



# TO THE COAL MINERS BY "THE WESTERN WANDERER."

Fellow Coal Miners, men of the underground world: Please give me your strict attention for just a little minute. I am one of you. I have lived your life. I have shared your miseries. I have borne the hardships and dangers that fall on your lot. Not for a month or a year but the greater portion of my own life. Therefore, I am appealing to you. Are you content to endure them? I am not.

Here we are toiling and digging away from year to year, week in and week out. For what? A bare living. And sometimes, how often, not even that. At no time hardly more than enough to enable us to come back next day to dig again.

The mineowner, on the other hand, gets, out of our labor, sufficient to make him a millionaire in a very few years. At the end of a like period you, who have done the work that built for him a large fortune, are worn out slaves of the underground. Yes, worn out long before our time, from the exhausting nature of our employment.

Now, men, how long are we going to stand this? Always? Will we be forever meek and suffer in silence? Shall we attempt anything on our own behalf?

A wake! Let us be men. Let us aim to be at least a few dollars better off the coming year than we have been in the my past. Anything we ever got for ourselves was by revolts, by striking. Let us examine this strike business. Don't think we have always struck at the right time? I do. And I know thousands here believe that if we came out in er we could strike harder and win.

Well then, let us get together at once, strike for 20 per cent increase in wages on the digging price, for free tools, lamps, free powder, free oil, and all things used in the mine. The idea is miners paying for the blacksmith. Let the companies do that. Let us speed up so that we won't grow old so early and pay more attention to our own places so that we are not killed quickly.

Remember the little children and the old sweatshirts. They always did need more, and better things and homes than we have been able to give them in the past.

Come, men! Let us be men. Let us think and strive a little for ourselves and not be forever content slaves. Remember Chery! Make the rich men come through with money and safer and better conditions. You can do it.

You, men of the coal camps know without my repeating the mine condition of

houses, how little attention is paid to the safety of the working places, and all that these mean to the men who toil in these places and the wives and little ones dependent on them. You know all that and you know further what an expense like the cost of carrying on your occupation means when the wages are so inadequate as you receive.

In three months I received in wages \$112.00 and paid out expenses of \$100.55, of which \$50.00 (\$40.00 living, \$10.00 to the union) I regard as legitimate and the rest went back to the company. That is, to make \$112.00 in 3 months I paid the company \$50.00 besides a tribute of \$10 to the union. Though for the life of me I can't see what I got for my \$10.00 in the way of protection.

We may not get out of a dangerous mine, or seek better conditions in any without permission from a bunch of officials who are safe from cap rock and gas bodies. That's one hell of a way. It seems to me. How does it look to you fellows? However, I would like to kick only against the toll for letting me help make the boss a millionaire. Still I can plainly see that if the agreement by which the company collects the fat salaries for our officers were broken off we could do better for ourselves. These fellows used to work in the mines like we do, as contract miners or day laborers. Now they are getting from \$100.00 to \$125.00 a month and all legitimate expenses.

If they could not hold us down for the companies, do you think the companies would be anxious to collect the fees that pay their salaries? Think that over. How would these officials like to arrive back to the point where \$112.00 pays for three months with legitimate expenses of \$50.50 deducted. What they are getting is not too much, indeed not enough, for service that protects your interest and mine. But do they do it? No. You would not be tied to work at the only time of year that you can help yourselves if they did. You would not be compelled to work under dangerous conditions if they did. You have your pit committees. Yes, but if a pit committeeman fights on your behalf you know what happens. He either gets a "good place" or is fired at the earliest opportunity and persecuted thereafter as a troublesome character. You bet you know it. You know that often you would have gone out to a man to hold his position for such a fellow, but the union you uphold protects you would not let him.

Just think it over. Read it again. See if it is not right. Make up your minds what you are going to do about it.

# INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT

(From the "Bulletin International du Mouvement Syndicaliste, Jan. 22.)

**Marine Workers' Strike.**  
Preparations for the international strike of marine transportation workers, are being made with the utmost secrecy, as far as definite plans are concerned. Ben Tillet, secretary of the General Union of Transporters, in an interview declared that the strike seems inevitable in view of the present labor conditions on the seamen. If, however, it should break out of the moment of King George of England's coronation, that would be only a coincidence. The strike would break out in the British and American ports, and in several ports of Continental Europe, within 24 hours, when the time shall arrive.

**Shoeworkers' Lockout in Sweden.**  
Since the formidable struggle of the general strike in 1909, the employing class of Sweden has never ceased making the workers of different branches of industry feel the temporary superiority of its power. Imitating the methods of labor organization, with respect to the "spirit of discipline" and big defense funds, the employers' Union of Sweden is easily able to hold the upper hand.

Now, it has forced the shoe manufacturers, who are affiliated with it, to lock out their entire force of employes. Since the new year, 3,403 workmen and women, employed in 53 shoe establishments, have been thrown out on the street, while 50 shops with 1,000 workers have taken no part in the move. The 53 shoe shops would like to have held a conference with their workers, but the head of the Employers' Union having declared the conference incompatible with its interests, the manufacturers had to close their establishments.

One section of the Swedish capitalist press even, protest now against the tyranny of the Employers' Union in refusing to respect the autonomy of employes in their several branches of industry; just as a great part of the international labor press protests against like tyranny on the part of the labor movement, and defends the autonomy of local unions with respect to their own affairs.

Thus we behold the same phenomenon on both sides of the barricade!

# "BOES" DON'T WANT LOW WAGES

Milwaukee despatches Feb. 4 state that the hoboes' national convention closed in a stormy session. A resolution, submitted by H. J. Craub, of Chicago, representing the First Ward, for a minimum wage scale of \$7 a week, asking that Congress establish this minimum, brought forth an uproar from the delegates that nearly disrupted the convention.

Cries of "scabs," "rotten," "tear it up," and angry denunciations of the resolution were appeased by an amendment raising the standard to \$15, which was passed.

A march from Missouri to Washington, D. C., for the summer convention, beginning May 1, to be participated in by thousands of unemployed, after the manner of the great march of Coxey's army, will be made. The unemployed are to group on the Cumberland road in Missouri from all parts of the West early in April. They are to start eastward, picking up groups from the different parts of the country as they pass through.

"There will be thousands in line before we reach Washington," said Secretary Paul Stein.

"We are going down there to give a demonstration that will awaken the American people to conditions."

Resolutions for amendments to the U. S. constitution for the betterment of the labor conditions were passed. President Taft was asked to call a special session of Congress "to revise the laws and secure cheaper food."

It was proposed to begin the publication of a paper to be known as "The Hobo News."

# WORLD OF LABOR

An interesting report of the Hoboes' Convention at Milwaukee, written by a delegate, will appear in next week's Solidarity.

The world of labor is very much interested in the change in the United Mine Workers' constitution, forcing Mitchell to choose between the miners and the Civic Federation. There is much discussion as to the probable effect of this action. There are some who believe it a grand stand play that will force Mitchell back into the miners' organization and into control of it once more. Others again believe the step a truly progressive one, admitting of no acting because of the dangers involved to capitalism. All agree that it is bound to have a tremendous moral effect, in that it will aid in making clearer the antagonistic interests of capitalists and laborers, and cause labor to act accordingly.

The President has pardoned Fred Warren, editor of the Appeal to Reason. He says he declines to make a martyr of Warren and thereby promote his socialist doctrines. Warren's friends, on the other hand, declare Taft is actuated by a fear of the growing power of socialism. We believe that Taft deemed it advisable not to arouse the entire working class once more, as was done in the agitation attending the freeing of Meyer, Haywood and Pettibone, of which the Warren case was an incident. The capitalists are preparing a movement to reduce wages. To this end, a docile and placated working class is necessary.

Paul Cravath, the well known corporation lawyer, spoke at the West 57th St. branch of the New York Y. M. C. A. recently. He said, among other things, that labor must prepare to liquidate, that is, accept a reduction of wages. His views met with decided opposition. Wage reductions were declared impossible in view of the failure of wages to keep pace with increased prices and the modern standard of living. And, it was plainly stated, any attempt to reduce wages would be productive of trouble on a large scale. This, from an audience of clerks and high-salaried retainers, is indeed symptomatic.

The movement in favor of a shorter workday grows apace. New York paper box makers are preparing for a struggle for increased wages and a 52 hour week. London, England job printing trade is involved in strikes for a 50 hour week. The Machinists' international is again reviving its 8 hour agitation. The I. W. W. 8 hour movement is meeting with favor not only inside but outside of our organization; the International Socialist Review for Feb-

ruary having a very enthusiastic editorial promoting the same. With such an impetus the shorter workday idea is bound to take hold of the working class and crystallize into a big movement. What is needed is short, telling leaflets and posters, giving the argument as fully as possible. It moves; it moves; push it along!

Strikes on the part of government employes continue to increase in number. A salary cut has caused men of all grades to leave the office of the Cook county, Illinois, treasurer. This is the latest instance of the revolt against governmental "economy." The postoffice department is in arms against the same thing, the railway mail clerks deserting their places in many sections of the country. Even the socialist administration of Milwaukee defeated its own bills to increase salaries, in the interests of "economy."

Milwaukee is famous for a certain brew of beer. It will become infamous for a certain brand of labor politicians. According to the New York Call of Feb. 4, Victor Berger has denounced the unemployed in convention assembled in that city. Says "Vic," in a statement to the newspapers: "We are not accustomed to look upon the so-called hobo or casual laborer as a friend of the organized working class, whether economically or politically. He is always found sustaining the ruling class. He furishes the strikebreakers and deputy sheriffs in economic struggles and furnishes the floating voters at different elections. The so-called casual laborers were always the best allies of Farley and the Pinkertons on the one hand, and of Tammany Hall, Hinky Dink and Dave Rose on the other."

This is an infamous lie! For that same convention refused to permit its chairman to read a letter from President Taft inviting them to join the army. The National Brotherhood and Welfare Association, under whose auspices the convention was held, has also sent delegates to the A. F. of L. conventions and invited its co-operation in organizing the casual laborer as an auxiliary to the A. F. of L. Further, it was the casual laborer who put up the successful free speech fight at Spokane, and is now fighting for the fundamental rights of all classes at Fresno. Clearly, Berger is a perverter of the truth.

But what can be expected? Berger is a reforming politician of reactionary tendencies. He favors restriction of immigration, craft organization, "economy" in office (at the expense of the worker), and kicking the under dog, in the interests of the middle class and the upper strata of the wage earners. To this end he sponsors principle for policy; progress for "results."

# For a Longer Life

Fellow workers, let us get busy on the shorter workday agitation; but let us not indulge in "sky pilot" arguments.

We want a shorter workday so we will have more rest.

We want a shorter workday so we will have more freedom.

By reducing the workday we reduce our confinement in the deadly slave pens known to workshope.

The less hours we work, the longer we live.

In my opinion, even an 8 hour workday is damned long. And a 10 hour day is absolutely out of question. To work 8 hours a day in a shoe factory, textile, mine, railroad or any other slave pen is premature death, and as long as we are in the face anyway, let us die to death.

Let us, let us not work 10 hours a day, 10 hours are more than suffi-

cient. An 8 hour day should produce less hump on the backs of the slaves, and would not make the workers so apt to become victims of diseases, which an exhausted slave cannot combat.

Furthermore, we want a shorter workday because most of the workers are engaged at dangerous occupations; in fact, in all industrial plants, Death is ever stalking, and the less hours we work the less we are apt to become victims of the present day "Christian refinement" and "20th century progress."

We want a shorter workday, not merely to develop "culture," "refinement," "art," "statistics," etc., nor do we care what effect it may have on the "stellar rays," "animal spirit" or what not.

We want a shorter workday for the simple reason that it means less confinement in the "refined Christian death pens."

CHARLES KOHLER.

# Frank Buccaffori's Case

(Special to Solidarity.)

Brooklyn, N. Y., Feb. 5.

For many years there was employed in the shoe factory, of Dodd & Co., Brooklyn, a foreman who was a ruffian of the burly and brutal type. This man practiced intimidation upon the men under his control. He abused and maltreated them, winding up, by throwing them down stairs, when they resisted his gross brutality. He boasted that he knew how to "fix" them.

This Simon Legree of modern wage slavery for months vilified, threatened and tortured Fellow Worker Frank Buccaffori of Shoe Workers' Industrial Union No. 168. He even discharged him, ordering him off of the premises. Buccaffori, however, carried the matter to the superintendent, who ordered his re-instatement. This seemed only to infuriate the monster, who one day, Friday, December 29, after his usual tactics, punched Buccaffori in the face, knocking out one of his teeth. Not content with this, he felled Buccaffori to the floor, kicking him when down, and otherwise imperiling his life.

Buccaffori, after all this, in self defense, drew a revolver and ended the career of his savage assailant. He is now on trial for his life, with a wife and three children dependent on the verdict.

The Shoe Manufacturers' Association is trying to use the Buccaffori case to defeat the workers in the conflict now being waged against them for more pay and better conditions. They will try to use it to turn working class support away from the men who are now out, knowing full well that there was no strike or lockout in Dodd's shop at that time. In fact, this trial will serve to expose the caliber of men they employed to do their slave driving; and will point out one of the many causes of the present revolt against them.

The Shoe Workers' Industrial Union No. 168 has decided to defy Buccaffori's defense. It has employed able counsel to this end. This will place it under heavy expense. It, therefore, appeals for funds for this specific purpose. Send them to Charles Linfinite, 75 Troy square, Brooklyn, N. Y. Mark inclosure "For Buccaffori's Case."

# SOLIDARITY

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 Each subscriber will find a number opposite his name on the wrapper enclosing *SOLIDARITY*. For expiration: 60. That means that your sub expired last week, and you should renew. This is NUMBER 61

**DELAY IS DANGEROUS!**  
 The response to our appeal in behalf of the I. W. W. Press Fund, two weeks ago, has resulted in practically nothing. The necessity for money is greater than ever. The final payment of \$100 on the new press must be made THIS MONTH. We are depending on you to raise that money. What are you going to do? It's DANGEROUS to delay! Send along your dollar TODAY to Earl F. Moore, Treasurer I. W. W. Press Fund, Box 622, New Castle, Pa.

**FIGHT TO WIN!**  
 Word comes from Fresno, Calif., that the authorities and the tax payers of that county are getting nervous over the big board bill of I. W. W. free speech prisoners in jail. We are informed that the board bill now amounts to \$1,200 per month; hence the squeal of the cockroach. That means with a little energy on the part of the I. W. W., this free speech fight can easily be won in a short time. Both the East and the West can contribute to that end; the latter by going in person to Fresno to swell the ranks of prisoners and increase the "board bill," and the former by sending what money they can, to take care of the men coming and going. Fitch in, everybody, and help win the Fresno fight!

**NEED OF PREPARATION.**  
 Now that the I. W. W. has formally set in motion a campaign for the universal eight hour work day, it is well to consider some things in connection therewith. While the proposition of itself appears simple, it nevertheless involves a great deal more than appears on the surface. A campaign of this nature and importance requires the utmost possible preparation in many ways. To wish for and merely talk about a thing, and to set about systematically to get it—are two quite different propositions. The one means failure of the most humiliating sort; the other means success, if success be possible. First of all, there must be preparation along educational lines. The agitation must never lose sight of the PRIME NECESSITY OF ORGANIZATION. N. And

the organization must be set forth clearly in all its forms, phases and methods. Literature in the shape of leaflets and pamphlets, showing the structure, principles and methods of warfare of the I. W. W., and contrasting same with inferior organizations and tactics, must be written, printed and circulated by the million.

Nor should the I. W. W. neglect any opportunity to acquaint other organizations with the 8-hour proposition and all that goes with it. Every assemblage of workmen, no matter under whose auspices, should be covered with I. W. W. literature. Our speakers should endeavor to get placed on the program of such meetings, or to get the floor at opportune times, to talk for the 8-hour day and class organization on the industrial field. What we must have is ACTIVITY in agitation, and not merely "stove philosophy" and hair splitting.

One of the most essential means to the ends above outlined, is the I. W. W. press in all languages. The circulation of our papers must be increased. Their subject matter must be improved. Not only articles touching simply the 8-hour proposition with slight variations from time to time; but articles dealing also with such subjects as the strike—partial and general; direct action, sabotage, forms of organization, methods of agitation, etc. And not academic discussion only; but reports of actively giving concrete examples of the subjects under discussion.

And our ORGANIZERS, too, must look well to their part of the task. They should not stop merely with shouting "8 hours" and getting workers to sign a charter application. They should also strive with all their power to drill the workers to the point where the latter may manage the affairs of their local union with the smoothness of system. This last is a highly important consideration that must not be overlooked. Otherwise, many locals will "die a-borning," and the efforts made in organizing them prove more than futile, by making future attempts more difficult.

These are a few of the things in the way of preparation that need to be given careful consideration. This 8-hour proposition is no holiday affair. Nor must it be considered as a "hobby" to be ridden to death or harped upon to the exclusion of everything else. Viewed as an advance move of the working class toward improved conditions, and as leading in the direction of emancipation—the eight-hour movement has marvellous possibilities in more ways than one. But those possibilities can only be realized through devotion, sacrifice, hard work and much careful and systematic preparation.

**A LEOPARD CANT CHANGE ITS SPOTS**  
 Much speculation is now current in labor circles, as to whether John Mitchell will humbly bow to the will of the United Mine Workers' convention, and quit the capitalists' Civic Federation, or stay with the C. F. and abandon the miners.

Such speculation is worse than useless, because it follows the wrong lead. Why not rather inquire: "Can the leopard change its spots?" John Mitchell admits the miners is a tool of the capitalists, whether or not he belongs to a capitalist organization like the Civic Federation, and whether or not he gets paid-in cash for his services to the employing class.

John Mitchell has been "made over" or more likely "developed" through his own choice and his associations with the employing class. Like Marcus Tullius Cicero (otherwise known as a great orator) of ancient Rome, who was always prone to lick the boots of the "better born," in return for a "patrician's smile," like John Burns of English infamy; and like the renegade Briand of France—"our John" also "chose the better part" of hohmboing with the enemy, and at the same time trying to carry water on both shoulders.

The delegates to the miners' convention summoned Mitchell to return to the fold. That is unfortunate. They have invited a wolf to don sheep's clothing and come and dwell among lambs. They have proceeded on the theory that a "leopard" can change its spots." It can't. The miners should have forced John Mitchell to remain among the wolves. Let us hope they may do so later.

Cicero was turned down, exiled, and eventually slain by his patrician masters when they had no further use for him.

In spite of his exceptional gifts of tongue and pen, he was regarded as a mourel and a scab. The masters despise a scab. Let us hope that "our John" meets a similar fate, as a horrible example of a "self made" traitor to his class.

## THE CHINAMAN IS COMING

A correspondent this week, asks a question with reference to the eight hour proposition. How with the shorter workday can the American capitalist "cope with eight hundred million Chinamen, since capitalism is universal?"

Our questioner does not seem to understand that wage slavery produces the same state of mind in the working classes of all countries; that under the same shop and life conditions, the Chinaman will act in the same manner and with the same methods as the American and European wage slaves do. He will hate and fight his economic master.

Capitalism is advancing by leaps and bounds in China. Just as Japan became a full fledged capitalist nation in less than 30 years, so does China bid fair to become one still more quickly. Industrial development has to become uniform the world over. And these world-wide revolutionary changes which necessarily force upon our masters, become more lightning-like each year.

China, with her wonderful resources and vast labor population, must soon take her place in the forefront of capitalist countries. At the same time, a revolutionary labor movement will develop in the Orient. We see that already, in Japan, where the government is murdering labor agitators, because it fears their influence on the awakening working class.

The Chinese and Japanese workers will not long remain "cheap labor." Urged on by necessity and an awakening class consciousness, they will organize and fight for higher wages and a shorter workday.

The eight hour movement is bound to become world-wide. And for that reason it is bound to succeed.

Get in line and build up the I. W. W. There will be things doing soon in the WORLD of labor.

## EIGHT HOURS AND THE I. W. W.

The organization known as the Industrial Workers of the World is thoroughly capable and competent to inaugurate a shorter workday. The reason why it is capable and competent is because it is an economic organization in the hands of, and controlled by wage workers exclusively. Only wage workers who cannot hire or fire are admitted to membership in said organization. The I. W. W. in principle and activity is destined to emancipate the working class from economic and social slavery.

The first logical and important step in that direction is the inauguration of a universal 8 hour workday. The system of organization in the I. W. W. is practical and plain. It represents the result of human experience in systematic organization and class warfare.

In short: All workers in one industry in one union, locally, nationally and internationally. All workers in all industries in one union, locally, nationally and internationally. "An injury to one is the concern of all," is the principle upon which the structural system of the Industrial Workers of the World is founded. In order that the 8 hour day may be established on the 1st of May, 1912, every wage worker, man and woman, must prepare by joining the I. W. W. The time flies quickly. In order to prepare properly, we must begin NOW. If there is not a local union in your locality, start one immediately.

The national headquarters of the I. W. W. are at 518 Cambridge Building, 56 Fifth Ave., Chicago, Ill.

If you desire to know more about this important question, speak the Industrial Worker, Box 2129, Spokane, Wash., or *Solidarity*, Box 622, New Castle, Pa.

**TEXTILE WORKERS NOTICE.**  
 All communications for the National Industrial Union of Textile Workers should be sent to William Yates, Tarklin Hill Road, New Bedford, Mass.  
 Send in the subs.

## EXPERIENCE AND THEORY

By a Lithographer.

The writer is employed in the lithographic industry, at a branch in which the 8-hour day is the rule. He has found the 8-hour day to be highly beneficial in many respects. It admits of more leisure and opportunity for culture than a 10 or 12-hour day does. Under it, the workers can live at a distance from the crowded centers of city life, as it allows time for travel. It promotes family life, as it gives a man time to care for his friends and develop home comforts. Finally, it permits of self-culture and a broad interest in other than personal or craft affairs. Many of the writer's shop mates have become accomplished in divers ways through the leisure afforded by the 8-hour day: while not a few have become interested in industrial and social questions, and are either good unionists or active Socialists; sometimes both.

### Is the Eight Hour Day a Compressed Labor Day?

The 8-hour day is often a compressed labor day. In the artist branch of the litho branch of the industry the output has been increased at least one-third during the past 80 years, through the intensification of labor.

In 1896 the artists attempted to secure a 44-hour week, in order to offset this intensification to some extent; but failed, owing to weak organization. Since Jan. 1st, the pressmen have also been put on an 8-hour basis.

Their organization has been fighting for the 8-hour day ever since the early eighties of the last century. The employers' association has "voluntarily" granted it for one year, after which they will decide whether to continue the experiment or not. It is rumored that, in return for this "voluntary" act on their part, the bosses wish to food the printing branches of lithography with apprentices; who, they claim, are made necessary by the changed conditions. Intensification of labor in the litho printing branches is said to be impossible under present conditions, first, because the technical development will not permit it; second, the pressmen's organization opposes it. When the artists' 8-hour day was established the artist branch of lithography was comparatively unrestricted; that is, it was not worked to the limits of its capacity by compulsory methods. That, however, appears to be very nearly the case with the pressmen. The difference is worth noting. Anyway, the litho printers' 8-hour day will be watched with interest by all the litho workmen.

It is doubtful, in the mind of the writer, if the 8-hour day can, generally speaking, be made a compressed labor day; that is, a day into which the labor formerly performed in ten hours is squeezed. The reason for this doubt is simply this; the ten hour day is already so intense—as to make much further intensification under an 8-hour day impossible, both from a physical and technical standpoint. The facts in support of this doubt have already been indicated, to a brief extent, in the above consideration of the litho printers' 8-hour day. Other facts of a more general and profound character may also be cited, as follows:

**Causes That Make For a Real 8 Hour Day.**  
 Prof. Irving Fisher of Harvard University offers a shorter workday on the ground that the prevailing one wastes men's health; breeds disease and under life; which can only be conserved by a decrease in hours. As is well known, the diseases resulting from the stress and strain of modern economic life, annually send thousands of workers to a premature death. So also do the various productive and distributive processes. The annual list of killed and wounded on the railroads and in the factory, mine and shipboard, is simply appalling—all due to the increasing hurry and haste to pile up capitalist profits. Under the circumstances intensification can go very little farther; it has done its worst; and more pressure would likely result in a violent reaction against those applying it.

Nor is an 8-hour day likely to stimulate invention, create a mechanical revolution, and displace labor en masse. Already the question is being asked, has invention ceased? What great mechanical revolution has invention produced in the past ten years? Barring the gyroscope and aeroplane, the past decade of revolution was sterile in the production of revolutionary inventions. It has been content to improve upon and trustify those already in existence.

The cause of the inventive sterility of capitalism is not far to seek; like most

modern sterility it is self-inflicted for economic reasons.

Invention of a revolutionary character is detrimental to invested capital. The day when inventive genius could throw capital, in the form of obsolete machinery, on the scrap heap has passed; the capital to be displaced is now too extensive and costly to permit of such a procedure, without a loss of dividends to investors.

Take, for instance, the transportation industry. Electrification is not generally introduced on the railroads, because, in addition to the enormous outlay of new capital, it demands the virtual destruction of billions of capital, in the form of expensive locomotives and rolling stock. Already is the capital of the country drained to meet the demands of the railroads; while industries languish from the lack of the same. The stupendous cost of general electrification, both directly and indirectly, would accentuate this had condition and shatter the prospect of dividends for the entire capitalist class. For this reason it is tabooed; electrification proceeds in an extremely cautious manner, that meets the approval of the most conservative investor.

Adaptation to existing conditions, not a revolution in them, is the capitalist principle of invention to-day. The displacement of capital is of more importance under the new rule than the displacement of labor.

And this is not the case with electrification alone, as some would argue. The gyroscope—that 45-foot-wide car of wondrous speed on one rail—cannot be even partly introduced into any but undeveloped countries, because of its extraordinary initial cost and waste of dividend-producing capital. In the steel industry the same tale will be told in the future. The steel trust, with all its billions of capital, will not introduce inventions that will throw its Gary works on the scrap heap; the proceeding is too costly, even for it. This may be concluded from the way it still hangs on to many plants rendered obsolete by the Gary mills. And so it goes all the way down the line of industries; capital has reached such a stupendous size that its displacement by revolutionary invention is a waste that no longer pays. Capitalism stands in the way of its own progress.

However, intensification and displacement of labor under the 8-hour day can only be prevented by organization. Combination is the law of the day. It is forced on capital; it is being forced on labor. Combination makes possible conditions undreamt of under competition. has done this for capital, as is shown in great wealth and power of the trusts, can not combination do the same for labor? With labor industrially organized things are possible; not only a real day, but also the complete emancipation of labor from capitalism.

On with 8-hour day agitation, edu and organization!

### THIS ONE DONT "SAVVY"

In response to the eight hour question upon which you invited sion, I wish to state that I think it duty to make as clear as possible vital question. And to begin, question I would like to ask: Is ever a labor organization which is not built for said purpose, that is, to decrease hours and increase wages, and better the condition of the working class in general? can not combination do the same for labor? If not, then how is it that in the year 1911, knowing what we do, we are still repeating the eight hour proposition, as all the conservative labor organizations are doing?

Again, I would like to ask; could we have a universal 8 hour workday in America for all wage workers, under the present system? If so, I would like to hear those who make that claim, how the tallest would transect billions and com with eight hundred millions of Chinan, since capitalism is universal?

In my estimation, the universal eight hour workday is just as far away as industrial democracy. You can talk for now to domsday to a capitalistic mind, and will let you know the right way were not for his master he would have starve. What the workmen need of all is class education. Out of that spric class organization which means power combat the capitalist class on any quest

ALBERT PETERSON  
 Los Angeles, Calif.  
**CHANGE IN SAN DIEGO.**  
 Local 18, I. W. W., of San Cal., has removed its headquarters reading room from 834 Fourth will be located in a new hall in and will let you know the right way while all communications for us to any members in San must be addressed to Earl F. Moore in care of ltu, Box 312.

STRIKE! WHAT FOR?

There is a strange and erroneous idea current among industrial unionist circles of late as to the benefits accruing to the working class from strikes, and the ends which may be gained thereby.

At first glance the theory looks very plausible, and the acme of simplicity itself; but it happens to have one little flaw, and a somewhat serious one, and that is, IT IS AN IMPOSSIBILITY OF THE FIRST WATER.

The workers might just as well try to eat the capitalists out of existence at the dinner table, as to eat up their surplus value in this manner.

This elusive item of surplus value (the formation of which by Marx placed socialism upon a scientific basis) is the very essence of capitalism, and represents the value created by the workers over and above their meagre maintenance, and the value of the machinery and raw materials absorbed in the process.

Price is the monetary expression of value, and taken over a certain variable period, PRICE and VALUE are equal.

A commodity is anything bought and sold in the market; and the exchange of commodities is an exchange of equivalents, with the one exception of the commodity labor power. If labor power, on an average, exchanged at its value, then the workers would receive sufficient food, clothing and shelter to keep them physically fit, which it will be readily seen they do not, judging by their physical deterioration, and the alarming shortening of their average life, especially in the large industrial centers.

Price and value thus equilibrating over a certain period and wages being the price of the commodity labor power, it will be readily seen that, under the most favorable conditions, the average wage can only equal value; and then the workers would still continue to produce surplus value.

When labor power can be combined so as to exchange, on an average, at something other than its value, then you may as well appear upon a double trumpet and preach for the millennium dawn.

An industrial union—or any other form of unionism, for that matter—be it ever so good and well organized, can force an average, even to the value of labor power. A huge, insurmountable barrier blocks the way, that grim, gaunt specter of the unemployed, an ever-swelling horde from year to year, as capitalism concentrates.

The tendency of capitalism on the American continent and in Europe, in addition with the rapidly developing imperialism of the Orient, is to lower the standard of living of the workers; and all for a raise in wages are merely attempts to prevent this depression. Nevertheless, the standard of living is falling, and is being only aided by the cheapening in the methods of gold production.

Another insane idea is a continual shortening of the work-day by a series of strikes, and thus absorb the unemployed. How this method would destroy capitalism we are not told. Possibly the idea is to retain capitalism. The nature of capitalism, however, prevents this, since it demands that each worker produce more than he can absorb; and the ever-increasing perfection of machinery goes steadily and relentlessly on swelling the army of unemployed with each new invention.

Strike, by all means, in the opportunity offers! A member of the human species who would not imitate the humble worm when trod upon, and turn upon the oppressor, is wrongly classified. He, or she, is neither fish, flesh, nor good red herring.

But don't over-estimate the ultimate value of strikes whose objects are a raise in wages, or a shortening of the workday. Organization and education are the only benefits attained by them, and very helpful and necessary benefits they are; but emancipation they can never attain.

The only strike which can hope to benefit the working class as a whole, is that which is openly aimed at the general control of the means of wealth production, call it Social General Strike, Mass General Strike, or Lockout of the Working Class, or GOLOCK.

As above, we suggest to our

correspondent, that he subject the scientific teachings of Marx, upon which he assumes to base his argument, to a little more careful examination. He will find that the great economist demonstrates that "a general rise in the rate of wages will result in a corresponding fall in the rate of profit."

That means that the value of labor power increases at the expense of surplus value in the possession of the capitalist, since "profits on an average, are made by selling commodities at their values." In other words, and contrary to our correspondent's assumption, "the value of labor power," like that of other commodities, is not a constant, but a variable quantity, and it varies always with relation to surplus value. Hence the conclusion that the workers through organized and concerted action, can bring about a general rise in wages and a general shortening of the workday, at the expense of the profits and surplus value of their masters.

The reason that today the price of labor power, that is, wages, tends ever downward to a lower standard of living, is found in the absence of organization and concerted effort on the part of the working class. Marx shows that without such organization, there is no limit short of death, to the depths of degradation into which the employing class will force the workers.

Our correspondent seems to be so obsessed with the idea of "destroying capitalism" that he cannot see any possible intermediate steps to that desired goal. He apparently cannot see that a general move for an eight hour day has more of revolutionary possibilities connected with it than all possible theoretical agitation merely for the "overthrow of capitalism."

Such a move means widespread organization and education on class lines; it means varied experience gained in the practical struggle with the masters; it means greater solidarity and drive of power among the working class. And, if our correspondent can be induced to believe Marx, the eight hour movement actually means IMPROVED WORKING AND LIVING CONDITIONS for our class. (See Marx' "Capital," chapter on "The Workday.")

The organized struggle of the working class for higher wages and a shorter workday, is THE VITAL PART of the process leading to working class emancipation. (Editor Solidarity.)

SABOTAGE IN FRANCE

Sabotage is a subtle strike method which is causing no little perturbation in France at the present time. Complaints of delay in the delivery of goods by railroads are accumulating and questions are being asked in the Chamber about it.

It is on the State managed Western Railway that the disorder seems worst. At headquarters they say that the cause of the disorganization is the want of sufficient rolling stock, but it has been shown that at the moment there were 700 freight trucks filled with merchandise sidetracked near the race course of Maisons-Laffitte and 380 wagons lost in the depths of the Forest Saint Germain. Many of these have not moved from where they are since the beginning of December and not a few of them contain perishable goods.

These whippers of a sinister cause for all this trouble. This is what is coming to be known as the greve perilleuse, literally the "perilous strike," which may freely be translated as the "cute" strike.

It will be recalled that during the recent strike of railway men they were forced to submission by the employment by the French Government by soldiers, the men themselves being called on as reservists to take part in putting down the strike. This action was very bitterly resented by the cheminots, and though they had to yield they swore to find a means of getting even.

If what is said to be going on just now is true they have invented a new and subtle means of reprisal which leaves them immune and causes endless trouble and expense to the railway companies. This may be called the delicate art of sending things astray. Here is a practical example. A goods car leaves Avary for Paris. By an unhappy mistake, the author of which can never be traced, it is turned aside en route and arrives perhaps ultimately at Lille. Again, the tickets of destination attached to the cars somehow often get detached and mixed and goods meant for one town find their way to another, and it is all a mix up and nobody can explain the reason for it all.

Employees may notice that cars have come their way which should have gone elsewhere, but they shut their eyes and pass them on. Only the other day a train containing 300 cattle and 1,000 pigs due at Paris failed to arrive and has never since been heard of.

These lately trains have failed to show up in the Gare du Nord and have ripped up the platform. "Fastly brakes," say the drivers. "La greve perilleuse," say the knowing ones. There are constant other mysterious happenings, such as trains going off the rails without apparent reason, signals being blocked, switches tampered with.—N. Y. Sun, Jan. 29, 1911.

THE PASSING SHOW

As Viewed by a New Yorker.

The government of San Domingo has accepted the proposition of Haiti that boundary disputes between the two countries be submitted to arbitration.

Rev. Gibbs stepped from the pulpit of Lakeview Presbyterian church in Tampa, Florida, last week into jail. He was arrested for stealing a horse and buggy.

Representative Stanley of Kentucky is urging the Rules Committee of the House to approve his resolution calling for an investigation of the steel trust.

We read of a Kansas man being fined \$5 for beating his wife; while Fresno cops get promoted for beating I. W. W. men. There's "incentive" for you.

The price of champagne has been reduced, and caviar, is now entered free of duty. Still some chronic pessimists persist in kicking about the high cost of living.

Carnegie has given \$10,000,000 for scientific research. With this fund at their disposal, scientists will probably be able now to discover what ails us toilers.

Japanese on the sugar plantations of Hawaii where Filipinos are also employed are threatening a general strike unless the latter are discharged. The Japs charge the Filipinos with being dangerous robbers when off duty, and declare it is not safe to go abroad at night in the districts where the latter are.

Countess Marie Tanowska, who is supposed to be serving a sentence in the penitentiary at Venice, Italy, for murder, is enjoying unusual liberties. She is receiving letters daily from a Russian prince, who visits her once a month. The chaplain of the jail admits he has been deceived in her religious sentiments, and he also thinks all the prison officials are in love with her. Why not transfer the countess to Fresno, and let her tame the brutal cops of that city.

Senator Overman has recently proven that reports of labor conditions, especially in North Carolina, are so revolting that Secretary Nagel of the Department of Commerce and Labor dared not publish them for fear he would be arrested for sending obscene matter through the mails. The inquiry was caused by Senator Beveridge some time ago, when he moved an investigation into the conditions of employment of women and children. Mr. Overman said in part: "I heard of the vile conditions of some of these reports and went to Mr. Nagel about them. He told me that the revelations were such that he had felt called upon to suppress them."

According to facts and figures of Frederick L. (Flobba) of the Bureau of Labor, 29,283 miners were killed in 90 years, or at the rate of 3.11 per 1,000 employed in the mines of the United States. In the United Kingdom the rate was 1.29 per 1,000; in Austria 1.35 per 1,000; in France 1.81 per 1,000; and in Prussia 2.15 per 1,000. In 1908 the death rate in the U. S. mines was 3.32 per 1,000, deaths from accidents numbering 9,723. This shows North America to be the worst market in the world as far as miners are concerned. A single mine disaster may cause the loss of a great many lives, but the figures of the last 90 years indicate that 46.6 per cent of the fatalities were due to a fall of coal which caused the death of only one or a few men at a time. Explosions account for 25.3 per cent, and mine cars for 18 per cent. At the present time it is estimated that 700,000 men are employed in mines in the United States.

A BRIEF REPLY TO NILSSON

To ignore history is fatal. It was the eight-hour movement that led to the Chicago "anarchist" hangings in 1887. It was the eight-hour movement in Colorado that caused the mine owners to seek to destroy the W. F. of M., its press and leading officials. Consequently any eight-hour movement that, in order to win, merely seeks to "organize" the workers to protect themselves, rather than protect editors and union officials," is bound to have the latter tasks forced upon them. For, in both these historic instances, the working class, in order to protect themselves, were compelled to rally to the protection of their editors and officials. In the Chicago case they failed; in the Meyer, Haywood and Pettibone case, they won.

Why not demand a free press at all times? Why wait until disaster overtakes us? THE COMMENTATOR.

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 trades 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 have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed 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.

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A Worker's Semi-Monthly

Advocate of the Modern School, Industrial Unionism and Individual Freedom

Yearly, \$1; Quarterly 25c; Sample Free

JAY FOX, Editor Lake Bay, Washington

CHANGE OF LOCATION.

The office of Solidarity is now located in the Gillfillan building at the rear of No. 8 Croton avenue, having been moved from 10 1-2 South Mill street.

LOCALS TAKE NOTICE.

Local 173 of San Francisco wishes to discuss ways and means with other locals through the columns of Solidarity regarding the raising of funds for the sending of a delegate to the International Secretariat. Hoping we can hear from some other locals in regards to this matter, I am

Yours for Industrial Freedom, BERNARD KALBER.

Now is the time to push the circulation of this paper, and spread the industrial union propaganda. Keep in action.

"La Vie Ouvriere"

Semi-Monthly Syndicalist Review Appearing 5th & 20th each month.

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Address all correspondence to Pierre Monatte, Editor, 42 Rue Dauphine, Paris, France.

DULUTH I. W. W.

Local Union No. 68 of the Industrial Workers of the World maintains a headquarters and reading room at 907 Michigan Street, Duluth, Minn., for the free use of "red" men.

# SHOE STRIKERS STILL STAND FIRM

(Special to Solidarity)

Brooklyn, N. Y., Feb. 5. Shoemakers' Industrial Union No. 168 has another victory to its credit. The strike in Deasden's shop for more wages is won, after four days fight. Fifty men are affected.

### Shops Badly Crippled.

The strikers and lockouts in the shops of the Shoe Manufacturers' Association continue, with the outlook favorable to the men. Wichert, A. Gardiner's plant is closed down. Garisden and Cousin's are badly crippled—tied up. Seals are being turned away and induced to leave by the dozens. They are also being prevented from coming here.

Shoemakers' Protective Union of Haverhill, Mass., intercepted 50 seals corralled by an agent of Geo. Baker & Co. and persuaded all but six to stay away from Brooklyn. Those who came on will do the firm more damage than good. There are signs of unstable shoes made by seals in the bosses' shops. Lattaman's shop is especially overburdened.

### Refuse to Treat With Association.

The bosses are desperate. They are resorting to trickery and violence, and are attempting to get work done in factories out of town. Garisden called for a committee of his employes, through members of the State Board of Mediation and Arbitration. The bosses are now trying to spread the falsehood that the strikers had the Board approach them with a view to ending the strike.

The strikers and locked out men refused to treat with the bosses' association, saying that as the bosses refused to negotiate with their organization, they will deal through the shop committees, with each of the manufacturers individually. Hence the "arbitration" falsehood.

Members are being shot down in cold blood, by strikebreakers, without any attempt at apprehension by the police. Giuseppe Gastalo, a picket at Cousin's shop, was shot by one Cavaleri, in the left side. He is expected to recover. Cavaleri, is still at large. On the other hand, trumpeted up charges against the pickets served only to stimulate police activity, and cause strikers to be railroaded to the lockup in great haste.

## APPEAL

### Of the Kotoku Protest Conference.

The judicial murder by the Japanese government of twelve Anarchists and Socialists has roused the indignation of all liberalistic elements. In the larger cities of Europe and America, non-street protest meetings and demonstrations have taken place to awaken the conscience of the civilized world to the strangling of the voice of liberty in Japan.

In New York City a large indignation meeting took place Sunday, January 29, at Webster Hall, and the following resolutions were passed:

"Whereas, Dr. Denjiro Kotoku and his comrades have been legally assassinated by the Japanese government; and

"Whereas, The only crime of these comrades was the effort to disseminate scientific thought among their people to the end of creating a movement for the overthrow of a social system that breeds misery and degradation for the workers, the charge of conspiring against the throne and person of the Emperor' being false and unproven; and

"Whereas, This incident is one of many incidents of a similar nature, it having a close relation to the so-called trial and legal assassination of Francisco Ferrer;

"Resolved, First, that we, the workmen of New York in memorial demonstration assembled, condemn emphatically the brutality and barbarism of the Japanese Government and give it notice that the International revolutionary movement will avenge the death of the Japanese and other martyrs to the cause of social progress by the abolition of class rule and despots; and

"Resolved, That we express our appreciation and admiration of the intrepidly noble work of Dr. Denjiro Kotoku and his comrades and pledge ourselves vigorously to carry forward the emancipatory struggle which they were assassinated."

The Webster Hall meeting closed with a street demonstration, during which four men and women were arrested. One of the prisoners was discharged in the Night Court and the woman fined \$10.00 which was paid. The other three comrades have been thrown into prison and are now facing trial in the Court of Special Session.

In view of this situation, the Defense Committee of the Kotoku Conference, representing various local or-

Wichert & Gardiner are trying to have shoes made for them at the shop of Louis Rosen, Hazelton, Pa. A strike threat brought Rosen to see the necessity of refraining from doing scab work."

### More Money Needed.

More financial aid is needed. Shoemakers' Protective Union of Haverhill, Mass., continues to stand financially, as well as morally, by the I. W. W. Another check for \$100 has been received from them. The United Mine Workers' local at Hanna, Wyoming, has also sent in \$50. The Brewery Workers continue their assistance, \$25 being received from one of their unions recently. \$10 was donated by the I. W. W. textile workers of New Bedford, Mass.; while the Political Refugee Defense League of St. Louis, Mo., sent \$4.30. No "strike benefits" are paid; only necessity is relieved. Send in the names and addresses of unions in your city to whom appeals for funds can be sent. Do it at once.

### Strike Meetings Daily.

The shops that are on strike or locked out hold meetings daily. In addition there is a daily meeting of the strikers' general committee. Every Saturday evening the industrial union meets to consider the strikers and lockouts, and also to attend to matters affecting members and shops involved. The result is beneficial in many ways.

A rousing mass meeting was held in Webster Hall, East 11th St., N. Y. this afternoon.

### Most Effective Strike on Record.

The strikes conducted by the Industrial Shoe Workers' Union No. 168, are the longest ever waged in this country. Every fight with the bosses heretofore has been settled in six weeks—to the detriment of the workers. The present conflict has been on for three months, with the bosses in a worse condition than at the beginning. The present strike is attracting much attention, and whether won or lost will produce good results. The men are determined to win. And they will, with the assistance of the working class.

Send in financial support, and make victory certain.

### BROOKLYNIAN.

ganizations, is hereby urgently calling upon all friends of justice and liberty to aid in organizing a fund for the defense of our imprisoned comrades and also for the purpose of sending financial assistance to the many victims of Japanese reaction who are incarcerated at Tokio. Their families, hounded by the detectives of the Mikado and denied the right to work, are without the means of subsistence. Their many comrades are in a similar plight. Shall we allow them to starve?

Signed: L. C. Frazer, Carl Danenberg, Hippolyte Havel, Alexander Berkman, Jaime Vidal, Edmondo Rossoni, Antonio Crivello, S. Kalkhoff, S. Fine, Simon Pollock, Attorney for the Defense, The Kotoku Protest Conference, DEFENSE COMMITTEE.

All contributions are to be sent to the Treasurer of the Defense Committee, Alexander Berkman, 210 East 13th Street, New York City, N. Y.

## SOMETHING FOR PRINTERS

What would you think of a scheme whereby the 26 letters of the alphabet are placed on a very small ring, and as mechanism, worked by a keyboard print from this ring on a paper to be later transposed in four minutes on a zinc plate, and then put on a press that would print 5,000 an hour?

But that's what the Planographic company tells you it will do—and is doing. The Union Leader called at the offices of the company in the Nichols building this week. Northern Ohio rights have been secured by the Toledo Molyneux company, and it is intended to build a factory and start in the printing business. The new process is a combination of typesetting, photography and lithography. The resemblance to the latter is in the fact that after the transfer is made on zinc, instead of "routing," as in etching, impressions are made direct from the plate, using special ink.

The promoters claim it will do all kinds of work, except on newspapers. On banks, checks and receipt books, for instance, it is shown that a good man can make an original, and in 30 minutes six plates can be made ready for the press. One sheet of labels for a patent

medicine were shown. The sheet was 24x28, with 75 plates on the original. The entire run of 1,000,000 was printed in less than four hours.

It is claimed that the new process will average 30 per cent quicker and cheaper, and will revolutionize printing, presswork and typesetting, as the type used is practically indestructible, and an equipment that is now necessary for a first-class office can be supplied, under the new system, with less room than it takes for a bushel basket.

The company has another machine on hand that will do away with cheap office help. It will be used by business houses that send out circulars and letters of all descriptions. For instance, if a letter and two circulars are to be enclosed in an envelope, three small folders will be started, and the pieces gathered to receive the open envelope, opened automatically, which will then be sealed, addressed and stamped, without being touched by a single person. This machine, it is claimed, can do the work of 100 clerks, and opens up possibilities for labor displacing that, if we didn't live in the "days of wireless" telegraphy and airship, would stamp us as "crazy."—Toledo Union Leader.

## STEEL TRUST EXPANDS

The Duluth, Minn., "News Tribune" of Jan. 29 has the following to say of the steel trust's new plant now being erected at that place:

The big steel plant, the industry that is expected to prove of incalculable benefit to Duluth, shows marked progress toward completion. A number of the buildings are entirely done and others are taking form rapidly. Each month witnesses a long stride forward in the work, and at the same time the industry is progressing with the promise of greater activity in the spring and summer, the outlook is that the plant will be in operation before the year closes.

About 300 men are employed in the construction work now and this force will be increased greatly as soon as warmer weather sets in. A multitude of labor-saving devices are being used in the work, and in a contract of this magnitude rush the work along much more rapidly than appears on a cursory inspection.

The steel now worked with railroad tracks and powerful locomotives constantly are scurrying back and forth with materials for the builders. Cement, or "soup" as the workmen term it, is drawn from the huge concrete mixer into steel dumping cars and hauled by the engines to where blast furnaces and open-hearth furnaces are being constructed. Huge 15-ton and 25-ton cranes for building the buildings and other steel work are brought in from the outside and distributed easily and quickly to their proper places by the locomotives. This up-to-date manner of handling the great undertaking is a revelation to the uninitiated.

The machine shop is a mammoth affair and so far as one is able to determine from the outside it is completed. The interior equipment, however, mostly is to be installed. One of the huge 25-ton cranes was being put in place yesterday and the remainder will be added rapidly from now on as this work can be done easily regardless of the weather. The building is exceptionally well lighted by prismatic windows in steel casing. Machinery is being received also for the furnace and plate shop but little of it has been put in place as yet.

The mixer has been built and in operation practically ever since the laying of the foundation began. Tons of gravel and cement are used daily in preparing concrete. The mixer is about the basic institution on the site, the men at work on the various foundations constantly crying for more of the concrete.

The power plant was one of the first buildings constructed and is in operation constantly. It will furnish the remainder of the plant with the electric power needed and also will light all of the buildings.

The excavating for blast furnaces is practically done and the foundations are well along, one of the furnaces being nearly completed. The foundations for the seven open-hearth furnaces are done and the work on the concrete superstructure is being carried on. The foundations are laid for the blooming mill. The bridge across the St. Louis river is finished and is in daily use.

Those acquainted with the intentions of the steel company officials and the probable extent of the plant's operations are confident that Duluth will feel a marked benefit from this constructive operation begins. They argue that other industries will be attracted here; particularly on land between here and the site of the plant, and that there will be an unprecedented growth in the population and wealth, at the head of the lakes. It will be a growth of a substantial and lasting nature.

St. Louis county is said to produce nearly 70 per cent of all the iron ore manufactured in the United States, and when it is considered that the United States Steel corporation, of which the Minnesota Steel company is a subsidiary part, owns and controls the position and 75 per cent of the ore deposits of the country, the stupendous import of construction of the steel plant here will be appreciated.

## THE W. F. OF M.

Then and Now.

When McMullen, Mahoney, and Moyer were scheming to get the Western Federation of Miners out of the I. W. W. it was pointed out on different occasions by the supporters of the I. W. W. that whenever they were successful in that move their next step would be to lead the Western Federation into the camp of the Civic Federation via the American Federation of Labor.

Any mention of this development caused the schemers to emphatically deny that they would or had any notion of going into the A. F. of L.

In the light of recent developments the following two letters from Ernest Mills, Sec'y-Treas. of the W. F. of M. to Greenwood Miners Union No. 22 are interesting reading.

Denver, Colo., March 9, 1908.

Mr. R. A. Matheson,

Greenwood, B. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I hope you have taken into serious consideration the communication which I have forwarded to you and also that of President Moyer in regard to the I. W. W. situation. I hope you will realize the seriousness of taking definite action in regard to the Trautman faction and their tactics, as I think it would be a great deal better for the W. F. of M. to remain independent of either faction of the I. W. W. These side organizations have cost the W. F. of M. thousands upon thousands of dollars for which I have received no returns except abuse, and I believe the W. F. of M. will be far stronger if they were strictly independent of either the A. F. of L. or the I. W. W.

With best wishes I remain

Fraternally Yours,

(Signed) ERNEST MILLS,

Sec'y-Treas. W. F. of M.

Denver, Colo., Feb. 24 1908.

Mr. R. A. Matheson,

Greenwood, B. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:

... I am somewhat surprised in your communication of the 19th inst. that you should be of the opinion that there was an attempt on any part of the organization of the W. F. of M. or its officials to in any way affiliate with the A. F. of L. but I think your information is a sample of the base insinuations being thrown out by Vincent St. John and others of the Trautman faction of the I. W. W., who make the most villainous attack upon the Executive Board of the W. F. of M. at every opportunity that presents itself.

The rumors that are afloat about the W. F. of M. likely to affiliate with the A. F. of L. is false and none of the officials of the organization of the W. F. of M. have ever given such a flatter thought.

Fraternally Yours,

(Signed) ERNEST MILLS,

Sec'y-Treas. W. F. of M.

It might not be amiss for the membership of the W. F. of M. who are opposed to paying \$2,300.00 per year toward maintaining an organization that is hand in glove with the ruling class, and whose officials are noted only as faithful servants of union busting employers to ask the officials of the W. F. of M. "When they changed their mind and WHY?"

John Fitzpatrick, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor (A. F. of L.) expressed what is the view of the A. F. of L. leaders toward the W. F. of M. He said, "The W. F. of M. never was any good. They never won a strike, and they are a bunch of seals. They are proving that they are no good when they come crawling back begging to get into the A. F. of L."

VINCENT ST. JOHN.

## TELEPHONE GIRL IN CHINA

"How do they say 'Hello' in Chinese?" was the question that presented itself to many frivolous-minded persons when it became known that the Chinese government intends to equip an up-to-date telephony system for the benefit of its subjects.

The telephone plant is to be installed in Peking, the capital city of the Celestials. It is to be as thoroughly modern as any of the up-to-date systems in the world. The equipment is of the central battery type, with all the little miniature lamp signals, and Chinese girls will operate it. America and Europe have learned that a network of overhead wires is an unsightly and unnecessary evil. China, therefore, is to put her wires in lead-covered cables to lay the greater part of them underground. The beautiful thing about all this Chi-

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nese activity is that it is an awakening and not a reconstruction. Over here in a thing of this sort people have to learn and progress by experiment and experience, wrecking old equipment when the new is installed. China, therefore, gets all the advantages of Western development without going through the costly stages of experimenting.

But as to the Chinese "central" girls, and the way they say "Hello!"

Until the present time there have been few telephones in China. Throughout the whole empire of 400,000,000 people vary half a dozen cities have telephones at all, and the total number of the latter is only a few thousand. What switchboards have been used are small, and all in all there has been little use for hello girls in China. Yet Chinese operators are not unknown. They are found in San Francisco's Chinatown.

The Chinatown switchboard is in quaint surroundings. The guardian deity of a joss house presides over the room, one corner of which is set aside for telephonic purposes.

Here the contact of the Oriental with the enlightened West has a striking demonstration. For, seated at the switchboard with all its up-to-date scientific instrument of lamp signals, multiple jacks, highly perfected apparatus, are four Chinese girls, clad in flowered silk their jet black hair the regulation piece and receiver used by the telegraph, and resting on the brass rail of the switchboard are four tiny pairs of sandy feet. A greater incongruity of surroundings could scarcely be imagined.

Yet from all reports this branch of service is a successful one, and the "make good" as operators. Somewhat this sort reached the ears of the commissioners who visited the

looking for ideas for the new telephone system for general adoption in the United States. They came first to New York, then Chicago, and from there to San Francisco, when they were still further tickled to find the same kind of equipment as first seen in New York and Chicago adapted to their own people and their own language. That seemed to be the kind of telephone material the empire wanted. Accordingly the contract for selling the telephones came to an American company, which made this Chinatown equipment and which has built the exchanges of all the big cities in this country. The German and English makers, who had left no stone unturned to introduce their apparatus, of course were disappointed.

It is interesting to note in this connection that Japan, which moves quickly than China, has responded to the influence of Western ideas, already has a well developed telephone system. There are many public exchanges in Tokyo, all of which illustrate again the Mongolian in his environment of up-to-date scientific apparatus. The long line of Japanese girls the telephonic system. There are many public exchanges in Tokyo, all of which illustrate again the Mongolian in his environment of up-to-date scientific apparatus.

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All official mail for Local 12, addressed to "Sec'y, Local 12, Holtville, Calif."