









# Workers Write About the Workers' Life

## Milwaukee Railway Co. Spread Rumors of Lay Offs to Scare Workers

By A Worker Correspondent  
MILWAUKEE, Wis., Jan. 11.—A rumor has been spread among the workers in the Milwaukee shops of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway company that there is to be another reduction in the help on or about January 15. The move is explained as a need for reducing expenses by bringing the monthly payroll down by \$6,000.

There was a reduction of force in the shops just before Christmas. Neither the number laid off nor the reason why was made known. There have been three lay-offs during the 1925 season, yet, nearly every pay day there are rumors of a threatened lay-off. The effect of those rumors was and always is to worry men who are industrious and sorely in need of steady employment. There are never rumors about how soon the railway company will increase its shop forces.

Watch the Saturday Magazine Section for new features every week. This is a good issue to give to your fellow worker.

Build the DAILY WORKER.

## DRUNKEN KLUXER ENTERS NEGRO HOME AND IN THE PRESENCE OF SIX CHILDREN ATTACKS WOMAN

By a Worker Correspondent  
NILES, O., Jan. 11.—Edith Bright, a colored woman and mother of six children, was attacked in her home by Dan Williams employed in the safety first department of the Byers Iron company in Girard, who was heavily drunk. He offered her money and wine and tried to force her to submit to his lustful desires in spite of the fact that she was ill and in bed. When questioned what right he had to force himself upon her he said that she was colored and had no rights the white nordic man need respect if he is a kluxer and a 100 per center.

Williams, began a tale about the trouble they had had with the colored people of the flats in the Negro districts. Finally he sent Fleming and another employe of the Byer plant to investigate. Strange as it may seem they did not have Williams arrested and hereby hangs a tale. Williams is a member of the ku klux klan. The mayor of Girard and the entire police force are members of the ku klux klan and in this fact can be found the reason for the non-arrest of Williams. If the shoe were on the other foot, there is no telling what might have happened to this hard working colored man.

Bright moved to Girard about four years ago and during that time has been employed at the McDonald plant of the Carnegie Steel company and at the local coal yards hauling coal and at all times has borne a reputation for sobriety, while his wife, Edith Bright, has the reputation of being a hard working woman and good mother to her six children. She was under a doctor's care when the assault took place and has been confined to her bed since. The Brights reluctantly told their side of this shameful story to the writer.

Williams is about 50 years of age, married and has a family of grown children. Up to this writing Williams is at large, and the machinery of the law, the mayor, the police and the county officers have made no move or arrest.

## TACTICS USED BY CARPENTER FAKERS EXPOSED

By A Worker Correspondent  
NEW YORK, Jan. 11.—The progressive carpenters of Local No. 2725 mailed out a leaflet to all the members of Local 2725 explaining the issues in the election of business agent, and pointing out that Brother Leo Steinfeld, stood for the \$12 per day wage and 5-day week, election of business agent every year, job control, to abolish the hire and fire system and other progressive measures.

This stunned the reactionary candidates who had no program. It was then necessary to use Brindell trickery to defeat him. First his name was spelled on the ballot so that nobody could tell who it was. Then it was put last on the ballot, altho he was one of the first nominated and a member for over 20 years. Not satisfied with all this trickery the old business agent, Mahoney, preferred charges against Steinfeld on the night of election, because he dared to run on a progressive program exposing the fakers. This he evidently learned from Hucheson who expelled all progressives that dared to oppose him in the last election.

Brother Steinfeld then told the officers that he had printed new ballots where his name was spelled correctly, but the chairman, John Christy, who was himself a candidate for business agent, said that only the other ballots could be used. Steinfeld then requested the floor to answer the charges and the lies spread about him. This was also refused.

Despite all trickery, Steinfeld lost only by 23 votes. The members are fast learning to support only candidates that run on a progressive program for the interests of the rank and file.

## UNION DRIVERS HAUL MATERIAL FOR LANDIS JOB

By A Worker Correspondent  
HELPERS—Learn building construction, small pay with bonus. 5200 No. Lockwood Ave.

The above ad was in the Chicago Tribune, and being a member of the unemployed, I started out to investigate this job where I could find work, receive pay with a bonus, while at the same time learn the trade. After riding on a street car for an hour, I located the building under construction, and found there a mob of hungry looking men, who were also looking for work.

I came up to the foreman just as he was telling a few men that the pay was forty cents an hour, and if we stayed on the job long enough we would receive an interest in the company in the form of a bonus. What he wanted was husky men who were not afraid of hard labor and who would become a part of the concern. It looked to some of us that the only qualifications needed was a strong back and a weak mind.

This is an out and out scab job, all the way from the laying of the bricks to hanging the doors. I have seen bad conditions on the Landis award construction jobs, but this beats them all. Here was a job where only non-union help was used, and material was delivered to the contractor by union teamsters, showing up the lack of solidarity. That this can be tolerated in the city of Chicago, where the building trades are supposed to be organized one hundred per cent, with each local union having from one to five business agents, drawing fat salaries, is a puzzle to me. Not one of these creatures could be found anywhere near this construction job.

The writer, a member of the building trades, will see to it that this matter is presented to his local union, and demand action to be taken to have this job organized, or have the union teamsters be instructed to stop the hauling of material to this scab contractor or know the reason why.

## SEGREGATION, MISERABLE WAGES COMBINED MAKES LIFE HARD FOR NEGRO WORKERS OF PHILADELPHIA

By I. A. K., Worker Correspondent.  
PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—I have been living for quite some time in a section of the city here populated by Negroes. This section is made up of dirty, filthy alleys and courts, breeding nests for disease. The houses are damp and water soaked, most of them with one or no toilets. The building inspectors say nothing about these miserable conditions, because they are the paid lackeys of big real estate firms which own entire streets of houses. The greatest worry of the Negro is rent day. Most of the Negroes work for the city, building the Broad street subway, the New Delaware bridge, site of the sesquicentennial, roads, etc., making the city ready for the money-making exposition to start July 4, 1926. The average wage of these workers is from \$21 to \$25 per week. From this huge sum many must pay \$40 monthly rent. There are no tenant rights in Philadelphia. This is a city of homes—for a few, if a worker asks for improvements the agent of the landlord tells him to get out or threatens him with the loss of his \$21 "city" job.

Since the rent takes so much out of the Negro's pocket he must severely economize on his food and clothes. The Negroes buy of necessity the cheapest food they can get. When the food markets all over the city get thru selling all the cream of the food to the cooks of the capitalists living on Rittenhouse Square, they send it down here and sell it to the Negroes. And the food is not sold over marble counters when it gets here. These little business men, the semi-proletariat, who scrape a living by the skin of their teeth and work 18 hours for it, cannot afford marble counters. The food is kept in dirty trays, like so much slop.

The bad food, poor clothing and shelter cause the numerous diseases that are continually raging in this section and in other sections of the city. I know hundreds of Negroes, and I may safely say that three out of every ten are suffering from consumption, cancer and other serious diseases. I have even heard of a case of leprosy. The bottle flows freely on Poplar street. The moonshine is made by large bootlegging firms on the outskirts of the city and is shipped to their agencies in all sections of the city. These firms make different grades of moonshine. The worst grade is sent to this section. It is nothing but a slow poison that is killing hundreds of Negroes in the city of Philadelphia. Even insurance companies will not grant Negroes insurance, their death rate is so high.

These miserable conditions are all due to the fact that the Negro is the most exploited and oppressed worker on the labor market. They must organize to fight against all forms of race discrimination, such as Jim Crowism, segregation and for a better living wage.

The American Negro Labor Congress stands for the unity of all colored and white workers and for combined action to abolish all these abuses.

Worker Correspondence will make The DAILY WORKER a better paper—send in a story about your shop.

## MONT MARTRE CAFE MANAGER TELLS WAITERS THEY MUST STICK TOGETHER FOR BOSS

By a Worker Correspondent.  
On New Year's Eve Mr. Danny Cohen, proprietor of the Mont Martre Cafe, lectured the waiters at roll call. The main burden of his lecture seemed to be the importance of waiters sticking together when one of them has an argument or is about to have any trouble with guests under the influence of liquor.

The waiters were cautioned to be on the watch for any one bringing liquor into full view and to refuse to serve them unless it was put out of sight.

The cafe managers evidently had a session with the prohibition directors. Mr. Cohen let drop that the prohibition director did not wish to make any arrests, as he could not always ascertain whom he was arresting. Does it not seem strange that he needs to know? Would he wait to be sure if he entered a place patronized by men in overalls?

These lectures about waiters sticking together sound familiar to the writer. I wonder, tho, how much Danny Cohen would appreciate the men standing out for a few things that are a benefit to themselves. For instance, a wash basin in their toilet room so that the waiters can wash their hands before returning to serve guests. Also the waiters demanding good food the time sour potatoes and sour soup were served them.

Several of the boys had inquired what the wages would be for that night and were told they would receive the same as elsewhere. The Union Club and Geneva Association were booking men from \$10.00 up, so of course, we assumed this would be the pay. But when paying off came he docked them \$2.50 paying only \$7.50.

Well, men, you'll wake up some day. I talk to more men each day who are gradually seeing more light. Solidarity is the only solution. Get a little literature on the subject. Open your eyes and look about you. You all know what a joke your Chicago local is. It is up to all of us to get in there and put over a few changes that will enable it to function as a workers' organization.

## Your Job and Mine

By S. WINOKUR.  
(Worker Correspondent)  
BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 11.—The DAILY WORKER is one of our bigger tools with which we build our revolutionary movement, bringing class consciousness to the minds of the entire working class. The DAILY WORKER in its two years of existence became a factor in the everyday struggle of the workers and a stronghold of the Workers (Communist) Party of America.

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