

EVICTION CONSPIRACY AGAINST UNION MEN

Bankers, Landlords and Politicians Are Determined to Keep Aggressive Union Men from Making a Living or Residing in Deer Lodge—Big Caesar Wants His Feudal Estates in Peaceful Repose

INDIVIDUALS ABOVE FRANCHISE LAW

Conley and McTague Run Waterworks in Deer Lodge in Violation of State Law and Democratic Control

When any person or corporation desires to operate a system of water works in any city in Montana, a franchise must first be obtained from the city in which it does business. Some corporations have corrupted city councils in order that they might secure a franchise. Now this is impossible as the law states that all franchise grants must be submitted to a vote of the people for ratification.

In Deer Lodge it is a little different from other cities of the state. Conley & McTague own a whole water works themselves, and sell water to the residents of West Deer Lodge in open competition to the water company that secured a franchise from the city. Conley & McTague did not have to corrupt a city council to giving them a franchise, they just went and laid the pipes and that was all there was to it. In fact Conley & McTague have the Helena Water company beat to a fare ye well.

When the Helena Water Works want to dictate to the city they go into court and get a judge to issue the mandates, but in Deer Lodge the mandates of the Feudal Lords are sufficient.

A number of years ago Conley & McTague took up a body of water, known as Lake Irving, under the Stone Act. This lake for twenty years used to be a summer resort for the citizens of Deer Lodge, and since Conley & McTague have taken up the water right, no one is allowed near this beautiful lake or to fish in same, unless he has a permit from Conley & McTague, and then to be surrounded and spied upon by convicts, who are everywhere. The convicts dug the ditch for the water main and laid the water pipes right into the city of Deer Lodge. The water was intended to furnish a water supply for the penitentiary but the politicians of the state did not care to construct a water system for the state prison but just allow Conley & McTague to file on the water right and sell the water to the state that is used in the pen. The politicians, the members of the Montana legislature did not want to interfere with the graft. The men who deliver county delegations and control

the politics of this section of the state have to receive compensation from the men who aspire to be governor, Attorney General, or United States Senators. Conley & McTague deliver the goods to Tom Carter and the word goes out to the members of the legislature to leave Conley & McTague alone in their methods of mulching the state. The convicts laid the water system that supplies the penitentiary with water, the state fed and clothed the convicts and now pays rent for the water that is used in the penitentiary.

In other cities in Montana, permits have to be granted by the city officials before any one can dig a trench in the street for water service pipes. In Deer Lodge it is different. When Conley & McTague build a house and desire water put in same, a bunch of convicts armed with pick and shovels, escorted by armed guards, leave the penitentiary and proceed to the scene of operation and dig the trenches, and in some cases we have been informed, do the plumbing.

And all this is done in competition with wage labor.

How would you like to have a Montana State Prison graft?

The merchants of Deer Lodge whose store rent was increased fifty per cent by Conley, because they were in favor of doing business with the Clerks' Union, have applied to the district court for an injunction against the Deer Lodge Realty Co.—Conley's real estate firm—to enjoin the said company from evicting them from their store buildings. The merchants refuse to pay the increase of rent on the grounds that there was a verbal agreement that they were to have the use of the store buildings until January 1912, at the same rent as they had been paying Conley before the clerks' strike. At this time we are unable to say whether or not the injunction has been granted.

Word comes from Deer Lodge that Conley & McTague have sold one of their farms. This farm was worked by ninety convicts who lived on the farm, instead of in the prison. The convicts labored from daylight to dark on the farm, the state paid for their keep, and Conley & McTague took the proceeds from the sale of the produce and all the convicts got is a measly five dollars allowed them by the state when they are discharged from the prison. Five dollars to take a new start with in life.

THE CLASS WAR IN DEER LODGE.

The powers that be in Deer Lodge are still attempting to disrupt organized labor. J. P. Mueller, president of the Retail Clerks' Union, was recently discharged on account of slackness of trade, and he endeavored to start a boarding house, but the property owners refused to rent him one, even after he had a house rented from a real estate agent, he was notified a few days later—just as he was about to move into the house, that he could not get the house as the proprietor did not care to have him for a tenant. Mueller then tried to rent other houses but met with refusal everywhere.

The union men of Deer Lodge then took to discussing the matter and came to the conclusion that there was a conspiracy on foot to force Mueller to leave the city, and they concluded to band together and set Mueller up in a boarding and rooming house, and keep him in town as he is a first class union man with considerable executive ability. At this stage of the game William Antill, secretary of the District Lodge of the Machinists on the Milwaukee railway, decided to rent a house and start a boarding house in partnership with Mueller. Antill who is a young single man, rented a house for \$25.00, paid one month rent and asked for a year's lease. The lease was agreed upon, and the agent who rented the house promised to prepare the lease contract in a few days and have it signed up. Antill was not satisfied with this and wanted the lease prepared at once, but the agent pleaded rush of business and overwork, and said that he would give his word of honor that he would make out the lease according to the verbal agreement.

Mueller then moved into the house and was in it five days when the agent went to Antill and offered him the \$25.00 rent back saying that the proprietor who is connected with the banking business in Deer Lodge, did not want the building used as a boarding house, although it was expressly understood between the agent and Antill that the house was to be a boarding house.

Antill refused to accept the \$25.00 rent back, and both Mueller and he refused to leave the house until the year's lease is up or until they are evicted by the court. Antill was given to understand that he could have the house provided Mueller did not live in it. Mueller is a respectable, law-abiding citizen and has held positions of trust in more than one mercantile company.

... Mueller is a good union man and the Conleyites are determined to do all in their power to have him leave Deer Lodge.

STORMY SCENE IN GERMAN REICHSTAG

The session of the Reichstag opened with a stormy scene, growing out of an interpellation by the socialists asking Chancellor Bethmann von Hollweg what had induced him in his Prussian suffrage speech in the diet to attack universal suffrage, as guaranteed by the imperial constitution.

Dr. Frank, socialist, referring to the chancellor's remark that a democratic franchise exercised an evil and degenerating influence upon political morals, inquired whether the reichstag was willing to hear such a criticism of universal suffrage from the chancellor. He was asked what would happen to a chancellor who asserted that in many speeches the emperor had exercised an "evil and degenerating influence."

Dr. Frank's comment caused an uproar on the right. Vice President Spah finally called Frank to order, which action aroused a counter de-

monstration on the part of the socialists.

Reassured by Chancellor.

Chancellor Bethmann von Hollweg replied, assuring the house that the universal suffrage of the empire was secure from any attack by the imperial government or the bundesrath.

Herr Groeber, clerical, pointed out the conflict between Dr. Bethmann von Hollweg' position as chancellor of the empire and as Prussian minister-president.

Ernest Bassirmann, leader of the national-liberal party, said the chancellor had taken back nothing as he had not confessed himself to be a believer in universal suffrage.

Nevertheless, Bassirmann, said he was convinced that any attempt to overthrow universal suffrage would usher in the wildest possible political struggle. It would mean the beginning of grave troubles and probably of revolutionary movements.

UNION AMALGAMATION VS. UNION ISOLATION

Joint Committee American Federation of Labor and Western Federation of Miners Unite all Workers in Mining Industry

The joint committee of the United Mine Workers and the Western Federation of Miners have submitted their report to their respective organizations on the federation of the two unions. The committee recommend that the Western Federation of Miners apply for a charter from the American Federation of Labor and after the Western Federation have become affiliated with the A. F. of L. that the United Mine Workers and the Western Federation jointly form a mining department of the A. F. of L. and apply for a mining department charter from the executive committee of the A. F. of L. Both organizations are to retain their present jurisdiction; the United Mine Workers to have jurisdiction over all coal miners, and the Western Federation of Miners jurisdiction to cover all metalliferous miners, and the organizers of both organizations to assist in the work of organizing of all classes of miners.

The report of the joint committee is the best that could be devised for the interests of both organizations and labor in general. The convention of the United Mine Workers, composed of 1,500 delegates, ratified the report of the committee, and the question of the Western Federation applying for a charter from the A. F. of L. is to be submitted to a referendum of the membership of that organization.

The only objection that is liable to be raised will be with the Western Federation as a large number of the members of that organization is opposed to Gompers. However, it is to be hoped that the western miners will lay aside their prejudice against Gompers and vote for industrial solidarity.

The American Federation of Labor has a membership of over two and a half million, and is the dominant labor organization in the country and will remain the dominant labor organization in spite of all its critics. All the unions are affiliating, and the question that confronts the Western Federation is affiliation with the A. F. of L. or isolation from the rest of organized labor in the country.

The work of the borers from within in the A. F. of L. is having its effect. The A. F. of L. is being revolutionized and is running away from Gompers, and is headed towards the principles of industrial unionism. In fact the A. F. of L. is going to be the organization that is going to produce industrial unionism in America. The subdivision of the A. F. of L. with departments controlling all crafts in a certain industry is all that any industrial unionists can desire at present. The formation of a mining department of the A. F. of L., taking in all classes of miners, and the perfecting of the organization of the department of railway employees will thoroughly organize the greatest industries in North America; and these two departments acting jointly in any labor controversy against the corporations will make the general strike possible in America, and tie up all the industries in Canada, the United States and Mexico. In fact the affiliation of the Western Federation of Miners with the A. F. of L. and the perfecting of the department of mining and transportation will create in America one of the greatest combinations of labor that the world has ever seen.

Craft isolation is rapidly giving way to industrial solidarity within the A. F. of L.

Billings Wants Convicts on Road.

"We are not so much interested in how many gunny sacks can be made by the convicts in the state penitentiary as we are in the number of rods of good roads than can be constructed by the involuntary laborers of the state," says the Billings Gazette.

"Keep up the agitation for better roads and the chances are that we will soon find the proper sort of employment for every convict within the state of Montana."

The above item will bear out the claim of the News, that eastern Montana is interested in getting convicts to work on the public roads.

THE MONTANA NEWS.

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WHERE ARE THE IMPOSSIBILITIES NOW?

The returns from the national election on officials and referendums show that the American socialist party has responded emphatically to the challenge of the direct actionists. The members elected on the Executive committee are Robert Hunter, Victor Berger, Morris Hilquit, John Spargo, Lena Morrow-Lewis, Geo. H. Goebel, and Jas. F. Carey—all persons standing for a strong constructive, political policy. Even the seven who were the second choice are all noted for the same constructive building policy in the party. The American socialist party does not depend on the "direct action" methods of the centuries of the past. It has no idea of building Rome in a day.

The result of this election is encouraging. Hunter and Berger head the list—the two men most noted in America for their strong advocacy of practical, constructive tactics in American socialism. Hilquit and Spargo are equally persistent in demanding that American socialists do something besides talk and fight each other.

Mrs. Lewis is the first woman ever elected on the National Executive Committee. A hard and earnest worker herself, she is most anxious to see effective work done in the party, and is a victim of no utopian delusions as to noise and threatening phrases.

Geo. H. Goebel is another active practical man in the party. He has been a national organizer for many years and has traveled all over the country. Speaking and organizing, selling literature, and agitating for socialism. He has an alert mind, is familiar with the sectional interests of the working class, and knows the needs of the party. His influence on the committee will undoubtedly give a great impetus to an aggressive policy.

Jas. F. Carey has already a reputation of many years' standing in the party as a practical politician. The socialist party needs these badly, one of which is worth a thousand hot-air peddlers. Carey acquired valuable experience in working class action in government during his terms of service as a socialist member of the Massachusetts legislature. He is on to the crooks and needs of the socialist party.

Comrade A. M. Simons was defeated for the committee. But this is not to be wondered at. He was the one who led most strenuously the fight in favor of a constructive policy, against the impossibilists, and in favor of espousing joint issues with the trade unionists. He naturally drew the heaviest fire of the opposition who were opposing the old committee. But as he so openly and aggressively came to the rescue of a sane and rational policy he can well afford to be content that he himself is not on the committee so long as a committee has been chosen that will work for the policies he has advocated. Four of the old committee, a majority, has been elected.

It is to be hoped that now some active measures will be taken to overcome the direct action tendencies that are unmistakably confusing the labor movement of the west at present, and rendering inert and powerless the socialist parties west of the Mississippi river. We need not deny that

there is a wave of contempt for political action on the part of the working class, because the socialist party has proven itself incapable of political action. It has allowed itself to be carried away by trivial, unimportant and selfish, personal affairs, while the great needs of working-class legislation are ignored.

By a referendum carried at the election also the present committee serves two years. So it will have the element of time to assist it in carrying forward some strong policies.

The foolish, Chinese-complicated system of voting, affixed on a suffering membership by John M. Work, has likewise passed into oblivion with the referendum. It has inflicted the party with its first and last abortion.

The Texas referendum to disband the party as a substitute for the constitution was also overwhelmingly snuffed under.

LENA MORROW-LEWIS.

Mrs. Lewis who has just been elected to the National Executive Committee is the first woman to serve in that capacity, and the large vote accorded her is a tribute to the esteem in which her work and intellect are held by the socialists throughout the country. Mrs. Lewis is an old friend of the writer, their association dating back from schoolgirl days. Her father is a United Presbyterian minister, a pastor in the denomination in which she deponed was also reared. She graduated at the United Presbyterian college at our home town, Monmouth, Ill. Needless to say we have both wandered out of the old superstitions. Mrs. Lewis has made her reputation on her fearless advocacy of the materialistic positions of modern science.

After graduating she became a teacher, and her parents moved to Paxton, Ill., where her father had charge of the U. P. church, and where I was a teacher in the high school. We both became interested in the work of the Illinois W. C. T. U., myself becoming an organizer, and Lena becoming an active speaker, worker and delegate. We passed by apparently the same evolutionary stages into the work of the National Woman Suffrage Association, both of us becoming national organizers, and both of us going through the state amendment campaigns of South Dakota and Oregon.

Our evolution was similar out of the orthodox religious interpretation of the universe, and into modern accult thought, both of us at one time being lecturers and co-called demonstrators along this line. We reached the scientific interpretation by study and the acquiring of facts.

I became a socialist through the populist road, and Mrs. Lewis through the anarchist. We began the propagation of socialism at about the same time, Mrs. Lewis at one time editing a socialist paper in Portland.

She has a powerful analytical and progressive intellect, is a despiser of shams and superstitions of all kinds, and nobly and courageously asserts her convictions and lives her life in accordance. She is one of the women who is making a pathway to freedom. She is patient worker, a powerful speaker, and a thorough organizer. Her presence on the Executive Committee cannot but be a strong force for practical measures.

It is with much admiration and the warmest friendship that I am glad to be able to give this testimony to the ability of the woman who comes into the directing work of the Socialist Party of America.

IDA CROUCH-HAZLETT.

CONSCIOUS ACTION THE ONLY SAVIOR.

As a suggestive warning to those socialists who are content to rest upon their oars and say, "Socialism is coming anyway", who think that the mills of the gods will evolve them into an industrial heaven without any undue pangs on their part, the following paragraph from Arthur Labrida may convey some idea of the developing possibilities of capitalism:

"It is not wise to count upon an automatic development of capitalism to a final clash, and it is not safe to rely upon an alleged degeneracy of

the capitalist energies, for the capitalist class seem to have entered a new period of expansion and comativeness that could absorb and paralyze all other tendencies. And if the capitalist class, inebriated with their modern industrial success and feeling in themselves a stirring of a life capable of new conquests, will give up—as it can easily be foreseen—all prudence and every foresight, then a new phase of billicose conflicts may begin between the various countries. And it is impossible to forecast the extreme influence of this upon the conduct of the working class. Today even such countries as are trade cautious and not inclined to martial adventures are full of warcy and military preparations."

Not only is the folly seen of such asinine predictions as that "socialism will come in five years", or "in 1912", or "the next election", but a total lack of socialist spirit is manifest in the placid fatalist.

Adon Por, the Hungarian socialist, throws a strong warning to the warlike tendency that is agitating the nations with Dreadnaughtism, and says, "The revolutionary working class cannot be watchful enough and must impose its collective wish for peace, and must bring collective resistance against any further imperialistic expansion of capitalism, against any kind of war."

The backward nations and countries, as well as the isles of the sea, recognize that in the development of these countries and the exploiting of them there is a sufficient realm of operation to carry capitalism forward for a thousand years, even with modern machinery.

The rapid advent of civilization in Asia and Africa is bringing about a condition of affairs in modern capitalism that is creating causes for warfare among the dominant nations fraught with impending disaster to the progress of democracy, and as menacing as the world's land-grabbing that precipitated the wars into which the monarchies were plunged the latter part of the eighteenth century.

The present indications are that only a revolutionary proletariat organized in the labor movement and socialist party and working through international co-operation can hew a way to democratic institutions that will transfer the process of expansion to the working class instead of the capitalist class.

The preservation of the world's peace means the preservation of emancipation to the working class.

THE PROLETARIAN PHILOSOPHY

How deeply run the roots of these common, material things that the human must do to have its comfort, its leisure, its very existence. The world has despised labor. It has gagged it, and bound it, and chained it to the lowest and most sordid part of life. Its part has been ugliness, and ignorance, and disease, and animal-like quarreling, and bitter, unceasing, soul-wracking toil.

The art, the beauty, the comfort, the safety, the freedom of life has been all in strata far removed from labor and its misfortunes. But these fortunates ones, though they hold largely the desirable things of life, yet there is one gift that they cannot hold. To know life really, to have a correct interpretation of the events and the moving pageant of the world, to be based on the solid rock of truth and things as they are, one has got to know this whole seething labor life, the cause of its miseries, the source of the thoughts and the actions that emanate therefrom, what it is that produces the character that we find in the labor class.

Without this knowledge, art, sci-

ence, culture are on a foundation that breaks under our feet at any time. The mind continually runs up against inexplicable phenomena. But a knowledge of the life, and the thought and the actions, and the desperate toil and struggle, and the crimes and their cause, and the abnormal sex life of those who toil gives a satisfactory and sound point of departure for all other knowledge. And when to this is added the power of social analysis inherent in the socialist philosophy, the student holds the key to the riddle of the universe.

No wonder that the scholars in the economic realm of modern production have characterized the philosophy, that is the emancipation of the age, as the proletarian philosophy. So we find that philosophy and truth meet, for the first time in human thought, on the ground of justice to the builders of the world, and the science art, and culture that bravely recognize this as the foundation of all true progress.

So from the drop of sweat that exudes from the brow of the peon to the profoundest word that the brain of man has conceived, labor is the dominant and constructive force in the whole world. And the socialist movement is clearing the way to operate intelligently.

SOCIAL MURDER.

An account of a recent hanging has this paragraph: "The murderer was an opium eater and a physical wreck. He had to be carried to the chair, but his body exhibited remarkable vitality in the execution."

How long will society simply answer brutishness with more brutishness? It is inhuman, brutal and uncivilized to kill a human being. When society performs this act it admits that it is uncivilized, that it has no remedy for the brutal instincts that devour it. An advanced and just society will aim to breed and nurture normal human beings, and will establish institutions to make it possible to do this.

The national socialist party election on national officers and referendums has just been completed. Montana had no vote on the most important contest that has ever been before the party. During the five years that James D. Graham was state secretary Montana never missed a vote on a national referendum, and this with the management of the News on hand and dates for speakers amounting at times to forty a week. It is one of the worst lapses possible for a party, that it does not take part in the national business. These referendums are highly educational to the membership as they are decisive of the policy of the party as a political force. But Montana remained outside the fold on this occasion.

The socialist idea and the organized proletariat united into a class party must go together like the connection between the final good and the movement. —Karl Kautsky.

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Poet's Corner

DORMANT.

In the depths of many a thoughtless heart, Hidden below, 'neath the laughter gay...

IDA CROUCH-HAZLETT.

Wisconsin Notes.

The Milwaukee Socialists will hold their platform convention Feb. 26 at Ethical Hall. The city and ward tickets of the Socialist-Democratic party have already been chosen...

Ald. Welley (Social-Democrat), realizing that the lower ranks of policemen are a species of wage slaves, introduced in the Milwaukee city council a resolution granting them an "off" of a straight twenty-four hours every fifteen days.

A non-partisan anti-high-price mass meeting was called for Feb. 15 by the Milwaukee Federated Trades Council. Among the speakers who addressed the meeting were A. M. Simons, editor of the Chicago Daily Socialist, and Mother Jones.

This means a reduction in the share going to mere investors, who are largely small capitalists or members of the middle class, and an increase in the share appropriated by large capitalists who actively control production.

The rate of wages paid for various kinds of labor have, on the whole, kept increasing through the whole period of capitalism in the United States, rising more in periods of prosperity than they fell in times of depression.

The average rate of wages for the whole working class is higher today than it was immediately after the Civil War (when American capitalism began to expand) or at any previous time.

The state office of the Nebraska socialist party with Clyde J. Wright as state secretary, issues a state bulletin once a month. It is a useful and bright little publication with all the party news in it.

WEEKLY LESSON FOR SOCIALIST LOCALS AND MEMBERS.

Authorized by the National Executive Committee—Prepared by Rand School.

STUDY COURSE OF SOCIALISM

The Economics of Capitalism.

In closing this brief economic analysis of the capitalist system, we must consider some recent tendencies of this system, especially in the distribution of the value produced.

The proportions in which the value-product is distributed vary continually and in very complex manner. General observation and study of statistics justify the following general statements as to tendencies of recent years in this country.

Wages and Surplus Value.—It is impossible to determine the exact proportion in which, at any given time, the value-product is divided between wages and surplus-value. The statement so often made, that only 15 per cent of the product now goes to the workers and 85 per cent is retained by the capitalists, is grossly exaggerated.

In the manufacturing industries of the United States, according to the census of 1890, the total wages amounted to \$1,891,000,000 and the total surplus-value to at least \$1,688,000,000; according to the census of 1900, the total wages amounted to \$2,327,000,000 and the total surplus-value to at least \$2,309,000,000.

Rent, Interest, and Profit.—The capitalists' share in divided into rent, interest and profit, and the rate of this division varies continually. In general, the proportion going to rent is increasing. The rate of interest is slowly declining and the proportion of the total surplus-value appropriated in this form is becoming less.

Tendency of Wages.—We must distinguish nominal wages, the amount of money paid for labor, from real wages, the amount of food, clothing, etc., which that money will buy. For the present, we speak of nominal or money wages.

The prevalence of monopoly price involves what may be called a secondary exploitation in the process of exchange, in addition to the regular exploitation of the wage workers in the productive process. This secondary exploitation falls upon the wage workers (tending to lower their standard of living) and also upon the various middle classes, and it benefits only the great capitalists, who have attained some degree of monopoly.

the wage rate for almost every particular branch of labor is rising—may be made clear by the following illustration:

Suppose that at a given time we have 250,000 factory operatives getting \$1 a day, 500,000 laborers getting \$1.50 a day, and 250,000 skilled mechanics getting \$2 a day; the total daily wages for the million workers will be \$1,500,000, and the average wage rate for the whole will be \$1.50 a day. Now, suppose that, a few years later, we have 1,000,000 operatives getting \$1.10 a day, 600,000 laborers getting \$1.60 a day, and 400,000 mechanics getting \$2.10 a day; the total daily wages for the two million workers will be \$2,900,000, and the average wage rate for the whole will be \$1.45 a day.

Prices and Real Wages.—Real wages are affected by fluctuations of price as well as by fluctuation of money wages. If money wages remain unchanged, a rise of prices means a fall of real wages, and vice versa.

During the greater part of the capitalist period in this country some commodity prices were rising and others falling, and the general tendency was downward. During the last two decades, however, there has been a general upward tendency of prices especially of the principal necessities of life.

Causes of Rise in Prices.—The recent rise of prices is not confined to the United States. It has two main causes. 1. During the last twenty-five years the supply of gold has increased more rapidly than at any other time since the sixteenth century.

2. More important is the effect of the concentration of capitalist ownership. As before shown, the law of value and its corollaries apply only in so far as competition prevails.

3. When an invention or other event causes one industry to decline and another to expand, why do wages in the

former continue low and in the latter high for some time instead of being immediately equalized by competition? Do not answer this with a phrase, but work it out in detail.

4. What three facts must be taken into consideration in comparing the higher wages of America with the lower one of Europe?

5. What three facts were mentioned to explain or qualify the difference of wages in different trades in this country? Illustrate in detail.

Jim Hill Holds Four Thousand Japanese Enslaved.

Four thousand Japanese laborers are held in practical slavery on the Hill roads working between Seattle and St. Paul. Their great master is the Oriental Trading Company, of Seattle, which makes a quarter of a million dollars a year off them.

When the Jap laborer lands in this country he is steered into the offices of the Trading Company—if the arrangement is not made before he leaves Japan—and enters into the contract which binds him as the personal property of the labor firm.

The Trading Company has a contract with the Hill roads to supply labor—as such as the railroad needs. The Trading company gets a generous rakeoff from each man, while the laborers themselves, ignorant helpless, unable to speak English, think themselves fortunate to get a job.

The men go to work for \$1.35 a day, but of this the Trading Company gets 15 cents a day for getting them the job. Also it supplies the provisions, at a fat profit, as the railroads carry the goods for nothing, and they charge the men at an advance of what they could buy them in the neighborhood.

In case of accident, each worker may receive damages from the railroad through the trading company. But the damages are more often not paid. When they are paid, the amount usually does not exceed from \$300 to \$400 for fractured legs or for arms cut off.

The Northern Pacific turns the entire monthly wage over to the Oriental Trading Company. The Oriental subtracts the amount of the bills for provisions, hospital fees, office expenses, and rakeoff from the gross earnings and writes a check for the balance.

Something like \$29.70 a month each to subsist upon the men—a quarter of a million every year to the company—this is the way Jap "captains of industry" have learned to capitalize the profits of the workingmen.

J. J. Hill, the big boss, C. C. Takahashi, president of the Oriental Trading Company, the immediate active boss, with hordes of smaller bosses, known as overseers or bookmen, scattered along the Hill lines—these are the men in authority in the United States as the Japanese laborer learns when he strikes the northwest.

There are other cases of petty graft. The officials get free transportation for the men then they charge them for fare. Usually there are about ten men each month from each branch who ask for transportation. They pay one-third to one-half the regular fare. Also legal duties by the overseers and bookmen for pay.

There is another company that is doing a similar business in the northwest, the Koji Kwasha, located at Tacoma. It has been supplying laborers for various different railroads, principally to the Tacoma Eastern. Last fall, the company made a contract with the Chicago and Puget Sound Railroad company to supply laborers. Already 500 men are working. These men are a little better than those in the Oriental Trading company. Instead of \$1.20 a day, they are paid \$1.57 a day, a difference of 37 cents. This difference is due partly to the nature of the work required.

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