

The Worker

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'BIG SIX' OF NEW YORK.

An Interesting Letter from a Socialist Member of the Great Union.

"Be Conservative in Your Trade Union and Radical in the Political Field," the Wise Course, Says Our Correspondent—You Can't Fool All the Workmen All the Time.

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF THE TELEGRAPHS.

The members of New York Typographical Union No. 6 pay out from \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year for their unemployed members. They have paid out in strike benefits and in making war against unfair employers to the extent of hundreds of thousands of dollars. This is well. There are no two things that a labor organization can do more important than caring for its unemployed and vigorously prosecuting a war against those who would destroy the organization.

NO. 6 AND THE "SUN."

There never was a case where war to the last ditch was better justified than that of the printers against the New York "Sun." Without a word of warning to their old employees the agents of the "Sun" management hired more than two hundred printers and stereotypers in Philadelphia to go a short distance away to work on a daily paper. The men were told nothing of any strike or lockout. Indeed, when hired they had been set, but not yet sprung. These men were put aboard a boat at Philadelphia, and only after the boat started were they informed of their destination. Then on a signal given by a union man on the boat, a telegram was sent to the New York union's officers, and the union men in the "Sun" left the office. The boat load of men arrived in New York, and out of over two hundred only about twenty went to work for the "Sun" and four of those quit within the day. From that hour the "Sun" and the union have been fighting it out. The "Sun" has lost an enormous amount of money by its act—no one can tell just how much, but there is no doubt that it reaches the million, if not twice that sum.

It has also cost the union dollars into the hundreds of thousands. The money was spent, we believe. The workmen should resist wrong by every lawful means.

"LIFTING THE BOYCOTT."

From the commencement of the struggle, No. 6 has made every effort at a settlement, even going so far on one occasion as to "lift the boycott" placed on the "Sun," which was working from Maine to California. All their efforts to put an end to the strife have so far failed.

Without advising them to let up for a moment in the economic struggle, they are now making, we should, however, like to ask the members of No. 6 if they do not think it time to look about them for other and more effective methods of waging their battles.

Look over that list of three hundred and more unemployed. Do you remember of No. 6 think they are all of them shiftless, thriftless, or inebricate? If so, you are mistaken. You will find in that line at the union rooms when the weekly out-of-work benefit is distributed men who their whole life-long have been as thrifty as men could be without making themselves a byword through their penuriousness; you will find there men who all their lives will find the advent of the machine have been as industrious as men could be without hogging all the work while their fellow union men had none; you will find good workmen there, too, proof-readers, compositors, operators, book and news men.

THE CHARGE FOR WORK.

Does it ever occur to you men in No. 6 who have come, that if other men are good workmen cannot get work, some day it may befall that you will not be able to get work? Are you sure that you will always be fortunate? Even if it is not possible that some day you may lose your place by a lock-out. What men in this city had reason to feel more secure in their situation than the former employees of the New York "Sun"?

If you do recognize that possibility, would it not be wise to look for further and more efficient weapons than the trade union fighting single-handed? Would it not be just if you did so on account of others, even if you do feel secure yourself? Some of you have children. How about them? Do you wish to leave them in a society where, as if any men are sure of an opportunity to earn a livelihood?

REMEDY IN SOCIALISM.

The Socialists maintain that the only adequate remedy for this industrial warfare is to be found in Socialism. The Socialists maintain that the working class should control the government absolutely and carry on industry. We claim that the working class will never be truly prosperous while private individuals own the means for the production of wealth necessary to the livelihood of all. Why not study

SOCIALISM IS COMING! UP AND BE DOING!

Says the "International Woodworker": "A bird in the hand may be worth two in the bush, but the fellow who is too timid or too lazy to join a union and make an effort to increase his wages will undoubtedly be a stumbling block in the way of others who certainly could get the two in the bush if he would only get out of the way and let them get at the game."

IS THE SYSTEM RIGHT?

One thousand dollars a day, Sunday and holidays excepted, for the next forty-eight years, is what ex-Senator J. N. Camden of West Virginia, or his estate, will receive as a result of the sale of his coal lands in the Fairmont region, which has just been formally ratified. Mr. Camden is now 78 years old. Mr. Camden received \$15,000,000 for his property, the Fairmont Coal Company, which is to have the backing of J. P. Morgan. Of the purchase price \$500,000 was paid in cash, and the agreement calls for the payment of \$300,000 each year to Mr. Camden or his heirs until the entire amount is paid. Mr. Camden is already many times a millionaire, and with the sale of his coal lands, is now rated as being worth about \$40,000,000. He owns 25,000 acres of the best coal lands in the famous Fairmont bituminous region of West Virginia.

And yet Mr. Camden never produced an atom of coal in his life, nor could he have done so had he spent every second of his 73 years in the attempt to do so. Neither can his heirs and assigns who are to enjoy this income vast beyond comprehension, if they vote their existence to the work, create so much as an atom of coal.

Is it not a strange system, which makes multi-millionaires out of men by permitting them to control that which is not theirs? Remember Camden's fault. In his remarkable work, "Gold and Silver," J. G. Holland said: "There is no aristocracy which is not created by the common people"—a significant and profound piece of wisdom. So have the people encouraged customs and usages which in turn have bound them in slavery; made kings and emperors of some, while others toil that these favored ones may live in ease and luxury. And in our own land, wherein freedom and equality are our boast, we have made like for rich and poor, white and black; the cultured and the dull, appropriated for the benefit of one and to the loss of the multitude.—William H. Burke, in the Social Crusader.

"Remember this is not Senator Camden's fault."
"There is no aristocracy which is not created by the common people."

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF TELEGRAPHS.

How long is it since the I. T. U. passed resolutions calling for the government ownership of the telegraphs, elevated literature all over the country about it, sent committees to Washington to beg for it, and how much nearer are you to it now than when you started? You thought that if the government would take the telegraphs, and charge fair and equal rates for service, it would make a demand for printers because more papers would be printed. You begged old parties for government ownership of the telegraphs until you have almost forgotten about it.

PRICE OF WHITE PAPER.

Do you know that to-day there is something else more important than telegraphs that limits the output of printing? It is the fictitious price of white paper. And so before you get a single thing by the begging of something-at-a-time method, there is something else equally necessary. And your troubles will not stop with telegraphs and white paper. The book and newspaper and job printing business will yet see the combination, the trust. Your trade was the last to be caught by the machine, but it got there. It may be the last to be caught by the trust, but it will get there. It will take everything, nothing too small, nothing large enough.

BEGGING OF OLD PARTIES.

To this phase of industrial development do you think to successfully oppose a petition policy—beg for years to get the legislature to pass an employer's liability bill, and then have to beg the governor to veto it, because it injures you and helps the boss?

"PROPERTY FIRST—LIFE LAST."

(Los Angeles Union Labor News.)
Another startling sea disaster has brought sorrow to many homes on the Pacific coast. More than forty lives were lost when the steamer "Albatross" of shore—a distance that could have been covered by the slaking steamer in a very few minutes.

If the pilot's story is true every life lost was sacrificed in the hope that property would be saved. It is asserted that when the captain reached the bridge after the collision he was told the ship was sinking; but instead of turning her bow toward the rocky shore so close at hand, where the passengers could be saved but the ship certainly lost, he decided to make for a point several miles away, where the steamer could be beached.

Steamer companies are in business, not to serve the people, but to make the largest possible profits. Their captains are promoted from the ranks, and from boyhood to maturity the sacred value of the company's property is drilled in their ears. To lose a ship is held to be an ineffaceable disgrace to which clings at least the suspicion of cowardice. In this case, as in many another, the captain preferred death to the company's censure and his future humiliation.

If steamship lines were owned by the people and operated for the public benefit a captain's sense of duty would be beggared when a great danger suddenly confronted him. He would not instinctively seek the safety of the property in his keeping, but would unhesitatingly permit its certain destruction rather than take the slightest chance on the lives of the people. The race may some time learn to despise money and properly value life; but until it does it must continue to pay the penalty of greed.

FROM WHEELING, W. VA.

WHEELING, W. VA.—There are about 12,000 steel workers on strike in this district. After a day's observation I should judge this to be the strongest point possessed by the Amalgamated Association. Wheeling is organized as one man said, "from the bookbacks up." All are contributing liberally in a financial way, and their moral support is of the most effective kind.

The trust mills are closed down and closed down tight, and it is the avowed intention of organized labor that they remain so until a settlement is reached. And the old Socialists are now beginning to see years of hard work rewarded in a splendid awakening of the working class. These faithful Socialist planters have been hammering among the trade unionists for a long time, and as many of them are ungodly men themselves they have become influential, and are listened to with respect and interest.

But apart from this, there seems to be a clearer recognition of the class struggle among the workers here than any place I have yet visited. There seems to be a class-conscious element in the fight against the trust that is more apparent than elsewhere. The most impressive thing about the local situation is the radical attitude of the workers in other trades. They are determined that the strike shall be won, and as they are well drilled in trade unionism they are fitted to fortify the strikers in the strongest kind of way.

But what is more impressive still is the radicalism of the organized workers on the subject of politics. Judging by what I have seen and heard to-day I feel justified in saying that the Wheeling district is seething with Socialism. On all sides can be heard expressions of dissatisfaction with the old parties and favorable opinions upon the Socialist Party. This state of things is due mainly to the activity of a number of local comrades, and is a result of long years of trade union experience.

As elsewhere, the strikers are peaceful and I can only reiterate that there will continue to be peace unless the trust provokes or causes trouble.

There was a big Labor Day demonstration in which Bellare and Martin Perry will participate. Following this will come Congressman Eugene V. Debs, on September 11, who has been engaged by the local Socialists. On Sunday last the Trades Assembly voted to assist in arranging Debs' meeting and his arrival is looked forward to with genuine enthusiasm. He will get a tremendous reception, unless all signs fail and his message of delinquency will fall upon unappreciative ears.

W. M.

DIRTY DOLLARS.

Platt is already in town and Ober will be here in a few days. God help the poor.

The Sugar Trust has declared a quarterly dividend of 1 1/2 per cent. Not many people will get a part of it, but every man, woman and child who works in this free country has helped to pay it.

Walter J. Kingsley has received New York from London with \$150,000 of English thieves' money to bet on the Shamrock II against an equal amount of the American thieves' dough. Don't care who wins. When Socialists win they'll both lose.

Gates, the steel man, is said to have been skinned out of \$15,000 by the gentlemen gamblers of Aix-les-Bains. Never mind, he can send home for more money, and when he does the American workmen will see that he gets it just now—not all ways.

There seems to be hope that it will be demonstrated—we all know where Democratic Fire Commissioner Keenan got it. This is the Democratic friend of labor who went to Albany to oppose the two-platoon system in the New York fire department. He thought the city couldn't afford it. He said so. The city couldn't afford much of anything else if it was to have Scannella in office.

Speaking of mayors, do not forget that Democratic Mayor Van Wyck was "caught with the goods on him," as his friend Devery would express it. He had 4,000 shares (par value \$400,000) of Ice Trust (American Ice Company) stock on his person for which no one has ever yet discovered what he paid. Strange to say, however, he vetoed a bill which, if it had become a law, would have done the Ice Trust no good.

Don't forget that good Republican Mayor Ashbridge, of Philadelphia, the city of homes and low wages, signed an ordinance giving away for nothing street car franchises which the most holy John Wansanacker offered \$2,500,000 for. We do not believe Holy John had fifty or sixty million dollars by paying more for things than they were really worth, so we wonder what the real value of the franchises was, and how much Republican Mayor Ashbridge got for his signature.

Freight rates from Chicago east are to be advanced on October 21. The "community of interest" having made corporation charges, we can all see the dear people getting the benefit. Keep a moving. We have reached the point where you can't advance capitalism (nor even freight rates) without advancing Socialism. The boys are worn who will play in the band at your funeral, and you're digging your own grave. So more power to your elbow, and we'll scour a shovel for you.

STEEL MEN VS. STEAL MEN.

The Great Battle Is Still Being Waged Bitterly and Vigorously by Both Sides.

THE MEN WILL EVENTUALLY BE FORCED TO TAKE POLITICAL ACTION.

At this time there is no news to show that the great steel strike has reached a point where an immediate decision can be hoped for. "This is no time to arbitrate" seems to be the position of the trust, and the men are still undimmed. Since a week ago we should say that the men had made gains; but it remains to be seen whether or not they can hold their ground. Some day, and that in the no distant future, the men will get to work on political lines in a party of their own, and when that time comes they will have it in their power to victoriously say "This is no time to arbitrate."

The strikers should be warned against trust methods and lies. At various places during the past week the bosses have had men distributing leaflets among the strikers, which contained extracts from New York trust papers, such as the New York "Sun" and "Times." The strikers should know that whatever the "Times" and "Sun" have to say about the strike is simply Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan's side of it, and should treat any advice from that quarter accordingly. The "Times" had an editorial not long since congratulating Mr. Morgan on having said nothing about the strike for publication, and contrasting his "reserve" with Mr. Shaffer's "loquacity." The strikers should understand that anything that comes from the "Times" is as much Morgan's as the steel that comes from the mills, though he does not write the editorials of the "Times" any more than he makes the steel. He has hired men to do both, who are intellectual prostitute who licks boots for his livelihood while the other is an honest man who works for his living.

Below we give a view of the scene of war as seen by our special correspondent in the field.

CAMBRIDGE, OHIO, August 31.

There are nearly one thousand steel workers on strike in Cambridge, and during the two months since they quit work, there has been nothing occurred that would lay the city open to attack from the imaginations of aspiring reporters. By the time this appears in print there may be a different tale to tell.

Cambridge has the reputation of being one of the best union towns in the state of Ohio, and from what I have seen during my short visit, the reputation is deserved. I am informed that there is not a trade in which the workers are not organized, and the effects of this are visible everywhere, not the least of these being the attitude of the business men toward the strikers. With the exception of an obnoxious active so-called Improvement Society, of which I shall speak more fully later, the strikers have either the outspoken or silent support of the local trade unions is undoubted by the cause of this.

The Amalgamated Association has been established since the steel strike plant and its plate mill started twelve and seven years ago, respectively. Its members have always been well represented in the national organization, Editor Davis of the "Amalgamated Journal," and National Trustee John H. Morgan having both lived here. The steel workers have always been prominent in local affairs, politically, socially, and every way. It is claimed that the product of the local mills is known for excellence of quality throughout the United States.

So far the trust has made no effort to start the mill, but arrangements are completed for the move. A high fence has been erected around the tin plate plant, and a hotel, with full equipment for feeding and boarding camps, stands inside. Up to within the past few days, the strikers maintained headquarters in the city, but now they have established a picket system which extends four miles, covering the distance between the two mills and adjacent territory. I visited the camps to-day, and met many of the strikers, who are among the most friendly I have met on this trip.

One of the tents stood between the railroad track and the tin plate mill, where the freight trains could be watched for imported men. There were no hammocks or cots upon which the watchers could sleep. They were hard ground, with a box for a pillow was their resting place. In one corner was a cupboard containing various cooking and household utensils. I arrived at this particular tent just in time to be invited to partake of some soup which had been prepared upon an earthen oven outside the tent. Seated upon an empty box I sat at a wonderfully constructed table and ate that soup—and delicious soup it was—with a relish seldom known before. While the sun is shining, the tents are not at all uncomfortable, but when it is raining, as it is now as I write, one is liable to get the romance drained out of him. Looking upon a scene like this, I could not help recalling Cambridge Hanford's declaration that "the trade unions are on the firing line in the fight with capitalism."

No occasion has been presented yet for the city and county officers to show for what stuff they are made. The strikers apparently believe that these officials will do justice to them. While the county sheriff and chief of police are Republicans, the mayor is a Democrat, and what is more a working man, a shoemaker. Let us hope the strikers will not be disappointed when the crisis comes, as it will soon.

Cambridge is a growing city, and new industries are constantly entering. What will be an important addition to the city is an enormous glass factory, which will be the largest in the country, and many small plants will be wiped out when it begins operations. The history of the glass trust's coming to Cambridge is an interesting one, inasmuch as it also involves an account of the methods of the "Improvement Society" before mentioned.

This organization is run by eight "leading business men," who really run the city also. It was started by an enterprising and patriotic gentleman who had evolved an easy way to get rich. He bought 150 acres of land just on the city limits and then, with the aid of several other schemers he launched the "Improvement Society," which had for its object the inducing capital to invest, etc., etc. First thing necessary to success was to get the dear workmen interested, and this as usual was not hard to do. The labor organizations bought stock in the new society, their officials being actually guileless enough to go around soliciting for purchasers of stock. It appears that the workmen here are unusually thrifty and a large number invested their savings. Result: The gentleman who originated the scheme has sold his land to the society for \$20,000, while the glass trust has received a bonus of \$30,000, and a factory site free in order to locate here. The society now owns the land opposite the glass factory, and this has been divided up into lots, upon which the workmen owning stock are asked to build houses, the lots to be bought from the society. Besides this the improvement company is about to build houses in which the glass workers are expected to live, the glass trust having kindly consented to see that the rent is stopped off in the office. A very pretty scheme all around.

Moreover, the managers of the "Improvement Society" have been fighting the strike from the beginning and they are using every influence to weaken the men and prejudice their cause. They claim that if the strike is not settled soon this town will be ruined, and will go elsewhere, the "Improvement Society" will go bankrupt AND THE WORKINGMEN WILL LOSE THEIR STOCK. The labor organizations are placed in the predicament of having invested money in an organization which is now being used to defeat this important strike.

And there has been no dividends declared yet. W. M.

CANAL DOVER, Aug. 30.—

The strikers of Canal Dover are the first upon whom injunctions have been levied since the steel strike began. The injunction is no more warranted than were the previous ones issued since they came into fashion as means to break strikes, or thwart the purposes of labor unions. Their existence unwarranted, their coming unsolicited, they are unwelcome except to those who are the enemies of the strikers. The strikers themselves are somewhat against at the turn of affairs and are lost as to what to do next.

There was a larger crowd than usual at association headquarters this morning, when the United States deputy marshal, accompanied by a deputy and the superintendent of one of the trust mills, appeared to serve the writs upon the violators of capitalist law. During the night the pickets that have been doing duty for weeks, were called and, deserting their tents, they had broken camp and assembled to hear the news. They bear upon them the marks of many days and nights spent outdoors. Their hands and faces are sunburnt and haggard, their eyes bloodshot with sleepless watching, and their clothes dirt stained with roughing it upon mother earth.

The injunction was granted by Justice Wing in the United States District Court at Cleveland. It covers the two local lodges, their officers and members, some of whom are mentioned by name, the remainder being grouped under clauses which include each and every one associated with the lodges and officers. It is a regular, up-to-date affair, broad in its scope, effective in its purpose. Briefly stated, it prohibits its interference in any manner with the operation of the mills, or with any one going to work or seeking employment.

Under it the strikers will be unable to picket the approaches to the mills or to converse with any one intending to enter the mills. It can be construed to prevent any of the strikers from congregating near the mills or from speaking to any one approaching them. The injunction is a temporary one, the hearing being set for November 3, far enough away to keep the men employed while the trust gets in its work. By then the necessity for an injunction will probably not exist. But the date is close enough to election day to keep the strikers' minds alive to the necessity of voting against the injunction granters.

Canal Dover, New Philadelphia, and Dennison. In all the strike field, no locality has had a harder struggle than this one. It has been a battle in which real comradeship developed on the strikers' side, and made them victorious over all tactics of the trust. The picket system was without a parallel. It extended from Canal Dover to Dennison, and consisted of camps stationed at important points. During the most watched night and day, having regular guards, and being supplied with food from the nearest town. Communication was effected by use of a bicycle corps kept constantly on the route between the camps. By this means, the numerous attempts of the trust to bring men into any of the places have been thwarted.

Mosses has his Rhinehart, Wells, ville its Dennis and Canal Dover its Bold. They are three of a kind. The only difference between them is that one is worse than the other. Rhinehart fought the strikers from the first. Dennis waited until the necessary influence was exerted, and Bold only broke out within the past week. And it is Bold who is the indirect cause of the injunction being issued.

Bold is a lawyer by profession and he was elected mayor of Canal Dover on an independent ticket, the ticket of the "steel" citizens. He held himself aloof from the strikers until last Monday, occupying the position of the man who begins by representing everybody and ends by championing the capitalist class. Last Monday morning he was sent for by the local mill officials and had an interview with them. Just how much that interview was worth to Mr. Bold is not publicly known, but the strikers know now what it held in store for them.

Monday forenoon the train from Pittsburgh brought in a negro who was to be cook and barber inside the sheet mill for men expected to work there. Before entering the depot the train always stops to switch near a crossing which is only a few yards from the mill gates, and when it did so this time the negro jumped off. He was met by Jurdens, the mill superintendent; Utterback, a mill watchman, and Mayor Bold, and they made toward the mill. The strikers halted them and asked to speak to the cook. Bold looked him and attempted to talk him away. The strikers surrounded them. Bold picked up a club and ordered the strikers to disperse. Then without provocation he struck one of the strikers with the club, the only blow struck since the strike began. Finally, the cook consented to leave town, and he was sent away by the strikers.

A few hours after this occurred the United States marshal appeared with the injunctions.

On Tuesday morning the capitalist press dispatches published that "Canal Dover was under a mob rule" and that the strikers were fast becoming lawless in their attacks upon strangers. I witnessed the incident which gave excuse for these reports and can say that there was not a blow struck by any striker.

That night after these reports of mob law were published reports were received that the militia was about to be called in; these were not realized, but the injunctions were served out within twenty-four hours afterwards.

I have said the struggle here has been a hard one, but this expansion is far too mild under the circumstances. When the strike commenced the men had only been at work a short time after a protracted idleness which extended over nine months of last year. This had brought many down to bed rock in finances, and they have been led to it to live throughout the strike. I think this fight has meant more suffering and hardship to the men of Canal Dover than to any other in the whole strike field. They are heroes in every sense of the word, and they are as firm and steadfast now as when they first came out. It was probably because the trust believed the men were too poor to stand out long that such incessant efforts have been made to start the mills, but their expectations were not realized.

What is noticeable in Canal Dover is the fact that the women are as determined as the men, and much more demonstrative. They are as staunch trade unionists as the men are, and they do not hesitate to let the fact be known. Justly the men are proud of this.

Altogether the strikers of Canal Dover deserve great credit for their magnificent behavior under trying circumstances. I am glad to be able to say that there are several Socialists among them who have done their share to win a better fight for the working class. W. M.

—Read Harriman's "Class War in Idaho." Very timely in this period of strikes. Socialist Literature Company, 184 William Street, New York. Price, 5 cents.

Working for my own pocket, all of the time" says "Harriman" on the 7th.

If you wish to become a member of the Socialist Democratic Party, apply for membership to the party and do not know the address, write to the party, 184 William Street, New York, and we will send you the party card.

