

Halt Plot To Make Schools Serf Factories!

Chicago is Scene of Opening Blow Against Free Education--American Labor Rallies to Confront--Story of the Long Struggle of Teacher's Federation against Graft and Greed.

By IRWIN TUCKER Editor of "The Christian Socialist"

A BOLD attempt to crush union labor by turning all the nation's public schools into scab shops and strike-breaking agencies was launched by the Chicago Board of Education on Sept. 1, when a rule was adopted making it illegal for any teacher in the public schools to belong to any organization affiliated with a labor union.

Immediately behind this rule lies a long history of looting of funds belonging to the Illinois school children by organized graft. Millions of dollars stolen from public funds has been recovered by the Chicago Teachers' Federation, and its doom was determined upon partly in order that this thieving may go on without interruption.

BUT ANOTHER AND LARGER PURPOSE IS INCLUDED: AND THAT IS TO TURN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY MEANS OF A DUAL SYSTEM OF VOCATION EDUCATION, INTO SCAB SHOPS, wherein the children of working class parents shall be taught their fathers' trade SO THAT THEY MAY BE USED TO BREAK THE RANKS OF THEIR FATHERS' UNIONS AND FORCE DOWN WAGES BY THE SUPPLYING OF UNLIMITED CHILD LABOR.

Organized labor sees this, and is rallying to the fight. A monster mass meeting was called for Wednesday night, Sept. 8, at which Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, Louis F. Post, Assistant Secretary of Labor, and Margaret Haley, Business Agent of the Chicago Teachers' Federation, spoke, unveiling the black purposes behind the act.

If successful in Chicago, this system will be introduced into every public school in the United States. It will mean the destruction of every trade union; the throwing of millions of men and women, now employed at skilled trades, into the ranks of the unemployed; and unlimited graft for Capitalism and capitalists.

LABOR RALLIES FOR STRUGGLE.

WHEN The Chicago Board of Education, Sept. 1, adopted a rule practically abolishing the Teachers Federation from the Chicago public schools, Chicago seethed with excitement. Organized labor throughout the land responded promptly to the call for help. Hour by hour the progress of the struggle was marked by the issue of extras and bulletins by the newspapers. For in the adoption of that rule, Graft and Greed threw down the gage of battle to Labor, defying honesty and decency and proclaiming that crookedness and thievery shall remain supreme in the cause which is nearest the heart of every workingman--the education of his children.

The rule was jammed through by a vote of 11 to 9 in the Board of Education, following a committee report which had been adopted at a secret meeting of the committee with only half the members present. Labor was promptly aroused. Every engine that could be brought to bear to stir up popular opinion was immediately set in motion.

The rule had three purposes--explained by the movers of it: First, forbidding public school teachers to belong to any organization affiliated with a labor union.

Second, forbidding any organization of teachers to have a business agent not a member of the regular teaching force.

Third, forbidding the teachers from attempting in any way to influence the city council.

This first clause was enacted because the cause of the Teachers' Federation is the cause of labor, and because the organized labor of Chicago has always stood back of the teachers in their fight against the unspeakable corruption of the ruling Board. The second clause was adopted because if the Business Agent is a member of the regular teaching force, she would be subject to discipline by the Board of Education, and dare not make a move that would challenge any of their crookedness. And the third, implied but not written in because women have recently been empowered to vote for municipal officials, and the Board seeks to take away from them that right to franchise conferred on them by the State of Illinois.

But why this ferocity? Why should the Teachers' Federation have been marked for destruction by the ruling powers? And why should the city of Chicago be stirred to its depths by the struggle?

TWO ISSUES AT STAKE.

TWO ISSUES are at stake in the struggle between organized Graft and Limitless Greed

CAPITALISM in Assault on Public Schools Seeks to Break up Labor Unions by Training Children to Take Jobs from Their Fathers--Big Struggle Now On--Do Your Duty!

against the Teachers' Federation of the Chicago Public Schools. One is the limitless opportunity for Graft in the expenditure of the Chicago School Budget. The other is the right of a workingman's children to a decent education.

There are in the neighborhood of 300,000 children in the Chicago Schools. In one year there was an increase of 17,000 children over the enrollment of the year before. All these children have to be provided with teachers, school houses, books, equipment, desks and playgrounds. The average cost per pupil of the elementary and high schools was estimated at \$83 to \$85 a year, in a recent report of the superintendent. This makes the average expenditure for the total number of 300,000 children \$24,900,000 DOLLARS A YEAR.

(Fifty-sixth annual report Chicago Board of Education.) Ten million dollars a year is too big a sum for graft to let slip by. Grafters big and little fasten upon the stream of gold, in the process of its passage from the tolling hands of the working fathers to the brains of their children.

All this money is expended under the direct supervision of the Chicago Board of Education. The present Board of Education is composed of grafters of high and low degree--building contractors, attorneys for building contractors, representatives of prominent concerns who lease school lands from the Board, decoy ducks and weak-kneed stool pigeons. They steal from the fund provided to be devoted to the children's education in big slices and in small slices, by a myriad tricks and sleights of hand. The appointment of the School Board is one of the big plums in the disposition of the Mayor--DESPITE THE FACT THAT PEOPLE OVERWHELMINGLY VOTED TO MAKE THE SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIVE AND NOT APPOINTIVE. By a two to one vote in the year 1904 the citizens of Chicago demanded that they be allowed to name the persons who are to have control of the education of their children. Their demand was ignored--just as their demand for the municipal ownership of the street car system was ignored. And the Mayor continues to name the Board of Education--not from the educators; not from among the persons who have had anything to do with education in any shape or form, or who are making about a million need and above all, not from among the working class whose children form the overwhelming majority of the pupils--Oh, no! But from among the Prominent Business Men and Leading Society Women whose only knowledge of schools is how much they can get out of them for their business.

There is but one obstacle in the way, and that is the teachers of the public schools, organized in the Teachers Federation which is affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Time and again have the teachers exposed the graft and stayed the hand of the grafters who were robbing their little charges of their right to knowledge. For this the Teachers' Federation has been marked for destruction.

MEANS OF GRAFT. THERE ARE two principal means of robbing the children of Chicago of their right to knowledge. One is by land leases and purchases; the other is through the purchase of buildings and equipment.

In the year 1818 the United States Government gave the square mile between State, Madison, Halsted and Twelfth streets to the State of Illinois to be held in trust for the support of the public schools and the education of the children of Chicago. On this square mile the business heart of the city of Chicago now stands. Had it been kept for the children, as good faith with the United States Government would have demanded that it should be kept, this one square mile would have yielded enough to support for all time the entire school system of the State of Illinois without an additional dollar of taxation. For its value is almost limitless--hundreds of millions of dollars could not now buy it. It is the business center of the second largest city in the world. But some seventy years ago this whole square mile, with the exception of one block, was sold for \$40,000. Within fifteen years after it was sold, this square mile was worth \$5,000,000. With every passing year its value increases. Seeing this tremendous loss, years ago the city of Chicago leased all its school lands left unsold, with the provision that every five years there should be a revaluation, and that the rent should be six per cent on this valuation. It was thus intended and provided that the school children should get the benefit of the increases in value of this land.

But twenty years ago, the four great newspapers of Chicago, by their great influence had the revaluation clause stricken out, and the rentals were fixed for 99 years WITHOUT REVALUATION. This was done at a hurried midnight session, in the deepest secrecy. By this midnight lease millions of dollars were stolen from the children of Chicago, all of which had to be made up of extra taxation which the working classes had to pay. For the lands immediately surrounding the school lands thus leased are bringing in a rental from twice to four and five times as great as the rental thus fixed.

The heaviest grafters of this steal are the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago News, the two most widely read papers in the city or state. Their great power of publicity is thrown into the effort to crush the Teachers' Federation--BECAUSE IT IS THE TEACHERS FEDERATION AND THAT ALONE WHICH HAS KEPT UP THE FIGHT AGAINST THIS THEFT.

Not only that, but in revaluing the leases for the current year, a board composed of Bertram Winston, Simon W. Straus, and Jesse Holdom actually REDUCED THE RENTAL OF THESE LOTS BY \$1,530.39--although the surrounding lots increased in value. Meanwhile the plea of poverty is continually being raised by the Board of Education as a reason why the teachers salaries should not be increased. The teachers have been fighting this additional barefaced theft.

Here is one reason why the Teachers Federation is to be destroyed. Here is another: Continual expansion of the city and increases

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The Reasons

SOME OF THE REASONS why Big Business in Illinois and Chicago is hostile to the Chicago Teachers' Federation are as follows:

It is a labor union, an organization of brain workers, affiliated with the American and the Chicago Federations of Labor;

It started and has kept up a continuous war to make tax dodging corporations and plutocrats pay taxes; and by winning this fight have forced these corporations to pay \$600,000 a year in taxes since 1900 that they had been dodging before.

Carried on the fight against the infamous midnight meetings of the school board, which took away from the schools the right to revalue every five years the school land occupied by the Tribune Building and some of the land occupied by The Daily News;

Successfully fought efforts of the politicians on the school board to get control of the public school pension fund;

Supported the locked out pressmen and the striking stereotypers and newsboys during the troubles in 1912, which started with the newspaper trust locking out the union pressmen, in addition to aiding the garment workers, coal miners, and all other workers in every struggle of labor;

Affiliated with the State Federation of Women's Clubs and helped in the fight for equal suffrage; Has persistently fought the School Book Trust and supported Ella Flagg Young in her persistent fight to free the public schools from politicians and text book companies;

Fought the scheme of Big Business, through the Illinois Manufacturers' Association and ex-Supt. Cooley, to institute a dual system of education, which would put the children of the workers in one class and the children of the rich in another;

Fought to have the use of the public school buildings given to the people for social centers; Fought against dark rooms and basement rooms and for better health and educational conditions for children;

Supported a move for lunches for school children and conducted a campaign for the protection of children from preventable contagious diseases;

Fought for democracy in the National Educational Association, which formerly was controlled by politicians and school book companies;

Actively supported every move for public ownership of all public utilities.

MAKE SEPTEMBER 25 SOCIALIST SUFFRAGE DAY

The American Socialist will issue a special edition to help the women of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania win the ballot. This edition will be dated Saturday, Sept. 25.

This edition will help put additional fire into the Socialist-Suffrage Campaign in these four States.

If you live in one of these suffrage campaign states you can help in the fight by distributing a bundle of this issue of The American Socialist. We are going to make you a special inducement. If you order 100 copies of this special suffrage edition, costing you 50 cents, we will also send you 100 of any of the following leaflets:

WOMAN, WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH YOUR BALLOT? by Elizabeth H. Thomas. WAGE-EARNING WOMEN AND THE BALLOT, by Caroline A. Lowe. WIMMIN AIN'T GOT NO KICK, by Kate Richards O'Hara. WOMAN--COME AND EQUAL, by Eugene V. Debs. TO WIVES OF TOLLERS, by Meta L. Stern.

If you order 200 copies of this special suffrage edition, for \$1, we will send you 200 copies of any one of these five leaflets. If you can use more, we will send you a leaflet for every copy of this special edition that you order. Only the regular price for bundle orders will be charged: 50 cents per 100; \$1 for 200; \$2.50 for 500; \$5 per thousand.

If you do not live in one of the suffrage campaign states, you can promote the cause of Socialism, to an almost equal extent, by distributing this issue of The American Socialist. Make Sept. 25, National Socialist Suffrage Day, by distributing this issue everywhere throughout the nation. We are ready to receive your orders!

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Settle the Nation's Problems Peacefully at the Ballot Box, Teacher's Advice to Labor

For a score of years the Chicago Teachers' Federation has fought the plutocratic tax dodgers. That is its greatest crime. In 1900 it forced big corporations to pay \$600,000 annually in taxes that they had been dodging. In 15 years this amounts to \$9,000,000.

One of Chicago's recognized champion tax dodgers is Julius Rosenwald, the hypocritical philanthropist mail order king, head of Sears-Roebuck & Co., who has his puppet on the Chicago Board of Education in the person of Jacob M. Loeb, brother of Albert Loeb, vice president and one of the chief stockholders of Sears-Roebuck & Co. It was Loeb that made the motion before the school board to crush the federation. It was Loeb who gloated most when the motion passed; he and William Rothman who has been charged with stealing from \$12,000 to \$20,000 as president of the Chicago Policemen's Pension Board.

These tax dodging corporations had their emissaries lobbying for their interests before the last session of the Illinois legislature. Margaret Haley was there working for the interests of the teachers, trying to secure the passage of an amendment to the Juul law, providing more money for school purposes. Here is how the viper of special privilege works. A Mr. Zander, Chicago real estate dealer, urged Margaret Haley to favor the taxdodgers' amendment before the legislature, in return for support that he could throw to the Juul law amendment giving more money to the schools. But the teachers were fighting the tax dodgers on behalf of all the people as well as trying to secure an increase in their own salaries. From here on let Margaret Haley, the fighting genius of the Teachers' Federation, tell her own story as follows:

By MARGARET HALEY

I BELIEVE that the fight, a large part of the fight that the big interests are making, is because I would not enter into an agreement to stand for that tax amendment.

I have characterized that tax amendment to the constitution as a tax dodgers' amendment, and I know that that is what it is.

It provides for giving the legislature the power to classify personal property and to exempt such personal property as it sees fit and put the burden on others; and every time the legislature has done that it has exempted the corporations. It has never once exempted the property of the poor people. It is the rich corporations that have been favored, that have been fighting, and I could not and would not stand for that amendment.

And I want you men (speaking to the Chicago Federation of Labor) to understand that that is one of the largest factors in this fight. They expect to go to the people of this city with that tax amendment. If they can discredit me, if they can discredit this organization (Chicago Teachers' Federation) before they start out, then half their battle is won. You could not afford to permit them to discredit us, if for no other reason than that you cannot permit that tax amendment to be passed in this state. It is laying the foundation for a vicious condition of affairs, and if there was no other person in this city who would fight against it, I intend to do it, and I serve notice today on the big business interests of this city and state that we are in that fight and that I am in it, whether they take the Teachers' Federation away from me or take me away from them.

And I am here as long as I have a voice to raise, to say to the teachers, I am here and I consider it more important that I say it to the teachers, I consider my power, my opportunity, my glorious privilege of speaking to those teachers and conveying them these messages that I believe I have a right to convey on the questions, and I consider it the greatest privilege of my life, the privilege of awakening the minds of those teachers to the economic condition of this nation; to the conditions that I believe, if they are allowed to prevail, our nation will go the way Europe has gone; to the conditions that, if they are not changed, if the public school teachers of this city, of this state and of this nation are not aroused to the meaning of these economic conditions, to the necessity of changing these conditions through the political machinery, and changing the political machinery so that we can change these economic conditions. If that is not done it rests on my conscience and my heart that the boys that are going to the public schools have got to shoulder their muskets and go out and shoot one another to settle these questions. And it is because I want to see these questions settled peacefully and at the ballot box that I have kept my place before those teachers, that I have stood before them in season and out of season, and I have not parted from them with every season and out of season. With all the devotion of my spirit, my life and my strength I have stood before them and begged them to get into the labor movement, into the industrial struggle, into the economic struggle, in the interest of peace, in the interest of settling that question as we did not settle our Civil War.

If the next great struggle in this nation is to be settled peacefully, if it is to be settled by the ballot and not with the bullet, it will be because that great army of peace, the public school teachers of this nation, is mobilized and that every organization to join with their brothers and sisters in the labor movement to settle this question peacefully. That is what is in my soul. That is my strength, and that is what they fear; that is what the Loeb and the Rothmanns and their poor, pitiful little creatures on the Board of Education and in the Commercial Club back of them fear. That is another reason why you must not give up the fight.

GREED AND THE SCHOOLS. "We may tolerate a colony of moral leprosy in our city slums; we may sin against the courts and the ballot box, and for all these crimes, we may atone in our generation; but when narrow, short-sighted greed reaches our public school system its blighting shadow falls forward over the years into the future. We may sin against our own day but we must not dare to send the people of the future, unequipped and made degenerate by our crimes to tasks which we cannot measure, problems which we cannot solve and difficulties which we cannot estimate. The Chicago public school system belongs to the people of Chicago and they can and must control it." FROM THE JOURNAL OF EDUCATION.

END ROCKEFELLER RULE. The Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey has announced that beginning Sept. 15, its slaves will be compelled to labor eight hours a day, where they are now working 10 hours a day. This is no doubt one of the results of the great struggle of the oil workers at Bayonne. Since the Standard Oil tollers in other states have not proved equally rebellious, they will not receive this reduction in hours. Thus the officials of the Standard Oil Co. of Indiana, with offices in Chicago, announces that the new scale of hours will not affect the employees of the Indiana corporation. Which should be a direct challenge to the Indiana slaves of Standard Oil to immediately raise the banners of revolt. But, even after a reduction in hours and an increase in wages has been won, John Deere is still able to recuperate by raising the price of oil. There is only one real escape. The nation must take over the oil industry and operate it for all the people in the nation.

RETURN HIS GOLD. Julius Rosenwald, head of Sears, Roebuck & Co., the Chicago mail order house, has just given the United States department of the interior a sum of money for the construction of a new trail in Glacier Park, Mont. Perhaps Rosenwald's conscience hurts him and he is trying in this way to pay back to Montana customers some of the profits wrung from them.

Rosenwald is a discredited philanthropist whom the Illinois Vice-Commissioner exposed as a sweeter of child labor. He is now in the limelight again in Chicago as one of the hidden powers behind the move to crush the Chicago Teachers' Federation and out the pay of teachers to that received by helpless office clerks and stenographers.

Some of Rosenwald's blood money has been returned to him by organizations too permeated with self respect to accept it. It is to be hoped that the people of Montana will resent this latest gift from the Chicago labor sweater and that the national government will return to him his ill-gotten gold.

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PUSH PHILOSOPHY

By LINCOLN PHIFER

It having been discovered that Socialism is not yet dead, the making of peace will be indefinitely postponed.

The jingoes can't force America into war, but they put her into debt for war munitions.

Now that the war is almost over (?) there is of course no further need for "preparedness." What?

Watch the incoming congress dodge action on the Walsh report and then make it the basis of all sorts of fake promises in the campaign of 1916.

The "unrest" comes from the fact that the workers cannot be comfortable when half fed, overworked and not knowing what is to become of them and their children.

After polygamy has been legally established in Europe in order to create more children for future slaughter, no doubt the master class will still tell you that Socialism will destroy the sacred institution of marriage.

The private flag of the old time East India company consisted of seven red and six white stripes, and this became the basis of the flag of a government by private business.

The Rockefeller, by raising the price of crude oil, have mustered a host of defenders from among the owners of little oil wells. Yet they tell you economic determinism is a false philosophy.

The only sure preparedness against war is the establishment of Socialism. They tell us America has no navy because the billions spent for a navy were for the most part grafted by private interests. Then they want us to spend other billions for a navy with the same private interests.

Labor day is too often a period in which the worker is patted on the head, instead of being smashed on the head as at other times, and told the lie that the interest of the worker and capitalist is the same.

How very patriotic those business men are who are drilling as an example to the workers! Now let us do all the fighting, and all the work.

Everybody knows that Rockefeller is a robber and a murderer. But the courts protect him from indictment.

The reason you have no job is because the control of employment is in the hands of private interests.

The reason there is prostitution is because there is profit in it for the respectable and a living in it for women who would otherwise starve.

The reason there is war is because there is money in war for the armament trust and a chance to divert attention from the injustices of the present system through stirring up a fight.

The reason that workers have nothing is because they turn over everything they make to private owners of industry and then receive back whatever the masters are willing to give them.

The reason that politics are corrupt is because they are made to serve private interests.

The reason for the high cost of living is the control of the markets by an exploiting interest that makes a profit everywhere it is possible.

The reason for the great fortunes is that land and special privilege have been given to schemers, and the profit system has been used to increase that which came through fraud and theft.

The reason for poverty is that the worker is robbed and industry is conducted on a tremendously wasteful basis. There is enough known and demonstrated about industry right now, if applied, to absolutely banish poverty from the world.

The reason an outgrowth system continues is that the workers permit prejudice or a fear of leaving their old party affiliations to keep them from voting for a revolution.

The reason the Democratic legislature in the south refused to permit the people to vote on woman suffrage is because it is not democratic.

The reason that the Republican party stands for Rockefeller rule in Colorado is that it is not representative of the people.

The reason there is a working class is because the workers have permitted a non-working class that lives off them.

Working Class Parents through Land Must Protect Schools from Scheme to turn Children into Strike-breakers--Nation-wide System of Skilled Child Labor is the Final Aim of Exploiters.

By J. L. ENGDALH Editor of "The American Socialist"

THE profit-hungry plutocrats of Chicago and Illinois, in their efforts to drive the Teachers' Union from the schools of the nation's second largest city, challenged all the fathers and mothers of the land to battle.

I know that you are ready to fight, and fight hard, for the public schools, for your sons and for your daughters.

Millions of you fathers and mothers, just this week, sent your children, by the tens of millions, back to their desks and their books in the public schools, YOUR SCHOOLS, if you insist, otherwise THE SCHOOLS OF THE PLUTOCRACY, where your children will learn to become the WILLING SLAVES OF BIG BUSINESS.

CHICAGO TEACHERS PIONEERS.

THE SCHOOL teachers of Chicago are the pioneers among the school teachers of the nation. Brave and courageous, they have taken the lead. Undaunted and fearless in the face of all the terrors that the powers of plunder could bring to bear against them, they have blazed the way toward the brighter day.

They recognized that they must join the growing ranks of the labor movement. They discovered, long, long ago, that their place was in the great industrial struggle, in the great economic conflict in the interests of peace and human emancipation, and against militarism and war and the wages system.

Read the statement by Margaret Haley, the fighting genius of the Chicago Teachers' Federation, in another column. Her summons to battle to all the men and women of labor in Chicago. And labor in Chicago cannot win a glorious victory unless it is backed by the solid ranks of the working masses of the nation.

SOCIALISTS IN THE STRUGGLE.

SOCIALISTS HAVE rallied their full strength in every struggle of the working class. It is superfluous for me to state here that Ida L. M. Fursman, president of the Chicago Teachers' Federation, is an enthusiastic member of the Educational Committee of the National Socialist Party, appointed by the 1912 National Convention, which is preparing a comprehensive report that is expected to aid materially in freeing the public schools from the strangling grip of private industry. Socialists would rush eagerly to the field of battle even if they were not already represented there by such as Mary O'Reilly, Socialist for many years, one of the delegates of the teachers' union to the Chicago Federation of Labor, where her earnest work through many struggles resulted in her election to the federation's executive board.

Listen to John C. Kennedy, Chicago's twenty-seventh ward Socialist alderman addressing the Chicago Federation of Labor: "There are many people who do not realize that organized labor was really responsible for the establishment of the public school system of the United States.

"Before we had the public school system of children of the working class had to go to what they called charity schools. It was very much as if your children had to go to soup houses to get their meals today. You are looking upon charity when the children of the working class get what little education they did get in the period from about 1820 to 1850 in New York City, Philadelphia, and in many other eastern cities, as well as in a few western cities. At the workers rightfully resented it.

"They claimed that an understanding of the conditions about them was something that every child was entitled to, and that inasmuch as education is necessarily the foundation of any republic, it was the duty of this republic to guarantee to every child an adequate education."

HEARD THIS BEFORE? "At that time, when the argument was made everywhere by the labor men of that day, they were told: 'That is going to destroy the family. It is going to destroy the home, it is going to undermine the state,' and your big business men of that day said, 'You are taking our money away from us,' and all that sort of thing. They raised all sorts of arguments against the public schools; but, due to the persistence of the labor forces of that day the victory was won, and the system was established.

"But ever since that time there has been a perpetual warfare between the forces of progress and the forces of reaction, the forces of big business. The forces of big business have tried to control the system which they tried to prevent being established in the first place. They have ever since tried to conduct it and

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