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\$1.00 PER YEAR

# FIGHTING FOR FREE SPEECH

## Police Keep Up Reign of Terror Against Industrial Unionists in Spokane, Washington.

### Horrible Sufferings of I. W. W. Prisoners Sweated and Starved in Jails of that City.

The I. W. W. is making history in Spokane, Washington. A fight by our organization to use the streets for public meetings has been going on since November 4. Five hundred men are in jail on bread and water and "sanitary" and other conditions that are a disgrace to humanity. Many were brutally clubbed by the police, though offering no resistance to arrest. About twenty, including one woman, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, were arrested on the charge of "criminal conspiracy," they being regarded as "leaders" by the authorities. The I. W. W. hall has been raided several times, all commitment and other officials taken to jail on the same charge. "Conspiracy" trials have resulted in sentences of from four to six months in the county jail. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was given a three months' sentence.

Months at hard labor, and herded by thugs with shot-guns. Scores of men in the jails are sick, and many have broken out among them. Their teeth are falling out and their misery and suffering are beyond description. It is impossible to exaggerate the conditions of the men in the jails. The fight in Spokane is being caused by the capitalists being set on destroying the industrial revolutionary movement.

Protest meetings should be called every-where. Money is needed to walk, and before officers and editors from the wrath of our masters on the criminal conspiracy charges. Good food must be given to our fellow workers when they come from prison. It is costing us \$100 a day for attorney fees already, and that is nothing compared to what will be required. Tell the world of this brutality and what we are to expect from our masters when we dare to speak the truth.

Yours for Industrial Freedom,  
Central Executive Committee,  
Industrial Workers of the World.  
Send all contributions to Fred W. Heslewood, Box 885, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Last week's entire edition of the "Industrial Worker," the local organ of the I. W. W., was seized by the police as it came from the press and taken to the city hall to be destroyed. Five copies had been successfully jelled on "conspiracy" charges.

The city ordinance against street speaking, which the I. W. W. is fighting and which permits "religious" meetings thereby plainly discriminating against our organization, was, in the expressed opinion of Police Judge Mann, "unconstitutional." So those arrested for attempting to hold meetings are charged with "disorderly conduct" and sentenced to 30 days in jail and a fine of \$100. That means 60 days or more in jail under conditions that beggar description.

They have men in jail that are so poor they are unable to walk, and before they went in they gave \$100 to \$1000 to the fight, and deposited more for the men who are doing 110 days will probably never be seen again. The 33 days are out and are so sick and weak that their own mother would not recognize them. They are like skeletons with a skin drawn tight over them. Men went 20 days without having action of the bowels. Those who are doing 110 days will probably never be seen again. Scrupy has broken out among them, and the gums of their mouths are swollen and rotting from eating the small morsel of old sour bread. Men are put in the worst house for days at a time and the steam turned on to get them confined, and there is nothing to confess. There were 68 men confined in the I. W. W. treated in the emergency hospital in Spokane last month. Several of course were in two and three times. The treatment was more brutal in the hospital in the cells, and the men often were glad to get out.

Scores of reinforcements are arriving daily in Spokane from all parts of the country to keep up the fight.

The Coeur d'Alene, Idaho district union of the Western Federation of Miners has declared a boycott against all goods coming from Spokane while the fight is on. That action, followed by similar resolutions by Butte Miners' Union, and other organizations of the surrounding territory, is fitting had the city's business interests. Several thousand dollars additional expense a week are required to pay extra officers, feed the prisoners, provide hospital services, etc. It is costing the tax payers dearly to "suppress the I. W. W."

Meanwhile the fight goes on with unabated vigor on the side of our organization. Money is needed to fight the court cases and otherwise to carry on the struggle. It is a struggle for existence on the part of the I. W. W., against a determined effort of mine owners, lumber barons and employment agencies to suppress it.

The following letters tell in part the tale of capitalist brutality.

Next week's issue of solidarity will be largely devoted to the Spokane fight. Full details of the origin and events of the conflict will be given. Order bundles and give this matter the widest possible publicity.

Organize protest meetings every where. Send funds to F. W. Heslewood, Box 885, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Gurley Flynn is on trial now and before a jury of her peers. They are all leading capitalists in Spokane, and members of the Chamber of Commerce. She will get her. Foote, Wilson and Pancer, (two of them editors) are on the chain gang with a ball and chain attached. They have notified the attorneys to leave the playing with capitalist courts alone, and they refuse to allow the attorney to defend them on the appeal. They are running wheelbarrows and breaking rock, and the weather is very cold.

The hall was raided again night before last and the new editor arrested, also several commitments. The authorities say they are going to close the hall.

I am head over ears in love. We have just started to scrap. Keep up the agitation in the East. It's impossible to exaggerate the conditions among the prisoners.

Keep the protest meetings going. If we lie down on the job of publicity, there will be the most terrible reign of oppression that has ever been known. This is a concerted move to smash the I. W. W. They have admitted that they intend to smash the I. W. W. once for all. Poor folk.

Yours for Industrial Freedom,  
Fred W. Heslewood.

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 11, 1900.

This issue of the Industrial Worker has been confiscated by the police. They had a detective stationed at the printers for the past two days. Big policeman sat alongside the press while it was being run, and seized every copy as it came out. Cannot go down and see about it myself as there is a warrant out for my arrest. Have telephoned the printers to cease running the paper, also notified the attorney who is seeking to get a restraining order at the present time. Am making preparations to have the same issued at Coeur d'Alene. Hall raided almost every day. Gurley Flynn sentenced to three months. Jury out twenty minutes. No justice in the kangaroo courts, you know that. I expect

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She is out on \$5,000 bond. Will write more later if I am not pinched. Am off for Coeur d'Alene.

Yours for the I. W. W., F. R. Schlein.

Latest advices from Spokane are to the effect that the I. W. W. has instituted a suit against the city, although for a illegal seizure of property in confiscating the last edition of the Industrial Worker. It remains to be seen whether or not the city officials of Spokane will be required to pay the legal penalties which is \$1,000 fine and imprisonment for one year.

## WALL ST. CORRESPONDENT.

### Railroad Wage Demands.

By John D.

Railroad men of the Wall Street district are looking for a big fight on the part of their employers for an advance of 12 per cent and also an uniform wage schedule which they expect will be submitted to them in a few days. One of the officials of a large western system was quoted as saying that the rising prices of commodities is responsible for the demand for higher wages. It is his opinion that such a move would receive support from the public. At the same time, however, the railroads are being forced to pay higher prices for materials, especially steel, and if wages go up, it is his opinion that the roads will be forced to increase freight rates as the only way out. He does not look for the Interstate Commerce Commission to place any obstacle in their way, but that the roads will be forced to raise rates brought before them officially.

That the fight now on in a strike can be learned from a bulletin posted on quite a few Stock Exchange houses during the past few days. The bulletin says in part: "One of the officials of the railroad brotherhood says: 'This is the greatest concerted wage demand in the history of American railroading. We have learned a lesson from railroads, and are pooling our interests and going after all the roads at the same time, on the same basis, no more doing business with us as divided units. That's played out. It don't pay, and the negotiations must be conducted in a business like way, from now on. The railroads are doing more business than ever before. They are at high tide, and the prospects for so continuing for a long time are excellent. Now is the time for wage readjustment. In my opinion there is a new deal on regarding the way the men will fight in the future.'

### Things Done in San Francisco.

Great changes are being noticed here in Frisco. Two months ago we were hardly able to give away our literature. Now we are selling eight to ten dollars worth every week and many new members are coming in. Dec. 1 we sent away for a charter for a new local for the workers over in Oakland, our sister city across the bay, which will start off with 30 charter members. I will close for this time with best wishes for success for the I. W. W.

August Walquist,  
Cor. Sec'y Local 173,  
San Francisco.

### Good News From Minneapolis.

The outlook for revolutionary unionism is bright here in Minneapolis. Local 64 is forging ahead with great success adding to membership at the rate of 25 a week. We have also a Building Constructor's Local Union 177, which is showing a healthy growth. We have sent a number of men from the I. W. W. locals in Minneapolis to help in the free speech fight in Spokane and will surely send more if they are needed.

The A. F. of L. organ here, the Labor Review, has begun to print articles on the subject of industrial unionism.

H. Arclon,  
Cor. Sec'y Local 64,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

# STRIKERS JAILED IN NEW CASTLE

## Twenty-eight Men Arrested and Sentenced for Thirty Days, for Congregating Near Mill.

### Situation at Bridgeport, Ohio. Trainers Scabbing on Switchmen out West.

The bitter struggles of our fellow workers in the West are bearing fruit also, by their example, in this part of the industrial field.

The latest move on the part of the lock-eyes of the steel trust against the striking tin mill workers in New Castle has been an order from Sheriff Waddington forbidding the strikers to appear in any number on the streets near either of the struck mills. The men, however, are refusing to obey the order and have continued to appear and walk about as formerly. So the police arrested 28 of them on Monday and the next morning in Mayor Lusk's court they were fined \$25 each or 30 days in jail. Up to the hour of writing, Tuesday afternoon, they are still game and announce that they will serve the sentence rather than pay one red copper. They have also requested the Advisory Board of their union not to pay the fines.

The best of all is that the men are talking enthusiastically about putting in practice the Spokane method, and some of them were arrested another squad has gone out doing the same thing. Four more have been arrested.

If these strikers will take up this line of resistance, they will win in a walk without enduring any of the securities that our fellow workers suffered in Spokane, for even the middle class of this quiet, Quakerish, eastern city, while they will stand quite contentedly to see the strikers arrested and fined as long as they are paid enough to pay their hand earned money for nothing into the public treasury, will not by any means stand for the horrors of Spokane under their own noses. Especially if instead of it bringing in funds it begins to cost them something.

All the men have to do is to disregard the advice of troublesome officials, take the matter in their own hands and use up to date methods.

### The Switchmen's Strike.

The strike of the Switchmen's Union in the Northwest furnishes a powerful lesson in what a few determined workmen may do who occupy a strategic position in industry. Also in the ease with which it is undone and the fruits of victory snatched from their grasp in the very moment of triumph by craft division and lack of solidarity in the working class itself.

The switchmen went out on strike for higher wages on December 1, and though less than 2,400 men were directly involved, yet because of their strategic position and because of the active support they received from the trainmen in the West practically all freight traffic was held up from Seattle to St. Paul, and in the West N. of the Great N. of the twenty-three sets closed down admitted a loss. Terror reigneth among the switchmen's union easy victory.

But now comes the "Broad" for the trainmen was none of it. Of course no had a supply should in carrying up the job to pull while the cap all, one septic that of the "long as the v craft unions unpleasant is just so long will left them and is making Get together Organize union workers and wages and

### The Situation at Bridgeport.

The strike at Bridgeport, Ohio, where the Amalgamated Association is out on strike against the American Sheet and Tinplate Company, otherwise the steel trust, presents a clear repetition of the events in New Castle, Pa., where the same organization is out on strike against the same company. Developments have come slower in Bridgeport, the striking union probably being a little stronger. But the same tactics have been employed of simply staying out, "sticking," and trying to keep others from entering the mills. Meanwhile the so-called independent mills, every one of them affiliated with, or dependent on, the steel trust, have kept grinding merrily away, supplying, temporarily, the market.

On the part of the employers, too, the same tactics have been employed. The men there was no serious trouble and the same bluff threats to move or dismantle the mills if the men didn't come to time.

In all such struggles as these our sympathies are, of course, entirely with the men. They are of us. We are with them. And that is the very reason why we constantly point out that the old unions and the old methods are out of date. We want the working class in their struggles with the employers, everywhere to win. They can only do it by getting into an organization that organizes all the wage earners industrially and puts up a solid line of battle

to meet the solid industrial organization of the employers.

No matter how brave men are, or how loyal, or what strikers (and all the world loves a striker) they can't take Gibraltar with pop gun.

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**LADYLIKE MEN**

By Mary E. Nancy.

Now that the McKees Rocks strikers have won a notable victory in the history of labor struggles in the United States, it remains for the college professors to voice their disapproval. One week or two after copies of the International Socialist Review were mailed to subscribers, we received a severe criticism from a well known Ph. D. in Ohio.

He seemed greatly displeased because we approve the methods employed by the strikers and insisted that we tell our readers we could support them only when they behaved in a polite and ladylike manner. He particularly grieved because they had "stained their hands in blood." (Of course he meant in the Sheriff Exley affair, not through the accidents that are constantly occurring while the men are at work in the steel mills.)

Probably the college professor regards a strike in the light of a Pink Tea or an Ethical Culture Society Meeting. He does not know that a strike is a battle. He knows nothing about the great scale of that is being waged between the workmen and the owners of the means of production. And yet, in his sublime ignorance, he presumes to dictate the policy of the workers. He says if we do not wear gloves in the struggle, he will have none of us.

As most of us have no gloves it is fortunate that we do not need nor want him. For we cannot argue ethics while our foes employ GUNS. Words never avail against swords, particularly when used in the service of a Captain of Industry.

College professors have always been long on theories and short on a knowledge of practical action. They have never organized themselves. Nobody ever heard of a college professor ever really organizing with anybody. Organization is the one thing about which he knows least. But what he lacks in knowledge he makes up for in presumption. Knowing nothing, he desires to lead.

But battles are not waged with a pen, and in the isolation of a comfortable study. They are fought and won by the men who stick together because they have common interests, men who have nothing to lose and who hope only in the winning of victory. Through actual struggles their ranks grow strong. Through actual struggles they evolve new methods of warfare that enable them to strengthen their forces and their positions. Successful tactics are not evolved from the study but from the scene of activity.

The workers are beginning to suspect a good many fat salaried editors who presume to direct because they see that those would-be leaders know nothing at all about the real struggle. The proletarians have learned that it is not enough that they unite with those who want the things they want. They know now they must organize with those whose industrial position and whose economic interest are THE wage position and their economic interest. These are the only men upon whom they can count.

This is why the wage workers are turning to the industrial form of organization. Workers admitted to industrial unions are bound together by every bond, for an industrial organization offers no foothold for those whose interests are not the interests of the proletariat. An industrial union is an organization truly of, FOR and BY the wage workers themselves.

**TIN MILL STRIKE**

Since July 1, several thousand workers formerly employed in mills of the American Sheet and Tinplate Company, a division of the steel trust, have been on strike against what they call the "open shop" policy of the corporation.

With the exception of an 8 per cent reduction in wages of helpers, the strike was for a recognition of the unions by the company through a time agreement or signed wage scale. The A. F. of L. unions are directly involved—the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, having jurisdiction over the hot mills where tin plate is heated, rolled and doubled; and the Tin Plate Workers' Protective Association, whose membership consists of those working in the tin houses or finishing department.

Neither union has attempted at any time to organize all the different divisions of workers in their respective jurisdictions. On the contrary the tendency in recent years has been to neglect and thereby diminish the less skilled and laboring groups as for example, the openers, for-

merly a part of the A. A., but for the most part "open shop" at the time of the strike. The A. A.'s constitution makes it optional whether or not the laborers shall be taken in, and they have been kept out. As a consequence the bulk of men working in and around sheet and tin plate mills were unorganized at the outbreak of the strike, and therefore neither the A. A. nor the P. A. had a "closed shop" in the proper sense of that term.

Moreover several of the larger tin plate mills, in particular those at Monessen and Vandergrift, Pa., were non-union establishments, and had been such since 1902, as the result of an understanding between the trust and the A. A. officials. That understanding, which was kept secret for a long time, was to the effect that in return for "closed shop agreements" in a number of the trust's mills, the union officials should make no attempt to organize the non-union plants. In addition to those at Vandergrift and Monessen, the American Sheet and Tinplate Company had a large number of "reserve" mills, some of them supposedly "independent," others out of commission except in times of emergency like that of a strike or an unusually big demand for tin plate.

Outside of the trust were a number of "independent" companies anxious to profit by the strike, and they were allowed to do so by signing the union scale prior to July 1.

Thus at the beginning of the fight we found the two craft unions, whose membership had greatly declined in the past ten years, rushing blindly into a coalition under the "open shop" with the most powerful capital combination in the world, and apparently without having taken stock of the situation at all. Had the strike been spontaneous the above objection could not be made. But it was deliberate. A convention was held; the matter was discussed, and the strike called notwithstanding the situation as above outlined.

Outside of New Castle the I. W. W. has not been directly involved in the strike, although our propagandists have been active throughout the district, pointing to the necessity of thorough organization on industrial lines if the workers are to cope with the power of the trust. As a result of this propaganda and the example of McKees Rocks, the idea of "one big union" has sunk deep in the minds of the workers of this section and will bear fruit in due time.

In New Castle, it was admitted by the superintendent himself, that the hardest blow struck the company was dealt by the I. W. W. on July 22, when about 100 workers in the mechanical department of the Shenango mill (workers not included in the closed) shop of the A. A.) went on strike. The signal for this strike was given by the engineer's blowing the whistle at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and engines and machines were left running as the workers filed out of the mill.

With that exception, the strike has been devoid of other than the usual incidents. Many souls have come in New Castle, some to stay, others to make a stake and go elsewhere. A goodly proportion of the strikers have gone back to work in the mill. The state constabulary or cossacks were brought here to club and shoot strikers. An injunction was issued by Judge Porter restraining the strikers from trying "sabotage," "black sheep" or any similar epithet; also from bearing arms, though unenforced.

All the while a great deal of tin plate has been turned out of the striking plants, while at the same time the "independents" have been working with increased forces, and the non-union and reserve mills of the trust have been going full blast, supplying the market with tin plate.

The history of the tin workers' strike but emphasizes the constant cry of the I. W. W., "Organize in one big union and partly on the tin industry." The I. W. W. will not rest satisfied until that industrial organization is an accomplished fact.

**WAISTMAKERS' STRIKE.**

(Continued From Page One.)

arbitrate, which the striking waist makers were brought here to club and shoot strikers. This naturally checked enthusiasm for the time being, taking advantage of which the employers declined to arbitrate at all, so the fight is still on. If the strike is lost, the butting in of John Mitchell, aided and abetted by Morris Hillquit, will have been no inconsiderable factor in the defeat of the strikers.

Meanwhile the most outrageous manhandling and senseless arresting of the strikers and their pickets at the hands of the police continues wholesale from day to day.

**THE YEAR'S EVENT**

The event of prime significance in the industrial history of America the past year was the McKees Rocks strike. Its significance lay not so much in point of numbers involved, although 5,000 workers from one great shop were on strike, as in the tactics and methods exemplifying industrial unionism.

That significance was further emphasized by the existence at the same time of another great strike in the same district against the same corporation. Beginning some two weeks earlier, the tin mill workers' strike, conducted on craft union lines, is still on at this writing, though with ranks broken or scattered and forces well-nigh exhausted, from the long, drawn-out struggle. The tin workers' strike was a strike for "recognition of the union" through a time contract for part of the men only in the industry.

The McKees Rocks strike was one against long suffered abuses in the plant of the Pressed Steel Car Company—abuses heaped upon a mass of supposedly "ignorant and unorganized foreigners." It was a strike against an infamous pool or gang system by which workmen were driven to the limit of speed and endurance while work on pay day were required to hand over titles from their storage envelopes to a whole herd of biering bosses from the superintendent down to the most insignificant gang foreman or "straw boss."

It was a strike for increased wages; for a reduction in the length of the work day; for an improvement of shop conditions. It was a strike against the most powerful corporation in existence, having at its back the government of Pennsylvania with its Cossacks, the state constabulary.

The McKees Rocks strike was won in eight weeks. The pool system was abolished. A Saturday half holiday and no Sunday work were obtained. Pay slips were made returnable, and shop conditions so changed that any foreman caught grafting on the men was henceforth subject to instant dismissal. Strike breakers were discharged. Cossacks were tamed. Above all, a strong organization resulted, with which to enforce other promises from the Pressed Steel Car Company, as future conditions furnish the opportunities.

How these things were accomplished and by what methods, continues to be a question of absorbing interest to the working class of this and other countries.

To answer that question we must first bear in mind that the material for leadership was there in the ranks of the striking thousands at McKees Rocks. All that was necessary was to discover that material, and through it organize the men and lead them into intelligent and concerted action.

Secretary Miriamson of the A. F. of L. came to McKees Rocks, momentarily guided upon the scene, and vanished, with the conviction that these strikers were a lot of ignorant, unorganized foreigners; and the American Federation of Labor could do nothing for them. He changed his mind in the last week of the strike when he sent ten A. F. of L. organizers to undo the work already accomplished by another organization.

General Organizer Truettman of the I. W. W. also came to McKees Rocks. With a keener and more honest insight into the situation, he sought material with which to direct the great mass of strikers. He found the material, not on the "hill" among those most prominent in the public eye, but in the "valley," among those unknown to the world at large, but known and trusted by their fellow workers. Here were men of many different nationalities and tongues, not "ignorant foreigners," but intelligent workers, trained in the labor movements and the armies of Europe, men of courage and revolutionary spirit.

Inspired by a like spirit among the mass of their fellow workers, these men, this "unknown committee," became the real directors of the great strike. Through them the organization was formed and made effective. Through them the picket system was perfected which in the face of great difficulties became a most effective instrument for keeping away strike breakers, and in the last week of the strike performed the daring feat of sending sixty strikers into the plant, who drove out 300 saboteurs. Through them the swaggering bullies of the state constabulary were notified after they had wantonly killed one of the strikers, that "for every striker's life you take, a trooper's life will be taken." And that ominous warning from the "unknown committee" was heeded by the Cossacks after the O'Donovan bridge riot resulted in the death of four strikers, and three troopers. Then the chief of the

(Continued on Page Four.)

**THE I. W. W. PREAMBLE**

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system. We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wages for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system." It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Knowing, therefore, that such an organization is absolutely necessary for our emancipation we unite under the following constitution.

**INDUSTRIAL WORKER**

Published Weekly by the Local Unions of the Industrial Workers of the World in Spokane, Washington.

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Official Organ of the Pittsburgh District Union of the Industrial Workers of the World

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