

LABOR UNITY

The Voice of Militant Labor

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Militant Policy Will Win Coal Miners Strike Force Organizing Campaign, Pittsburgh District Miners National Settlement Policy Fight Open Shop Attempts

By ROBERT H. COOK
AT the end of two and a half months of the bituminous miners strike it has become clearer than ever that the do-nothing strike policy which the Lewis machine has imposed upon the union is only playing into the hands of the mine barons who even before the strike have shown themselves determined to still further weaken the union and to reduce the standard of living of the coal diggers.
 This is the more criminal since a majority of the miners, as John Brophy proves in his letter to the membership of the UMWA, printed elsewhere in this issue, have voted against Lewis and his policies and have endorsed the militant program of the "Save the Union" bloc. Only by the most fraudulent vote manipulation has Lewis managed to hold on like a leech to the miners' union and to force upon it the present strike policy.
Union Is Facing Powerful Enemy
 The UMWA is not dealing with unorganized, independent small operators as was more or less the case some twenty years ago. It is confronted by the united forces of powerful companies operating many mines in different fields and linked up with the most powerful finan-

What Must Be Done to Win the Strike

1. An intensive campaign launched to unionize the unorganized fields.
2. Grievances of anthracite miners brought to a head and linked up with struggle of bituminous miners.
3. A national miners strike for a national settlement. No district or individual agreements.
4. Immediate formation of relief committees and distribution of relief to strikers and their families.
5. Support Brophy's claim to the presidency of the UMWA.
6. Support the militant program of the left-progressive "Save the Union" bloc.
7. Mobilization of entire labor movement in support of the strike.

By Jack Howard
THE Pittsburgh District was selected by the coal operators as the base for their union smashing campaign. The Pittsburgh Coal Company, which was the first to break the Jacksonville agreement long before it expired, is at present operating seventeen of its mines on the open shop basis. The Bethlehem Steel Corporation, headed by the notorious Charlie Schwab, is running several of its mines under the 1917 scale. The Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Company opened its first scab mine at Coverdale, Pa. The Vesta Coal Co., a subsidiary of the Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation, posted notices that they are preparing to open their several mines at a heavily reduced wage scale. Several smaller coal operators have made an attempt to open their mines at reduced wages, but met with no success.



JOHN BROPHY

cial interests of Wall Street. The reported merger of the Pittsburgh Coal Co. and the Pittsburgh Coal Terminal Corporation, involving in the combination the Montour rail-

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Police Aiding Operators
 The governmental machinery, state and local, as usually is openly siding with the operators. The Sheriffs of Allegheny and Washington Counties, where the union was the strongest, issued orders making picketing and the holding of union mass meetings near the mines practically impossible.

Strong detachments of mounted police are parading the highways of Fayette County, invading the various mining camps, in order to intimidate the unorganized miners, so that they would not dare to lay

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Why Brophy Claims Presidency at this Time

(From his letter to the Int. Exec. Board)

I am raising this issue not because of personal feelings, but because of the following considerations:

1. I believe in the absolute necessity of honest elections.
2. Those members of our union who voted for me did not vote for me as an individual, but for the "Save the Union" program.
3. Because our union is passing through a crisis. It is facing the danger of demoralization and more encroachment by the operators. But I am firmly convinced that we have the strength and fighting spirit to withstand these encroachments provided we unify the ranks and work conscientiously to put into effect the platform upon which I believe I was elected. This platform is our best means of maintaining our policy of no wage reductions.
4. While agreeing that Mr. Lewis has the right to hold and advocate his own opinions and policies, I claim that he has no right in the face of the tabulated returns, to act as International President and enforce upon the miners' union policies which the majority of those voting have disapproved and voted against.

Brophy Claims Presidency of Miners' Union

By John Brophy

To the Membership of the United Mine Workers of America.

Greetings:

For the information of all union coal miners, I am sending you the following appeal which I have sent to the International Executive Board:

Letter to Board
 International Executive Board
 United Mine Workers of America,
 Indianapolis, Ind.

Dear Sirs and Brothers:

After careful deliberation in which I have considered solely the welfare of our union, I am moved to address this communication to you and also to the membership of our organization.

An examination of the tabulation of the votes cast at the last International election, Dec. 14, 1926, shows gross irregularities, self-evident frauds and vote stealing to such a startling extent that I feel it my duty, not only to myself as a candidate for the office of International President, in that election, but to the United Mine Workers as an organization, to bring these matters before you for your attention and action.

These irregularities are not a few votes in scattered local unions but the most casual glance reveals daring cases of vote padding in entire districts. Tens of thousands of

votes have been added, subtracted or twisted about as best suited the desires or needs of the perpetrators. In fact the large amount of vote "fixing" that has been done leads me to believe that the men now occupying the offices of International President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer were not really elected and that the "Save the Union" candidates were duly elected the international officers of our union.

Eastern Kentucky
 In District 30—Eastern Kentucky—which the first six months in 1926 paid taxes on one member and for the last six months paid no taxes whatever, and which is without even the pretense of a strike to ask for exonerated from tax-paying, there were reported cast 2,686 1/2 votes out of a total of 2,686 1/2 members. The vote from the district as shown by the Tellers' Report is as follows:

Local Union	Members Last Reported	Lewis	Brophy	Murray	Stevenson	Kennedy	Brennan	Harris
261 Ashland	187	187	0	187	0	187	0	0
3177 Ashland	173	173	0	173	0	173	0	0
4098 Ashland	167	167	0	167	0	167	0	0
4099 Ashland	178	178	0	178	0	178	0	0
4106 Ashland	171	171	0	171	0	171	0	0
4139 Ashland	155	155	0	155	0	155	0	0
4169 Ashland	173	173	0	173	0	173	0	0
4170 Ashland	162	162	0	162	0	162	0	0
4188 Ashland	155	155	0	155	0	155	0	0
4212 Ashland	163 1/2	163 1/2	0	163 1/2	0	163 1/2	0	0
4236 Ashland	164	164	0	164	0	164	0	0
4286 Ashland	178	178	0	178	0	178	0	0
4574 Ashland	161	161	0	161	0	161	0	0
4632 Ashland	157	157	0	157	0	157	0	0
4699 Ashland	172	172	0	172	0	172	0	0
4744 Ashland	160	160	0	160	0	160	0	0

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Furriers Strike on page 2

Strike Versus Arbitration on the Pere Marquette

By Arthur C. Johnson

UNITED action of eight railway organizations and the threat of a strike forced immediate concessions from the labor-hating Pere Marquette Ry., while some of the workers demands are submitted to arbitration. What arbitration will bring to these workers will be shown by the developments in the next few weeks.

Anti-Union Management

Notoriously anti-union, and having broken the shop workers organizations during the 1922 strike, the management of this road since then has been attempting to establish a system of "open shop" relations with the rest of its employees. Consistently working to this end, it has consistently flouted long established standard rules of the transportation brotherhoods, which have been in effect for many years on most all railways in the United States. Grievances of the workers have been ignored, and in recent months when other lines in this locality were granting small wage increases to their employees, this company has repeatedly refused to meet the workers to discuss the question of wages and has treated their representatives with contempt.

Long Standing Grievances

The present dispute on the Pere Marquette represents an accumulation of long standing grievances, numerous violations by the company of the ordinary application of working rules, and the question of wage increases. Eight of the railway organizations comprising about 5,000 members, which are practically all of the organized workers on the road, were involved. Confronted with this bitter hostility

of the management, it was a question for the unions either to utilize their forces and fight, or to be crushed by the company.

Overwhelmingly Favor Strike

Following the failure of the unions and road officials to effect a settlement and smarting under the oppression of the union-hating management, a strike vote was taken during the early part of May which revealed that the workers were overwhelmingly in favor of a walkout. The actual percentages of the strike vote taken by the different organizations were as follows:

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, 96.5 per cent.

Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, 99 per cent.

Order of Railway Conductors, 94.2 per cent.

Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, 99.05 per cent.

Order of Railway Telegraphers, 94.6 per cent.

Int'l. Longshoremen's Ass'n, 100 per cent.

Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, 82 per cent.

The strike was set for May 19th, but was averted through last minute negotiations when a "working agreement" was reached by the federal board of mediation, and a number of matters in dispute were settled in a manner mutually satisfactory to both sides, while others are to be submitted to arbitration.

Terms of Agreement

The memorandum of agreement reached with the company contains the following provisions:

All existing rules in dispute shall be adjusted as interpreted by the

several employe organizations involved. In accordance with such interpretation, the railroad shall pay not later than June 30, 1927, 114 claims by employes now filed with the railroad and all similar claims which may be filed within 72 hours after 2:30 o'clock, A. M., May 19, 1927.

Standard rules will hereafter be enforced on the Pere Marquette as on other railways in this territory. Conductors, trainmen, yard foremen, switchmen, firemen, hostlers and hostlers' helpers are to receive the rates of pay in effect on May 1, 1927, which means that those employes on the Pere Marquette will have the same wage schedule now in effect on other eastern lines.

So far as the engineers are concerned, they are to continue to receive the 7 1/2 per cent increase which was granted on April 6, last, by the Pere Marquette to all train-service employes without consultation with the organizations. In addition the carrier agrees that in case the pending wage negotiations with the eastern carriers should result in the engineers getting more than a 7 1/2 per cent increase, the same will be effective on the Pere Marquette.

The memorandum included a clause agreeing to submit the question of wage increases of the Clerks and Telegraphers to arbitration. The Longshoremen are to receive the same wage increases as are granted the Clerks.

The agreement contains finally that:

All chairmen, general or local, or any other employe who may have been active in the prolonged negotiations incident to proceedings leading up to or involved in the

mediation to which this agreement refers, shall not be discriminated against in any manner.

Power of Joint Action

The controversy on the Pere Marquette contains a valuable lesson to railroad labor. The important thing is that joint action by all trades was brought about to the point of a strike, and that the workers held tremendous power in their hands when this solidarity was achieved. This was the first essential step to win. And it was not only sufficient to compel the company to back down from its position of not treating with the unions, but the opportunity presented itself to get far greater results. In this instance, had the strike been put into effect, the workers were in a position to completely shut down the road, force the company to its knees, and themselves dictate the terms of settlement. However, as it was, their united strength was used merely to bring the company to an understanding with them and to negotiate an adjustment of the questions at issue through arbitration.

By failure to utilize the power of the united workers a golden opportunity was passed up to deal the Pere Marquette "open shop" management a staggering blow. Had it been used in its full effect, not only could the immediate demands of the different unions have been won, but much greater concessions could have been forced from the company than the workers will receive from arbitration, judging from the awards granted by these boards during the past six months.

Notes on Furriers Strike

(Continued from page 2)

tinuously joining the ranks of the strikers. Several important shops have closed down in the last two days. In one of the most important shops in the trade the outworkers joined the strike, with the result that the shop closed down.

Gross, Militant Fur Leader, Seriously Injured

JUNE 10.—Yesterday, Gross, next to Ben Gold the most influential leader of the fur workers and Vice-President of the Furriers International, while leading the picket line was attacked by gangsters. He was hit on the head by a beer bottle and was seriously injured. Today's report is that he had a restful night and shows some improvement. But he is still in a dangerous condition, since it is feared that a blood clot might form on the brain. The crisis will not be over for two days.

Despite the frenzied agitation and intimidation against the strike by the labor reactionaries, the Jewish Daily Forward and the bosses, about 70 per cent of the furriers employed in the Associated shops just before the strike are already in the ranks of the strikers. This really means more than the percentage figures would seem to indicate, since in a number of large shops the most strategic workers, such as cutters, are down crippling the operations of these shops.

The Joint Board reports that more than 300 out of the existing 450 shops have been seriously affected, naming 33 shops in the press and stating that the other shops will be named in subsequent reports. A report in "Women's Wear" states that an investigation was made in these 38 shops, and in those shops where the bosses did not refuse to give information the Joint

Board report was substantiated.

Today two strike meetings were held. I was present at the meeting in Webster Hall, which was packed to capacity notwithstanding an extremely hot day. The spirit of the strikers is splendid.

Bosses and Reactionaries Howl at Effectiveness of Strike

JUNE 11.—Both the bosses and the A. F. of L. reactionaries have let out a howl which is an admission of the effectiveness of the furriers' strike. Today's papers carry reports of complaints by these gentry against the police for "permitting" mass picketing and for insufficient protection to the seabs which give the lie to their previous statements that only a few hundred furriers answered the call of the Joint Board.

In a letter to the Mayor in regard to the mass picketing the acting president of the Associated Fur Manufacturers, admits that "the respective businesses of our members are being seriously affected, hampered and injured". Another protest against the mass picketing was made by Matthew Wolf, Vice-President of both the A. F. of L. and the notorious open-shop outfit known as the Civic Federation, in a letter to the Police Commissioner.

Wolf threatens to start a kind of mass picketing of his own. In a letter sent to the unions he appeals for volunteers to participate in counter-demonstrations on the fur market. This will no doubt have the same fate as the appeal he had once sent out for financial contributions to help fight the militant furriers, which even in most conservative unions was thrown into the waste baskets whenever it came before rank and file meetings. Wolf's threat really means that the reactionaries intend to increase their

Seattle Building Workers Settle with Little Gained

By JOHN HENRY

SEATTLE, WASH.—The controversy between the building trades workers and the contractors here has ended without any gain for the majority of the workers, due to the class-collaboration tactics of the union officials.

Of the eight crafts that negotiated for the five day week only the bricklayers secured this demand, and even they only for the summer months of May, June, July and August. The building laborers will receive an increase of 60 cents per day and the hoisting engineers an increase of \$1.00. For all other crafts the wages and working hours remain unchanged. These include the carpenters, sheet metal workers and a number of small crafts.

Building trade officials hail it as a great victory that they were able to secure a written agreement with the contractors organization for the term of one year, even though with the exception of the building laborers and the hoisting engineers (and the bricklayers who are not affiliated with the Building Trades Council), there is no change as to wages and hours per week. Heretofore there has only been a "gentlemen's agreement". Now, in

hired force of sluggers to intimidate the strikers. But the furriers have proven themselves able to take care of the sluggers in the past and they will no doubt stand their ground against Wolf's additional "mass pickets".

At yesterday's mass meetings of the strikers Gold announced that more than thirty manufacturers, members of the Associated, have applied to the Joint Board for settlements.

addition to the signed contract, machinery is set up to adjust differences which may arise during the year without strikes.

Progressive members of the Carpenters' union, which is the largest organization in the building trades, are especially incensed at the outcome of the negotiations. They declare that the action of the building unions' representatives is nothing less than a betrayal of the membership.

Workers Unprepared for Fight

It is pointed out that from the very beginning of the negotiations with the contractors association every effort on the part of the progressives to make the five-day week a vital issue by mass meetings, discussions in the union and general propaganda was sat upon by the union officialdom. They said, "Trust us to work things out." As a consequence when just prior to May 1st all agreements expired and the contractors, backed by the Chamber of Commerce, the Associated Industries, Real Estate Board, and other business organizations refused point blank to concede the five-day week, the workers were totally unprepared to fight for this demand.

There was some talk of a strike, but with no unity of action or preparation, even psychologically, it was out of the question. The fact that the business agents of the carpenters pay very little attention to residence building, leaving this field largely unorganized, and specialize on the large contractors engaged in business block building has depleted the strength and weakened the morale of the union.

Officials Betray Demands

Now it is admitted by officials

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WORKERS HEALTH PROTECTION

THE National Labor Health Conference, called by the Workers Health Bureau for June 18 at Cleveland, if it does nothing more than to bring to the attention of organized labor and the working class in general the conditions in American industry endangering the lives and health of millions of workers, will accomplish a service to the working class.

Without quoting the far from complete official figures on the number of victims of occupational diseases, it is sufficient to recall that over 35,000 workers are killed and more than 2,500,000 are injured annually in this country of immense wealth thru so-called industrial accidents, the great bulk of which could be prevented if the masters of industry would be forced to give some consideration to the problem of conserving the lives and health of the workers.

Organized labor has not paid the attention to this problem which it deserves. At present very few unions include in their agreements with the employers demands that would tend to bring about better sanitary and health conditions. It should become the general practice of all trade unions to have such provisions, and to see to it that these as well as the laws for the protection of the workers health that the capitalist legislatures have been forced to place on the statute books, and which remain largely a dead letter, should be fully enforced.

The importance for workers health protection of a higher standard of living and better working conditions cannot be exaggerated. Better nourishment and more leisure and relaxation in the workers homes mean fewer accidents in the shops and factories. The struggle for higher wages and shorter hours, and especially for the forty hour five day week, is also a struggle for the conservation of the workers lives and health.

It must not be overlooked, however, that many of the accidents cannot be prevented except thru the introduction of safeguards which can be forced upon the capitalists only thru special legislation and vigilant governmental agencies. But the policy of lobbying for the favor of the two Wall Street controlled parties is as ineffective in this as in all other respects. Only thru its own mass Labor Party can the working class hope to achieve real improvements.

FIGHT THE WAR DANGER—DEFEND THE WORKERS REPUBLIC

THERE are increasing signs that the British imperialists are determined to provoke war with the workers and peasants of the Soviet Union. This is evidenced not only by the murder of the Soviet representative to Poland, which was by no means the act of a counter-revolutionary gone mad, and by the terroristic attempts of the counter-revolutionists within the Soviet Union. It is shown in the agreement that,

according to all reports, has been reached between the imperialists of France and Great Britain during the visit of the French President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, the real aim of which is the isolation of the Soviet Union.

The object of this agreement between the imperialists of these two countries becomes apparent in the present campaign of the French government against the communists, obviously intended as a means to mold public opinion in favor of a break with the Soviet Union. Incidentally, Yugoslavia, the ally of France in the Balkans, which heretofore grudgingly submitted to the aggressions of the Fascisti government, now feels strengthened and serves warning on Mussolini thru the break with the Albanian government.

It is significant that U. S. Ambassador Herrick in his Memorial Day speech in Paris, at the very moment when the question of a break with the Soviet Union has become an issue in the French ruling circles, delivers himself of a wild attack on the Soviet government. This speech emphasizes the danger of the American government joining the imperialist bloc against the Soviet Union. To be sure, the conflict between the American and the British capitalist interests, particularly the conflict between the Standard Oil and the British oil interests, has more than once prevented joint imperialist action, and the State Department declares that our Ambassador to France expressed only his personal view. But diplomats are not in the habit of giving expression to personal views that are not the views of their government.

The danger of an imperialist war against the Soviet Union is very real, and the American workers must come to the defense of the laboring masses of the Soviet Union. The reactionary officialdom of the A. F. of L. may rave against the Soviet Government and upon every occasion join the chorus of its enemies. But the mass of the workers feel that the cause of labor demands the protection of the Soviet Union from imperialist attack. American labor must fight against the danger of war on the Soviet Union and must demand that the American government accord full recognition to and establish friendly relations with the Soviet government.

HELPING THE REACTIONARIES AND THE EMPLOYERS

THE leaders of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America pretend to feel greatly insulted whenever the left wing charges them with being reactionary. In fact, Hillman, Schlossberg and their handy man, Salutsky, prefer to be known and parade around as progressives. Unfortunately, there are still to be found workers in the A. C. W. who take seriously the sham progressivism of their present official leaders.

The latest issue of the Advance, official organ of the A. C. W., once more proves the insincerity of these so-called progressives. The editorial in that issue of the official journal on the present Furriers' strike and on the situation in the union generally, is nothing less than giving aid, comfort and support to the black reactionaries and to the employers with whom they are in alliance.

Factionalism is the thing that the Advance discovers and criticizes in the Fur Workers Union. The fascist war of the right wing reactionaries of the A. F. of L. against the rank and file and all progressive elements in the union—the treacherous attack upon the workers, done in combination with the employers, the police and the courts—this the "progressive" leaders of

the A. C. W. view as a factional struggle between the rights and lefts. According to the Advance, whoever may win in this fight, "the workers are the immediate losers".

What kind of attitude is this? We presume that the Hillman leadership would want their rank and file to believe that the Advance is impartial in this "faction" fight. We also presume that Hillman, Schlossberg and Co. would again pretend to feel insulted should we advance the supposition that the Amalgamated leadership is NOT impartial. That as a matter of cold, brutal fact, they are AIDING the reactionaries against the workers and against the progressives. But such is the case despite all the pretensions of Hillman and his friends.

The attitude that the Advance takes in the present Furriers' strike in New York is downright support not alone to the fascist wing of the A. F. of L. but to the employers as well, regardless of what the intentions of the editorial writer may have been. Here is what the Advance has to say on the strike:

"It is a political strike, one which aims to force a decision as to who shall retain control over the workers, the right wing or the left wing."

In the same breath as the Advance condemns the strike as a fight between two contending "factions" for control, it also admits the claim of the progressive Joint Board of the Fur Workers Union that the employers of the Associated Fur Manufacturers are not observing the union conditions. The Advance is compelled to admit that these employers do not live up to the agreement forced upon them in the victorious Furriers' strike of last year. The Advance also knows that the main reason for this is the open treachery of the reactionaries in the A. F. of L. and their support of the employers. And yet, the Advance finds it possible to attack the strike as a factional maneuver of the left wing against the right wing.

Is not the "Forward" doing the same thing? Is not McGrady saying the same words?

We do not propose to judge intentions. We propose to analyze the concrete meaning of deeds. And the meaning of the attitude of the Hillman leadership in the Furriers' situation is support to the reactionaries and to the employers.

BALDWIN GOVERNMENT REBUKED IN BYE-ELECTION

THE stinging rebuke administered to the British Tories in the Bosworth by-election held in the beginning of this month shows that the British tolling masses can no longer be misled by the Red scare.

The Bosworth district had been represented by a Conservative who in the general election of 1924, waged on the issue of the forged "Ziviev letter", received more than 10,000 votes. In the bye-election the Tories waged their campaign on the issue of the break with the Soviet Union. The slogan was "by sending the Russian Reds out of the country we are protecting the British workmen from alien propaganda." But to their discomfiture, their candidate ran a poor third, receiving less than 25 percent out of a total of about 32,000 votes.

It is noteworthy that the Labor candidate was defeated by less than 300 votes, though the victorious Liberal candidate made capital out of his opposition to the government Trades Unions bill. The result of the election proves that the British working masses could be mobilized for a much more militant resistance to the encroachments of the British fascists than their reformist leaders are willing to direct.

MINERS STRIKE

Militant Policy Will Win Miners Strike

(Continued from page 1)

road and the Pittsburgh and West Virginia railroad, and forming the largest coal corporation in the world, is an illustration of the strength of the interests fighting the miners' union.

Long before the present strike these powerful interests have pursued a deliberate and carefully planned policy aiming to weaken the UMWA. The widespread violations of the Jacksonville agreement were a part of this conspiracy against the union. It was apparent in the resistance of the operators in the anthracite strike. It is now manifesting itself in the determined attempt of a number of companies in the Pittsburgh district to operate their mines on a non-union basis.

The present strike policy does not meet this situation. Attacked by such a powerful enemy, the union cannot content itself with a policy of passive resistance. It must mobilize all the forces in the industry that are oppressed by the operators for a counter attack and should enlist the support of the entire labor movement.

A folded arms policy is sometimes a winning policy in an industry that is unionized 100 per cent. But this is not the situation in the coal industry. Under Lewis' leadership the miners' union since 1923 lost more than half of the dues paying membership in the bituminous fields. While in the past the unionized bituminous coal constituted 70 per cent of the total production, at present the proportion has been reversed. The coal survey of the National Association of Purchasing Agents shows that the output of bituminous coal in April, the first month of the strike, amounted to 60 per cent of the output for March, when production, in expectation of the strike, was no doubt above normal (60,147,000 tons for March and 35,775,000 tons for April). The bureau of mines gives the following figures for the weekly production of bituminous coal (we quote them from the last two issues of the Illinois Miner): for the week ending April 30, 8,224,000 tons; May 7, 8,185,000; May 14, 8,402,000; May 21, 8,384,000 tons. These figures tell the tale, and together with the fact that the present strike has not affected the coal prices prove the failure of the present strike policy.

Unorganized Miners Decisive Factor

The decisive factor in the present situation are the unorganized fields. What has the Lewis administration done to bring the unorganized miners into the strike? In Kentucky, as Brophy states in his letter, there is not even a pretense of a strike. In West Virginia, Van Bittner, who is in charge of the organizing campaign there, has claimed that about 50,000 miners in the northern part of the state have joined the strike. But the mine operators have denied this, and nothing has been heard from there of any picketing struggles or of eviction of miners. Can anybody believe that peace would reign in West Virginia if a large number of miners were on strike there?

The news article bearing the date line "Indianapolis, June 11", and reviewing the miners strike situation published in the last issue of the A. F. of L. Weekly News Service, which is surely not unfriendly to the present administration, has this to say about West Virginia:

"In the West Virginia fields the disadvantages of anti-unionism is apparent even to the stoutest champion of this system among business

men. Miners are employed two and three days a week at a wage that makes it impossible to sustain prosperity in the various communities. Unrest is spreading among these workers."

Unrest is spreading among these workers—does this sound as if 50,000 miners were on strike in West Virginia? The fact is that West Virginia has been little, if at all, affected by the strike. A mere gesture of an organizing campaign and publicity stunts of Van Bittner's kind do not fool the mine barons and do no good to the strike. Nothing at all has been done to organize the miners in the coke fields. In the Pittsburgh district, where the bitterest enemies of the miners in the present strike are located and where the largest operators under the protection of the police and state constabulary are attempting to operate their mines on a non-union basis, the district officials have refused to lead and have practically prevented mass picketing.

The mine barons are figuring upon starving the miners out until they will be ready to consider terms acceptable to the bosses. What has the Lewis administration done to bring the organized labor movement of this country to the support of the striking miners and to show to the operators that the miners cannot be starved into submission? Nothing at all. The Executive Council of the A. F. of L. has just met in Indianapolis, and not a word has come from them to indicate that they have even considered the miners strike.

Militant Policy Necessary to Win This Strike

The present policy is a policy of surrender and must be scrapped.

If the miners are to avoid defeat, if the miners want to win the strike and come out of it with a strong and effective union, the U. M. W. A. must adopt a militant strike policy that will rouse into action the fighting miners thruout the nation. Every ounce of energy of the U. M. W. A., and the support of the entire labor movement must be utilized to carry thru the following tasks.

1. A vigorous and intensive campaign in the unorganized fields to bring these miners into the strike and to raise their standard of living to the level of the union miners.

2. The check-off demand and the other grievances of the anthracite miners must be brought to an issue. The anthracite operators have not only violated the agreement with regard to the check-off but also on wages and working conditions. Time and again thousands of miners in the anthracite have gone on strike against these violators but were forced back to work by the Lewis-Cappellini machine. All these grievances of the anthracite miners must be brought to a head and linked up with the struggle and demands of the bituminous miners.

3. A national strike for a national settlement. The policy of district and individual settlements has only hurt the morale of the striking miners and served to remind the unorganized miners of the betrayal of the miners in the coke fields in the 1922 strike. A national strike with a policy of a national settlement will not only bring to the fore the militancy of the union miners and force the nation to take note of the strike, but will inspire confidence among the unorganized miners and help bringing them into the union.

Anthracite Locals Call Conference

on Sacco-Vanzetti

Wilkes-Barre, Pa.—Local 4616, the new local formed thru the recent amalgamation of former locals 484 and 1483 and comprising about 1,400 members, at its last meeting unanimously passed the following resolution:

"That we elect a committee of five to interview Cappellini within two days, to take up with him the question of calling a conference of all locals in District One to be held on the 28th of June for outlining ways and means of protesting execution, this conference to make all decisions for mass meetings, demonstrations, a half-day strike in all mines of District One. And if Cappellini refuses to go along with this, that our committee be empowered to issue a printed call to all locals and other organizations calling the conference themselves."

The committee is composed of the following members: President Hogan, O'Donnell, Toohey, Gallia and Gauso.

I am informed that five other locals in District One, have passed motions in favor of a Sacco-Vanzetti conference and have elected committees to co-operate in the issuing of a call to all labor organizations in the district. PETE.

4. Immediate steps must be taken to organize relief for the striking miners. The A. F. of L., the Internationals, state Labor Federations and city central bodies must be brought into action to mobilize support for the miners and to raise funds for relief.

Every progressive and honest miner must fight to put these policies into effect in order to win the strike and to save the union.

Pittsburgh Miners Fight Open Shop Attempts

(Continued from page 1)

down their tools in support of the union men. Heavy detachments of State Troopers are scattered thruout Western Pennsylvania to serve notice on the striking miners that they must "behave". Numerous arrests of union miners are taking place thruout the striking area.

Rank and File Fights Militantly

Wherever attempts have been made to open the mines with scabs the coal companies met with vigorous resistance on the part of the union men. All of the seventeen mines of the Pittsburgh Coal Company are being picketed, the within the limits of the sheriff's orders. The several attempts to open the Kinloch mine, near Arnold, Pa., the only union mine in Westmoreland County, met with complete failure. The union men, their wives and children came in mass on the picket line and succeeded to have the imported scabs return to where they came from.

At Coverdale more than three thousand scabs were imported by the company since it opened its mine on the non-union basis, but, only about two hundred men are at work. The rest of the imported scabs left the place as soon as they learned of the strike situation. Thruout the District the miners' wives and their children play an important part in the struggle against the operators, and it is not in isolated cases that women are among those arrested on the picket line.

Demand Change of Strike Policy

While the union men of the district are solidly, like one man,

putting up a heroic struggle against the Coal Operators and their attempts to smash the union, there is a general feeling thruout the district that there is an urgent need for a change of the present policy as followed by Lewis and Fagan. Local after local have adopted resolutions calling upon the District and International Officers of the U. M. W. A. to take certain steps which would help make the struggle more effective and which would finally lead to victory for the union. These resolutions, apparently, are falling upon deaf ears.

Several locals, mainly from the Brownsville region, which is located side by side with the unorganized coke fields of Fayette county, adopted resolutions calling upon the District and International officials of the U. M. W. A. to proceed with an organizing campaign among the coke miners. These resolutions offered the assistance of the locals in such a campaign to organize the unorganized fields.

A number of local unions adopted resolutions demanding that mass picketing be organized thruout the district in violation of the sheriff's orders. Protests were raised thruout the district against separate agreements and demanding that a national coal strike be called by the International Executive Board of the union.

Raise Question of Relief

The most outstanding question, which seems to interest every mining community, is the one of relief to the needy miners, their wives and children. It is not a secret that there are numerous miners who are already now suffering hardships because of the strike.

These sufferings are bound to grow as the strike progresses. The men feel that it is their duty to remain where they are needed most and that they should not leave the coal fields in search for some other employment.

Numerous resolutions were adopted by local unions calling upon their district and international officers to proceed with a relief campaign.

In Allegheny Valley a conference was organized to consider the question of relief. Twelve local unions of the U. M. W. A. participated. The conference decided to proceed with a relief campaign, but their decision met with disfavor from the District Officials.

Locals in other sections of the district, such as the Lily and Vesta Six locals, elected relief committees. The Coverdale local decided to distribute relief from the local treasury while it lasts. One of the Avella locals adopted a resolution, which was sent to every local union of the U. M. W. A. of District One, proposing an extensive relief program for the adoption by the District and International officials.

The Allegheny Valley General Relief Conference decided to issue a call for a District-wide conference of miners' locals for the purpose of organizing relief on a district scale.

District Five has an aggressive fighting membership in the UMWA. It is determined to fight for the union to the very last. The membership, however, is conscious of the fact that in order to be successful the present Lewis policy must go and be replaced by the policy as advocated by the "Save the Union" program.

Brophy Claims Presidency

(Continued from page 1)

Even were the district active and really had that membership, it is incredible that out of a possible 2,686 votes, every individual would vote and ever one would vote for exactly the same candidates.

A Lewis Creature

It is interesting to note that the acting president of this paper district is an International Organizer. If he had shown the same zeal and secured the same remarkable interest and solidarity on the part of the men in an effort to organize the miners of Kentucky, as was displayed in the election, a 100 per cent union would have been realized in Kentucky long since.

In District 31—West Virginia—there is but the thinnest concealment of the padding done. Considering that there was an average of only 377 tax-paying members shown for the last six months by the Secretary-Treasurer's report and that there were reported cast 14,164 votes, it would appear that there were 13,787 men on strike in that district, that they were exonerated from paying taxes and that they all voted—every one. It is a well known fact that there is no such number of strikers in District 31.

In District 19—Tennessee—where there were only 482 tax-paying members in the last half of 1926 there were 3,962 votes recorded for Lewis and 15 for myself. The inflated membership of many paper locals in this district, where the acting president is also an International Organizer, have been "plumped" all the way down the line for the administration ticket.

Blue Sky Locals

In District 5—Pittsburgh District—nearly one-third of the locals listed as voting are dead locals which have no existence in fact. The votes from these locals can consist of nothing more substantial than the sending in of a vote return sheet to the International. In this way several thousand votes are listed than an investigation will prove fraudulent.

Many "blue sky" locals of District 2 have sent in votes after these locals have ceased to exist. In others irregularities in the vote appear.

Wholesale padding was done on a large scale in the anthracite districts. It has been common talk throughout the organization that this was the practice in some of the local unions in the anthracite region for years and it is high time that something be done about it.

DISTRICT NO. 1

Local Union	No. of Men	Actual Vote					
		Lewis	Brophy	Murray	Stevenson	Kennedy	Brennan
431 Old Forge	225	225	0	225	0	225	0
285 Dupont	1161	1134	3	1132	6	1131	1
400 Wanamie	936	890	0	890	0	890	0
898 Nanticoke	1132	838	1	838	0	838	0
900 Nanticoke	152	151	1	151	1	151	1
213 Soranton	706	685	13	680	5	665	22
957 Glen Lyon	445	425	0	425	0	425	0
990 Wilkes-Barre	400	392	4	386	3	393	6
1157 Moacanqua	377	350	1	350	1	350	1
1432 Ashley	600	576	24	571	29	588	12
1495 Pittston	1000	928	68	926	59	926	19
1584 Exeter Boro.	1150	1049	47	1047	39	1057	30
1689 Wilkes-Barre	978	825	70	829	57	835	53

DISTRICT NO. 7

Local Union	No. of Men	Actual Vote					
		Lewis	Brophy	Murray	Stevenson	Kennedy	Brennan
1438 Hazelton	308	305	0	305	0	305	0
1507 Eckley	412	401	2	401	1	404	0
1527 Shepton	225	210	0	210	0	210	0
1574 Tamaqua	4046	4020	0	1019	0	1025	0
1572 Lansford	865	700	7	700	7	800	9
1998 Beaver Meadow	500	500	0	500	0	500	0
2033 Coaldale	400	400	0	400	0	400	0
1521 Upper Lehigh	250	247	0	247	0	247	0

These are but a few cases cited out of many to illustrate the kind of vote inflation practiced. District 1 is the chief offender in this respect although District 7 is a close second.

The men of the anthracite know how few turn out to vote at international elections. To ask them to believe that these local unions got out from 80 to 100 per cent of the entire vote is absurd.

There was still another method of stealing votes which cannot be detected from the surface examination of the report. This took the form of manipulating the votes cast from one candidate to another or changing the number entirely. The following are a few examples from District 5, showing how the tabulated vote differs from the actual vote as given out in signed statements by officers or tellers of the locals:

Local Union	Actual Vote Cast		Vote Given in Report	
	Lewis	Brophy	Lewis	Brophy
4238 N. Bessemer	41	109	160	15
3900 Springfield	58	117	258	117
3715 Indiana	156	144	375	5
3506 Russellton	210	166	491	8
5546 Renton	22	102	189	13

Thus in just five locals Lewis was given 988 more votes than were cast for him and I received 477 less than I was entitled to, thereby making the total manipulation in favor of Lewis 1,463 votes.

In most of the active tax paying locals in this district and many others where the voting was honestly carried on from 25 to 50 per cent of the membership voted. Yet the grand total vote for the

office of International President reported by the international tellers for all bituminous districts was 163,627 or more than ten thousand votes in excess of the 153,412 tax paying bituminous members reported in the International Secretary-Treasurer's report for the period ending December 1, 1926.

This vote in excess of membership is made possible only by inflated returns from non-union

Statement of the Trade Union Educational League on the War Danger

Stand by the British Trade Unions!

Fight against War on the Soviet Union!

Fight against Imperialist War on China!

The American trade unions and the working class as a whole must raise their voice in a mighty protest against the attempts of the British capitalist class to destroy the trade union movement in England and to provoke war against the Soviet Union.

British capitalism is at present waging merciless war against its working class. The Baldwin government is planning to break up the trade union movement in England thru its special bill against the unions which is now before parliament. The same Baldwin government, together with the other capitalist powers, is waging war upon the people of China. And now the British capitalist class has taken another step in the direction of war upon the workers and farmers of the Soviet Union. The outrageous murder in Warsaw of the Soviet diplomatic representative in Poland is a direct result of this campaign.

Matthew Woll and the reactionaries in the A. F. of L. are totally indifferent to the war of the British capitalists against the trade unions. Matthew Woll is pleased with the contemplated war upon the Soviet Union which is being engineered chiefly by Chamberlain and Mussolini. Matthew Woll even proposes that the American government proceed to raid all institutions carrying on trade relations with the Soviet Union.

But the American workers, the progressive and honest workers in the trade unions, know different. They know that an attack upon British labor is an attack upon the entire working class. They know that war upon the Soviet Union means war against the oppressed and exploited the world over.

The Trade Union Educational League calls upon the trade unions and the workers generally to

Stand by the British Trade Unions!

Fight against war on the Soviet Union!

Fight against the Imperialist War on China!

—Trade Union Educational League,
Wm. Z. Foster, Secretary.

fields, blue-sky locals, and those bona-fide locals in which the votes were not honestly recorded.

solidarity nor support of the rank and file which are so necessary to withstand the attacks of the operators.

Wide-spread Theft

These are but a few instances of fraudulent vote-counting. The report is rife with many more which can be detected upon the most superficial examination. A thorough going study of the report reveals many more and there are no doubt, others more cleverly done that are not discernible unless the figures reported are checked against those of the local unions.

It seems almost incomprehensible that such flagrant, glaring and wholesale vote stealing could take place in our union; but the facts are so evident that they are incontrovertible. I am constrained to believe that the failure to publish the tabulated report of the vote cast in the election of 1924, as required by the International constitution aided and gave encouragement to such corrupt practices.

The fact that the tabulated vote for the 1926 election was not issued until nearly four months after January 15th, the final date specifically set by our constitution for the issuing of such report, is certainly significant. Why did John L. Lewis, who poses as a defender of the sanctity of the most technical clauses of the constitution when the membership of good fighters against the coal operators is involved, flagrantly violate the constitution in respect to the tabulated vote?

The answer is clear—first, if the tabulated vote had been issued on time, it would have been possible to bring the irregularities before the attention of the international convention, when the delegates in the interest of fair play, would undoubtedly have ordered a complete investigation of the case. Second, the constitution provides that the ballots should only be preserved for six months after the election and when the tabulated report was finally issued, there remained only one month in which to make an investigation. Third, because Mr. Lewis knew that a strike would be in progress in the spring and that if the tabulated vote was delayed, the opposition might hesitate to expose such official corruption at a time when the union is fighting.

This issue cannot be postponed. Officers elected through corrupt practices can command neither the

Honest Election Essential

Therefore, I am raising this issue, not because of personal feelings, but because of the following considerations:

First, I believe in the absolute necessity of honest elections. This is the only means by which the rank and file can be assured of democratic control of the union.

Second, Those members of our union who voted for me did not vote for me as an individual, but for the "Save the Union" program. Feeling that the majority of the miners voted for that program, I would be delinquent in my duty if I did not make this protest as vigorous as possible.

Third, Because our union is passing through a crisis, it is facing the danger of demoralization and more encroachment by the operators. But, I am firmly convinced that we have the strength and fighting spirit to withstand these encroachments provided we unify the ranks and work consciously to put into effect the platform upon which I believe I was elected. This platform is our best means of maintaining our policy of no wage reductions.

Fourth, While agreeing that Mr. Lewis has the right to hold and advocate his own opinions and policies, I claim that he has no right in the face of the tabulated returns, to act as International President and enforce upon the miners' union policies which the majority of those voting have disapproved and voted against.

Demands Probe

Because of these things I demand that an impartial investigation of the recent election returns be made by a committee of five mine workers, two to be named by Mr. Lewis, two by me and these four to select a fifth, their duty to be to conduct a thorough investigation of the entire election, and this to be done promptly and the findings made known to the membership as soon as possible.

I sincerely trust that a sense of honesty and fair play will prompt the Executive Board to quick action in this matter.

Fraternally,
JOHN BROPHY.

Textile Workers Union of Wuhan Cities, China

By EARL BROWDER

HANKOW, April 12, 1927.—Yesterday we visited the Textile Workers Union, held a meeting with their delegates' council, and visited through two of the largest cotton mills in Wuhan. It was one of the most interesting days we have had in China. Crossing the river from Hankow in a steam launch, we were met on the Wu-chang wharf by about 200 delegates of the Textile Workers Union, their Picket Corps (uniformed and armed), the children's organization (also uniformed and drilled), and the band of musicians belonging to the Union. Together with them we marched through the streets, with an accompaniment of music and fireworks, to the meeting hall.

Meeting of Textile Workers

This hall proved to be an American church, which was the only building close by, large enough for the gathering. The altar had been transformed with red flags, and large pictures of Lenin, Sun Yat-sen, and Karl Marx. The meeting was opened by singing "The Internationale", which was joined in lustily by men, women, and children; all knew the words, and in China the tune is still a matter of secondary importance; it is the spirit which is important in singing "The Internationale", and never have I heard it sung, even in Russia, with greater fervor.

The Chinese workers are great believers in the committee-system. They do not leave their affairs to single individuals. Even a meeting such as this was managed by a "presiding body" of five, of whom two were women. No union meeting is opened without the approval of the presiding body by the members.

After a few hours of speech-making, the meeting closed in high spirits, heightened by the merriment produced when we foreign delegates cried the slogans of the meeting in Chinese language. Then, as we had to wait for a photographer to come (every trade union here must have a photo of every important meeting), we filled up the time with revolutionary songs. When a delegate demanded an American revolutionary song, I again realized how backward we are in this respect in America, for the only really American song I could think of was "Casey Jones"; but this, when translated to them, made a great hit. The Chinese workers declare they will adopt it as one of their own songs. If Joe Hill could have known this, it would have pleased him.

After the meeting we went to the

Trade Union Headquarters. This occupies a modern building, near the largest factory, set in a neat courtyard. It is thoroughly modern throughout, the offices are models of neatness, efficiency, and organization, and would be a credit to any labor union in the world. We were deeply impressed by the thoroughness with which every detail was taken care of, especially when we remembered that this Union has existed only since the occupation by the Revolutionary Army, or less than six months.

The Textile Mills

From the Union offices, we went to the largest mill, the Hankow Dee Yee Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co. This is a strictly modern plant, erected in 1919, with more than 90,000 spindles, 1,200 looms, and employing 9,700 workers, of whom more than half are women in this mill, and about one-quarter are children from eight to fourteen years. The machinery is all British, except the engine room and electrical equipment, which seemed to be American. Many of the machines date from 1923, the rest 1920, when the first installation was made. The plant is owned and manned throughout by Chinese. There are no foreigners employed in any capacity.

So far as technical equipment is concerned, the only adverse criticisms we could make of this factory was the absence of ventilation to clear the air of cotton lint, and the absence of adequate guards on the belts and wheels. The toilet and rest facilities were also inadequate, but not much worse than in many American mills. With these exceptions the mill looked thoroughly modern. It is operating at something less than capacity, due to lack of adequate supplies of cotton, which usually comes from Shensi, now cut off by the civil war. The cotton now being used is raised in Hupeh, and is of an inferior quality. The produce of the mill is confined to yarn and plain white cloth.

After visiting this mill and another, the Yu Wah mill, with 41,000 spindles and 4,400 workers, we talked with the representatives of the Textile Workers Union about their organization, and about the living and working conditions. The following information was given us by Han-Yu-win and Fun Chin-yun, members of the Executive Bureau of the Wuhan Union. The last-named is a young woman, head of the secretarial department and of the women's committee.

Working Conditions

The general condition of the industry is slack, and there is much

Anglo-Russian Committee Calls for Fight Against War

THE joint Advisory Council of the British and Soviet trade unions, at its meeting on March 29-April 1 at Berlin, adopted the following resolutions:

1. The Anglo-Russian Joint Advisory Council places on record its opinion that the events of the last two years have fully justified the decisions adopted at the Anglo-Russian Trade Union Conference in April, 1925, and the first meeting of the A. R. J. A. C. in September, 1925.

2. The Conference warned the workers of the world that an attack was imminent against their wages and working conditions, and that the establishment of an all-inclusive world-wide Trade Union International had therefore become a more vital necessity than ever. The attacks on the British miners, the intensified exploitation, the lowering of wages, the lengthening of the working day of workers in Europe show that this warning was justifiable and timely.

The conference emphasized the significance of the increasing menace of Fascism to their most elementary rights and liberties. Events have confirmed that this economic offensive has been accompanied by the spread of political reaction.

The growth of militarism and imperialism and the consequent danger of new and devastating wars, which the Conference declared even then being prepared, has revealed itself in the occurrences in China, Nicaragua, Albania, Corfu, and in the determined agitation for the complete diplomatic and economic isolation of the Workers' Republics of Russia (U. S. S. R.). A particular menace to the peace of the world is contained in the policy of the imperialists

who seek by armed force to crush the legitimate efforts of the Chinese people in their struggle for national emancipation.

3. Reviewing the experience of the last two years, therefore, the A. R. J. A. C. declares that that experience emphatically and more than ever confirms the need for International Trade Union Unity as the biggest and most essential safeguard for the workers of all countries against the attacks on their economic standards, against the menace of Fascism, and against the threat of new wars.

In particular, the A. R. J. A. C. declares that the closest possible unity and co-operation between the Trade Union movements of Great Britain and the Soviet Union is essential to the building up of a united Trade Union International. Anglo-Russian Trade Union Unity is particularly necessary, as recent events have most clearly shown, in averting the danger of aggression against the Soviet Union, as the home of the first Workers' Republic, which would give rise to another Great War, condemning the workers of both countries to suffering and privations.

4. The A. R. J. A. C., speaking in the name of the Trade Unions of both countries, representing nearly fifteen million organized British and Russian workers, appeals again to the organized workers of every country to join their efforts with the British and Russian Trade Union movements in order to prevent new fratricidal wars, to defend their standards of living and political rights, and, overcoming all obstacles and difficulties, to help to bring into existence one all inclusive world-wide Federation of Trade Unions.

unemployment. This is due to civil war conditions, interruption of transport, etc. Conditions of labor are bad, but rather above the average of even industrial workers in China, and considerably better than artisans. Hours of labor are 12 per day. In most of the mills there is no lunch time off. Pay is mostly by piece-work. Wages run from 30c to 50c per day, depending upon the volume of work available, being now about 30c. The working week is six days. The six-day week prevails in Shanghai also, but in Hankow the workers get paid for seven days, the extra day being paid for at the average rate of earnings for the week. Conditions and wages of women are somewhat below that of men. The trade union is giving special attention to the problem of women and children, but in the six months of its existence has yet made few improvements in this respect.

A set of demands has been formulated by the Union, which indicate their immediate desires re-

garding improvement of conditions. These include: (1) eight-hour day; (2) one-hour lunch period; (3) Minimum daily wage; (4) Punitive overtime for night work; (5) Enlargement of lodgings; (6) Improvement of toilets and health conditions; (7) Dining rooms and rest rooms in mills; (8) Abolition of child labor under 12 years, etc., etc.

The few improvements that have so far been achieved in the conditions of women and children are, briefly: women get six weeks vacation with full pay at childbirth; special schools for the children have been established by the Trade Union; factories provide special rooms for feeding children; special departments of the Union have the duty to attend to the needs, demands, and grievances of women and children from day to day.

(The description of the structure and activities of the Wuhan Textile Workers Union will be published in the next issue.)

Seattle Building Workers

(Continued from page 3)

of the Carpenters that at the beginning of the negotiations with the contractors the Board of Business Agents entered into a "gentlemen's agreement" with the bosses to "discourage all discussion and agitation of the five-day week during the negotiations". This, declare the progressive, was a complete sell-out of the workers' case.

The employer interests had mobilized their forces and at the right moment were able to strike with telling force. The workers were not prepared to fight back. The business organizations stepped to the front as spokesmen, declaring that "the best interests of the city would not permit of the shorter work-week". The contractors were thus enabled to say to the unions: "we'd like to grant your demands, boys, but these other fellows won't let us." Thus a basis was laid for the sort of an agreement the bosses wanted.

The bricklayers are not members of the Building Trades Council but they joined in the negotiations. When the five-day week was refused they made no splutter or threats. In a day or two after the refusal a rumor began to flow around by word of mouth, nothing even in the papers, that the bricklayers would not report for work on the coming Saturday. Sure enough, when Saturday rolled around the bricklayers had all gone fishing or were planting gardens or doing some other more important work than laying brick. They have what is practically a 100 per cent organization.

Though there was some newspaper talk on the part of the contractors of attempting to force the painters, plumbers, electricians and other crafts now enjoying the five-day week to relinquish it, this was generally considered as a bluff. A guarantee of their present shorter week is a part of the new contract.

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Will Rogers for Hands Off China

(The article published below has appeared in the American press, and is obvious from the first paragraph, some months ago, but we failed to notice it at the time. We reprint it from the Hankow "People's Tribune".)

By WILL ROGERS

All I know is just what I read in the papers, and as there has been nothing in the papers for the past week but "Peaches" and "Granpap" Browning, I am going to have pretty rough sledging digging out something to tell you about.

I am going to write something else, even if I have to resort to such uninteresting subjects now as China, Nicaragua, or Mexico. China! Those poor people! I never felt as sorry for anyone in my life as I do for them. Here they are, they have never bothered anyone in their whole lives. They have lived within their own boundaries, never invaded anyone else's domains, worked hard, got little pay for it, had no pleasures in life, learned us about two-thirds of the useful things we do, and now they want to have a Civil War.

Now we had one and nobody butted in and told us we couldn't have it. China did not send Gunboats up our Mississippi river to protect their laundries at Memphis or St. Louis, or New Orleans. They let us go ahead and fight.

If a package of dirty shirts got pierced by a bullet, and it made holes in the wrong place the poor Chinaman had to make it good himself. His Country did not send Warships to protect the washboard. If they rendered up his flat irons into cannon balls and heaved em at each other, China did not demand restitution.

No, sir, China told them if you can't watch your own ironing board and wash tub, you better stay at home. They told them "You are going there, why? Because you can make more money. Well, make and pay for your own protection." Now the Chinese, I bet you, have had about more people of their race killed innocently, and have stood for more insults and property damage in all foreign countries than any other race. But they have never let a squeal out of them about it. Yet every other Nation in the world has always took upon themselves some particular claim to help run China. Every Nation in the World have their own land, and every other Nation recognizes it. But China everybody looks on theirs as public domain.

England holds one of their towns. Now what right has England to hold one of their Towns any more than China has to make a Laundry out of Buckingham Palace? Japan used to have these, other Nations tell them what to do, too. Then they went out and got them a Navy and now England and France and America take off their coats and spread 'em down for Japan

to walk on. Japan is civilized now. They have a navy. Any Nation is a heathen that ain't strong enough to punch you in the jaw.

Why, the Chinese as a race have forgot more honesty, and a gentlemanliness than we will ever know if we live another Century. If a Bank fails in China they behead the men at the head of it that were responsible. If one fails over here, we write the men up in the magazines, as how "they started poor, worked hard, took advantage of their opportunities (and Depositors), and today they are rated as up in the millions."

If we beheaded all of ours that were responsible for failures, we wouldn't have enough people left to bury the heads. Us and England, even collect their customs for them. We can't trust them with their own money. Can you imagine having charge of another Country's customs? We said China must maintain the "Open Door" Policy. What they meant by the open door is everybody could come in and do what they wanted but China. Suppose China wanted to have a "Moral Turpitude" Clause in the immigration laws. Why, I doubt if even our Ambassador could get in!

It's a cinch a Marine couldn't get by that test, and if he could he wouldn't be much of a Marine. You just as well not land him. So poor old China wants to have their Civil war. But no, they can't do it. It would interfere with British, and Our trade. We can't allow them to do anything that would interfere in any way with commerce.

England had a strike that stopped every wheel of industry and commerce for weeks. Did China tell them they couldn't do it? Maybe China had boats at Liverpool docks waiting to unload. But do you suppose they could even suggest anything about their business being hurt? The prize two old "Busybods" of the world are England and America. If Dempsey and Tunney exercised their physical superiority, as much as England and America do their Naval superiority, why they would be walking along punching guys in the nose every five minutes, or at least telling them what to do. Even Brazil I see has a Gunboat over there "protecting their Interest." Now what could their interest be? China don't eat Nuts, and don't drink Coffee, Portugal has a Gunboat there. They are doing it for the ad, just to let people know that they have a Gunboat. Can you imagine Portugal trying to stabilize the Government of China? When I was in Madrid, Spain, last summer, Portugal had three revolutions, and three different Presidents, all in 24 hours. They only worked eight hour shifts.

We have Marines in China and none in Herrin, Illinois.

The Imperialist Wrecker



Advice to Striking Miners

*You dare to strike, poor devils, dare to strike
Against the punderbund—this is a crime,
The factories need the fuel; say what you like,
Your place is down below there in the slime.*

*So many deaths a year; well, what of that?
The wheels of industry must always turn;
The masters waxing prosperous and fat
Can't stop to think it is your lives they burn.*

*Jim, Jake, or Pete, or may be Ivanitch
Go up in smoke, a dozen or four-score;
But that's what makes the operators rich,
And that is what they hire you miners for.*

*It wouldn't pay good dividends at all
If mines were made as safe as swivel chairs.
Just chance the gas, the crumbling roofs that fall
And die like dogs for boggy millionaires.*

*Remember, it's your country needs the coal,
And if you strike you're hurting Uncle Sam;
The ships can't fuel for China if you loll
Around like masters and don't give a damn.*

*So cheer the flag; be men, not Bolsheviks,
And kick the Moscow Reds from out your ranks.
Just cease to strike and dig some with those picks
And earn the bosses' everlasting thanks.*

—HENRY GEORGE WEISS.

We haven't even got a Missionary in Herrin.

Between our Missionaries and our Oil men we are just about in wrong all over the World.

Mr. Coolidge says if China ever gets a stable Government that we will give them some new Treaties. Admitting right there that we must have been wrong with the old ones. How is any Nation capable of judging when another Nation has a Stable Government. Boy, they are all

Cuckoo! But poor old China, they just ain't going to allow them to have a nice little private war of their own. No, we must get in it.

Headline says "British Kill Fourteen Chinamen in Shanghai." If our missionaries had already saved these fourteen, why that ought to make it all right, but it certainly will be terrible if they died heathens. Hurrah for self-determination of nations. WILL.