

NEW YORK CITY UNEMPLOYED WORKERS STRIKE SLAVES STRIKE

Naughty I. W. W. Causes Some Controversy Among the Lady "Social Workers."

(Special to Solidarity)

New York, Feb. 15. Owing to the continued agitation of the I. W. W. Unemployed Committee of New York, things are moving fast in the big burgh. The Mayor's Committee on Unemployment instituted a "Bundle Day" a short time ago. Thousands of bundles of old clothing were received from all parts of New York...

Then came the grand finale. On Monday, the 15th, the cry of "strike!" was heard simultaneously throughout the building. Trusted foremen lost all their meekness, displayed an acquaintance with each other they had not previously shown...

When the three hundred-odd men were upon the street they were met by a bunch of members of the I. W. W. who happened accidentally to all be strolling past at that time. The strikers were marshalled into marching order and led up to the I. W. W. hall...

The demands of the strikers are as follows: (1) An eight-hour day at 25 cents an hour. (New York current rates.)

(2) Compliance with the Fire Regulations. (The place is a regular fire-trap.)

(3) Decent sanitary accommodation. (Toilet facilities at present are disgraceful.)

(4) Remuneration for waiting time. (Workers stand in line sometimes for hours before they get a job, and are often turned down after long waiting.)

It is not expected that the demands will all be acceded to, but the propaganda value of the strike has been great. A large portion of the strikers took out I. W. W. Unemployed Union cards...

We have, we think, created a record for the I. W. W. in holding large hall meetings EVERY NIGHT for nearly three weeks, and they are still going on. Open-air meetings are also held at noon, on East 64th street, in open air, all day long...

PRESS COMMITTEE.

KANSAS CITY, APRIL 15, 1915!

On April 16, this year, a delegate conference of Harvest Workers has been called to meet in Kansas City. Its importance should not be overlooked by any I. W. W. members living and working or expecting to work in the region of the great wheat belt. It should be attended by men who are earnest in their intention to battle for improved conditions and for industrial organization in the great agricultural industry...

"We landed in Kansas all right, but I didn't do much harvesting. It was better than hell. Men were plentiful, so the wages went down and the hours went up. I hired out for 20 different times, and in each case didn't last more than a day or two. The 'hoosier' would try to make us work about 14 hours a day and when I say 14 I mean fourteen (14). The grub invariably was rotten, and the hard work in the shade, with the rolling sun with the thermometer about 110 in the shade, we were compelled to sleep in a straw stack or in the barn with the cattle. (Continued on Page 4, Cols. 1 and 2.)

ST. LOUIS. I. W. W. AUTO WORKERS SLAVE NO CHURCH INVASION 120 hours a week

(St. Louis Republic, Feb. 6.) (New York Call)

When Rev. Leon Milton Birkhead, pastor of Wagoner Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, advised the I. W. W. last night at the Open Forum, Seventeenth and Wash streets, to invade West End churches and propagate their ideas there, he was startled to discover that the I. W. W. did not take kindly to his suggestion. Instead, the idea provoked a debate among the I. W. W. "You fellows don't know what's going on in the churches," the minister said, "but you have been throwing rocks at us. My advice to you is to invade the churches and denounce them. They won't throw rocks at you. They may give you a cold shoulder, but you would do a tremendous lot of good if you would get out there and talk to the people. 'If you can get the churches afraid about social injustice as they are, for example, about the liquor traffic, there is no telling in the churches how awakening you desire would come. 'I want you to help us preachers, instead of throwing rocks. 'Forrest Edwards, an I. W. W. leader, threw an oratorical bomb in Rev. Birkhead's suggestion by suggesting that the churches are not wrong in invading, as they are rapidly dying out. He said: 'No, the place to invade is the workshop, not the churches. What good purpose do we accomplish by invading the dying institution that can't breathe any longer? 'No, Mr. Birkhead, what we want to do is to go for the worker in the workshop, where he is robbed of the fruit of his toil. 'George Riemann, secretary of the Open Forum of the radical revolutionists, then fired a hot shot at Edwards, saying: 'There it goes again. Let someone suggest something practical and you fellows want to kill it. I think we should act on Mr. Birkhead's suggestion. 'Go to the workshop and you may get your blocks knocked off, but you can get the workers in the churches without getting your blocks knocked off. 'However, Mr. Edwards seemed to have voiced the majority opinion among the I. W. W.

BREADLINE FOR WOULD-BE SOLDIERS

(Special to Solidarity) Canton, N. Y., Feb. 4. Things are very much the same here at present, as they were a month ago. The bread line is still the one last hope and consolation of the spinster scientist. The third contingent for the imperial murder machine is now being raised, and the patriots of the breadline are eagerly offering themselves for the defense of their glorious empire. So patriotic are some of them that they have enrolled themselves with the home guard so as to stand a better chance of getting into the overseas bunch. The home guard receives no pay, so the gallant defenders of our empire's honor, wait on the breadline all day for a meal and at night receive instruction in the noble art of murdering their fellow workers. The capitalist press does not lie when it says that all the men who come back will find their job waiting for them. The only job the majority of the butchers around here had, was to stand on the breadline. If a man on the breadline can't get a little sense, it's about time he went somewhere and got his. It is reported that the Independent Labor Party is going to start a local here soon. The S. I. P. has been holding Sunday meetings here since the beginning of the year, but though their meetings are generally well attended, the audience has never swallowed the bunk that the speaker hands out to it. The I. W. W. local here is still in urgent need of a soap boxer who can talk industrial unionism. We appeal to all live rebels who are footloose and have the welfare of the I. W. W. at heart, to jump on their own backs a hand to push these other freak organizations where they belong. PRESS COMMITTEE, L. 1, 322

PHILADELPHIA STRIKE OFF

(Special to Solidarity) Philadelphia, Pa., Feb. 11. The strike of the Marine Transport Workers has been declared off. The men returning to work with the strikers were met by a combination of influences, coupled with much unemployment, it was deemed best to return to work at the former wage and renew the fight at some future date. The strike was called off by Taylor Co. against whom the strike was waged, agreed to take back all men who returned up to date. It has kept his word, scabs being discharged and leaving voluntarily just as fast as possible. BENJ. H. FLETCHER

Watch Your Number

EACH subscriber will find a number opposite his name on the paper or wrapper enclosing SOLIDARITY. This number is 266. That means your enclosed last week, and you should re- ceive it this week. THIS IS NUMBER 267

AMERICAN STANDARDS AND AMERICAN WAGES

'Tis a sad story, mates. The Burnett-Dillingham Immigration bill, so highly prized and diligently pushed by the American Federals of Labor, has fallen through a crack. Sam Gompers only knows what is to become of the much vaunted American standards! Cannot something be done to save these standards? Can we not raise—a protest, strong enough to stop those foreign hordes from coming here and spoliating these cherished standards and wages? What a calamity!

Now, I have been working for weeks among American workers in the most American mills of the most American South. And I can imagine no greater danger than for the ignorant foreigners to come here and drag this American stock down from its American standards. Honestly, brethren, we ought to do something to stop the invasion of those paupers from Europe! By the skull cap of Samuel Gompers, we ought to preserve these standards!

Fellow workers, lend me your eyes! Here are some that must be saved at all costs:

(a) Weaver in a cotton mill. Has been working in cotton mill since he was eight years old; in all about 29 years. He can now make nine dollars a week on piece work, working an eleven hour day. Is married and has six children, but none in the mill. Never went to school and can neither read nor write until he married, when his wife, who had been brought up on a farm, taught him how to read. "But how do you live and support a family of eight on such a wage?" I asked. "Well, we just owe for what we eat, all the time," said his wife, and added, "and it's mostly beans and corn bread."

(b) Machinist in a cotton mill. Says he is a first class hand. He and another worker keep up the machinery in a mill of about nine hundred workers. Has been in the same mill nine years, and in the mill nine years. He has eight children, four of them in the mill. The woman is a girl of twenty and has been in the mill nine years. She is a "spare" hand. Runs ten spinning spindles, about 1,200 spins an hour, and gets a dollar a day—when she has a job. She is fourteen, neither reads nor writes. "How long have you been in the mill?" I asked the girl of fourteen. "Four years this coming June. That's my steady job; I used to work in the mill fore that, after school and nights. I draw four dollars and eighty cents a week; that's good pay for filin' batteries. But you sho' got to be on your feet all day to keep up with them looms; you know the filin' runs out every five minutes. 'M'dad draws on all our checks; he won't let us have 'em. I reckon you five makes 'bout six dollars a day, when they's plenty o' work. 'M'dad was going to quit one day, an' the boss jes' had to raise him a quarter, 'cause he knew m'dad 'd take him all our'n the mill'."

(c) Man of fifty, but looks to be seventy. Warper. Has been in cotton mills for 22 years. He now gets a dollar a day. I found him and his old wife before the fire one cold December night. She had her broken arm in a sling, and her husband was, besides working in the mill nursing her and cooking meals for both. "All the children is away an' me an' me an' the old wife jes' drag along. We have a cow; that helps some. I jes' know the boss'll turn me out some day, 'cause I'm a 'peenin' old. Times is a gettin' worse an' worse; that I know. I tell you, them mill workers will sho' have to use shotguns to get things. I don't see no other way, now."

(d) Widower. Came from the farm and now makes a dollar and a half a day, "but it's powerful hard work." "We sho' is a wantin' a union, but these 'ere mill people, they're too ignorant." He can neither read nor write himself.

(e) Widow. Came from the farm and now makes four dollars a week. The oldest is now seventeen and has been in the mill seven years; a boy of twelve has been at work three years. Children are illiterate, although the mother has learned to read and write on the farm. The mother, who is a spinner, makes 90 cents a day, as does the girl for the same work; the boy is a doffer and makes 75 cents a day. A doffer in a cotton mill takes off and replaces approximately 10,000 bobbins a day. One day the mother collapsed in the mill, and was sick with nervous prostration for several weeks. Later on the oldest girl married and went to work in another mill with her husband. The twelve-year-old wage earner was then the only support. The mill company sent word to the sick mother that with one "hand" in the mill she must have the house, and will have to move. She was just convalescing when I saw her, and she said to me: "I ain't a bit well, but I'm just obliged to go to work. The boy done got a job in another mill, and we're going to move. These 'ere two children must be cared for." pointing at two younger boys. The youngest was a hideous example of marasmus. This story comes to me from an eye-witness, a woman, who said she would shoot any one who abused her child in such a way. "One day as I was going home from the mill, I saw two men and a boy, standing between them on the stairway. One of the men was an overseer, the other was the father of the boy. The boy looked scared and was shaking like a wind-lashed leaf. The overseer was standing away 'swearin' and a'cusin', and the father took the boy by the collar and pushed him upstairs, saying: "Now, go see if you can't make a better job, you rascal; and not fool around all day long." "And the boy was jes' 'shakin' an' a' cryin' like his heart 'ud break. 'I clare I'd do somethin' if a child of mine was treated the like o' that."

Now, brethren, let us pray that these beautiful standards may be preserved in the most American South, where the barbarian hordes from Europe have not yet reached.

M. G. R.

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Managing Editor

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CLEVELAND OFFICE: F. H. Little, M. J. Welsh, A. C. Christ, W. D. Graydon, Gen. Sec'y-Treas. J. J. Estlin, Gen. Organizer

The Only Road To Security

That story emanating from Detroit last week, offers a theme for the study of the effects of unemployment on the mind of an average slave. Joe Toth, of that city, a working man with a family and out of work, offers himself for sale for \$25. Another man in the same town, named Yuhass, offers for sale "two American children, because their father is not American and can't get a job to protect them." He wants \$2,000 for them, to apply towards saving his "property," presumably a shack that he has bought on the installment plan. Of course nobody will or can buy these human beings, as they are not chattels in a legal sense, and so cannot be owned outright. They and their families may starve, shiver with cold, have no medical attention in case of sickness, possibly die in want and misery, being free men in a free land, they cannot bind themselves to lifelong servitude for a given price. Unlike a valuable horse or dog, there is no security for them under capitalism. Yet so much stronger is their desire and their necessity for security, that they would gladly sacrifice their nominal freedom for the same.

This is the typical attitude of the average wage slave and that fact must be taken into account in our dealings with them. There is no freedom possible without security as its cornerstone. High-sounding declarations about the "inalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" butter no six-cent bread for the jobless worker. And because capitalism cannot guarantee the job, there is no security and therefore no freedom possible for the wage worker under capitalism. Of course, this is only another way of stating that wage slavery is an indisputable fact. The wage slave cannot sell himself to one master, and legally guarantee the latter's right to hold him as a chattel; but he may sell himself to a number of masters, for a number of weeks, in order to maintain existence. And in that bargain for wages, he binds himself to the conditions required by his master as truly as if the contract were for life. That is, under present conditions, without organization. He does so for the sake of at least temporary security for himself and his family.

But there is one important difference: no matter how willing the wage slave may be to lick the hand of his master for the sake of retaining his precious job; THE MASTER CANNOT BUT REGARD HIM AS A MONGREL, and treat him with indifference or contempt. He is an alien dog, who must hunt his own bone and kennel. He is not to be fed and kept warm before the household fire, or sent to the dog hospital when he gets sick. Bigger and better-fed dogs than himself see that he does not hang around his master's premises when the latter has ordered him to be gone. Whenever he whines and offers to lick the hand of his master for the equivalent of a bone, the latter most generally gives him a kick.

It is in this attitude of the master that we find hope. The wage slave demands and must have security somehow. If his capitalist master refuses to afford it to him, as he must necessarily refuse; then the slave will have to find it in another way. Forced, by his master's attitude, to rely upon himself, he must in time, learn to act in his own behalf. He will find that begging is too uncertain and too humiliating; the uncertainty, in time, have more weight with him than the humiliation. Then he may try taking. As an individual he will find that petty routh sledding also. In his necessarily continuous search for security, he will find that in unity there is strength, and the more he unites in numbers with his fellows, the nearer he and they will get to security. He will discover that, instead of his master's supporting him, he and his fellow workers are in reality supporting the master and keeping the parasite in ease and opulence. He will begin to question the entire arrangement. He will finally discover that the sought-for security is only to be obtained through the complete control of the means by which food, clothing, shelter and all other things that man needs up and about are brought into being. That that control can only be obtained through One Big Union of all producers, and the elimination of all non-producers. His final conclusion, in other words, must be that security without freedom is impossible, as well as undesirable.

In view of the above analysis, there is no room for despair over the present attitude of the jobless worker; or over the other kind of slaves who are reported to be making up to 1200 men per week making automobiles. There would, however, be room for despair were it possible for the capitalist master to change this attitude. But it isn't possible; so we are justified to take an optimistic view of the general situation, in anticipation of what is coming—the unity of the producers leading to universal freedom and well-being concentered upon economic security. Let us rebase use all our powers to "assist" the masters in opening the eyes of the slaves!

Ideals Of A Future Society

Edward Bellamy's ideal of the future society is a communism conducted on a military basis. Common ownership, common pay and common service are the rule. All this is to come about by an intelligent rearing and appreciation of the benefits of large production and distribution, as shown in the evolution of the trusts. Jack London's forecast of the future society is a bloody struggle between capital and labor, with the latter, to all indications, subjugated and prostrated beneath "the iron heel" of the former.

Both Bellamy and London are dreamers, at opposite poles of the economic earth. One foresees a peaceful social development, the other a turbulent, monstrous class struggle. Both took a hold

of and depicted marked tendencies in modern society; Bellamy, of the destruction of competition by concentration, and the immense material and altruistic possibilities of the latter; London, of the ruthless oppression of the ruling classes at all times, especially the brutality of the capitalist class in this country at the present time.

There can be no doubt that both Bellamy and London are right in their respective visions of what is to be. There is great hope for social forms of production in the evolution of modern industrial society. The state industrial depression cannot but have its effect on the organization. Everywhere the workers are hard pressed to eke out an existence and are not able to contribute to the support of any organization no matter how necessary it is to their welfare.

This circumstance should not cause the members to become discouraged. Far from it. Each and every member should realize that this state of affairs but emphasizes the crying need of an efficient organization among the wage workers.

Never in our time has the I. W. W. become so necessary to the working class of this country. The utter helplessness and consequent distress of the workers has demonstrated that great need for solidarity on class lines more effectively than we could by years of agitation.

The duty of the hour is to see that this lesson is made productive of results in the future. In order that results may be had it is incumbent upon the membership of the I. W. W. to strain every effort to maintain the locals throughout the country in a good working condition. Local unions should take advantage of every opportunity to increase the necessity for the solidarity to those who are now out of work. Where opportunity does not exist make it. Carry on a steady and energetic campaign of education, by meetings, distributing literature, securing a wider circulation for the press, and by personal solicitation among the workers everywhere.

Every member should constitute herself or himself a committee of one in this work. Above everything else, do not overlook the workers who are at present employed. They, too, are a factor in their co-operation is needed now and will be needed in the future.

Present conditions will in the course of a few months take a change for the better. When that change comes, and the workers in larger numbers are able to secure employment, it will be because of an increased demand for labor power to turn out products for the profit of the employing class. Already the spokesmen for the masters of the bread are predicting a great industrial revival. To supply the markets that will be created by the present European War it is safe to assume that in the coming year there will be an increase in industrial activity. It is up to the I. W. W. to have the workers educated so that when this occurs the workers will organize so that they will be able to reap greater and greater benefits in the way of improved conditions, shorter hours, better pay and what is of vastly more importance, better industrial control.

It is only through the exercise of industrial control by the organized workers that they will be able to put an end to unemployment and its months of misery.

To accomplish anything either now or in the future, organization will be needed. In order to supply the need the members will have to strive to maintain not only the locals in good working condition, but the general organization must be financed so that it can function in an efficient manner.

This can be accomplished only by every member seeing to it that the local in which he holds membership pays its full per capita tax to the general organization. See that you get a stamp or your membership book for every month's dues that you pay. See that your local pays for all supplies that they need and secure from the general office.

Remember that the local and national unions are the units which compose the membership of the general organization, just as the members are the units that make up the locals. If the members do not pay their dues to the local, the local goes out of business. If the local does not pay its dues to the general organization, the same is true so far as the general organization is concerned. Just as members scattered and without local organizations are powerless to combat local conditions, so are the locals without a general organization powerless to meet the employing class as a whole with any chance of success. The local unions are absolutely necessary to the general organization. Without them there can be no such thing as a general organization. The general organization is also equally necessary to the locals. Without the general organization the local unions would be in exactly the same position as individual workers without any organization.

The locals and the general organization are absolutely necessary to each other. One compliments the other and both are of equal importance.

A realization of this point will prevent any chance of useless wrangling and friction between the various parts of the organization.

The future holds great opportunity for the I. W. W. It rests with the members whether or not that opportunity is taken advantage of.

The coal miners in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania are looking to the I. W. W. to assist them in reorganizing on an effective plan. This will require men and money to get the coal miners together. Over five thousand Finnish locals will be organized because of their adherence to the revolutionary union idea have been expelled from the socialist party, are calling upon the I. W. W. to assist them in becoming a part of the One Big Union.

Here are but two of the many opportunities that are open to the organization. The organization of the harvest workers for next season must also be attended to. In every line of industrial activity the workers will look for the appearance of the I. W. W. organizers on the job to assist them in forming an effective organization.

There should be no room for apathy! Every member should be at their post without delay! Do not allow yourselves to become discouraged by knockers or croakers whether they are inside or outside of the organization. Get active and the results will more than repay all of your efforts.

All together and we will make 1915 the banner year in the history of the One Big Union, the I. W. W.

RESPECTABILITY.

You whitened sepulchre of Christian
You saintly, honest, holy—hideous
thing;
You sitest your rutte with raucous gibbering;
You hide your rutting sores with silk
and lace;
You lavish loathsome gifts of gold
on whorish fools who praise you
for the whorishness of your fees while
church-bells ring . . .
But blest be they who spit into your
face!

Go, gift yourself with your dull
penopony;
Make sharp with thorns the paths
of your selfishness;
Upraise your blood-cry with in-
fernal din;
You larva of the past—buh, ah, for
me!

How better far the leprosy of "sin"
Than reek and rot with your insanity!
—Ralph H. Casolin.

PROPOSED WESTERN TOUR FOR ELIZABETH G. FLYNN

Fellow Worker Elizabeth Gurley Flynn will make an agitation trip from New York City to the Pacific Coast providing the number of dates applied for insuring the mileage and expense for the trip.

Below is a list of places for which dates should be arranged:

- New York, N. Y.
- Pueblo, Colo.
- San Francisco, Calif.
- Seattle, Wash.
- Spokane, Wash.
- Vancouver, B. C.
- Butte, Mont.
- Helena, Mont.
- Great Falls, Mont.
- Minot, N. D.
- Minneapolis, Minn.
- Denver, Colo.
- Portland, Ore.
- Tacoma, Wash.
- Seattle, Wash.
- Victoria, B. C.
- Spokane, Wash.
- Missoula, Mont.
- Vancouver, B. C.
- Butte, Mont.
- Helena, Mont.
- Great Falls, Mont.
- Minot, N. D.
- Minneapolis, Minn.
- Denver, Colo.

Local agents are requested to advise the General Office of their acceptance of date or dates at each place. All arrangements can be completed. Terms furnished on application.

General Sec'y-Treas.
Oakland, Calif.
Latin Branch No. 2, Local 179, I. W. W., First National Bank Building, San Francisco, Calif.
Selected a new secretary, Vincent Santella. Address of Branch is at 1506 Grand Ave.
Eureka, Calif.

