



## NOTES FROM THE FIELD

### TEXTILE WORKERS

Meeting of Executive Board of the National Industrial Union of Textile Workers, Held Dec. 4 and 5, 1909, in Textile Hall, Providence, R. I.

Meeting called to order at 8 p. m. by the Secretary. Present—Ewald Koettgen, Gilbert Smith, Cirille Vandervelde, Thomas Powers and Francis Miller.

Upon finding out that William Yates could not come until the following morning and that Thomas Powers would be forced to absent himself it was decided to lay over to the Sunday session the business for which the session was called.

A committee was appointed to audit the books of Secretary-Treasurer, Gilbert Smith, of Webster, Mass., Cirille Vandervelde of Lowell, Mass., and Ewald Koettgen of Paterson, N. J., formed the committee.

After the committee had finished its work an informal discussion on organization matters lasted until 11 p. m.

#### SUNDAY SESSION.

Meeting came to order at 10:30 a. m. Present—William Yates, Cirille Vandervelde, Ewald Koettgen, Gilbert Smith, Thomas Powers and Francis Miller.

Ewald Koettgen was elected chairman. The auditing committee made its report for the quarter ending October 31, 1909. The report was accepted and the committee discharged.

The secretary reported the chartering of one local and two branches in the past quarter; also that the constitution as amended at the last convention (Providence) and ratified by the referendum were ready for delivery in the English and French languages.

Under new business a motion carried that on account of the date of our convention May 1, 1910, conflicting with the date of the general convention, a motion to postpone the convention of the National Union to Sunday before Labor Day (September 4, 1910) be put to the referendum vote of the organization.

Motion seconded that the referendum to elect two delegates to the general convention to be held May 1, 1910, at Chicago; and the referendum to postpone convention of the National Industrial Union of Textile Workers be placed on the same ballot as Referendum "A" 1910 and "B" 1910.

Recommendation from the Secretary that the assessment to cover expenses of delegates to Chicago convention be levied as follows, was adopted unanimously after a long discussion: No. 20, Lawrence, \$15; No. 132, Paterson, \$10; No. 137, New Bedford, \$5; No. 423, Philadelphia, \$10; No. 450, Lowell, \$10; No. 513, Woonsocket, \$5; No. 350, Providence, \$35. Total, \$140.

The Secretary was instructed to have the Constitution translated into Italian, to be ready for printing as soon as conditions warrant same.

From the reports made by the members on condition of the organization it is shown that the locals in Lawrence, New Bedford, Woonsocket, Philadelphia and Lowell are steadily increasing their membership. At the present rate No. 137 of New Bedford will soon be the largest union in that city. At a recent meeting over 100 applications were acted on. Within the past month they have enrolled nearly all the able-bodied in the city, a craft that holds a strategic position in the textile industry.

A good start in the organizing of the Italian textile workers has also been made

by No. 530 of Providence. Until recently it was impossible to organize them.

Reports also showed that most of the locals had made donations of from \$10 to \$50 to the Spokane Free Speech fight.

Vandervelde, of Lowell, reported that his local besides making two donations, had organized a "Spokane Fight Club," with a weekly assessment.

After a discussion on the policy of the I. W. W. papers, it was decided to push the circulation of "Solidarity" and the "Industrial Worker."

Adjourned at 2:45 p. m.

#### EXPENSES OF SESSION.

Wm. Yates, mileage \$1; expenses 50c; total, \$1.50.

Gilbert Smith, mileage \$1.50; expenses, \$1; total, \$2.50.

Ewald Koettgen, mileage \$8.50; expenses, \$2.25; total, \$10.75.

Cirille Vandervelde, mileage \$5; expenses \$2.25; total, \$7.25. Grand total, \$20.

FRANCIS MILLER, Sec.

### Pittsburg Active

Allentown, Pa., Dec. 29, 1909.

Please note in the next issue of the paper that the office of the organizer of the District Council of the I. W. W. has been moved from 100 Chartiers avenue, McKees Rocks, to 3536 Massachusetts Ave., Allentown, Pa., and that all correspondence in relation to organizing work should be addressed to the above directions.

You may also note that we now have in Greater Pittsburg a butcher workmen's union, which is making splendid progress. It meets every first and third Sunday in the month in Franklin hall, corner of First and East-streets, Allentown.

The mixed local of Pittsburg is making good progress right along. Meets every first and third Friday of the month in its headquarters and reading room at 164 S. 18th street, South Side, Pittsburg.

Good progress is being made in organizing the workers of the Jones & Laughlin plant of the South Side, Pittsburg, into the new local union of iron and steel workers, No. 298. Two branches have been organized so far—first, the Russian-Polish-Lithuanian; second, the Serbian-Croatian and plans are on foot to organize others. This is in spite of the threat of discharge which has been actually used on some of the active workers.

The Woods Run plant of the Pressed Steel Car company now employing about 1,000 workers. While the system of grafting preferred by foremen was abolished at the Shoenville plant, and the guilty ones discharged, most of the discharged bosses are being employed at Woods Run, and it is no secret that they are practicing their nefarious work on this side of the river. The workers are highly incensed over the matter, and unless the company's "higher-ups" put a stop to it immediately there will be serious trouble.

The next convention of the District Union meets at 100 Chartiers avenue, McKees Rocks, Sunday, January 9, at 1 p. m.

JOSEPH J. ETTOR,

District Organizer.

### Strike in New Castle

The strike of the tin workers of New Castle still drags along. About two-thirds of the mills are still operated by scabs, not so effectively of course as before the strike, but the scabs are learning the trade and becoming more efficient as time goes on. Tin is being turned out throughout the Shenango valley, not in such great quan-

ty or of so good quality as when the former employes were in charge, but still in sufficient quantity to keep the market well supplied, and the officials and stockholders of the American Sheet and Tinplate Company are letting the strikers do all the worrying. It is impossible not to admire the persistency of the strikers, or to deplore the facility of their methods and the conservatism and timidity of the Advisory Board, and, in short, of all the officials of the A. A. and the A. F. of L. Natural outcome, however, of craft union methods.

As evidence of the power of the modern trust and the inefficiency of craft unionism to give battle it needs but to be mentioned that the rules and regulations issued against the strikers by the municipal authorities who are of course the tools of the trust, have become daily more oppressive. Last Sunday a mass indignation meeting was held by the strikers to protest against the imprisonment of 97 of their number who were jailed three weeks previously for walking on the streets in a part of the city where the sheriff had forbidden strikers to congregate.

Among others the editor of Solidarity also spoke by special invitation. The main point he tried to make was that indignation without power back of it was always ridiculous, and that the working class could only gain the power which would force the ruling class to treat their demands with respect by abandoning alike craft union tactics and all reliance on law courts and organizing industrially to take power into their own hands. In judging by the applause with which this position was greeted the lessons of the strike have not been lost on the tin workers of New Castle.

Nor did he need to point out that the indignation meeting should have been held when first the iron hand of injustice had been laid on their fellow workers, and not when their jail sentences had nearly expired.

### Switchmen's Strike

The switchmen's strike in the Northwest, which would have been long ago but for the contractual treachery of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and especially Grand Master W. T. Lee who ordered the trainmen who had struck with them to go back to work, has wended its way into the quagmire of governmental interference. First Governor Eberhart of Minnesota took a hand in an effort to "arbitrate" the strike, as governing officials always will in labor troubles when there is a prospect of the capitalists getting the worst of it. Owing to his failure to accomplish anything it has since wormed its way up to Washington and now Injunction Bill Tat is to sit upon the case, thanks to the provisions of the Erdman act and the able plotting of H. B. Pehram, president of the railway department of the A. F. of L., of which the scabbing B. O. E. T. is the principal part. Isn't that a strike for the gods? The switchmen's strike only numbered 2,500 all told, yet they demonstrated in less than a month when they tied up practically the whole flouring industry of Minnesota as well as most of the coal, iron and copper mines and stone quarries between Duluth and the Pacific coast, how easy it would be for the transportation industry organized industrially to bring the whole capitalist class to its knees with one turn of the screws. No; the A. F. of L. labor fails us against that program, but they'll help bring the end before Cincinnati Fatty that he may arbitrate between them and their masters. Bah!

#### ORDER NOW!

"Union Scabs, and Others," by Oscar Ameringer. A four-page leaflet containing a red hot satire on Craft Union methods. Price 20c per hundred; \$1.50 a thousand. Address "Solidarity Literature Bureau, Lock Box 622, New Castle, Pa."

## CONDITIONS AT GARY

Our readers will remember the article on the steel trust at Gary, Indiana, and the conclusions that were drawn in last week's issue. If they can lay their hands on the "Scientific American" for Dec. 11th they will find our position more than sustained, and our conclusions more than verified, without, of course, working class comment. Says the Scientific American:

"Work was commenced in 1906, and at the present writing over one-half of the plant has been completed and is in operation. The work of construction is being steadily prosecuted and when the whole work is finished the equipment will be as follows:

#### The Equipment at Gary.

"A harbor, with complete ore-unloading facilities, and a storage yard capable of accommodating 5,000,000 tons of ore.

"Sixteen modern blast furnaces, having an annual capacity of 2,400,000 tons of pig iron.

"Six open-hearth furnace buildings, each containing fourteen 50-ton furnaces. The combined annual capacity of this plant is 3,750,000 tons.

"A billet mill and a rail mill, the largest in the world, capable of turning out 4,000 tons of rails per day; plate mill, an axle-making plant, and a large group of merchant mills, the above plants having a combined capacity sufficient to roll all the steel that can be produced in the open hearth furnace plants.

"A blowing plant of a total capacity of 92,000 horse power for furnishing air to the blast furnaces, operated by gas engines of 64,000, and steam engines of 28,000 horse power total capacity.

"An electric power plant, driven by gas engines, of a combined capacity of 120,000 horse power; for operating the various mills.

"A complete equipment of mechanical shops at which all of the repairs can be made and most of the machinery required by the plant.

"A water supply system, served by two ten foot conduits leading from Lake Michigan, whose pumps are capable of supplying 170,000 gallons of water per day under a head of 120 feet.

#### Labor in Gary.

On labor conditions in Gary, considerable light is shed by a special despatch in the New York Call of Dec. 13. It shows that the men in the rail mills there work "12 hours a day, seven days in the week, and on the time of the change from the day to the night shift each man works a stretch of twenty-four hours as his turn to change his night shift comes."

Life is cheap at Gary. The company maintains a completely equipped hospital. Says the Call special despatch: "The men employed in the mills are for the most part inexperienced because the perfection of machinery is such that the man is a small factor in the production of steel. The huge mills are operated by electricity and controlled by levers and buttons pulled or pressed by experienced men. The workers in the mill are constantly getting hurt, the first thing that the company does is to secure the signing of releases, which absolve it from any liability."

Stocks surround the portion of the plant now under construction. Scab labor is employed on all building operations. An employment agency is maintained, which hires those coming to the United States ignorant of conditions. Unions of all kinds is fought tooth and nail.

Significance to Organized Labor. The significance to organized labor in

the foregoing is simply this that craft unionism in the steel, iron, and tin industry is done for. It is not even for one moment a question of what men would like or what they would prefer. The Gary steel mills are done. They are capable of supplying a great part of the market which the trust also controls. "It is not a theory that confronts us but a condition." No craft union and no aggression of craft unions can ever win another strike against the steel trust. The perfection of modern machinery at Gary has settled that. IT DOES THE WORK, and with comparatively unskilled labor. To be sure a number of these half skilled laborers are constantly being killed, but that doesn't enter into the account at all, either for the company that doesn't care a tinker's rust word or far the hungry unemployed who have to play Bo-Peep with Death every day to get a crust of bread.

The A. A., the P. A. and all other similar bodies formed on craft union lines, might just as well look the facts in the face. Their unions are deadlier than Julius Caesar's in fact, offering any real resistance to the steel trust is concerned. They may, of course, hogue on, pay dues, and furnish roosting places for salaried officials, but their fighting power is done. The only hope left hereafter to the employes of the steel trust is industrial organization in the I. W. W. which takes for not part of the wage earners but all of them.

Merely talking about industrial unionism won't solve the problem either. What is wanted is action and action now. The employes of the steel trust must make up their minds either to get into the I. W. W. or to be crushed to the earth under the iron heel of the steel trust.

Employment Sharks in Ontario

PORT ARTHUR, Ont. Dec. 29, '09. Editor Solidarity:

I am writing this article in behalf of our fellow workers who are starving in Port Arthur. They are nearly all lumber jacks in these two cities, and are not organized at all. Employment agents rob them in every way. They send you out on a job for a dollar fee, and give you a contract with certain information, but when you get out to the camps, the boss gives you different orders. I learned a few facts in the last two weeks. I was out of town twice, but came back again, and lost two dollars fee and about ten dollars fare, and can't see the end of robbery. When you come back and go to the office asking for the return of your fee, the shark chases you out. Big keeps sending our fellow workers into the same camps. They come and go. In one camp where about 30 men only are working, over three hundred men have gone and come in the last few months on account of the rotten conditions. The only trouble is, the workers are not organized. I see the necessity for the I. W. W. There is a socialist local here, of which I am a member, but what can be accomplished for the workers through reforms in parliament, if they have not bread and clothes? So I am writing these few words to you to let you know about the necessity for the Industrial Workers of the World in Port Arthur and Fort William, Ontario. They are building through here a great railroad from Quebec to the west coast. It is a socialist band of men under terrible conditions of robbery. I am a foreigner and can't speak much English, but I feel for all humanity. You will find enclosed one dollar to help our Spokane fellow workers in their free speech fight. A. S.



**A Double Enemy**

By Fred W. Hestwood

The second enemy is greater than the first. The first one is a natural enemy. It wants more profit. It lives from the toll, sweat and blood of the workers. The harder the slave works, and the longer he works, together with the least he will work for—all makes more luxuries, finer places, more wealth for the boss. The boss went into the business to make money, and as any old Missouri mule knows that "labor produces all wealth," it is very natural to understand, that the less the slave gets out of the product of his toil, the more there is for the boss, and as the boss likes nice things it stands to reason that he is going to get all he can.

An intelligent working class, wouldn't keep the boss on its back two minutes, any more than a dog would keep a louse on his back sucking the blood out of him, if he knew how to scratch Mr. Louse off. The dog don't need the louse in his business; but the louse needs the dog. Without the dog it would starve to death.

The same applies to the workers and the parasites that are daily sucking the life out of the workers. We must scratch them off, but we can't as long as we believe that it is necessary to keep them on. They would not be hard to whip if it were not for their ally.

**The Second Enemy—The Labor Fakir.**

The second enemy is the greater of the two. He poses as a friend, a helper, and leader, and he tells us that everything is lovely and that he is fixing up a game with Carnegie, Belmont and a few other American capitalists, whereby there will be peace and good will on earth, no more strikes, etc.; no more slaughter houses where workers are mangled and maimed; no more bread lines; no more tramps. Just be patient and take your medicine. Never mind a few bullets being shot into you at McKees Rocks! Forget the bull pens. Don't let your memory run back to Homestead. Forget about the thousands of school children who were daily sent home because there was nothing in their little stomachs. Never mind if the bosses burn up the cotton when the babies are naked, or throw the bananas in the harbor when the slaves are starving. Forget about the fifty tons of chickens, turkeys, ducks, potatoes, etc., that were thrown into the public granaries in Vancouver, B. C., when the workers were starving on the street.

Yes, the Civic Federation will cure all this trouble, and Gompers will then have more time to put in his foreign countries in the interest of the boss, spending more money trying to distort workers into craft unions. That French Confederation of Labor is a bad thing. It must be stopped, and Sammy is the guy for the job. The stingy American capitalists, to only give him \$1,000 to spend in Europe, and then to get kicked off the job by those hard industrial unions.

Mitchell should go now to Europe and tell the pesky Frenchmen how interstate agreements work in America; how prosperous the coal miners are; what beautiful residences they own; and how one state scabbing on another is a good thing. Surely the Frenchmen can see the necessity of contracting one set of workers against another set. Mitchell is the boy for Europe, and while he is there he can reiterate what Sam said, that the I. W. W. had not the courage of their convictions in America. If it is courageous to be a liar and a traitor to the workers, the labor fakir can boast of having a heap plenty.

How long can the American wage worker be misled? When will he think and act for himself. Is the lie, "That we have interests in common with a profit monger" always to be swallowed?

Now the workers are to be instructed on industrial unionism by the Industrial Educational League, with Mitchell as president of it. An A. F. of L. organizer has headed from Seattle by Washington, D. C. to be at the meeting of the League. Will Gompers and Carnegie and Belmont and Scab Hero Elliot be there? The workers must be educated. What a fare, and from such a source. Stay in the A. F. of L. scab union, and learn industrial unionism from Mitchell, while the industrial unions of capitalists (trusts) are sucking out the last drop of blood. Yes, these Civic Federationist blood suckers will reach industrial unionism! The A. F. of L. will educate the industrial unionist! So will the tail of a rat turn around and grow through his mouth.

The effect of the McKees Rocks victory must be throttled. The workers have leaders; the capitalists will leave the job

in good hands. Their dear brethren of the Civic Federation will look after the work of furthering the interest of the boss.

A child can understand industrial unionism in two minutes. The jackasses in Brazil understood it. When they put their heads together and get in a circle, and all kick out at once when the mountain lions come for them. But an A. F. of L.ite who has always had his stern end pointed at the same place as his brother's in the other crafts, and kicking hell out of each other—he cannot see the point. Mitchell will teach him.

A craft union, with a \$50,000 initiation fee and a contract for a specified wage for two years ahead, is the dope to wipe out trusts with. A craft unionist don't know what struck him until the boss tells him some nice fine morning that he has a bone to pick with the work, and if one out of every six of them wishes, he can have 50 cents where he formerly had a dollar, to operate the machine. The five can go under the water tank and figure out in their poor old craft ridden brains where the \$500 initiation fee went that they paid into the A. F. of L. This is what the Green Belt Blowers are getting now.

Robert Ingensoll, one of the greatest orators that America has produced, said that the labor problem was one of "whether the workers were going to own the machine, or the machine own the workers."

It's up to the workers to settle this problem, and not for politicians or preachers.

One revolutionary industrial union will take and hold the machine by its force (power), or, if the boss keeps it, we'll have to take to the water tank.

Nuf sed.

**The A. F. of L.**

By Covington Hall

Why it cannot develop into a revolutionary working class industrial organization.

A social organization, like a man, is born; it grows, its character is formed, and it can no more disobey the laws of its existence than can the man; like him, until the end, it must, it has no choice otherwise, be true to the birth seed from whence it came, and the birth seed of the A. F. of L. is competition, and this being dead, the only thing, the greatest service the A. F. of L. is now capable of doing for the working class is to do so that we may use its body to fertilize the field of labor wherein have been sown the new birth seed of co-operation, the next thought of the industrial solidarity of the working class, to which thought the A. F. of L. can never come, since all history is against it, for it proclaims on every page that you cannot put new wine into old bottles, nor yet gather figs from thistles.

Just as little business went down before the trusts, so must the old go down before the industrial union—it will not be by amalgamation, but by absorption—not by a DEVELOPMENT OF THE OLD INTO THE NEW, but by a REVOLUTION OF THE NEW OUT OF THE OLD that the working class will be freed.

For this same reason, so, all political parties of socialism must fail, for the industrial commonwealth is a revolution out of the political state and not a development of that state into the commonwealth. And this on the principle that there is no life of the young save by the death of the old. Self-sacrifice is as great a law of nature as self-interest, and they who refuse to obey the first are as hopelessly doomed as are they who refuse to consider the last.

The A. F. of L. cannot serve the self-interest of the working class, nor appeal to its spirit of sacrifice, for it is too weak a weapon with which to fight the trusts and too false to truth to make men lay their lives upon the altars of love and freedom. This, the organization of the workers into a revolutionary industrial union, the I. W. W. alone can do, for it alone stands on the rock of their self-interest and it alone holds an idea worthy of the spirit of self-sacrifice.

**Usual Craft Union Tactics.**

The wage slaves in the boot and shoe factory of Eagle & Cove at East Boston are on strike. That is, some of them are. According to the New York Call there are "300 additional workers in the departments not yet affected by the original strike order."

Meanwhile the strikers have thrown out aordon of girl pickets to dissuade others from striking. That is, some of them are. But the 200 good unionists "not affected" keep on working just the same. Usual craft union tactics. Enough to make a horse laugh or an angel weep, whichever way you look at it.

**Taxpayers and Non-taxpayers**

By A Rebel

I'm glad I'm not a taxpayer. Taxpayers belong to the class of well fed, well clothed, well housed bloodsuckers who was fat on the products of non-taxpayers' toil.

Non-taxpayers are the working class, who have no property except hands to work with and feet with which to hike to the next job.

I know what I am talking about, because I have both worked (hard) and hiked (far) and seen many others do the same.

Some taxpayers have big bellies, wear diamonds, live in palaces, ride on special trains, and laugh at the likes of me, the product of whose toil they gamble in.

Other taxpayers have similar aspirations, but lack means to gratify them, and are correspondingly bitter toward non-taxpayers.

Taxpayers support a body of servants with idle rubber souls, known as judges, presidents, governors, legislators, mayors, editors, policemen and soldiers, whose duty it is to keep non-taxpayers from kicking over the traces while they are being worked and robbed. Laws, injunctions, lies, clubs, and bullets are the means to this end.

Taxpayers break all laws that interfere with their convenience or their interest. They invent black lists and keep pedigrees of their slaves.

Taxpayers are organized. They belong to the Manufacturers' Association and the Citizens' Alliance, and hire labor fakirs to keep their non-taxpayers slaves from rebellion.

Non-taxpayers produce all wealth; eat moderate quantities of "embalmed" meat; wear shoddy clothing; dwell in miserable holes and shacks; and travel "first class" on foot in side door Pullmans.

Some non-taxpayers are foolish enough to want to escape into the class of taxpayers.

I am not one of these. I would not change places with any taxpayer.

Their system of plunder has robbed me of my home, and has made miserable the home life of my fellow workers. It has starved our bodies and our minds, and is preparing to do even worse to our children.

Yet I make no appeal to taxpayers or their servants. I have learned to hate them as a class; to despise them as a class; and, in my manhood, to stand up and defy them as a class. They may put me in jail for it, as they are doing my fellow wage slaves in Spokane and in New Castle, but so long as I have breath in my body to voice my aspirations, I will be heard.

My number is not yet legion, but will be soon. Then no competition will be large enough; no judge or lawmaker or policeman or soldier brave enough; no editor or labor fakir clever enough; no jail strong enough; no short, NO POWER in heaven or earth to longer enable taxpayers to oppress and degrade non-taxpayers.

"The earth and the fullest thereof" will then be ours, and taxpayers will have to become one with us, or get off the earth.

I am a member of the I. W. W.

Buy in San Francisco. Solidarity, New Castle, Pa.

Your initial copy of Solidarity was received here yesterday and I as well as others took great pleasure in reading same, and wish you the greatest success in the future.

We have concluded to get 100 copies a week and if able to do so will increase the order from time to time. We now handle one hundred copies of "Industrial Worker" and when weather permits we sell all of them at our street meetings.

We are also doing all in our power to keep up the fight of our fellow workers in Spokane, such as holding protest meetings, collecting money, and have sent in the neighborhood of thirty-five men to the front. The Socialist Party here in Frisco have also done their share, realizing that this fight is theirs as well as ours.

The new I. W. W. local over in Oakland now numbers about 65 members and is gaining from five to ten new members a week, and at the present rate of growth may soon put the Frisco bunch to shame. The Oakland local has decided to hold a smoker on the last Sunday of each month.

Yours for Solidarity via the I. W. W.

AUGUST WALQUIST, Cor. Seely Local 173.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS. Copy must be in hand by Tuesday night to insure its publication that week. This is imperative. We make up on Wednesday and go to press Thursday morning.

**THE I. W. W. PREAMBLE**

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class has interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wages for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Knowing, therefore, that such an organization is absolutely necessary for our emancipation we unite under the following constitution.

**INDUSTRIAL WORKER**

Published Weekly by the Local Unions of the Industrial Workers of the World in Seattle, Washington.

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**SOLIDARITY**

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A Year's Strikes

Looking back over the year that has just passed the revolutionary unionist, indeed, sees many things that he tended to teach the workers the class struggle in all its intensity. In the midst of all the economic oppression and brutality, and in many instances a bank-like subsidiveness on the part of the struggling toilers, there has shown a bright ray of hope and revolutionary spirit waiting to burst forth.

The following is a list of the more important strikes that took place during the year:

- Jan. 15. General strike of hatmakers in Newark, N. J.
Jan. 25. 10,000 pant makers go on strike in New York.
Jan. 25. Postal clerks win strike in France.
May 1. New York bakers declare general strike.
May 1. 55,000 lake seamen declare strike.
May 4. General strike declared at Buenos Ayres.
May 10. 10,000 postal employees declare strike in France.
May 10. French seamen join postal employees' strike.
May 30. Carners in Philadelphia declare general strike.
June 3. Philadelphia subway and elevated men join striking carmen.
June 4. All Philadelphia barmen win strike.
July 26. General strike declared in Copenhagen, Spain.
July 26. Revolt spreads in Spain.
Aug. 4. General strike declared in Sweden.
Sept. 7. McKees Rock workers win strike and go back organized in the I. W. W.
Oct. 2. 7,000 neck wear workers strike in New York.
Nov. 22. 30,000 ladies' waist makers strike in New York.
Dec. 1. Switchmen of northwest declare strike at St. Paul.
Dec. 16. Swedish employers call off lock-out.
Dec. 20. Philadelphia shirtwaist workers declare general strike.

It is true that most of these strikes were held down by craft union tactics and the capitalist spirit of the leaders. But the strikes in themselves are not lost to the working class. They mean much. Last year was a great year of strikes.

The New Year's Outlook. Never was the spirit of revolt and discontent so broadcast as at the present time. Unrest of an extreme character manifests itself throughout Europe. Nor are the issues discussed in the reformist type. The revolts in Spain, the Spanish strike and the increasingly revolutionary spirit of the Direct Actionists of France give evidence of tremendous things in the not far future. Revolution is the cry of the proletariat of Europe. No one is able to say what the end of the new year will bring forth.

The revolutionary unionists of America may look out upon the new year with much expectancy, also. The industrial union agitation long on throughout the country—stronger than it has ever been before—cannot but bear results before long.

Despotism increasing. A brief glance over the events of the last year, and those expiring at the present time, indicate that despotism is increasing in this country. And this is natural. Capitalism has reached a point in its development where it is forced to use reactionary methods to perpetuate itself and blind itself from the impending terror which is creeping upon the rulers of the present system. These very methods, however, only aggravate its case. They only tend to increase the momentum and sound the little vire of the proletariat.

The Strike Strikers. In the strike of the waist workers of New York and Philadelphia, we see a remarkable revolutionary spirit in solidarity craving for manifestation. We are not for the labor pugs and capitalist leeches who step in and dissipate the revolutionary energy of the girls, some of them as young as 12 years, the strike would have been long ago and they would not have had to blur the line of the class struggle by insisting that the bosses recognize their union. The rank and file in both New York

and Philadelphia were willing to come out in a solid body in the beginning. A little dash of the I. W. W. spirit would have been sufficient. But these girls must wait until the revolutionary union gets the upper hand in the basic industries. At its rate, they have sworn that women can and must take her place, like the men, in the ranks of the industrial conflicts and there fight out her battles with the stronger sex.

Legislation and Unions. The Chery, Ill. mine explosion has again brought up the question of labor legislation and the unions. The question which is being discussed to a large extent among the rank and file of the United Mine Workers is that of responsibility for such accidents. The trade union and the socialist press have been calling the mine owners all kinds of criminals. They and they alone are to blame, we are led to believe.

But there is another side to the situation. We discover several new things or rather things crop up which give us an opportunity to show that the cause of the explosion was due to the capitalistic methods of the United Mine Workers.

For instance, there was a law on the statute books of Illinois compelling two openings when there was only one. There was also a law prohibiting the employment of boys under 16, yet there were boys working in the mine 13 years of age. Besides other legal requirements if lived up to would doubtless, have prevented the explosion. Now who suffered the brunt of these laws? Who should have been the first to urge their enforcement? Of course, the miners themselves, through their organization. But what do we actually see? The United Mine Workers in its constitution prohibits a local group from coming out against the violation of mining laws. And individuals are fined \$10 for "materially reducing the output," which which goes to the able treasurer of the organization and the other half to the coal operators' association. The individual who kind the face of these rules is chopped off by the company and the union has no sympathy for him.

Slowly but surely the rank and file of the coal miners are getting wise to the treasonous game their officials are working upon them. Discussion has already begun. Let it continue. A real union is bound to develop upon the ruins of the old.

To Suppress Strikes. Gen. Edward S. Bragg, an old army man in Wisconsin, says that "the government has not done its share in suppressing strikes which have arisen all over the United States." He further says: "These outbreaks are nothing more than signs of anarchism which are sounding warnings, which must be heeded." The old militarist can see the revolutionary impact of strikes, but like the reactionary lackey of capitalism that he is, they will not be suppressed. They will go in numbers and in intensity. The revolutionist welcomes them.

The Spokane Fight

From Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. The Socialist party here has been put in quite a predicament in Spokane, Wash., last Sunday. On that date I lectured before them on the subject of Industrial Unionism and was really as moderate and civilized for an I. W. W. agitator to be, but the hall proprietor informed them that they would either have to give up the hall or bar all I. W. W. speakers from their platform in the future. As I suppose you know there is a type of socialist who can do almost everything in the line of mental acutities except to take a decided stand. It has now been put up to them to either line up for or against the I. W. W. and free speech, they have had had for six years and some of the ideas of being it, while the younger ones think it's fun, and will probably line up with it.

The I. W. W. in and around Spokane are getting along fine. They're not everything they ever had but their "good character" and, seriously speaking, they have gained a great deal in a propaganda sense among workers who never heard of the I. W. W. previous to this trouble.

With best wishes to all and compliments upon the first issue of SOLIDARITY, I remain,

Yours for Industrial Freedom, ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, Spokane, Wash.

From One Who Was in the Ball Pen. The fight for free speech and free press is still on in Spokane, Wash., and will continue until the city of Spokane surrenders to the police and all prisoners from jail. The I. W. W. will never surrender. The three stars on our emblem spell fight.

Philadelphia Strike

The striking shirtwaist makers of Philadelphia are displaying an energy and combativeness equal to their fellow workers in the same industry in New York and that is fairly good for a new paper that has hardly had time yet to reach the by ways of the country. Yet, let it be noted that the larger part of these orders come from extreme western sections of the United States. The Pacific coast is leading, as usual.

What is the matter with our fellow workers in the East. To be sure, a few are very active, and are sending in suits right along. And we know that conditions, and especially the reactionary forces of craft unionism are greater drawbacks in the East than in the West. But that is all the more reason why the militants should redouble their energy in spreading the propaganda.

Look at the big strikes in New York and Philadelphia. The opportunity to reach thousands of slaves, even those who are not directly striking, but looking on and wondering at the demonstrations. Get a bundle of Solidarity and go after them. They won't come to you unless they know you are in existence.

How about Pittsburgh proper? That return is not all satisfactory from that section. Get busy fellow workers. We sent at least 1000 suits from the Pittsburgh district by May day.

We publish herewith extracts from a few of the encouraging letters received during the past week: RUTHE, MONTANA—"Enclosed find \$3.00 to pay for sub cards with enclosed addresses. Wishing you the best of success." J. R. THE SAN DIEGO, CALIF.—"Enclosed find a dollar for which please send me two bundles, 50 each of numbers 1 and 2.—E. H." WORCESTER, MASS.—"Enclosed you will find \$2.10, the dollars for sub, and for the ten cents I want you to send me a few copies of Solidarity. I will try to get some subscriptions Worcester.—I. H."

CHICAGO—"Please find enclosed \$2.00 to pay for 200 'Solidarity' ordered by Vincent St. John. Send bundle of 100 weekly to my address.—E. H." "Enclosed find money order for 50 copies of Solidarity which you sent our local.—F. L." HOLIVILLE, CALIF.—"Enclosed find \$1.00 for which send me a bundle of hundred to Local 437, I. W. W.—P. B." MIDDLETON, ILL.—"I received four sub cards someone gave me, but am sorry to state that I haven't been able to dispose of them, but you will find enclosed one dollar for a sub card for me myself. I received a sample copy of same and like it very much. Will promise to do all I can to help pull up a good circulation, as I do for all publications that make it their aim and hope to better the conditions of a class that sorely need it.—O. H. M."

NEW YORK CITY—"Herewith I enclose sub card and the dollar to pay for a year's subscription to 'Solidarity.' I also enclose one dollar in United States by Oscar Ameringer. I just learned tonight that you are issuing this leaflet, and as I have been trying to get it for over a year, it was a pleasant learn that I could get it at last.—J. E. J."

SEATTLE, WASH.—"Please send one hundred copies number 1 to Executive Committee, I. W. W.—Sec'y." "Enclosed find money order for \$6.00 for eight sub cards to Solidarity. The cards are all issued to different fellow workers here. As I used to take suits for the 'Bulletin,' I local wanted me to go ahead with the suits for Solidarity.—C. C." PORTLAND, OREGON—"Enclosed find money order of \$2.00 for bundles of 100 copies each of Nos. 2 and 3.—W. Th. N., Literature Agent."

[NOTE—This fellow worker complains that several subscribers have failed to receive the paper. This may be due to the fact that we have several names whose addresses were misplaced before entry had been made. As soon as we learn their addresses, look numbers, we will send them. Otherwise the fault may be with the postmaster, and subscribers should always inquire at the postoffice when their paper fails to arrive.] "Enclosed find \$2.50 for two sub and bundle order of 100 copies to be sent to the I. W. W. Central Executive Committee.—B. E. See's." HISBEE, ARIZONA—"In reply to your appeal for support of Solidarity will say that this local is desirous to purchase the ten yearly subscription cards at your offer of 25 per cent discount, for which please find enclosed draft for the sum of \$7.50 in payment of same. Send ten copies weekly to Bisbee Miners' Union No. 106. I will hold the 50 sub cards and in case I can sell any of them to subscribers, will send same to you. Trusting this amount will go far toward keeping Solidarity in the field I am, Yours for Industrial Freedom.—W. E. Stewart, Sec'y No. 106, Western Federation of Miners."

FOR THE 10,000!

Ever hundred copies in BUNDLE ORDERS is the record for last week. That is fairly good for a new paper that has hardly had time yet to reach the by ways of the country. Yet, let it be noted that the larger part of these orders come from extreme western sections of the United States. The Pacific coast is leading, as usual.

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Protest in Providence

All who believe in free speech and freedom of the press should attend the meeting at Textile Hall, Oliveville Square, Sunday evening, January 9, 1910, at 7:30. To protest against the arrest and imprisonment, in Spokane, Wash., of over 500 men and women for the crime! of exercising the natural right of free speech as guaranteed in the constitution. To protest against the attempted suppression of a labor paper, the 'Industrial Worker' of Spokane, and the imprisonment of its editors. The editorial staff being charged five times in six weeks, the last editor, a young woman well known here, Miss Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, being sentenced to six months in jail. Meeting under auspices of Textile Workers Local No. 350, I. W. W. Good speakers. Good music. All welcome.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO READERS!

Those wishing to contribute to the Spokane Free Speech fight may send money card of SOLIDARITY and they will each receive free one of the first hundred copies printed of our first issue. These papers are specially numbered for that purpose. No contributions of less than One Dollar will be accepted on these terms. All proceeds will be forwarded to aid our fellow workers in the fight.

Agitate, educate, organize! Spread the propaganda by ordering bundles and getting individual suits for Solidarity.

The disorganization of the working class is the whole secret of the master's power. The industrial organization of the workers is the only force that can break that power and bring victory to the working class.

Vote 'em! Vote 'em! Hell, they're defuncting those workers by the thousands every day. And it's a long time between elections. We don't have to wait and we're not going to.

When you have read this paper, make a present of it to some fellow wage slave, and induce him to subscribe. Remember, it is your paper and your cause. We will do our part. Do yours.

The I. W. W. organizes the workers with progressive power. The more of them that are organized the more power they have and the easier it is to organize yet more of them. To get more power to bring more workers into the organization until pretty soon you'll have it all. What more do we want?

Official Catalogue of MEERSCHAUM PIPES Rich, lustrous, Gossamer and work. For Sale by the Wholesale and Retail. CARL MOSER, F. O. Box 235, NEW CASTLE, PA.

IN PREPARATION "Why Strikes Are Lost" BY Wm. E. TRAUTMAN Shows the Working Class "How to Win" through Industrial Organization. Express weaknesses of Craft Unions. Five Cents a Copy. \$3.50 Per Handful. SOLIDARITY LITERATURE BUREAU Box 622, New Castle, Pa.

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POCKET LIBRARY booklets, assorted as desired. This offer applies to all the books we have advertised at five cents except Richardson's Introduction to Socialism, our best price on which is \$3.00 per hundred. For a little longer we will mail a set of six books, all different, and the twelve numbers of the REVIEW for 1909, all for \$1.00. Postage to Canada twenty cents extra. CHARLES H. KERR & COMPANY, 116 W. Kinzie St., Chicago.

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