



TURNING ON THE LIGHT IN PATERSON

FIGURES AND FACTS

A Reply To The Paterson Silk Manufacturers In Regard To Wages, Hours And Conditions of Silk Workers In Paterson Textile Mills.

By Elizabeth Gurley Flynn

TO THE PEOPLE OF PATERSON:

On March 11th the PATERSON Press published Article No. 1 of the "Press Committee, representing the Silk Industry of Paterson." It gives some exceedingly interesting and illuminating figures, which we are willing to assume are correct. In the "Lyons of America" they claim 25,000 people are employed in silk manufacture for a total weekly wage of \$240,000 or \$1,000,000 a month. Article No. 3 from the same source indignantly objects to the agitators' claims that \$10 per week is paid to dyer's helpers. "Misleading"—"instrument to inflame passions"—"misrepresentations"—"falsehoods"—"unfair criticism of mill owners"—are some of the choice characterizations of these figures. Let us be fair; let us be just. LET US EXAMINE THEIR OWN FIGURES—25,000 people at \$240,000 a week, or AN AVERAGE WAGE OF 9.60, \$38.40 A MONTH. And all highly paid foremen, superintendents, designers, etc., are figured in under this average, remember.

From pay envelopes collected at various meetings of strikers and now in my possession, I gather the following figures:

- 1 girl, 16 years old, 32 weeks' work, at Bamford's, average per week, \$1.85.
- 1 girl, employed by Bamford, 42 weeks, average per week, \$1.25.
- 1 woman, broad silk, 2 looms, 40 weeks, average per week, \$7.17.
- 1 man, weaver, one loom, 10 weeks, average per week, \$10.59.
- 1 man, weaver, No. 237, 10 weeks, average per week, \$9.73.
- 1 man, weaver, 2 looms, 40 weeks, average per week, \$9.48.
- 1 man, weaver, No. 127, 10 weeks, average per week, \$9.73.
- 1 man, dyer's helper, 52 weeks, average per week, \$10.71.
- Miscellaneous, 22 envelopes, average per week \$6.17.

It is evident that some weavers and dyers receive more than \$9.60; many weavers and dyers' helpers get less, BUT HOW DO THE "PRESS COMMITTEE" EXPLAIN THEIR OWN AVERAGE OF \$9.60?

In Article No. 1 they claim the monthly output equals \$4,000,000, while wages are \$1,000,000, or one-quarter the output. This sounds imposing but reduced to a single fact, it means for every \$4 the worker produces in silk he receives \$1 and the employer takes \$3. They speak feelingly of the stores, banks and channels of trade supported by this \$1,000,000 in circulation.

BUT TO THE WORKERS OWE THE MANUFACTURERS ANY DEBT OF GRATITUDE FOR THIS \$1,000,000? DO THE BUSINESS MEN OF PATERSON? How much silk is produced today with the workers absent from the mills? How much will be the output for March, 1913? The Committee admits "the entire fabric of the city's business interests and the commonwealth itself is menaced to a point that should cause widespread alarm." Why? Because the English speaking workman and the foreigner, the skilled and the unskilled have put their hands in their pockets. Paradoxically, they have ceased being "hands" and have become "heads." Knotted, color-stained hands came forth from the dye-boxes; women's fragile hands away from the looms; children's tiny hands have ceased to wind silk and the mills are dead.

Who can deny that without the workers there would be no \$4,000,000 a month and therefore when they draw their MILLION DOLLAR ENVELOPE—their magnificent \$9.60 a week, they are putting into local circulation not a token of mill-owner's generosity, but a product of their own sweat and toil. What has the girl who made 66,528 yards of ribbon for \$64.45, got to be thankful to Mr. Bamford for?

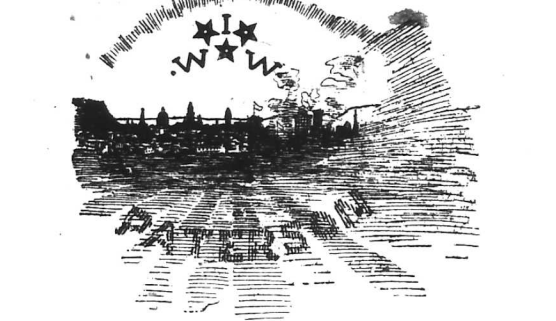
How do the employers circulate their \$3,000,000? Do they re-invest it in Paterson? Hardly. If they did, their \$38,000,000 industry would double in size in thirteen months. Does the Silk

(Continued on Page 3)

A FEW PATERSON STRIKERS



Illustration shows crowd at meeting held Thursday, April 3d, at Haledon, N. J., to protest against the arrest and railroadng of Fellow-workers Ad. Leach and Bill Hayward.



With Apologies to Paterson Morning Call.

"NO GRIEVANCES AT ALL!" DEVELOPMENT OF THE SILK INDUSTRY

Paterson Strikers Only Imagine Wages Have Gone Down As Machines Have Speeded Up.

EWALD KOETTGEN.

During the general strike of silk workers of Paterson, N. J., and vicinity, the mill owners have set up the claim that the workers were satisfied and had no grievances. That the "outside agitators" of the I. W. W. swooped down on the city and intimidated the workers into going on strike. That the workers were making all kinds of money, in fact the workers were making so much money that the mill owners were not making anything; they were running the mills at a loss or for charity sake. Let us see how much truth there is in it.

Fifteen years ago the writer had two looms; each loom contained goods that were 18 inches wide, 60 reed, 3 threads in a tent, 90 picks to an inch, tafata weave 10c per yard. Now they operate 4 looms, 36 inch goods in each loom, 60 reed, 2 thread, 64 picks, taff weave, 21c per yard. No grievance there, is there?

Five years ago messaline jobs were paid as follows: Two looms, goods 36 inches wide, 64 reed, 3 threads, 5 shaffs, 104 picks, 11 1/2 c per yard. Now a weaver must operate 4 looms on the same kind of work and receives 5c per yard. At 2 looms a weaver could make 15 yards per loom per day, or 30 yards on two looms. This makes \$3.45 for 30 yards. Now a weaver operating 4 looms can make about 12 yards per loom or 48 yards per day. Forty-eight yards per day at 5c per yard gives us \$2.40. In other words, a weaver produces 18 yards more per day and is paid \$1.05 less than before. Of course such a trifling is not a grievance.

Jacquard weavers used to operate one loom of from 18 to 24 inches wide. Now we find that they are compelled to operate 2 box loom jacquards 48 inches wide, 600 to 1200 machines, 64 reed, 3 threads, 2 to 7 shuttles at the rate of \$2.50 to \$2.75 per day. This is four times as much work for less pay. Further, we find that weavers are compelled to pay for a yard of cloth if an end is out or a float in it but they are not given the goods; the boss keeps that and sells it, getting paid twice for the same yard. Also we find that weavers who turn off a cut of say 65 yards find that he only gets paid for 60 yards. The boss steals from 5 to 15 yards on a cut. During the strike a case was reported where a weaver had turned off a cut of 80 yards. When he got his book he found it marked down for 10 yards. When he

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TURNING OUT THE PICKETS IN SILK

By William D. Hayward.

On a rainy day, some weeks ago, some of the silk weavers of the city of Paterson went on strike, they had no other choice but to go out until the industry would be paralyzed. This is the situation of the city of Paterson. The strike has spread until every branch of the industry in Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Virginia, as well as New Jersey, is involved. The strike of the silk workers is unique in as much as it more nearly represents a general strike than any other that has ever occurred in any industry in this country. There are approximately 50,000 men, women and children who are affected directly or indirectly, or are locked out, due to the fact that the dye houses, which are one of the preliminary processes and the backbone of the silk industry, are closed.

Organization Beforehand

Paterson, N. J., is at this hour the scene of this remarkable strike. The silk workers are fortunate in having passed No. 152 as a nucleus around which to form their organization. This local was largely composed of seasoned veterans in the labor movement, many of them charter members since 1901. When they realized the necessity of a general strike to protect the workers of Debert's mill and themselves, the strike call came from Local 152. It met a general response and the necessary committees for carrying on the preliminary work of what has grown to be matters of great importance were formed almost automatically, here, since developed and organized to do that from near the standpoint of the working man. The strike is in excellent shape from the beginning. The Executive Committee began throwing their efforts into the adjoining states where work was produced, and through the efforts of these committees the aims and purposes of the strike were set down, so that now, in all localities, silk workers are standing for the same demands as Paterson.

Police Help Strike

It was in the very beginning of the strike that the police force assistance from the police force. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn and Carlo Tresca from New York to work in the streets of the strike. They were all immediately arrested and thrown to jail. This action on the part of the police so thoroughly aroused the striking class of Paterson, and especially that part of the strike who had speakers at different meetings decried the message of the I. W. W. and their appeal for solidarity, that resulted in bringing about an amputation that would otherwise have required much hard work and a long period to accomplish. Since then the police have continued their bungling methods, each time being to the indignation of the strikers, as well as arousing the sympathy of the public, which is usually against the workers. The city and county authorities and the police generally have assumed the arrogant attitude that we have to contend with, while on the one hand, the workers in this particular have been tolerant and some face of all opposition. Hundreds of them have been thrown into the streets without warrant and without charge, with the evident intention of breaking their spirit. They are crowded into noisome cells, some of which are seven or eight feet high, and are compelled to occupy a space intended for one, and kept there for an twenty-four hours without food and water. This brutal treatment, instead of weakening the spirit of the picketers, has made it stronger, as is shown by the fact that some have been arrested four and five times, only to come out of jail, report their experience at the mass meeting, and go to the picket line again in defiance of the police.

Demands of Strikers

What demand of the strikers is? We offer work day. The dye houses are employed at (Page 4.)

SMOKING OUT THE WRINKLES IN SILK

(Continued From Page 1.)
the most unbeneficial and meanest work connected with the silk industry, are demanding an eight hour day and a minimum wage of \$12. Already some of the dye house proprietors have offered to reduce the 12 hour day to 9 and give \$18 a week. But the workers have learned to think in terms of eight hours and are not willing to make any concessions.

So strong is the desire for eight hours among the workers that this is the time when the capping stone is to be put in place. They have sworn to themselves that no matter what the outcome of the strike or what the result of any settlement, under no circumstances will they work longer than eight hours.

The ribbon weavers are demanding that the two loom systems be abolished, the eight-hour day established, and the 1894 price list reinstated.

The principal demand of the broad silk weavers is to abolish the new packing and death-dealing three and four loom system.

These are the principal demands that have held 25,000 workers in a solid phalanx against the manufacturers' association for now eight weeks.

The manufacturers, with their sor did and selfish plea, claim that they cannot grant the workers' demand and make any other concessions.

Cheaper grades are made in Pennsylvania, where wages are less and where 12 hour shifts are employed in silk mills are women and children.

Wives and children of the miners have been induced to become the slaves of the silk looms.

I. W. W. a Nightmare to Bosses

Before the startled eyes of the silk manufacturers the I. W. W. looms up like a nightmare.

As in Lawrence, so also in Paterson, the mask has been torn from hidden, and here it will be made to make any success as a strike-breaker.

Nearly 10,000 of these men, women and children, who are demanding a better standard of living, are now members in good standing of the I. W. W.

Paterson 'Press' Howls

The 'Press' hates to see the working men and women of Paterson fooled by the I. W. W.

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they would like to continue the Paterson strike for at least another two weeks so as to capture the second month's assessment, which you, who have foolishly joined the I. W. W. must pay to be in good standing in this revolutionary organization.

The I. W. W. never won a strike, and as long as American capitalists and American principles prevail it never will.

The I. W. W. is a hoodoo organization simply because it is a fan organization and the 'Press' tells the workers of Paterson that letter conditions were brought about by the I. W. W.

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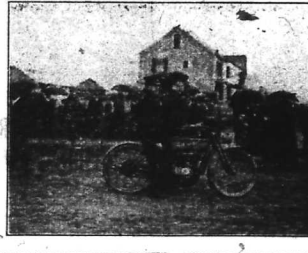
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POLICE LOOKING FOR TROUBLE



IS THIS WHAT YOU BELIEVE?

Among other advantages common to all nations, and particularly prevalent in the United States, is 'respect for law and order.'

CONDITIONS IN THE PATERSON DYE SHOPS

Conditions in the dye shops are very unhealthful. No one can open them, and as the shop is always full of steam, that keeps the workers damp all the time.

When the winter windows are all kept matted fast. No one can open them, and as the shop is always full of steam, that keeps the workers damp all the time.

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"NO GRIEVANCES AT ALL!"

(Continued From Page 1.)
complained he was told that it was a mistake, that it should be 70 yards. The boss wanted to steal 10 yards but the clerk gave the boss the 70 yards and the weaver the 10 yards instead of the reverse. The winders are in the same fix. They tend to about double the number of ends that they formerly did.

In the dye houses the workers fare about as bad or worse. It is hard work and very unsanitary. They have to work in rooms always filled with steam, with their heads in dye of all colors, containing all kinds of acids. The acids eat into their flesh and their hands are always stained.

The ribbon worker had no complaints, as we can readily see if we take a few jobs and look at them closely. In 1894 bosses compelled them to accept a price list. The workers stood against it but were finally compelled to accept it.

Conditions in the dye shops are very unhealthful. No one can open them, and as the shop is always full of steam, that keeps the workers damp all the time.

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Little Str... advertisement with various text and graphics.

Advertisement for Benjamin J. Legere, featuring text and a portrait.

Advertisement for 'NEW YOU' with various text and graphics.

Advertisement for 'ATTENTION! FELLOW WORKER' with various text and graphics.

Advertisement for 'SOLIDARITY' with various text and graphics.

Advertisement for 'Commission 25c on the Dollar' with various text and graphics.

Advertisement for 'SOLIDARITY' with various text and graphics.

A SURPRISE FOR THE OPS

The illustration shows a Fellow-worker trying to hold back a Cossack, who is trying to get up on the sidewalk, while the strikers were on their way to Haledon, after the police interfered with our open-air meeting, Sunday, March 30, when Bill and Lesang were locked up.

SOLIDARITY EXTENDS GREETINGS TO ALL REP FROM OUR NEW HOME IN CLEVELAND

Advertisement for 'SOLIDARITY' with various text and graphics.

Send For Three-Month Six Month and Yearly Sub Cards Immediately

Commission 25c on the Dollar 5 THREE-MONTH SUB CARDS FOR \$1.00

Advertisement for 'SOLIDARITY' with various text and graphics.