

THE SYNDICALIST

Vol. 3. No. 14.

CHICAGO, ILL., SEPTEMBER 1-15, 1913.

WHOLE No. 62

The Passing Show

THE SHINGLE WEAVERS' STRIKE.

The shingle weavers of Ballard, Wash., struck on the 7th of April, last, for an increase in wages and recognition of their union. After a bitter fight of over three months' duration they called the strike off on July 14, and returned to work.

It usually takes courage to quit. There is the fear of being called "a quitter," an epithet no union man likes to have thrown at him.

The Ballard weavers are not quitters. They are tacticians. They have laid sentiment aside, and applied mathematics to their case. In this they have made a long step in the right direction.

Sentiment has its place, no doubt, but a shingle mill is no place for it. It's figures that rule there, cold, unfeeling figures, and the striking weavers were keen enough to recognize that new truth, left their sentiment at home, voted the strike off and went back to the mills, not like whipped dogs, but as reasoning men, obeying the weight of circumstances piled up against them.

This action of the Ballard shingle weavers is evidence of the fact that even working men learn from experience. There is a certain set of cynics in society that can think of working men only as a bunch of boneheads, who must be herded and driven like oxen, and can never understand anything but a course command or the prod of a bayonet.

And we have, unfortunately, some of this breed of men in the labor movement. You can recognize them easily by their leaning toward strong government. They believe the state or some other institution, consisting of themselves, should be all-powerful to command the dunces and tell them where to get off at.

The Ballard weavers seem to have known where to pull the bell at because of a trip they took in a similar car in 1906. In that year they fought for four months and were beaten so badly that it took them seven years to recover.

They were green sentimentalists then, today they are reasoning tacticians, who, considering all the facts in the case, decided upon a retreat in good order, keeping their organization intact. Now they can bide their time, strengthen their ranks, and wait for another favorable opportunity to strike.

Knowing this the bosses will be tame, and some of them are, indeed, paying the advance asked for, thus unofficially recognizing the union, and what do the weavers care about the bosses putting their names down, if they put the cash down instead.

When the workers use their striking powers intelligently there is no force that can defeat them. The Ballard weavers give the lie to the bonehead theory. These men will control their work absolutely, by and by.

SOCIALISTS AND ECONOMICS.

The Socialists are bragging loudly about what they did for the Paterson strike by giving the strikers the freedom of the streets in the neighboring town of Haledon, where one of the clan is mayor. On the other hand some of the leaders say Haledon "liberty" was a curse to the strike; holding that in the streets of Paterson was the place for the strikers to be fighting for free assemblage against the government, instead of picnicking in a neighboring town.

One thing is sure: If Haledon was a source of danger to the bosses they would find a way to put the kibosh on its Socialist mayor. The county or state officials would be turned onto him. Vigilantes would be organized and Mr. Socialist Mayor would be invited to resign at the point of a gun, like the union-miner sheriff at Cripple Creek.

The real strength of capitalism lies in the fact that capitalists have no regard for their own laws when these laws stand between them and victory.

Why should they? The laws are not made to endanger property, but to protect it, and when by some accident an official, unfriendly to property, gets elected, ways are found to prevent him from doing any damage.

We will always have rulers who are in accord with the laws and the economic interests behind said laws. When the economic interests change, the laws change automatically, and the rulers follow.

A Socialist official has no place in capitalist economics. He is like an atheist in a christian church, and just as much of a joke. He is a reformer who raises his right hand to a God he does not believe in, and swears to uphold and enforce the capitalist laws of property he does not believe in. He is twice a fraud to start with, and he is also a marxian economist, standing on his head, if there is any juice in the materialist conception of history, according to which the Socialist official is not due until Socialism has first been achieved.

Thus, to real Socialists the mayor of Haledon is a good deal of a burlesque, and when Socialists seriously consider him a factor in the Paterson strike I begin to look searchingly into their Socialism.

LABOR DAY.

In Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle and other cities there will be no Labor Day parades. No demonstrations, except that picnics have been arranged where the workers will congregate and have a good time. In general, throughout the country, the day will be observed as a day of merriment, having no other signification.

The time was when Labor Day meant something more. Labor Day was originally conceived as a protest against capitalism, against wage slavery. The workers said in effect, "We will show the master class that we have some independence left; that we are not slaves in mind if we are in body, and that we will not rest till we have broken this bond of physical slavery, and we hereby protest and declare our intentions to be free."

What is the meaning of this change of sentiment towards Labor Day? Does it mean degeneration? Certainly a surface view of the matter would indicate as much. But on closer examination it will be seen that far from any such condition existing the contrary would perhaps better describe it.

The labor movement has passed through its primitive stage, and become an institution in perpetual protest and rebellion against conditions as they are. It no longer makes threats by show of numbers on parade one day in 365, it builds its forces every day in the year; it is protesting and strengthening its forces every working hour of the day, and evenings also, and it has come to regard Labor Day as a fitting day to rest from its arduous task. Such is the evolution of Labor Day from a day of revolt and protest to a day of rest, and while The Syndicalist does not object to a day's rest it urges the workers to properly earn that rest by giving 364 days of live thought and action to the one movement of all others that is worth their while; the one movement that gives returns for the time spent on it, the greatest movement in the world—the labor movement.

TOM MANN IN CHICAGO.

Tom Mann, the greatest figure in the International Syndicalist movement, the man whose agitation in England is largely responsible for the rapid evolution of the trade unions of that country from isolated, squabbling crafts towards the goal of a compact industrial solidarity, will speak in North Side Turner Hall, 824 N. Clark street, Chicago, September 11th, under the auspices of the Trade Union League. Admission, 25c.

This will be a rare chance for Chicago workers to hear about the needs of their unions from the lips of this brilliant English fellow worker.

HEARST AND UNION LABOR.

Hearst, like Roosevelt, is a capitalist who is revolutionary in his methods. He will strike a hard blow for you today, while on the morrow he will shoot cannon balls into you, and on the day after he will come 'round and say he didn't mean it; that he always loved you, anyway, and won't you make up with him again, especially if you have him on the unfair list.

Hearst is on the unfair list of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and in spite of that, Simon O'Donnell and a few politicians in the Building Trades' Council, put a motion through that body endorsing a Labor Day edition of Hearst's scab paper with O'Donnell as editor.

Only a Hearst would have the audacity to attempt such a thing; and of the labor men who are aiding and abetting his bold effort to get back into the good graces of labor, the language has no printable epithet ugly enough to do justice to their infamy.

A great storm of protest has been raised, and if the thing does appear no one will read it.

Hearst for gall; O'Donnell of—nothing.

TAILORS WANT AN INDUSTRIAL UNION.

The Journeymen Tailors' Union at its convention held recently in Bloomington, Ill., decided to extend its jurisdiction so it will embrace the entire field of needlework.

There are now four organizations in this industry, and the tailors want to push the idea of one organization forward with force by the passage of the resolution to extend its jurisdiction. What the rank and file of the tailors really want is amalgamation of all existing unions and they take this means to force the issue. The officials of the organizations are opposed to the amalgamation of the needle workers, and this action of the tailors, combined with the agitation initiated among the rank and file of New York, noted elsewhere, will have the desired effect, and the near future will witness a union of needle workers that will eclipse anything yet dreamed of.

PUTTING LABOR OUT OF BUSINESS.

At Erie, Pa., the National Association of Manufacturers has started war upon the workers in the metal industry. Twenty shops are out and the bosses are scouring the country for scabs. They evidently want to clean up the metal trades one town at a time, and Erie has been selected as the first.

But the day is long past when unionism can be cleaned up. The growth of unionism is as sure as the evolution of society.

SOCIALISTS LEAVING THE PARTY.

According to the official report the Socialist party has lost fifty thousand members within the last few months.

This is a queer showing for a revolutionary party. It would be interesting to know just why these comrades quit paying dues to the S. P. Has the party grown too radical for them, or have they grown too radical for the party?

Death has removed the greatest figure in European Social Democracy. August Bebel died in Zurich, August 13, at the age of 73. Among the German Socialists he was highly revered and actually ruled the party since the death of Liebknecht.

Conservative centralism still rules in the International Typographical Union. By a large majority its convention voted down a reorganization plan that would decentralize the power in the union.

The potters' union evidently appreciates the value of the printed word. At its convention in Atlantic City it made an appropriation of \$10,000 for the purpose of establishing a printing plant.

JAY FOX.

THE SYNDICALIST

FORMERLY THE AGITATOR

Issued twice a month, on the first and fifteenth, by
The Syndicalist Publishing Association (Not
Inc.), 2236 W. Division street, Chicago, Ill.
JAY FOX, Editor. W. Z. FOSTER, Manager.

Entered as second-class matter January 20, 1913,
at the postoffice at Chicago, Illinois, under the act
of March 3, 1879.

Subscriptions:

One dollar a year.
Six months, fifty cents.
Three months, twenty-five cents.
Bundle order, 10 and over, 1 cent a copy.

If freedom is the condition of progress, all invasion of that freedom is bad, and should be resisted, whether it is practiced by one upon another, by one upon many or by many upon one.

FRANCIS D. TANDY.

THE PATERSON STRIKE—ITS LESSON.

After a five months' fight against hunger and gunmen the silk workers of Paterson have been forced to return to work without gaining their ends.

There is much criticism now of the way the I. W. W. conducted the strike. That is natural. If the poorest tactics win they are all right, if the best tactics lose they are all wrong, because victory is the measure of success. There are dozens of wise guys stepping up now with, "I told you so" on their tongues, and the leaders of the late strike are busy defending their failure and explaining that they were not the cause of it. As to the conduct of the strike it is plain now that a closer application to the old practices with reference to individual settlements would have been the wisest policy.

Unlike Lawrence, the Paterson employers were many and practically without organization. A wise leadership would have observed this at the start and would have contrived to get them pulling against each other by negotiating settlements with some, thereby weakening the enemy and increasing the strikers' strength.

But the I. W. W. has a theory to go by that forbids such "dickering" and the consequence was that the employers, not being allowed to scab on each other, formed an organization and starved the workers back to their tasks.

In no other respect has this big strike, conducted by the most revolutionary workers in the country, differed from the everyday "pure and simple" strike. And in this case it is conceded the new tactic was disastrous to the strikers.

The "new unionists" were full of ideas, but they found it takes a highly trained set of workers to put fancy tactics into effect. They must have learned the truism that it takes education, organization and experience to conduct a strike along revolutionary lines. They were up against the real thing in Paterson—a mass of workers untrained in the art of striking, without funds to sustain a long strike, without organization behind them; a mass that was in no way capable to withstand a long siege without great suffering—and that they held out for nearly five months is one of the marvels of the times. It shows the power of endurance and the solidarity that is developing in the ranks of toil.

But, why did the I. W. W. keep these workers out so long in the face of its theory of short strikes? Why did they copy the old A. F. of L. tactic, a tactic the A. F. of L. is discarding, as can be seen by the report of the Shingle Weavers' strike?

It was a condition and not a theory that confronted them in Paterson; and, while they were able to play upon the sentiments of the mass and prevent the making of individual settlements, they dared not attempt the intermittent strike, fearing that once the strikers went back they would not come out again at the call of time, and thus the new tactic would prove a fizzle. Why didn't they sabotage the jobs? Not a case was reported anywhere. The same answer—they lacked the "timber," they had no trained workers who understood these things.

The I. W. W. made a poor showing in Paterson and a lot of the criticism I've read is coming to

them; and their "answers" have not cleared up the matter, for they have left the salient facts untouched. Men don't like to discuss their own failures except to try to justify or deny them, and the I. W. W. has no new tactics in this line.

No strike is ever really lost. The Paterson strikers won some valuable experience for themselves and the labor movement in general, and one of the plainest lessons, as it looks to me, is the need for revolutionary education among the workers before we can expect them to carry out successfully new strike tactics.

This means a lot more than what the I. W. W. has been doing these last eight years. You can't teach men anything by standing on a soap box and throwing stink pots at them, except to hate you. You can't decrease the number of unions by starting new ones. You can't bring about harmony in the labor movement by creating discord.

The Socialist Labor Party had amply demonstrated all this before the I. W. W. was born, and every rebel outside of the few who still clung to the S. L. P. knew it. But men have the habit of patching their mistakes and calling them new ideas. The I. W. W. occupies the same position in the minds of the organized workers that the S. L. P. "alliance" did—"a bunch of Socialist soreheads trying to divide the labor movement."

The labor movement offers the best field for education, and rebels are finding out, thanks to the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance and the I. W. W., that they can carry on their propaganda with less friction and more effect inside the old unions than by attempting to start new and separate unions on the outside. The foundation for a great labor edifice is there, two million strong, let us all dig in and help build the superstructure.

J. F.

LABOR WAR MUST BE ENDED.

The war within the ranks of the electrical workers, which has been raging for several years, has given us all food for thought. It seems there is no longer hope for reconciliation unless the rank and file get together and bring it about.

The officials tried it and failed, because one set of officers wanted to swallow up the other and neither was patriotic enough to be swallowed.

The A. F. of L. tried to do it, by official mandate, and miserably failed because official mandates don't settle anything of importance in the labor movement any more, except that sometimes they settle the hash of the officials who issue them.

Does the rank and file of the electrical workers want one union in their trade? If so they should be willing to make concessions on both sides; and if they approach the subject with that feeling a settlement can be had, and the men who handle the electric spark can go down the line hand in hand, and present a united front to the common enemy, the employers of the country.

If the men regard a settlement as something worth having they should be willing to pay something for it. Surely neither side wants to reap a harvest at the expense of the other side. Neither side can want to exploit the other. Surely neither side can think it is all right and the other side all wrong. So long as either side holds that unfriendly, bigoted attitude on the question they will continue to scab on each other and to slug one another to the eternal joy of the bosses. And I say, let them go to it. Let them scab and slug till they hammer some sense into each other's heads. For that is the way we all find things out, only a lot of us have learned the lesson long ago.

If the rank and file have had enough and are being kept apart by the job holding officials it is up to the militants in both factions to get busy and agitate for a joint convention to be held, barring all officers from participation. Let the convention be composed of the men from the bottom, who did the fighting and felt the consequences of it. Only such men is it worth while to get together. Only from a convention of such men is there any hope for profitable result.

Let this convention be given power and specific instructions to make one union out of the two; and let every member pledge himself in advance to accept the result of the convention. Let this convention elect a set of officers for the amalgamated body and let the electrical workers of the country get down to its original business again—that of fighting the bosses.

We of the other trades have been caused no end of trouble on account of this foolish quarrel and the time is coming when we will say to both: "Get together or get out of the labor movement till you do, we have had enough of your child's play." Why not? When two boys start a scrap in the meeting that disturbs the whole proceedings don't we put them out in the yard where they can beat each other up to their heart's content without interfering with the peaceful pursuits of civilized men.

It is the Rieds and McNulty's that are keeping the electrical workers divided. Both sets of officers naturally want to hold their jobs.

Then there is the foolish pride of "winning" over the other fellow that runs clear through the ranks of the men as well as through the officers.

When the men come to the point where they will realize that the important thing is to win over the bosses and not over each other, they will devise ways and means to remove the official impediment that stands in the way of their amalgamation. When the men thoroughly realize what good use the boss is making of their family fight, how he is pitting one faction against another, as is being done at this moment in the light and power strike in California, they will as a matter of self-preservation become more reasonable towards each other and awaken to the fact that there is nothing more utterly stupid than a quarrel in the ranks of organized labor, whose foundation philosophy is unity and peace.

J. F.

NOTES FROM WASHINGTON.

A strike was called at Ballard, Wash., by Local No. 12, International Shingle Weavers, Sawmill Workers and Woodmen, on the 7th of last April. The rank and file of the organization backed them up in their struggle with the mill companies, but after being out a little over three months they realized that they were losing out, their places being filled by all kinds of strike breakers. So they decided to call the strike off.

Also the National Industrial Union of Forest and Lumber Workers of the I. W. W. called a strike on June 5th for the eight-hour day, and a general betterment of conditions. But lack of organization compelled them to return after being out a month. However, camp conditions were much bettered, even though they failed to get the eight-hour day.

Sabotage is the strike weapon of the future. The day of the long strikes is over in the lumber industry, because the workers realize that they win nothing by them.

Now, since both organizations have chosen the same weapons, there is not a great deal of difference between them. They are both composed of working men, and should have no fight with each other.

I have been a wage slave in the lumber industry of Washington for twenty years, and have watched the gradual disappearance of the timber. Soon there will not be much left. When that time comes what will we do? It will be necessary for us to have access to the land. How will that be brought about?

By solidarity and direct action. The workers must fight their own battles and choose their own weapons.

DAN PETERSON.

ONE UNION FOR GARMENT WORKERS.

The garment workers of New York are agitating for the amalgamation of the four international unions in the needle industry.

In the letter addressed to the local unions they give their reasons for the proposed move as follows:

"Whereas, in times of dispute, while one of the said international is striking, the members of the other internationals are working, and by doing so we split up our forces, while the manufacturers are organized in powerful associations, supporting each other in times of strikes and lockouts, a fact well known to all of you. And what is more, they have at their disposal all the government forces also, while we workers have but one weapon and that our army of men and women, which can only be effectively united when all our industry is in one large organization—one great international, instead of four."

REVOLT OF COPPER MINERS.

Defenseless Men and Women Attacked by Militia and Thugs—Were Driven to Resistance.

(A. F. of L. Service.)

Calumet, Mich.—On the 23d of July, 15,000 men laid down their tools and came out on strike.

Previously these men had worked in the copper mines of the Upper Peninsula. These mines are known as the Calumet and Hecla Copper Company, and are owned and controlled by men who have their homes in Brookline, suburb of Boston, Mass. Some time before coming out on strike, these men had organized and became members of the Western Federation of Miners. They had been working a so-called ten-hour day. They were more than an average of eleven hours per day underground. Their wages would not average \$2.20 per day. I have seen their statements and made a personal investigation of the matter. As low as 27 cents has been paid for nine shifts' work; another got \$1.61 for nineteen shifts' work. Some received as high as \$3 per day.

And to cap it all, the companies decided to make the miners handle the drilling machine single (they weigh over 200 pounds) which had formerly been handled double. When a person knows what it means drilling hard rock, with a machine of that type, operated by compressed air, sometimes on a staging up in a slope amid dangerous roof and hanging rock, with not one breath of air except the exhaust from the machine, the light just a small flicker in the dark, you can understand why they revolt.

The men held meetings, decided to request recognition of their union, an eight-hour working day, a minimum wage of \$3 for underground men, and a proportionate increase for those working above ground, and that two men be allowed to work on the machine as formerly.

Masters Refuse a Conference.

They requested a joint conference with representatives of the company to try to come to an agreement on these questions. Their requests were met with scorn and contempt, and a decision to strike followed. At first the company refused to take the situation seriously, stating that the strike would collapse before the end of a week; that they had ruled those men for fifty years and had never recognized a union or treated with their men in that way; that they had always done as they pleased, and that they proposed to continue to do so. The strike is starting on the fourth week, and out of their seventy-nine mines they have not been able to get one ton of ore mined, trammed and hoisted, notwithstanding the press has announced that the strike was over and practically all the men back to work.

Since the companies have realized that the men are in earnest they have tried every means known to the most vicious, heartless, and conscienceless slave-driving corporation to break the strike, but so far have failed utterly. The governor sent in the militia. The sheriff gave his office to the Waddell-Mahon strong-arm gunmen, imported from the slum districts of New York and other large cities.

The press has maliciously slandered and deliberately lied about the miners' cause, the miners, and their representatives. The militiamen have driven their horses on top of peaceful citizens on the sidewalks, beaten up and intimidated the miners in every way known to a professional strike breaker in an effort to discourage or scare them into going back to work as slaves to the copper mine owners. In fact, Gen. Abbey, in command of the troops, only differs from Chief Strike-Breaker Farley in that his work is done in a government uniform, in the name of the state, and is paid direct out of the people's money for his service. He is even more able than Farley would be, in my judgment, in using the militia as scab herders, strike-breakers, and black-leg protectors.

Brutal Militia and Guards Assault and Kill.

A certain living mummy, who never did a day's work in his life, and don't know anything about what it is to earn a dollar by honest labor, once said a scab was a hero. Well, Gen. Abbey, under Gov. Ferris, is trying to make a hero of that kind out of the militia of the state of Michigan. They have shot people in the back, brow-beaten men and boys, insulted women and girls, and, after filling up on beer and whisky sent them by the mine own-

ers, swaggered up and down the streets with their big guns and sabers, a disgrace to the rottenest government on earth, let alone ours; a standing menace to peace and decency.

The imported Waddell-Mahon man-killers have murdered two men in cold blood, the most cowardly and wantonly brutal and utterly unwarranted butchery I ever had any knowledge of. They seriously wounded two others, powder burnt the face of a baby, and shot a bullet through its clothes, while it was being held in the arms of its terror-stricken mother, while three other little tots were crouched around her knees. These people were in their own home, engaged in taking their evening meal, when the outrages were committed. Hundreds of others have been insulted and beaten up by these gutter ruffians and the militia has always been on the scene to encourage them in their devilish work. Notwithstanding all these things, the men are standing as firm as the day they came out, as solid as a stone wall, determined to win, no matter how long it takes or what the cost. They are making a wonderful fight. The copper barons have heretofore succeeded in keeping practically all other organizations from being established here.

If these boys win it will mean 50,000 members in the other trades, and they will win if we can only furnish them enough assistance to keep them from starving and freezing. I believe other organizations should send their men in here to get their people organized, so that we can all work to the best advantage. It is too good an opportunity to let pass. If we win, the copper country could be made a fit place to live in for men who work for a living.

HELP US.

JOHN H. WALKER.

SYNDICALIST LEAGUE NO. 1, NELSON, B. C.

"Men and Mules," in practical demonstration.

Some fifteen hundred miners at Sydney, B. C., went out on strike lately because the four-legged mules had been given a rest and the two-legged variety were put to work in their places. This "anti-foreign" union aggregation must have some horse sense (or mule sense) concealed about their persons, when they bucked at replacing the mules. A splendid example of solidarity, what! In the meantime they have returned to work, "pending the decision of the owners." It is to be hoped their brothers (Canadian born, I suppose) will soon be restored to them.

The strike at the "Queen" and "Silver Dollar" mines is still on in the Sheep Creek district. These fellows came out for a few days to enforce the higher wage scale, already paid in the other mines of that camp, but wilted when the boss gave them the bull con.

Now they find themselves in an untenable position, and the companies would like to come to terms with the union, on finding that the W. F. of M. are not quite dead yet. The main drawback is that the company wishes to retain the scabs, to which the union can't see their way clear to agree. Taking advantage of the miners being in the hills, the business element of the large town of Salmo, aided by the local J. P. (principally composed of two hotels, a barn and a church), took it upon themselves to man-handle a union picket, and run him out of the burg. There's a day of reckoning, however.

A brave attempt is being made in Vancouver to organize a Home and Domestic Employees' Union. This is an extensive and ripe field for organization and one which so far has been somewhat neglected. If you have ever been in a strike, you will appreciate the benefit of having the women with you, instead of grumbling against "these darned unions, which are always causing trouble." The English suffragists are giving a good demonstration of what the women will do when they set their minds to it. How would you like to have the same energy being expended among the unions. Something worth while, wouldn't it?

The Nelson unions, through the Trades and Labor Council, have come to an agreement with the bosses' union, and the common or garden variety of labor now gets a flat rate of 40 cents per hour. While the material gain to this section of labor is but trifling, still a basis has been established to work from, and upon.

According to latest reports, the Timber Workers' organization is making great strides along the coast, and locals Aberdeen and Hoquiam expect the week's increase to reach the 500 mark. The "effete" A. F. of L. may not be quite so radical in their propaganda as the I. W. W., but they demonstrate their ability to get and hold the men. It is a demonstrable and reasonable fact that organization must precede education.

The workers must be organized to produce action, and the principles of the I. W. W. demand a certain amount of class-conscious education before the workers can reasonably be expected to join them, far less stay with them. It is this dual cloak—that of a union, and of an educational league—which must ever prove a stumbling block to the I. W. W., as at present constituted. Their place in the labor movement is as an educational league, and no more.

There is only one working class, and therefore need for only one organization, and the character of that organization is always open to change when the rank and file so will it.

WM. CRAIG.

TOM MANN TALKS TO LABOR.

We are here to fight for the abolition of poverty by peaceful means. In Great Britain there exists social murder. Millions of workers are dying off twenty years before their time because of the conditions there.

Murder is going on in an extensive scale over there. It is continuous. The capitalists are successfully collecting wealth more than ever before and the percentage of capitalists is greater than before.

Solidarity is what will save the workers. By banding together and educating yourselves alone shall you inherit the earth. We don't preach violence, but if it comes we don't shun it. But violence is only incidental. In our fight it is something that cannot be helped.

Strike as often as you must. Band yourselves together and let nothing thrust you apart. Ignore the ballot box. That way disunion lies. You may control the government and your leaders, once in power and in reach of wealth, would desert you. But if you stick together always, strike and inflict every blow you can at your oppressors and lift one another up, you will be invincible. Who controls the government will not matter then. The government will come to you.

Parliamentarians Only Politicians.

A small percentage of the English working people have succeeded in having representatives placed in Parliament, but that has not altered conditions. Those who are elected to represent the people quickly become animated with the idea of being above the working people. They sit back in their chairs and listen to the Liberals or other well-groomed gentlemen make their addresses.

They wait for an opportunity to talk in favor of their constituents. When that chance arrives they lamely plead for the workingman, saying that more factory inspectors should be appointed or that the mines should be better protected. The way to do it is to get at the rock bottom of the situation and that is sabotage.

The only place where the people have the power is in the place where they work. And there they can exert their power individually to such an extent that capitalists will have to give recognition.

TWO FELLOW FIGHTERS.

"Kozös Tarsadalom" (co-operative commonwealth), is a monthly Hungarian Syndicalist paper published by E. C. Sutch and others at 2834 Mission street, San Francisco. Hungarian Syndicalists throughout the country should co-operate with these brother workers to make this paper a power for the cause of Syndicalist propaganda.

"Freedom," an eight-page monthly published in New York (P. O. Box 4, Sta. U.), is recommended to the attention of every Syndicalist who reads Yiddish. It is well written and its contributors take a broad view of the labor situation. It is new and abreast of the times, following closely the Syndicalist propaganda.

SOLDIERS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND. (Special to the Syndicalist.)

The capitalists of all countries are alike. Our Canadian money lords are like yours. In fact, they are the same set. The set of capitalists who own this island, or the valuable mining part of it, are said to be Americans. And our government obeys orders from the mine owners with the same alacrity yours did in West Virginia and elsewhere.

The miners have been on strike here for months and are making it very expensive for the companies to get coal from these hills. We maintained a determined peacefulness, if you can get what that carries. We tried to handle the situation by the show of strength rather than the use of it.

Eventually the scabs got bold by mistaking our peacefulness for cowardice or Christian fortitude. They were inspired also by the assurance that the county authorities would not molest them for anything they did to us. They are disillusioned now as to us, and were very soon after they started the trouble.

A few of them attacked one of our men and stabbed him several times. We demanded the police to do their duty. Evidently there was some misunderstanding between the police and us as to what their duty really is. But there was no question with us as to our duty to ourselves. If the police would not afford us protection we would supply it ourselves, and we did it.

The scabs were all supplied with guns, and seeing no show of resistance from us, and the police muzzled by the masters, they began to practice shooting at us. You can plainly see where that would lead to. The ignorant scabs thought they had us terrorized properly when our men took to their heels to get out of range. It was hardly necessary to run. But we decided the joke was being carried too far and getting our guns we came back to protect ourselves and families from the vicious scum.

We cleaned them up in short order, putting some of them on the sick list. The cowards flew to the mines, leaving their families at the mercy of the enemy.

Some of the shacks caught fire. They blamed us for firing them, but we didn't. We believe, though, the scabs burned them to prevent us from taking possession of them. At any rate, while the dogs were skulking in the mine we helped their women and kids to get away from the place, and very soon the topwork of the mine caught fire and burned down. The cry was at once sent forth that the mines were in the hands of the howling mob of strikers who shot and burned and slaughtered right and left; they sent companies of deputy sheriffs here, whom we disarmed and put aboard returning steamers; but the militia is here now, working men, like us, only more ignorant.

This is what the masters wanted from the start and the whole thing was cooked up for that very purpose. We knew this but we could not help acting as we did. We were compelled to protect ourselves. And as soon as we raised a hand in our own defense the howl went up and the excuse was there for the sending of troops to this island.

There is no question of right and justice in this strike no more than there is in any similar affair. It's a matter of brute force. Who is strongest, he wins.

I have almost forgotten our original demands, so many new things have been crowded into my mind since this strike started. I used to think that in a general way at least, the government stood apart from rich and poor and for the principle of justice and equality. I had an idea that truth and right were sacred things that it was the function of the courts and the law to protect and defend. I have heard Socialists talk, but I thought they stretched the thing too far and I was not much impressed by them. But when I see these armed scabs and mounted police and soldiers, when I know all the acts of injustice perpetrated upon my comrades and myself here by law and order, when I see every device known to man, the newspapers, the preachers, all turned against us, I can't be deluded any longer.

There is no justice any longer in my mind, there is only force. I am a revolutionist now, and I don't care whether we win this strike in a material way or not, we have won our minds' freedom out of it, and wherever we go we will be knowing rebels against everything that is, for everything that is against the working class.

They have Chinese, negroes and white scum in here mining coal under the protection of the government. We have been here as long as the owners of the mines, most of whom I dare say have never been on the island, yet we don't seem to have any rights here at all. How is that? I ask my brothers here and our answer is: there is no human rights. That is all a sham invented by the priests to keep us quiet. There is only property rights. And the bigger the property the bigger the rights. That is what we have so far got out of this strike, and if we get no more our strike is won.

A MINER.

Vancouver Island, B. C.

[Since receiving above, news came that one company had signed up the union agreement, and others expected to follow.—Editor.]

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

Dear Comrade: Every city in Australia is holding large unemployed meetings. The lord mayor of Melbourne has appealed for assistance for the wives and families of the homeless, starving workers. The federal and state governments are besieged. The suffering of the destitute is painful. Notwithstanding the law-fixed wages workers are underbidding each other, offering themselves at any price. Some are working for six shillings a week and keep.

So serious is the situation that the churches have held an unemployed Sunday, every parson making an appeal for aid. This in Australia, the workers' paradise and mecca of that foolish fetish the Labor Political Swindle.

The Federal Labor party has been thrown out of office. Thousands of workers ignored them through sheer disgust with their greedy rush for graft. The labor and liberal politicians are eating the very vitals out of Australia. Melbourne swarms with degenerate cadgers. Self-respect is very rare. Since the advent of the labor politician, a generation of weaklings, inborn serfs, made between sleeping and waking are trampling the liberties our fathers gave to us, liberties soaked with their red, warm blood, destroyed, put aside to appease political poltroons masquerading as labor champions.

There are no strikes in Australia at present, The rats have been driven into their holes. The capitalist need only threaten and obedience immediately comes forth. Conscriptio, the cherished weapon of the oppressors, is firmly rooted. Children fourteen years of age are imprisoned in a military fort over a hundred miles from Melbourne. This is what labor government has brought Australia to. Oh, hell, can these human weeds ever become virile? I am shouting anarchy.

J. W. FLEMING.

Victoria, Australia.

NEW BOOKS.

"The New Unionism," by Andre Tridon, (B. W. Huebsch, New York. Cloth, \$1; paper cover, 30 cents.)

The books being turned out on Syndicalism are little better than the stuff the magazines drenched us with some time ago. This book purports to be a record of fact set down in pure journalistic style.

The advantage claimed for a book written in this style is that it gives you the facts and leaves out the author's opinions, which is very good. Only Tridon beat the game by quoting just such facts as reflect with his own opinions. And he did the thing so grossly that the most careless reading reveals the deceit.

Tridon, as his book reveals him, is an I. W. W. of the governmental type, anti-Anarchist, anti-A. F. of L., anti-Syndicalist in America.

His careful record of "facts" on The New Unionism contains no mention of the Syndicalist movement in this country.

He quotes authorities, and even sticks in his own opinions, to show that anarchism is "exaggerated bourgeoisism," and therefore could have no hand in the birth of The New Unionism.

He quotes Bill Haywood as saying: "Remember that there are 35,000,000 workers in the United States who cannot join the Federation of Labor. It isn't a working class organization."

Again, every apprentice knows the statement is not only untrue but that it is the wildest kind of an untruth; and I am vastly more astounded that

Haywood should make such a fool statement than that Tridon should quote it, and that such rot should get inside the covers of a book is, indeed, regrettable.

There is a lot of matter in the book about the movement in foreign countries, and chapters on "Intellectuals," "Sabotage" and "Modern Thought." J. F.

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