

INDUSTRIAL WORKER

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TEAMSTERS' ANTICS AT LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles, (the fair and lovely city of the Angels) once was afflicted with a strike of the teamsters. The teamsters picked out a good time all right. It was while the shriners were visiting the city. The Shriners being composed of men and women of wealth and influence, it was only natural that the city of officials (at the behest of the Southern Pacific and the Huntington Street Car system and real estate sharks) should create as favorable an impression as possible on the minds of the wealthy visitors. This for three reasons; first: that they might come again thereby helping to swell the profits of the S. P. and the street railway company; that as goodly a number as possible might be induced to stay and make their homes here and help out the real estate sharks.

The teamsters naturally thought this would be a good time for them to strike, and they reasoned well. Of course they were organized under the banner of the A. F. of L., the chief function of which is to separate the workers into little warring factions. Perhaps their perceptive faculties were not keen enough to recognize the fact that they would have a better show of winning if the rest of the men working at other occupations were to go on strike with them. I mean the other branches of the A. F. of L. Of course it was an impossibility to get the unorganized men to strike, there was no way of getting in communication with them, and as for the other tradesmen of the A. F. of L., the most of them had contracts expiring at different dates which they thought it would be a disgrace to break, besides, the grievance of the teamsters was none of their business. When they went on strike there was nobody to go out in sympathy with them. But nevertheless, they (the teamsters) made it rather embarrassing for the owners of the city of the Angels; freight was piling up at the factories, the Shriners or Sariners wanted to leave the city and the transfer companies had difficulty in getting scabs to take their place.

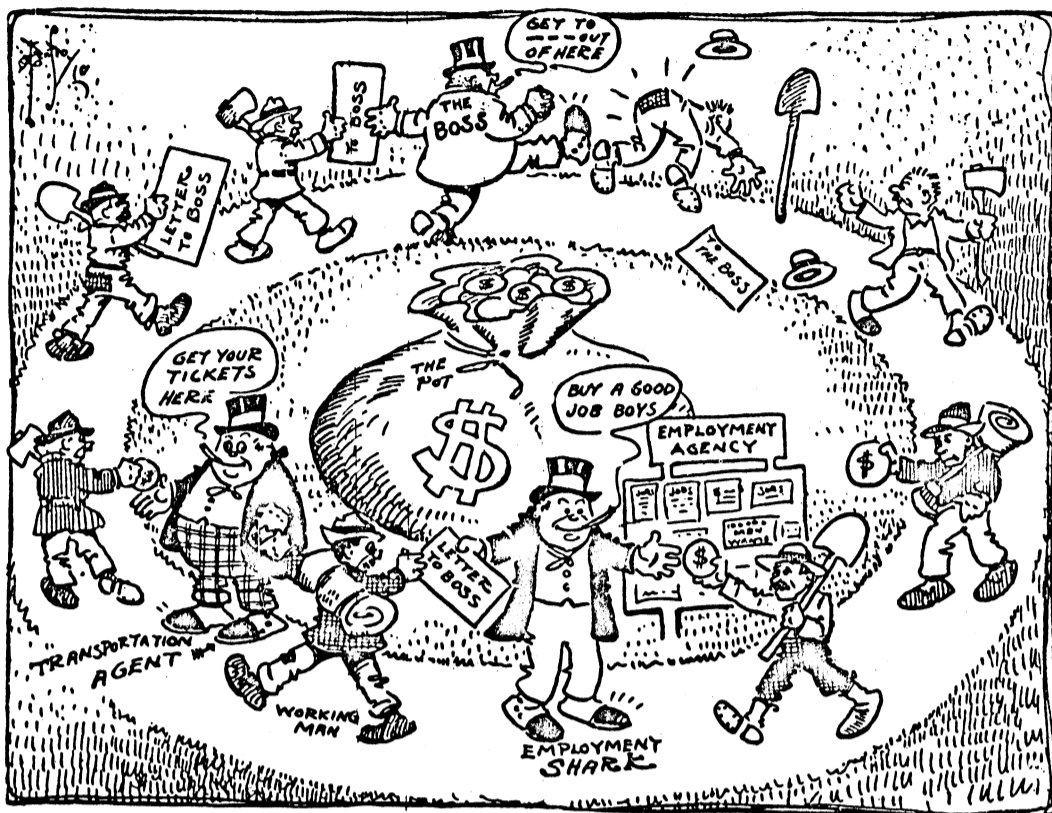
It was then that a wonderful thing happened, the Chamber of Commerce sent a committee to talk personally to the unruly teamsters. Now the teamsters had probably never before had the pleasure of being addressed personally by such wonderful men, of course they had seen such men on the streets, in their autos and had basked more or less in the sunshine of their presence, had seen their glittering diamonds and their beautiful mansions, but to have these wonderful beings come right into their hall to talk with them was an honor they had never enjoyed before, and they could not help but feel flattered by it.

The committee pointed out to the teamsters that they had struck at a very bad time, the Shriners were visiting the city and it was discourteous and impolite to refuse to haul their trunks to the depot.

Their visit was at an end and they wished to go home, some of them perhaps had very important business in different parts of the country. They might be expected to attend a birthday party given in honor of a monkey in N. Y. City. They pointed out to the teamsters that they were taking an unfair advantage of them. This talk had its desired effect, for the teamsters voted to allow enough teams to remain in the field to haul the baggage.

To show how deeply they appreciated this generous act the Chamber of Commerce presented them with ten half barrels of beer, the beer also had the effect of keeping them jolly while they were getting scabs to take their place, which they did at last.

When the strike was first launched, the large truck companies who employed most of the teamsters, decided to grant the men their demands, but to do this they would have to charge the manufacturers and wholesale houses more for hauling their freight. These



THE ENDLESS CHAIN—EMPLOYMENT SHARK, THE TRANSPORTATION AGENT AND THE BOSS—FLEECE THE WORKERS.

refused to pay the increase, stating that before they would pay any more for hauling they would organize a trucking company of their own. So the trucking companies hired scabs to break the strike. When they delivered a load of freight to a wholesale house the formen would say to the members of the truckers' union: "Now boys you know these green teamsters are not very handy at handling barrels and boxes, help them out all you can and you will not lose anything by it."

This a great many of them did, thereby helping to defeat the teamsters, and now I suppose the teamsters are watching for a chance to get even.

How in the name of common sense can they expect to win by treating each other like that? Such unionism is nothing but the merest kind of a mockery, it is a disgrace to the very name of unionism, during that strike we saw beer hauled by scab teamsters, protected by pinks, delivered at the saloons, served by union bartenders and drank by the teamsters who were on strike.

Will somebody explain why the bartenders did not have the manliness and the intelligence to refuse to touch the beer and at their next meeting to say, well the teamsters are on strike, let us go on strike in sympathy with them, and the same way with the rest of the crafts, but no, when they look at things in that light they will be members of the I. W. W.

E. T. LEFFERTS,
LOMPOC, CAL.

ACTIVE AT DENVER, COLO.

Local Union No. 26 announces the following lectures to be held at its headquarters and free reading room at 1017 Nineteenth street: May 16, The Union Label; May 22, Three Vital Words; May 29, The Slave Market. On May 1 the subject for the evening was International Labor Day. On May 8 Anti Patriotism.

The local holds its regular business meetings at its headquarters every Tuesday at 8 p. m., street meetings at 7:30 every night, weather permitting, at Seventeenth and Arapahoe streets.

SPARKS FROM A LIVE WIRE

Walker C. Smith.

When Karl Marx and Frederick Engels heard some of the ideas put forth by persons calling themselves Socialists, they were so disgusted that they termed themselves "communists" in order to be distinguished from the motley crew of reformers.

The Industrial Workers do well in using the term "fellow worker" instead of the misused word "comrade." Comrade has come to mean every long-haired man or short-haired woman who has a plan for a new social system, a criticism of the existing order or a smattering of economics. It includes the promoter of mining stock, the revolutionist for revenue only, the postoffice socialist, single taxers, advocates of municipal ownership, shyster lawyers, pimphooped pulpit pounders, petty larceny business men and even members of the militia. Many labor-skinning employers are "dear comrades," and any worker who has had the misfortune to slave for one of these knows that they have no interest in common. The word "comrade," once a distinction, is now a disgrace.

But "Fellow worker"—there is a word that means something, that expresses an idea. It is a class word. Your boss can't use it. No parasite can use it. It means your shop mate, an actual producer, the toilers of the world. It is the term you can apply only to those who labor in the mine, mill, factory, forest or field. It typifies industry and is the only term that fits well with our phrase, "Yours for Industrial Freedom." "Fellow worker" is in a measure disreputable, but "comrade" has become respectable in the eyes of the ruling class and as a consequence has lost the greater part of its meaning to the propertyless worker.

How long do you think the machinist or other big-headed craftsmen would work for their present rate of wages if the helpers and unskilled workers were to organize strongly enough to get the same amount? Why, they would immediately strike for an increase because of their over-developed bump of pride. Organizing from beneath acts in more ways than one. Their pride would be lessened and their estimation of the unskilled workers would be raised. The unskilled workers would feel more self-reliant and have less awe of the "superiority" of the craftsmen. This would bring both classes together, a result greatly to be desired.

The wage worker in a small industry, shop or establishment can serve the interests of his class only by disassociating himself with his immediate surroundings and accepting in their stead the environment of the larger portion of the wage earners.

In the small shop he daily comes in contact with the boss; he knows the volume of business and endeavors to keep it at such a point as to avoid a layoff or dismissal; he turns out a finished product and consequently feels a species of pride in his work.

But to the mass of the workers there comes no personal contact with the employer and all bosses are considered "bad." In large industries the amount of business transacted is unknown to individual wage workers and they have no interest in the delivery of the product. The subdivision of labor gives each worker a tenth, a thirtieth or a hundredth part of the work of producing an article, and thus destroys all interest in the product. Forced to one monotonous task the workers feel that they are but machines attached to the machines. Their concern is not for the finished article, but solely for their own condition. Their demand is for more wages, shorter hours and better shop conditions. The far-sighted ones have in view the time when the workers can overthrow the wage system.

Unless the persons working for a small employer can place themselves in the position forced upon the mass they are a detriment to a working-class organization. The centering of the management of industry into fewer and fewer hands is bringing these men into an acceptance of our motto, "The working class and the employing class have nothing in common." Even the small retail stores, the tobacco shops, the pharmacies, laundries, etc., are being centralized, and each day witnesses the sharpening of class lines and the braking of the barrier to one big union of wage earners.

The United States Shoe Shining Company has been incorporated under the laws of the state of Maine. This is a New York concern and is capitalized at \$1,500,000. It plans to gain control of the shoe-shining trade in all the large cities and has started to freeze out the small stands by a reduction in the price of shined shoes. Thus does the little cockroach go the way of the candle and the stagecoach and this is the army of propertyless wage workers increased. The line of the class struggle becomes less blurred as we approach the final fight.

The A. F. of L. union meeting that does not break up in a fist fight is a rare thing in Denver. Charges and counter-charges are being made. The "wets" and the "drys," the Republicans, the Democrats, the Socialists and the Independents, all are trying to make the A. F. of L. a tail to their particular political kite. The employers smile at the resultant disunion. No further vindication of the stand of the I. W. W. regarding existing political organizations is needed. Until the workers are really united on the industrial field it is folly to expect unity elsewhere.

Fifty miners at Palisade, Colo., asked that they be allowed a check weighman in accordance with the Colorado state law. The men were fired and then ousted from the company houses. This shows the beneficent results of labor laws. Even if you have the laws you need an organization to enforce them. The workers' power does not lie in tinkering with the capitalist state. Their only power lies in one big union that will gain for them the control of their labor power. This union, the I. W. W., will be the means of abolishing the capitalist state by nullifying its power. We are building the new within the shell of the old.

Denver, Colo.

ORGANIZE TO BETTER CONDITIONS

What is the reason that we are not organized? Are we, the Loggers, afraid to stand up and fight for our rights. Actions speak louder than words." Now, this is not my idea of the Loggers. I believe it lays in their inability to grasp the meaning of organization.

I have worked in the woods for the past eight years, and for the past two years have made a study of the labor problem as it exists in the lumber industry, and so far have been unable to arrive at any definite conclusion how it is that the men employed in the lumber industry will go plodding along, under conditions where a man does not live, but merely exists, and make no effort to better these conditions. Very few men can be found that will say that things are all right as they are (unless they are employers). Those who are fools enough to maintain that conditions are all right as they are, are fit subjects for a bughouse. Only the man who has the endless round of long hours of wearisome toil has so brutalized that he has no brains of his own, will maintain this. The man who will praise the chains which bind him to industrial servitude, who is contented to live among the degrading conditions as they exist in the majority of all camps, without making an effort to change this condition, is a slave. His manhood, his pride and love of liberty have vanished. He is no more than an animal which kicks, yet pulls its master's load.

A lot of men kick about conditions as they exist, yet make no conscious effort to remedy these conditions. The man who will simply kick because the grub is on the bum, the bunkhouse dirty, the boss a slave driver of hours too long, and content to let his kick go at that, without seeking to throw off the yoke that galls him, has no kick coming.

One of the most numerous complaints which can be heard from men employed in the lumber and railroad camps is about the grafting employment sharks. Some of these men will say, "Yes, I will join your union if you do away with the employment sharks," or "If you do something." Just imagine a man who claims to be an intelligent human being with brain and will power putting up an argument as that. With over 20,000 men employed in the logging camps on Puget Sound, to expect the few hundreds who are already organized to accomplish results that would be a benefit to all. If this could be done the present members of the organization would go ahead and "do things" without wasting time trying to educate and organize those who still remain outside of the union.

The loggers who are at present organized can accomplish nothing without the aid and co-operation of all the men employed in the logging camps and lumber woods. "To get things," "to do something," must be the work of the intelligently organized rank and file employed in the mills and in the camps, and with the aid of those workers employed in closely allied industries. It is a battle between the organized lumber barons and the hosts of labor. The army will win which is best equipped to carry on the struggle. The masters will depend upon their ability to starve their slaves into submission. The workers must depend upon their strength of numbers and ability to completely paralyze capitalist industry. The workers must act as a class. When one portion is out on strike the remainder of the working class must come to their aid. A small body of workers standing alone can win nothing from their organized masters.

Another question that is often asked is, What are we going to get when we get organized? That is another question of an intelligent man (nit). What are we going to get? We will get just as much as we have the power to force the boss to concede to us. Can you not think of any change for the better? How would it be to build more and better bunkhouses? How would it be to have these bunkhouses well lighted, properly ventilated, rooms instead of bunks, with springs, mattresses and bedclothes furnished, wash rooms, drying rooms, and bath rooms, reading and writing rooms? How would it be to quit working ten, eleven and twelve hours per day and work eight instead? How would it be to have the boss send to your union headquarters for men instead of putting his orders with an employment shark, from whom you are forced to buy the right to go to work for a master? Some of you will say that this is a pipe dream. Yes, we agree to that; that is, as long as we remain unorganized, as long as we remain in a position where we must accept the boss's dictates. But once we are organized on correct lines, understanding our interests, there will be a different tune to sing.

Senator Clark, who, by the way, owns large interests in the mining and lumber camps in Montana, has a residence in New York City in the aristocratic residence district, of course, valued at \$10,000,000. This is occupied by himself, his wife and only child. Do you realize, Jack, you who tramp the country with your happy home on your back, what a \$10,000,000 home means? This amount represents the

(Continued on Page 4)

Lectures On Industrial Unionism

JAMES P. THOMPSON

One of the "Criminal Conspirators" in the recent Free Speech Fight of Spokane

Will lecture on "INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM" at the new headquarters of the Industrial Workers of the World

211 OCCIDENTAL AVE., SEATTLE
Entrance in Alley, between Main and Washington

May 10 to 15, at 8 p. m.

You are cordially invited to attend.

ADMISSION FREE

PROCEEDINGS OF FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE I. W. W.

FIRST DAY'S SESSION.

The Fifth Convention of the Industrial Workers of the World was called to order by General Secretary Vincent St. John in Brand's Hall at 9:16 o'clock, May 1st, 1910.

Convention called to order by temporary chairman Wm. Yates at 10:00. Minutes of first day's session read and approved as read.

Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes. Lists delegates from various locations like Spokane, Seattle, and Portland with their respective vote counts.

Moved by Axelson, seconded by Gombert "That those delegates reported on favorably be seated in accord with the report of the Credential Committee. Carried.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEES. Moved, seconded and carried that a committee of three be elected as a Committee on Rules and Order of Business.

AFTERNOON SESSION. Convention called to order at 2:30 by Chairman Yates. Roll call showed all delegates present except Hammond and G. E. B. Members Cole and Flynn.

Committee on Rules and Order of Business reported as follows: 1. The chairman shall open and call the convention to order on time. 2. Roll call of delegates.

Resolution No. 8.—General Secretary read his report for the period from September, 1908 to March 31, 1910. On motion the report was referred to Committee on Officers' Reports.

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Shows financial statements including Total receipts (\$23,419.18), Total disbursements (\$22,446.95), and Total resources (\$1,549.00).

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Lists liabilities including Burroughs Adding Machine Co. (\$60.00), W. A. Cahill (\$24.94), and Total liabilities (\$6,180.99).

committee be accepted and the committee discharged. Delegate Miller asked the committee if the accountant that the committee had employed was of recognized ability.

On motion the convention adjourned until 9 o'clock Tuesday.

Seattle Advertisements. Socialist Books. We buy, sell and exchange books of all kinds, and take subscriptions for magazines and papers at club rates, etc.

The Workingmen's Store. WILL DRESS YOU FROM HEAD TO FOOT. Special Attention to Workingmen. We wish to announce that we transact a wholesale and retail business, and can save you money.

Carrol & Wineberg. The Original Workingman's Store. Clothing, Gents' Furnishings, Hats, Shoes, Rubbers, Oil Goods, Etc.

PROVIDENT LEGAL ASSOCIATION. Represents the Working People. Legal Advice and Services by Best Attorneys in the State.

Miller's Cafe. The only 25-cent Meal House in Missoula, Mont. I. W. W. HEADQUARTERS. 132 WEST FRONT STREET.

THE "Industrial Union". Published Weekly by the Industrial Workers of Phoenix, Ariz. An Exponent of Revolutionary Industrial Unionism, Printed in Spanish.

"SOLIDARITY". A weekly revolutionary working class paper, published by the Local Union of New Castle, Pa. Subscription rates: Yearly \$1.00, Six Months .50.

