

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!"

ORGANIZE RIGHT

ORGANIZE YOUR MIGHT



Industrial Worker

VOL. 2 No. 37

One Dollar a Year

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1910

Six Months 50c

Whole Number 89

AGITATE—EDUCATE—ORGANIZE—FIGHT FOR THE 8 HOUR DAY

MITCHELL'S \$6,000 WORTH OF HARMONY

Mr. John Mitchell.
Dear Sir: On behalf of the National Civic Federation I have the honor to invite you to assume charge on the first of August of the Trade Agreement Department of the Federation.

It is our belief that through this department you will find an opportunity still to use in the interest of industrial peace and advancement the wide experience and great influence you have gained in your long service of the United Mine Workers of America.

It goes without saying that in this industrial age industrial questions, including the relations of employer and employe, are among the most vital and pressing questions of the day. You will be able, no doubt, to command the co-operation in the work of your department not only of the representatives of organized labor, but also of that great body of employers of labor who recognize and sympathize with the aspirations and aims of organized labor; and from this standpoint of advantage we think you may be able to render enduring service to the country in a field not second in influence to any other.

I am, dear sir, yours very truly,
SETH LOW,
President National Civic Federation.

Mr. Seth Low, President,
The National Civic Federation,
New York City.

Mr. Dear Mr. Low: Referring to your communication dated July 15, in which you invite me to take charge of the Trade Agreement Department of the National Civic Federation, I desire to thank you for the opportunity thus opened to me to develop, so far as lies in my power, a relationship between employers and workmen which will conduce to their mutual interest, at the same time protecting the public welfare by the promotion of industrial peace.

The Trade Agreement is not a speculative, untried theory; on the contrary, it is the recognized and established method through which wages and conditions of employment are regulated between workmen and employers in many of the most important industries of this and other countries. The collective bargain is a recognition of the independence of labor and capital; it gives to workmen an interest in the successful conduct of business and guarantees to employers and employes alike long periods of industrial peace, an assurance that cannot be given through any other agency.

The maintenance and extension of this system of regulating conditions of employment and industry should meet the approbation of all forces in society solicitous for industrial peace upon a basis equitable alike to the workmen and to their employers. It goes without saying, of course, that the success of this department will depend in no small measure upon the sympathetic co-operation of a healthy public sentiment.

If by close application to the duties assigned me I may contribute to the promotion of industrial peace, rest assured that I shall give the best efforts of which I am capable in furtherance of this end.

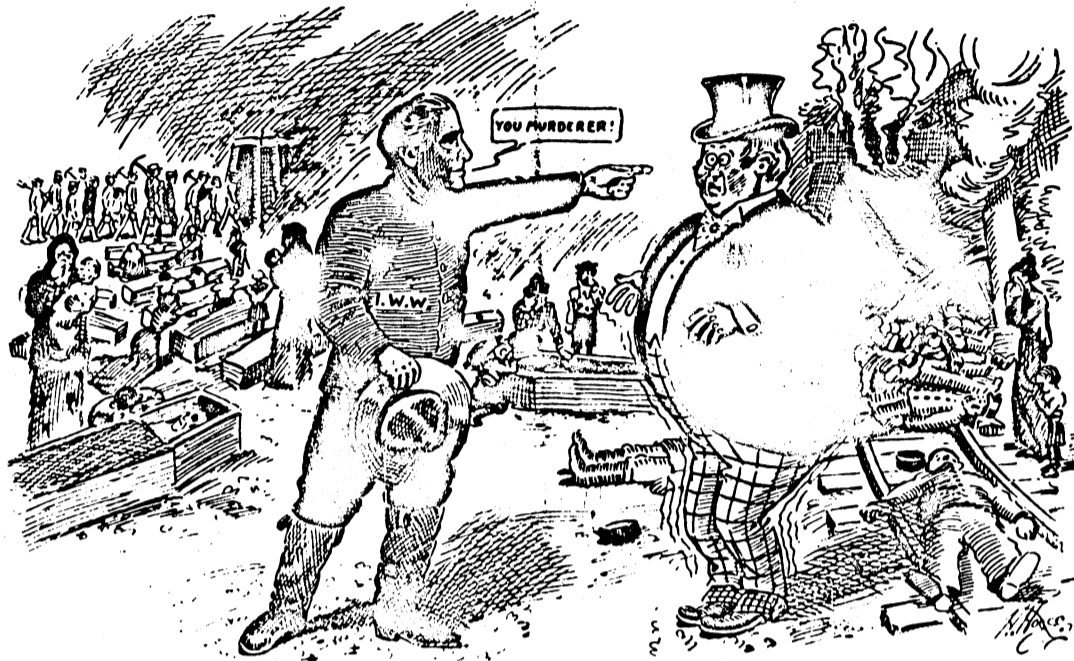
I am yours truly,
JOHN MITCHELL.

The above letters are of more than passing interest to the wage slave who wishes to see the workers united on the industrial field free from the curse of the TRADE AGREEMENT.

Mitchell is lauded by the master class of America as "THE GREATEST LABOR LEADER THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN," and from a capitalist's standpoint they are no doubt correct.

From a clean-cut working class standpoint Mitchell has earned for himself the name LABOR FAKIR and in dubbing him this we are absolutely sure that we are correct. The coal miners (that this capitalist-loved gent has beguiled and befuddled for years with his SACRED CONTRACTS) are living in hovels in company towns and whatever power they might have in protecting their lives is absolutely denied them by virtue of the TRADE AGREEMENT with the boss (Sacred Contract).

The contract which Mitchell is a firm believer in does not allow the men to exercise their power to close down the works under any pretext, or upon any showing that the mine is unsafe. The men are contracted to keep at work while grievances are taken



Statistics show that 14,000 coal miners have been slaughtered in the mines in the last 10 years. At the rate coal miners have been murdered in the last two months in the United States, the death rate will increase by leaps and bounds. The SACRED CONTRACT absolutely deprives the workers in the mines of the right to assert their ECONOMIC POWER. A union contract between master and slave (between the miner who gets 75 cents a ton for producing the coal and risking his life and the grafter that sits in his office and charges \$10.00 a ton for it) is a covenant with death. The labor leader who says there can be harmony between a parasite and a producer is a liar at heart and he knows he is lying. The \$6,000.00 that Mitchell receives yearly from the capitalist class for furthering these "TRADE AGREEMENTS" is blood money. Any union that the master will collect the dues and fines for is of no service to the miners. If a contract was a good thing for the workers the boss would not have it. The SACRED CONTRACT is always in the interest of the master class. Down with the SACRED CONTRACT. Up with the FIGHTING I. W. W.—ONE UNION FOR ALL. ALL FOR ONE.

up before the joint executive boards of operators and labor leaders, and in any event that the men should strike to protect their lives, they are heavily fined. Note the following clause which is taken from the contract between operators and miners, which is now in vogue, and will not expire until March 31st, 1912:

"In all cases of dispute the miners and mine laborers and all parties involved, shall continue at work, pending a trial and adjustment, until a final decision is reached under the provisions herein set forth."

Under the provisions herein set forth, it would take weeks and probably months to settle a dispute, and by the time it was settled every miner could be murdered from the "cause" of the dispute.

This is not the only clause in the Illinois contract which bears on the matter of avoiding strikes. In speaking of the duties and limitations of the pit committee, which is selected to hear grievances and submit such grievances to the proper union and company executive boards for adjustment, the contract states:

"Any Pit Committee who shall attempt to execute any local rule or proceeding in conflict with any provision of this contract, or any other made in pursuance thereof, OR WHO SHALL FAIL TO ADVISE AGAINST ANY SHUT-DOWN OF THE MINE IN VIOLATION OF THE CONTRACT, shall forthwith be deposed as a committeeman. The foregoing shall not be construed to prohibit the pit committee from looking after the matter of membership dues and initiations in any proper manner."

In Sec. b, Art. 20, provision is made for fining the men who dare to strike in defense of their lives or for any other purpose. Note the following:

"Any employe or employees guilty of throwing a mine idle or of materially reducing the output of a mine, by failure to continue at work in accordance with the provisions of this agreement, for the purpose of enforcing some demand in violation of this agreement, or to FORCE a decision of some case in dispute by methods other than as provided for herein, shall be fined \$5.00 each.

"All fines collected as above shall be paid. ONE-HALF TO THE STATE TREASURER OF THE U. M. W. A., AND ONE-HALF TO THE SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE ILLINOIS COAL OPERATORS' ASSOCIATION, AND UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHALL ANY FINES SO COLLECTED BE REFUNDED EXCEPT WHEN MUTUALLY AGREED BY THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS."

In 1908 three hundred men at Panama, Ill., violated the provisions of this agreement, and instead of being fined \$5.00 as per agreement, they were fined \$20.00 each. One-half of this money went to the coal operators, which was

(Continued on Page 4)

SPECIAL AGITATION

The I. W. W. locals of the Northwest have carried on a lively anti-employment shark agitation for several years, and the sharks are still doing a flourishing business. No doubt this agitation has increased the general dislike for the sharks, for their methods, and for their whole business; yet job-selling is, so far as I can see, as good a graft as ever, which goes to show that something is wrong, and it is up to us to learn what it is.

The reason why the agitation against employment agencies has brought so little results are fairly plain. There are thousands of unemployed, most of them pretty near broke, and all anxious to get work. Now, when a man has been job-hunting a couple of weeks—or months—and has only a couple of dollars left, he will rather take chances on the honesty of the employment agency than to face the certainty of being jobless and busted in a day or two. Even if he knows the shark to be a grafter, even if he agrees with everything we say about the employment agency business; yes, even if he has been flim-flamed a score of times, he will rather take a bad chance than a bad certainty; and no amount of agitation will keep him out of the job market. This is a fact which we may just as well recognize.

Moreover, some kind of a job market is necessary, both to employers and to wage slaves. Modern industry could not depend on the planless rambling of workmen to keep up its supply of slaves; nor is it rational for a workman to tramp over half the continent in search of a job, which, if he had first obtained the necessary information he could have found in a five minutes' walk. The job markets are here to stay; it is only a question of what kind of job market it is going to be, and where they are to be located.

The employment shark is of course quite satisfied with things as they are. Moral reformers want free municipal employment agencies; we would like to move the job market to our headquarters. But the employers have the economic power; they decide what kind of job market we shall have. They don't like our headquarters, neither as a job market nor as anything else. They don't like the free employment agency much better, because of its utter inefficiency. They patronize the shark because he attends to business in a business way so far as they are concerned, and they don't care how the job hunters are treated. When they have time to attend to the matter, they will probably cook the shark by setting up an employment agency of their own. Anyway, it will be a long, long time before the job market is moved to our headquarters.

I think it is high time for us, who believe in direct action, to cease fighting the employer by such indirect methods as anti-employment-shark-ism, anti-A. P. of L.-ism, anti-politics and anti-Salvation Army-ism.

There is just one thing for us to fight, and that is the autocratic power of the employer, and our attack on that power should be direct. We want to change the shop rules which the boss has posted on the office door and shop walls; the employer will no longer be an autocrat when that is done. If we can reduce the hours or increase the pay, it will be a proof that the employer's will is no longer an absolute law in the shop. If we can force the employer to fire a slave driver whom he would like to keep, that will be a demonstration of our economic power. When we can force the employer to install safety devices and sanitary conditions where we work, then his property rights will no longer be greater than our right to live.

These are the things we should agitate for and fight for; the other things are side issues and should be treated as such.

It is no use to denounce militarism unless the policeman's club and the mailed fist are there to drive home our point. No use to notice the Salvation Army, unless it gets in our way. No use to worry about politics, except when the politicians are running amuck. Don't fight craft unionism, unless a craft union is doing scab herding service for the employer. And the only effective way to fight the employment shark is by agitating and fighting for a shorter work day.

It was not merely by chance that every labor organization that ever had any power gained that power while agitating for a shorter work day. There is no other agitation of such universal interest. Those who have a job need the shorter work day in order that they may save their health and strength; the unemployed need it because it will improve their chance of getting a job, and all wage slaves need it because it will give them more power to fight for other improvements in their conditions of labor. If we had not been trained and educated in political schools, or anti-political, which is about the same thing, and got in the habit of fighting political issues, we should have seen long ago that the shorter work day is the only logical subject for an extensive special propaganda, the only possible first step towards Industrial Freedom.

Until we do see this plain, self-evident fact we may as well be contented with our lot as small and unimportant propaganda clubs. Our only chance to gain economic power is by dealing with economic questions, one by one, in the order of their importance to the wage slave class. We will never get the support of the working class by begging for it, nor by asking men to join the I. W. W. We must agitate for the things the wage slaves need, get the workers to help us fight for these things and win them, then tell them to organize to keep what they have won.

Yours for a shorter work day,
B. E. NILSSON.

SPECIAL NEWS FROM FRANCE

Note.—The author of these articles from France is a member of Spokane Local, I. W. W. He was arrested in the Spokane free speech fight while standing on the public sidewalk, and served a sentence in the jail. While in jail with other members of the I. W. W. he became convinced that the future was for the industrial revolutionary organization, and he immediately joined on his release. Up to the time of his arrest he was a reporter for a socialist paper in Seattle, and was reporting the free speech fight for the Seattle Socialist when arrested. Fellow Worker Foster has gone abroad for the purpose of studying the European labor movement in all its phases. He is earning his way with manual labor and is getting no remuneration whatever for the valuable articles which he so kindly supplies the readers of the Industrial Worker with. May we have some more Fosters of the same type.—Ed.

The long expected and much talked of French railroad strike has been completely lost. After a strike of but a week the workers have deserted their organization and have unconditionally surrendered. The anarchistic C. G. T. has been given a wound that will in all likelihood prove to be its death blow.

So chants the grand chorus of the French capitalist press. No doubt the American papers of the same stripe will echo the same sentiments.

The truth of the matter is that the railroad workers have been ordered back to work by the "Strike Committee," for the frankly avowed purpose of preserving their organization. The general strike of the building trades has been called off, as it was clearly intended to help that of the railroaders. The electricians are still on strike.

What a juicy morsel this will be for the Socialist politicians of the world, inveterate enemies of direct action tactics, who would be pleased to see the destruction of the C. G. T., as they believe it would direct the French labor movement into the reactionary channels followed by the German, English and American labor movements.

However, it will be well, before forming any hasty conclusions in regard to this remarkable strike, to examine the situation a little more closely than capitalist papers are wont to do. The saying, "nothing was ever done wrong except for the best of reasons," is true, and I will endeavor to show the causes of this seeming defeat of DIRECT ACTION TACTICS. I will first try to isolate some of the more important factors and later to indicate the part they played in this modern drama.

Although France is rated as one of the greatest of capitalist countries, her industries have not yet reached such a high state of development as have those of either England, Germany or the United States. In fact, France still is a typical petite bourgeoisie country and exhibits the same phenomena that all countries in this stage of development do. The two of these most important for this article are undeveloped capitalist and working classes compared to the highly developed methods of production in the United States. Small production may be said to reign supreme in French industry. Except in very rare instances capital has not yet grouped itself so as to produce the powerful monopolies and ultra-capitalists so common in the United States.

The working class simply reflects the development of the capitalist class, the thousands of petty merchants, manufacturers, farmers, etc., have not yet been pushed down into the working class, where they will go when the ultra-capitalists get more power.

Until this takes place French society will not have the capitalist and working classes so clearly marked economically—not socially—as they are in the United States. From this pathetic bourgeoisie society comes the government—representing, of course, only the interests of the capitalist or master class, such as it is. This government is strong and its mandates obeyed not only by the workers but also by the capitalists themselves—excepting, of course, in the case of those laws whose application would benefit the workers, these being sabotaged by the masters in the orthodox way. This is because no small clique of capitalists has yet acquired sufficient power to set aside the laws of the rest of the capitalist class, such as we see the trusts doing in the United States. These latter

To Help Us Grow For Three Dollars Four Sub Cards If you are interested in spreading the propaganda of Industrial Unionism; if you wish to see The Industrial Worker grow; purchase four yearly subscription cards for three dollars.

I. W. W. Song Books 10 Cents Each; \$5.00-per 100. Address T. H. DIXON, Spokane, Wash. 326-30 Main Avenue INDUSTRIAL UNION LEAFLETS.

"Solidarity" A weekly revolutionary working class paper, published by the Local Unions of New Castle, Pa.

The Industrial Union Published Weekly by the Industrial Workers of Phoenix, Ariz. An Exponent of Revolutionary Industrial Unionism.

SOLIDARNOSC Official Organ of the POLISH MEMBERS OF THE I. W. W. Published by L. U. NO. 317, I. W. W. \$1.00 A YEAR.

L'Emancipation Official Organ of the Franco-Belgium Federation, I. W. W. AUG. DETOLLENAERE. Lawrence, Mass.

The Agitator A Worker's Semi-Monthly Advocate of the Modern School INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

"La Vie Ouvriere" Bi-Monthly Syndicalist Review Appearing the 5th and 20th of each month. Subscription Rates: France, 3 months, 2 fr., 50c; 6 months, 5 fr.; 1 year, 10 fr.

NEWS FROM FRANCE (Continued from Page 1)

have reduced the United States government to a simple toy in their hands, and in consequence it, and its laws, have suffered a great loss of prestige amongst all classes. An American court or legislature is becoming, to even the workers, simply a grafting institution entitled to no respect whatever.

These sentiments were echoed and re-echoed: the sudden strike of the electricians leaving Paris in darkness was but another evidence of the insurrectional plot, centered at Paris: that was aimed to throw France into the "abyss of chaos."

and the strikers were condemned as traitors to their country. Briand, in his endeavor to break the strike, stuck at nothing. As Jaures said, he retained enough of his old time revolutionary ideas to have a contempt for capitalist law.

During the strike there was one element missing in the newspaper discussions of the great insurrectional plot. There was no definite end to the plot except simply to destroy French institutions. That "La Guerre Sociale" pointed out this indefiniteness and suggested that the plot be properly developed.

These sentiments were echoed and re-echoed: the sudden strike of the electricians leaving Paris in darkness was but another evidence of the insurrectional plot, centered at Paris: that was aimed to throw France into the "abyss of chaos."

NOTICE. New constitutions are ready for delivery. Italian leaflets, address to wage workers, \$3.50 per 1,000.

NOTICE. Nominations for editor for the "Industrial Worker" will be received by Spokane locals and voted on by members of Spokane at regular election December 28.

\$6,000.00 WORTH (Continued from Page 1)

not a bad rakeoff for the trouble of deducting the money from the men's pay envelopes. The total fine was \$6,000. The master got half of it. To back our assertions we again print one of the check-off statements issued to Fellow Worker Mose Fennell:

PAY-ROLL STATEMENT. No. 135. Mar. 15, 1908. Shoal Creek Coal Company in account with Mose Fennell, Work. 78.05 Tons \$42.92

The following newspaper clipping speaks volumes, as it shows that an explosion occurred only a few days ago in the very place where 300 men were fined \$20.00 each for daring to protect their lives against just such an emergency:

"Hillsboro, Ill., Nov. 11.—Five men are dead and 18 injured as the result of an explosion in the mine of the Shoal Creek Coal Company of Chicago, at Panama, 12 miles north of here, today. Four of the men were killed outright and the fifth died from injuries later.

"The gas, which had accumulated over night in a pocket, several hundred feet from the mouth of the shaft, exploded shortly before 9 o'clock, tearing out the timbers and shaking the earth for miles around.

"Any operator paying the scale rate of mining and day labor under this agreement shall at all times be at liberty to load any railroad cars whatever, regardless of their ownership, with coal, and sell and deliver such coal in any market, and to any person, firm and corporation that he may desire."

No Market Restriction. "Any operator paying the scale rate of mining and day labor under this agreement shall at all times be at liberty to load any railroad cars whatever, regardless of their ownership, with coal, and sell and deliver such coal in any market, and to any person, firm and corporation that he may desire."

not arrived at the stage in progress yet, where all workingmen do their own thinking, and it is a known fact that men have to a large extent in the past taken for granted as correct what their officers have told them.

The last contract that was signed in District 10, which takes in the state of Washington, was not submitted to the rank and file, and had it been, it is a safe bet that it would not have passed.

Trinidad, Col., Nov. 11.—Negro miners who have been engaged in carrying the bodies of the men killed in the Delagua mine explosion from the wrecked workings struck today. They declared they would no longer work for \$2.95 a day, complaining that the stench from dead mules and from the bodies themselves was overpowering.

Statistics show that over 14,000 coal miners have been killed by explosions in the last 10 years. There is absolutely no need for any of this horrible slaughter, and the misery that follows in the miner's little home. Only a fighting, intelligent organization, that is prepared to defend its members every minute, can cure this dreadful slaughter.

If any \$6,000.00 fair can harmonize the interest of those who toil in death traps for 50c a ton, and the grafter that charges another slave \$10.00 for the same product after pulling it a few miles on a railroad, he is free to proceed, but we intend to prove to the miners that their strength and safety lies in the proper use of their ECONOMIC POWER on the Industrial Field.

The I. W. W. offers the only solution to the problem. One union for all. All for one. No contracts that force workers to scab against each other. One universal transfer card. One motto. One label. Hurrah for the works.

Workers of the World, Unite. You have nothing to lose, but your chains and a world to gain.

TELEGRAM Fresno, Nov. 30th 20 Men arrested To-day. Help! "LITTLE"