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New Developments in Cloakmakers' Strike.

The long continued strike of the cloakmakers of New York City took a new turn on Saturday, August 27, when the strikers, by an almost unanimous vote, rejected a contract previously submitted by the manufacturers.

The proposed contract provides for the installation of electric power, the abolition of home work, abolition of contracts with individual shop employes, the abolition of all sub contracting within the shop. It further provides for a joint board of sanitary control, a board of arbitration, and a committee of grievances. Hours of labor were to be left to arbitration.

Section 15, of the proposed contract, contains the "joker." It reads as follows: "Each member of the Manufacturers' is to maintain a union shop, as distinguished from a closed shop; a 'union shop' being understood to refer to a shop where union standards as to working conditions, hours of labor and rate of wages as herein stipulated prevail, and where, when hiring help, union men are preferred; it being recognized, that this shall not include the maintenance of a shop delegate, except by agreement between individual employers and their employes; and it being further recognized that, since there are differences of degree of skill among those employed in no-trade, employers shall have freedom of selection as between one union man and another, and shall not be confined to any list, nor bound to follow any prescribed order whatever."

Whence This "Joker"?

Shades of Van Cleve! What a beautiful example of "industrial freedom" for the cloak manufacturers! How completely the above clause nullifies all possible chances of a victory otherwise for the striking cloakmakers.

"A union shop," where all the strike-breakers may be kept on the job on whatever terms the bosses please to make with them, and with the hypocritical pretense that "union men are preferred in hiring help." A "union shop," in which the union is not permitted to have a shop delegate or committee to see that conditions are maintained and enforced. A "union shop," where the boss is free to determine which worker is or is not entitled to receive the prescribed scale of wages, and which "union man" is to be preferred (at less than the scale of course) over some other "union man."

Who is responsible for this cleverly worded document?

The capitalist papers inform us that the proposed agreement was the joint product of Attorney Julius Henry Cohen, for the manufacturers; Attorney Meyer London, for the strikers; and Attorney Louis Marshall, who acted as mediator.

Just here we have a blank in the information furnished us by the capitalist press: Who is this lawyer Marshall, who so innocently appeared as a mediator between the other two attorneys? The aforementioned papers do not say.

But SOLIDARITY refuses to be left in the dark. A New York correspondent, whose name we are not at liberty to give, supplies us with the missing information, and incidentally throws some interesting sidelights on these latest developments in the strike situation.

The Role of the Bankers.

Louis Marshall is the personal attorney of Jacob Schiff—philanthropist, Rothschild and Baron de Hirsch agent, bond broker for the Russian government, treasurer of J. P. Morgan, and official representative of the New York banks.

Our readers may inquire, Why is Jacob Schiff butting into the cloakmakers' strike? Let our New York correspondent answer: "The New York banks hold over \$8,000,000 of the cloak manufacturers' paper (notes, mortgages, etc.) and every indication was that they would have a tremendous loss unless a settlement was arrived at and work resumed as speedily as possible."

Already the banks had lost over a half million and the outlook was gloomy. Again, there was a threat of the textile mills to curtail credit unless a winning move was made by the cloak manufacturers. Hence the agreement!

There you have it! All the economic forces of the capitalists combining to protect their individual and collective interests against the working class. That is natural and logical. But the picture is not yet complete.

The Role of the Injunction.

The striking cloakmakers almost unanimously rejected the proposed agreement. Dramatic scenes in connection with their refusal to accept this "joker" from the cloak manufacturers are detailed elsewhere by "The Commentator."

But at the very moment of the vote of the strikers was being taken on the aforementioned agreement, a Supreme Court-judge of New York, named Goff, handed down a sweeping injunction against the striking cloakmakers in the following terms: "A labor union that orders a strike to enforce a demand for the closed shop violates the law."

The Setting Complete.

The setting of the picture is now complete. Now we have not only the economic forces of other capitalists coming to the aid of the cloak manufacturers, but also the handmaid of these economic masters—the political state—bringing its force to bear against the strikers with the "legal" sophistry of a judge's injunction.

The Reply of the Workers.

On the other hand we see thousands of striking workers, who despite their shortcomings in organization and fighting methods, show solidarity and insight enough to unanimously repudiate the clever trick of their officials and employers to cheat them out of all chances of victory. As our New York correspondent remarks: "This augurs well for the future. Once these fellows acquire the habit of kicking overboard the compromises of their leaders the ground is ploughed ready for us to sow the seed of a substantial industrial movement."

And what say these strikers to the injunction? Quick as a flash one of them is reported to have said when he learned about it: "No injunction has ever operated a machine. No injunction ever made a cloak. It requires men to make cloaks, and the men refuse to go to work."

There's your answer, Judge Goff! Will you and your capitalist masters put 60,000 strikers in jail!

TIP TO THE SUGAR STRIKERS

New Orleans Sugar Workers Supplying Market for the Trust While Those in New York are Striking.

(Special to Solidarity)

New Orleans, La., August 18— I note that there are strikes on at several mills of the Sugar Trust, situated in Yonkers, New York, and Williamsburg, Long Island.

The Sugar Trust has just finished a \$3,000,000 mill at Chalmette, La., just outside of this city, and they also have several more old mills in New Orleans.

With the plant they now have right here, the sugar trust can supply all its consumers east of the Mississippi with this city alone, and not lose a dollar by delay if every plant in New York and other eastern states were shut down.

This new \$8,000,000 plant can refine sugar at less cost than any mill in the United States and perhaps in the world, and it is running now day and night, Sundays and holidays.

Of what use is it for a bunch to strike in one mill while another mill is running double time to supply the market without loss or delay to the company. If this mill alone were thoroughly organized by the I. W. W., the New York strike would be won, for this place is the solar plexus of the sugar trust. The strikers have got to eat dirt till they organize all the mills of the sugar trust.

G. L. GRIFFING.

I. W. W. ACTIVITY

Fellow Worker George F. Barnes, late of Spokane, Wash., is holding down the "lecture platform" on the streets of Duluth, Minn. A new local of marine workers has been organized, and Barnes had 80 applications to present at the last meeting. Every I. W. W. member should be a Barnes.

All the harvesters in the Palms are enthusiastic in their praise of the I. W. W., for it is because of the organization that they are getting more wages. The I. W. W. will continue the good work in other districts.

The sale and distribution of tickets for the October bazaar and outing of the New York locals at Unionport is meeting with encouraging results. Judging from present indications, the outing will be well attended and a financial success. A Brooklyn lodge of the Brotherhood of Machinists is among the unions that have purchased tickets for the occasion. More presents for the bazaar are solicited. Send them to Willard Northrup, 44 W. 86th St., New York City.

Fellow Worker Gustav Frietag reports that he applied for a job at the Bettendorf steel car works, about four miles from Davenport, Iowa. After answering a string of questions regarding his name, address, marital condition, nationality, age, previous place of employment, etc., he was introduced to sit down and have his picture taken. As Frietag did not appreciate having his photo in the ragged gallery of the Manufacturers' Association, he rebelled and left the employment office, with some doubts about this being "the glorious land of liberty," etc.

The Denver locals are alive and active. The formation of a Cleaners', Pressers' and Dyers' local is well under way. The Bakery Workers are becoming disgusted with the A. F. of L., and it is expected that something will be done among them soon! The organization of the packing house workers is also to be taken up. They are unorganized. The Denver Express' statement that the W. F. of M. delegates broke up an I. W. W. street meeting is denounced as a lie. An organizer of the United Mine Workers challenged an assertion of the I. W. W. speaker, who proved "the same, to the satisfaction of everybody present." That was all.

The Spokane joint locals continue to make big gains in membership. Thirty-seven applications were presented and accepted at a recent weekly meeting; 147 dues stamps, \$100 worth of literature and \$7.25 worth of buttons were sold. The Industrial Worker, official organ of the Spokane locals, says absent this condition of affairs: "There is every reason to believe."

Continued on Page Four.

THE WORLD OF LABOR

Still they come.

The Neckwear Makers of Greater New York have voted to call a general strike.

Forty fitters in the Grossman shoe factory, New York City, are on strike for better wages and shorter hours.

The Salem, Mass., general strike of shoe workers is still confined to that city. The Beverly manufacturers have satisfied union demands. The strike has already had the beneficial effect of bringing the different crafts into closer relations.

The Illinois coal operators, it is said, have begun preparations for a finish fight with the striking miners in their district. This was agreed upon tentatively at a meeting of the Illinois Coal Operators' Association, held at the headquarters in Chicago.

LABOR IN PENNSYLVANIA

Striking agents of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. at Wilkesbarre and Scranton held a meeting and decided by a practically unanimous vote to remain on strike until the company grants their demands for better commissions. They declare the commissions are so low that they cannot make a comfortable living owing to high price of foodstuffs. The strikers say the agents in the Hazleton district probably will join them, and that the strike will extend gradually to Philadelphia and throughout the State.

The strike of all boiler makers and iron shop builders, as well as the helpers, of Pittsburgh, numbering more than 1,000, is still on. Every firm in the district, with the exception of Jones & Laughlin, is completely tied up, this latter firm having agreed to the demands and will pay the union scale on all its construction work on the Alleghenya furnaces. The trouble is over the refusal of the employers to accede to a 5 cent raise per hour for both inside and outside work. There is no contention over the hours of labor. The firms which are affected are James McNeill & Sons, James Lapper & Co., E. Munroe & Sons, Thomas Corliss Co., Long, on the South Side; the Brown river combines, two shops; Sam Reams, James Reams, Duff Pelants Company, the Treadwell Construction Co. It also affects the men at work on the pipe line at the Cambria Steel Co. in Johnstown.

The Keystone agency of Pittsburgh has an advertisement in the Pittsburgh Gazette Times offering \$6 an oven for pulling coke. A strong man can pull three ovens a day, so this is in effect an offer of \$18 a day, for unskilled labor, writes Thomas F. Kennedy in the Chicago Socialist. The regular price for pulling an oven in the Irwin field is 75c. The same employment agency is advertising for miners, offering to pay fare and all expenses of moving families and house rent free. They made no definite promises as to wages, excepting to say "highest wages."

President P. J. McArdle, of the Amalgamated Association, has announced that the strike which has been effected against the American Sheet and Tin Plate Co. for about 14 months since the corporation declared for the "open shop" policy is ended. This decision was reached at a meeting of the executive board last week. McArdle states that "while the strike is officially declared to be over, it is possible to say when the men will return to work. Following the voting of the two New Castle lodges, recommending the immediate calling off of the strike, the lodge at Martin's Ferry, Ohio, voted to the same effect, and it

was the result of the vote of both places that the executive board decided to call the strike off.

LABOR IN OTHER LANDS

The building trades employes of Winnipeg, Man., were locked out on Aug. 21, following a walk-out of the bricklayers and masons against a Montreal firm of contractors, which is waging a war on the unions in the latter city. Thousands of men are affected.

A strike on the trolley lines of Toronto, Ont., was averted by the men accepting the wage award of the board of conciliation. First and second year men receive an increase of 1 cent an hour; those longer in the service 1 1/2 cents.

James Larkin, associate editor of the Dublin, Ireland, Harp, and an active official of the Irish Transport Workers' Union, is a victim of the capitalist courts of the Emerald Isle. His case is attracting much attention in Great Britain and Ireland. In a recent appeal, their lordships, the judges, on technical grounds, sustained the lower courts' application, refused to allow the appellant's counsel to address the court. The Irish Transport Workers' Union will carry the case to the house of lords, the Supreme Court of Great Britain and Ireland. To do this requires much money and they appeal for funds to all who can aid in any way. Any one desirous of sending contributions can address Miss Flynn, 511 East 184th St., New York City.

The impotent English labor parliament— Continued on Page Four.

STIRTON'S DATES

Cleveland, O., August 31 to September 5.

- Akron, O., September 4.
- New Castle, Pa., Sept. 5, 6, 7 and 8.
- Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 9, 10 and 11.
- Camden, N. J., Sept. 12.
- Newark, N. J., Sept. 13.
- West Hoboken, N. J., Sept. 14.
- Jersey City, N. J., Sept. 15.
- New York, N. Y., Sept. 16 to 22.
- Buffalo, N. Y., Sept. 23.
- Dunkirk, N. Y., Sept. 23.
- Erie, Pa., Sept. 25-26.
- Cleveland, O., Sept. 27.
- Detroit, Mich., Sept. 28-29.
- Pontiac, Mich., Sept. 30.
- Amy Arbor, Mich., Oct. 1.
- Jackson, Mich., Oct. 2.
- Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 3 to 9.
- Harbor Springs and vicinity, Oct. 10, 11 and 12.
- Boysie City, Mich., Oct. 13, 14 and 15.
- Harbor Springs, Mich., Oct. 16.
- Chicago, Ill., Oct. 17.

Fellow Workers:

The above schedule of dates should result in a great deal being accomplished for the I. W. W., and it will if the membership and the supporters of Industrial Unionism in the different points will get together and work to make the meetings a success.

Have literature on hand; send for pre-paid initiation cards that you can distribute among the crowds at street meetings if you have them; see that the meetings are properly advertised and be sure and make the most out of the trip. Also see, if possible, whether the circuit can not be continued during the fall and winter.

Get busy, act, and we will get results.
VINCENT ST. JOHN,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

