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WHOLE No. 257.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, SATURDAY DECEMBER 12, 1914.

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Lessons Of The Ohio Miners' Struggle

As will be noted elsewhere, in the article reprinted from the As will be noted elsewhere, in the article reprinted from the Cleveland "Leader" of December 5, the mine owners of the eastern Ohio district announced the day before that date, that all further negotiations between them and the union officials of the U. M. W. A. were off, and that henceforth the mines of that district would be operated on the "open shop" basis. Whether or not this will prove to have been only a bluff, to get the miners to come to their terms, remains for further developments to determine. But in view of similar developments in British Columbia, Colorado, Arbenses, and other cash uning districts, as well as in the cop-Arkansas, and other coal mining districts, as well as in the cop-per-sections of Michigan and Montana, it looks like more than the beginning of a well-defined movement of, the coal trust and its allies, to crush the existing unions in that industry.

In the Ohio district, 15,000 miners have been locked out since April 1. They have endured suffering from hunger and privation similar to that of their brothers in Colorade, though machine guns and evictions have not been as much in evidence. The alleged pretexts for this lockout on the part of the bosses, were the refusal of the union's officials to accept less than 47 cents per ton for mining onal, and the readjustment of mining operations in accord with the "Green anti-screen law," providing for the payment of all coal mined on a miner-un basis. This law was supposed to become effective on May 15 this year. The Ohio operators put up the plea that, in view of this miner-un law, they should not be compelled to pay more for mining coal than is being paid in the competing Pittsburg district. So, we are told, resulted the long deadlock in negotiations, with mines idle and miners starving.

long deadlock in negotiations, with mines idle and miners starving. As usual in such cases, the rumor is now circulating that this whole performance is the result of a collusion between operators and leading officials of the miners union. There is no basis for that charge, as far as we can see, except this: The conservative tactics of the U. M. W. A. officials have materially aided the bosses in their "open shop" program. Even at the close of the last conference on the Ohio situation, President John P. White of the United Mine Workers, is quoted as "making no comment on the probability of the opening of the mines under the open-shop planfurther than to state that other mines throughout the state would not be affected; and that a general strike of mine workers was not planned." In other words, the mine bosses are to be allowed to get away with their open-shop program, without any attempt at united resistance on the part of this "greatest of all labor organizations." That the operators have already practically succeeded in theirQLa in parts of Pennsylvania (witness Westmoreland), in Southern Colorado; that they are making process in that direction in Arkanasa and elsewhere—all this and more, does not call for immediate and united action on the part of the national body of miners.

This conservative attitude has been painfully in evidence all introughout the Ohio iockout. It showed itself at the outset, when the Ohio mines were declared to be on strike, and yet the union refused, according to its custom, to call out pumpmen, timbermen and repairmen from the mines. That the bosses were in deadly fear of such a move, was evident in June and July, when the miners of Belmont and Jefferson counties, took matters into their own hands and, marching in great numbers from mine to mine, pulled out many pumpmen and others, thus threatening the nine owners' property, and putting the bosses on edge. The latter hollered at once for the militia, but being refused that, they took Gowernor Cox's suggestion, that is, got busy locally, arrested the "leaders" of the direct action movement, and held one of them on the charge of "treason to the State of Ohio." What did the U. M. W. A. officials of with this move of the rank and file? Did they approve of it? Oh no! Because I. W. W. men started it it is was immediately branded as an it into a national movement in behalf of strugiling miners everywhere, the organized "official machine" lined up with the mine bosses to help crush it, and continued the Ohio struggle by the way of the starvation route. Today, misery alone stalks through the ranks of the Ohio miners, and charity organizations are being besieged to supply them with the necessaries of life. Not only that, but the "open-shop" program of the mine bosses marches forward to victory. Actual "collusion" between operators and union officials could not have produceds a worse result for the rank and file of Ohio miners.

No matter what U. M. W. A, men may think of the I, W. W.

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Where The Workers Are A "Majority"

"The Square Deal." of Battle Creek. Mich. is an employer to the organical labor movement of all tensor maintenances and the majority of the organical labor movement and its many maintenances. It is particularly insistent in advocating "a square deal" for the social perfect in advocating "a square deal" for the social perfect in the control of the proper direction from the collection of the control of t other plane there are no whack at them. Our ignorance is the cause of the rolance level of th

All this, however, does not discount the fact that INDUS-TRIALLY the working class is a decided majority of the popula-tion. The total number of wage workers in the U. S. is con-servatively estimated at 30,000,000. Add as many more only, for worfen and children, and you have 50,000,000 belonging to the working class, out of a total population of 100,000,000. That will suffice, though the majority is even bigger than that. Add to this, the tremendous bressure that can be exerted against the ruling class, by even a small minority of workers, at the point of-production, and you have an argument for industrial organization that cannot be refuted. Even if socialist editors and politicians refuse to get wise, that is no reason why any ordinary slave should not be able to see the point. Let us strive to enlighten the work-ing class as to where their power really lies.

Federated Labor And Compromise

and similar situations were discussed, the intensity of the potential powers of labor for determined forms of action could not be missed.

It is not strange-that most of these moments came in the train of incidents growing out of the work of the Miners' Unions. The miner typifies the worker whose arrival upon the scene means new forms of organization and sew methods of action in the labor world. Conditions in the mines first suggested the economic role of the semi-skilled and unskilled worker. The miners have therefore grouped about them the newer elements of labor and have led in blazing new ways for American unions. Though it may the other than the control of the semi-skilled and unskilled worker. The miners have therefore grouped about them the newer elements of labor and have led in blazing new ways for American unions. Though it may like of the control of the

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