hopes that they may take the bull by the horns.

The listless condition of the once well-known "fighting W. F. M." is pitiful in the extreme; and the cause is well apparent. Entirely dominated by a group of Socialist politicians, who, while believing in the industrial form of union, and they go no further than the "form," being opposed to sabotage and other militant tactics as immoral and anarchistic (see John M. O'Neil's official magazine), place it, and for that matter any form of union, as secondary to the election of parliamentary candidates, the W. F. M. have become merely a tail to the Socialist party kite, donating funds and candidates upon request.

Thus the development of the union, as a union, along militant lines, has been entirely ignored—in fact, retarded; and the experience of the international unions, particularly those of France and England, remains to them a closed book.

Will the men ever wake up, and think for themselves?

We took advantage of the situation and sent several copies of Foster's "Syndicalism" to all the locals in Canada; and intend to follow up with the paper, trusting that some of them may accidentally fall into the men's hands.

We would like the various leagues to get their heads together, with the intention of perfecting a scheme to bring the various unions in the building trades into one union, somewhat along the lines being advocated by the English. Their experience will be of great benefit to us, and should be sought.

We must advertise to further our propaganda, and to do so effectively, we must produce action.

Tactics, more tactics; and then some. Give the spittoon a rest.

SECRETARY.

HERO WORSHIP.

I am very much opposed to that form of idolatry known as hero worship. Not that I don't think men and women of worth should be highly thought of and their work widely advertised. But there is a very common tendency in the average person that makes use of such opportunities to indulge itself. I refer to that enemy of the people—mental laziness.

Give the average person, some public man, whose ideas strike him right and he will thereupon cease ever again attempting to use his own little think bottle except as a receptacle for his hero's ideas. The average person will swallow without mastication every idea his hero propounds, and as a result of this process of thought we have a race of mental dispeptics.

Carlyle and Emerson were strong believers in the big man, the hero. Emerson said the history of the world was the history of its great men, which of course is true, if taken either of two ways, or both.

First, only the record of what the big men did is written in our history; second, the great men are great only because of the tendency noted above, that the average man clings to the active mind and makes it great by his worship and his mental stagnation.

And this tendency is not alone true of the average conservative citizen, it is also true of the average radical. Carl Marx has as devout and foolish worshippers as Roosevelt or J. Christ.

Indeed, I have seen an even greater fawning to the limelighters in the radical movement than in the conservative ranks.

This is a tendency that must be checked by a proper realization of the fact that the hero is a dangerous person who is liable to play you false at any time as the price of his own agrandizement. It must be checked because of the stagnant influence it has on the mind of the worshiper.

Honor the men and women who have contributed, and are today contributing, to the welfare of their kind, but go them one better if you can. That's the attitude.

Don't fawn at the feet of your favorite, you will make a faker out of him.

Don't be a worshiper, be a thinker. Don't be a mental parasite, be a man.

FRED MOE.

CALL FOR GENERAL STRIKE.

A general strike of workingmen from Maine to California is being agitated in San Francisco as a protest against the power of the United States Steel Corporation.

Resolutions advocating a great "protest strike" and uttering scathing condemnation of the steel trust have been adopted by the San Francisco Labor Council, denouncing the verdict in the Indianapolis dynamite case.

In part, the resolutions are as follows:

Resolved, That we request every local union affiliated in this city and state to immediately request their national organization to assist financially, to the end that proper presentation may be made to the Appellate Court for a new trial; be it further

Resolved, That in reply to the question asked by Mr. Drew: "What are you going to do with the Iron Workers' Union now?" and as a protest against the criminal and dominant power of the United States steel trust, we favor the sentiment now strongly maintaining throughout the country for the declaration of a general strike throughout the length and breadth of this nation; be it further

Resolved, That copies of this statement and resolutions be forwarded to international unions for indorsement and approval, and a copy be sent to the press.

"Free Speech for Radicals," by Theo. Schroeder. Free Speech League, 56 E. 59th St., New York. Price 25c.

Theo. Schroeder is beyond all approach the best informed lawyer in the country on the law as it relates to free speech. He is attorney for the Free Speech League and will take the case of our editor, convicted in Tacoma, Wash., for "tending to create disrespect for the law," before the United States Supreme Court.

The tendency of the times toward the suppression of free speech is an indicator to the growing fear of the master class of the labor agitators.

SYNDICALIST LEAGUE OF ST. LOUIS AND VICINITY

Headquarters 1214 Franklin Ave.; Open 7 to 11 p.m.

Week Days; also Sunday Afternoons and Evenings.

Business Meeting Every Saturday at 8 p.m.

Moving picture operators a few years ago were working for \$8 to \$10 a week and some boys were even secured for less. Recently they began to organize into the A. F. of L. and have now, with the exception of about four places, every place in town organized. They have a scale of \$18 per week, about double what they began with. This organization is composed mostly of young men who will undoubtedly play a great part in the labor movement, from a Syndicalist point of view.

The Brass Molders have been waging a hard fight against the Moore & Jones Brass Foundry. Hand bills are being posted advertising the names and addresses of scabs. These hand bills have been posted on fences and even on the houses where the scabs live. One of the scabs by the name of Henry Becker has been well advertised and the fact made known that he is a member of Hyde Park Lodge No. 44 Loyal Order of Moose. The company is badly crippled and the strike seems about won.

The Waiters' Union, Local No. 20, about eight or nine months ago was almost dead. The reason for this was that members of the union would get together in groups and organize clubs and then have the boss get his help from the clubs instead of the union. This, of course, took the vitality out of the regular organization. The local then resolved that these clubs must be put out of "commission," and put it into effect, with the result that the boss had to get help direct from the local. The result was magic. The local began to take on new life and grew by leaps and bounds. It grew from a sickly organization of a couple of hundred to a fighting organization of almost seven hundred at the present time.

The waiters unionized three big cafes here lately, and are now waging war against one of the most bitter opponents of organized labor, the Melshemer's Cafe, which is backed by the Bosses' Association. The firm, in order not to employ union help, secured scabs from a German waiters' club, which is not connected with any labor union, but purely a waiters' club (?) whose purpose is to monopolize jobs for its scabby members only. If this strike is won, which it undoubtedly will be, it will mean the death knell of rival and duel waiters' organizations in this vicinity. Then Local No. 20 will have the field all to itself and will march on to other and greater victories. Long live the fighting Local No. 20 of the Waiters' Union, and not only Local No. 20, but also the Cooks and Bartenders' Union that has joined hands in this fight.

A WORD TO LUMBER WORKERS.

There will be a lot of organizing done this coming year in the lumber industry. The Shingle Weavers are making preparations to organize the shingle weavers, loggers and saw mill workers into one union. Now it is up to us, the rank and file, to educate ourselves so that we won't go astray, and so that we'll be able to make a good fight in the future.

I have been organizing in the lumber industry for the past two years, and have learned a few lessons. Chief of these is that we must organize and fight if we would have freedom. Begging and voting are worthless and should be things of the past with us rank and file. We know what we want—freedom, and we know that we must fight for it; therefore, let everyone do his part. Syndicalism teaches us the way to win.

I have been getting Syndicalism started among the members of our union as I see the great need of educational work among the great numbers of new members coming in. We work so hard that we have little time to study the problem of our class, so we must teach each other direct action and solidarity as best we may.

The Syndicalist is our paper, so let's boost for it. We are doing things in Everett.

A Member of the Shingle Weavers' Union.

THE REVOLT OF LABOR

The railroad firemen have won a point in their controversy with the railroads. They have compelled them to agree to arbitrate the difficulty under the Erdman Act. Their victory is somewhat similar to that of the Chinaman sentenced to death by torture who succeeded in getting the executioner to kill him quickly and thus avoid a lingering death. For arbitration of any kind is death to the worker's hopes and demands. The only point in favor of arbitration under the Erdman Act over the ordinary brand of arbitration is that it is swifter, as the award must be made within thirty days, whereas under the usual procedure workers sometimes have to wait as much as a year until the leisurely arbitration board decides to bring in an award. Meanwhile discouragement and disorganization creeps into their ranks, and they are forced to accept whatever sops are thrown to them. Eight months ago the street car men of Chicago, both surface and elevated, were ready and willing to tie up Chicago with one of the greatest strikes it has ever known. Their difficulties were referred to an arbitration board which hasn't brought in an award yet, nor is it showing any signs of doing so. Meanwhile the workers have lost their strike fever and it would be next to impossible to re-arouse them whatever the board's decision. At least the firemen (who voted 9 to 10 to strike) wont have utterly forgotten their grievances by the time their Erdman Act board brings in its awards.

* * *

Of late there has developed a considerable agitation in the Order of Railroad Telegraphers for the adoption of the territorial agreement instead of the agreement by individual roads. If we are to have agreements at all the territorial agreement is far better than the individual road agreement. Practically all the brotherhoods have adopted the territorial form. By it the workers on all the roads in a certain district (for instance, the eastern district contains fifty-four roads) make common agreements with their employers. Thus at least a portion of the union isolation is avoided. The next step will undoubtedly be for all the districts to make common agreements.

Naturally the officers of the O. R. T. are fighting the proposed betterment. The Mrs. Partingtons never die.

* * *

The features of the past two weeks in the West Virginia coal strike were the flooding of the districts with trained assassins, better known as the militia, and the arrest of Mother Jones. The sending of the troops needs no comment. The arrest of Mother Jones was made under the pretense that she advised the striking miners to capture the state capitol. Had she advised them to do this in the "civilized" way 10,000 years hence, via the ballot, her advice would have been laudable. But as she advised them to do it now in the only possible way—by direct action—she must be thrown in the bastille as a dangerous agitator. Mother Jones has been released on bond. With the miners in their present ugly mood, to keep her in custody might be very dangerous.

* * *

The revolt of the garment workers is still on. In addition to the great New York strike there are 40,000 workers on strike in Philadelphia, Boston, Rochester and Buffalo. In Chicago the bosses have staved off strikes only by refusing to do any of the scab work, and by granting improved conditions to their workers. In New York there are still about 65,000 workers on strike, some 60,000 having had their demands granted. The strikes in other cities have helped the New York strikers materially. The bosses have been unable to send their work to these cities, as heretofore. As a consequence they are hard hit by the strike. Their associations are crumbling, and a complete victory for the heroic strikers seems inevitable.

* * *

The A. F. of L. now has under advisement the proposition of organizing the shop men on all railroad lines in the eastern territory. A remarkable feature of the plan is that it is proposed by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen. This organization is beginning to realize that it is almost impossible for it to organize if the shop men and other railroad workers are unorganized. This mutual dependence upon each other is the factor

that forces labor unions to federate, amalgamate, etc., and the one that will eventually compel the railroad brotherhoods to join the A. F. of L.

In all probability the Federation of Federations (western shopmen) will soon be extended to the eastern territory.

* * *

The three principal unions of railway workers of Great Britain have been merged into one federation. These unions have tried the old methods of sectional unionism and have found them wanting. Hence the new federation. A feature of fusion (which some American trade union rebels might profitably note) was that some of the men most active in forming the new federation are also the most active opponents of the Syndicalists, who have labored long and assiduously to bring about this very federation.

* * *

We offer the following, not because of its intrinsic value—as it has been reiterated time and again by rebels—but because of its source: "As soon as I know a strike is lost I recommend that it be called off. I do not believe in keeping men out of work after they have lost a strike. I found that to do so embitter them against the union. The best policy is to admit defeat, go back to work and keep the members in the union."—Pres. W. D. Mahon of Street Railway Employees.

* * *

At their convention the miners in the Illinois district of the U. M. W. of A., numbering 82,000 members, adopted a resolution condemning war and calling for a general strike of miners in case war is declared by or against the United States. The resolution will be presented for endorsement at the coming U. M. W. of A. convention. This resolution is but one of the many evidences of the new spirit of progressivism and revolt that is permeating the A. F. of L.

* * *

A proposition is now being agitated in England to fuse the co-operatives and the trades unions. The former number 2,750,000, the latter 2,225,000 members. Should the fusion be accomplished, the capital brought together will be the greatest of any concern in England. Not to mention the millions of the trades unions, the co-operatives have an aggregate capital of some \$280,000,000. During the past year they did a business of \$580,000,000.

* * *

C. B. Dowd, dynamiting conspirator (?), just released on bail from Fort Leavenworth federal prison, is helping the metal workers in Rochester in their general strike for a 10% wage increase. An attempt will be made to extend the strike locally, as far as possible, in all the metal trades.

* * *

In the Akron strike of 15,000 rubber workers the I. W. W. and A. F. of L. are co-operating. Is this the calm before the storm?

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Scores of girls at Wellesley College have gone on strike for the right to entertain their male friends.

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Demands by Boston & Maine station employes for a wage increase have been granted.

W. Z. FOSTER.

SOCIETY NOTES.

The McNulty faction of electrical workers on strike in Chicago have been injunctionized by the Postal Telegraph Cable Co. The parties of the second part insist that the party of the first part is using an ax on its wires.

* * *

A fresh first, second and third coated job of varnish can be highly decorated in an approved architectural manner by the judicious distribution of dry aluminum bronze powder in the air currents that waft to and fro.

* * *

Kew Garden Pavilion went up in smoke. A suffragette remarked, "Perfectly lovely," as she and her partner lammed the judge with a varied assortment of law books.

* * *

A discharged waiter picked up a dead dog. Went back at noon and said to the proprietor as he laid it on the counter, "Here's another! Two bits more, please!" Weinies?

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New York's gangsters are using maxim silencers to silence their opponents.

A fink shop job of washing woodwork or decorated walls can be soaped from the top down and washed up. This is calculated to give the boss the stomach ache.

* * *

Toronto medical college students got sore at a butcher. They hung a stiff on his meat hook over night. Prospective customers—not off that hook!

* * *

Lloyd George's house went skyward. It suffered from suffragitis. Mrs. Pankhurst says, "I'm to blame," in a George Washington tone.

* * *

Engine cylinders are expensive articles. A clogged lubricator means a cut cylinder. Dirt in the oil can means a clogged lubricator.

* * *

A little too much brown japan dryers in that floor stain and the owner will lose his socks.

J. A. JONES.

The Hon. Wm. Jno. Montague Armstrong, son of Baron Armstrong the great English ship builder, has declared himself a Syndicalist. The Hon. Longname is a kid, being not yet 21 years old. Unless he is made of very superior caliber, when he becomes older and realizes the relations of general strikes to profit and loss, he will get rid of his Syndicalistic notions.

THE WORKERS' UNIVERSITY.

Books and Pamphlets For Sale by the Syndicalist Publishing Association.

A Physician in the House, Dr. J. H. Greer.....	\$2.00
Ancient Society, Lewis H. Morgan.....	\$1.50
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HENDERSON BAY ROUTE—Steamer Tyconda leaves Commercial Dock, Tacoma, for all points on Henderson Bay, including Home, week days at 2:30 p. m., returning next morning. Sunday at 8 a. m., returning same day.

NORTH BAY ROUTE—Steamer Tyrus leaves Commercial Dock, Tacoma, for all points on North Bay every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 a. m., returning next morning.

COMMUNISTIC LIBRARY—Meets every Thursday night from 8 to 10 o'clock; every Sunday morning from 10 to 12 o'clock. Free lessons in English and Esperanto. Books in any language free. 711 Hudson street, Trenton, N. J.

FOR SALE—Cheap—In Home Colony; an acre with four-room house, chicken house, bearing trees; good view. Apply M., Rasnick Home, Lakebay, Wash.

"WHY?" A magazinelet of the Revolution. 1423 S. Washington street, Tacoma, Wash. Monthly, 60c a year.