



VOLUME I. NUMBER 34.

NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, 1910.

SIX MONTHS, 50 CENTS. \$1.00 PER YEAR

ANOTHER CONSPIRACY

Of the Pressed Steel Car Company of McKees Rocks to Break up the Union is Frustrated by the I. W. W.

By Joseph J. Ettor.

During the entire week of July 16th rumors were afloat around the town of McKees Rocks that on Monday, July 18th, there would be a strike in the Pressed Steel Car shop.

No one seemed to be in a position to state what the strike would be about. Faintly it was heard that the "Americans" are going out for the eight-hour day, with same pay as for ten hours.

Then about the middle of the week members of Local Union 296, Industrial Workers of the World, began to be approached by bosses and shop policemen with the information that "on Monday, John, the Americans are going out on strike. How about you; are you going with them?"

Some of the most active members were then approached by well-known characters—Americans so-called—who, during the last conflicts between the organized workers and the company, had always taken the lead for the latter. One of these stoolpigeons came along and said to one of the most active union men: "Steve, you belong to the I. W. W., don't you?" Upon being told that it was none of his business, he replied:

"Well, I know that you are a member, and a good member; and it's a good thing. We are going out on strike Monday for more pay and shorter hours. What is the I. W. W. going to do? Are they going to help us Americans?"

The Reply of the "Hunkie."

Our fellow worker looked at him a bit, and said:

"What for? Do you want to take us 'Hunkies' upon the hill again, make us do the picketing and offer ourselves as targets for the Cossacks' maces and bullets, and then you will take your flag, and march back to work, as you have done before? Then you will play your usual trick—tell us foreigners to go to hell, and spread it broadcast that our union left us on the street. Nothing doing! We have been begging you fellows to sit right and line up with us in one big union of all workmen, but you replied that you were 'not going to join a Hunkie union.' Well and good. The union 'Hunkies' are going to stay at work, if I have anything to say about it."

To this our "plucky" American hung his head and went back to his job.

Saturday noon, when all were going home, a lot of these so-called Americans got at the gates, saying to all: "Strike Monday, boys; no one comes to work today."

The I. W. W., determined to be led to no trap by company tools, set its agents investigating the whole matter before action should be taken.

Pressed Steel Car Co. Wanted Strike.

From all information obtained, there is no doubt that the company was the main instigator of the proposed "strike," having two objects in view, one connected with the other.

All along the roads on the side tracks clear up to New Castle Junction are lying side hundreds of new Gondola cars made here, and no railroad or coal company seems to want them. They have no use for them, partly due to the miners' strike in the Irwin field, and partly because of the retraction that is taking place.

So the first aim of the Company, no

doubt, is to "slow down," and by having a strike it could easily manage to arrange "things so as to relieve itself of some of the orders it has on hand, thus not only benefiting itself financially by turning out no cars for which cash must be waited, but also offer its customers the excuse of "a strike on our hands."

At the same time the Company would set to work all of its agents, as in the past, clamoring for work, and blame the I. W. W. for starting and continuing the trouble.

One of the most noticeable parts of the conspiracy was the fact that the McKees Rocks News (now the Record) the organ of the Pressed Steel Car Company and the other capitalist institutions here, was conspicuously silent about the rumored strike, when even the Pittsburgh papers were sending their reporters down to union headquarters to see if they could find out anything.

The Union Takes Action.

Local 296 called a mass meeting of its membership for Sunday night, July 17, to consider the situation and what action to take. That meeting was a banner one for

STIRTON ON CIRCUIT FOUR SITUATION AT EXPORT WORLD

I. W. W. Locals and Supporters From Chicago to New York Urged to Get Busy and Make Agitation Tour a Success.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD. 518-56 FIFTH AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILL.

July 25th, 1910.

Fellow Workers:— Fellow Worker A. M. Stirton, who was editor of the "Wage Slave" of Hancock, Mich., and "Solidarity," New Castle, Pa. is going to take up the work of agitation on Circuit No. 4.

This circuit covers the following points: Chicago, Ill.; Detroit, Mich.; Toledo, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Akron, Ohio; Massillon, Ohio; New Castle, Pa.; McKees Rocks, Pa.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Camden, N. J.; Paterson, N. J.; Newark, N. J.; West Hoboken, N. J.; Jersey City, N. J.; New York, N. Y.; Buffalo, N. Y.; Dunkirk, N. Y.; Erie, Pa.;

Rebellious Miners Hear the Voice of Industrial Unionism in Four Languages.

(Special to Solidarity)

Export, Pa., August 1, 1910.

It is now nearly four months since the long enslaved and miserable miners of this district have been out on strike. For years the thousands of miners of Westmoreland county have rested contented with their miserable lot.

At times some brave member of the working class, inspired with hope in his class and with a feeling of hatred for his chains, would become an agitator, and agitate his companions in slavery to action and to organization. But the thorough Russian spy system maintained by the masters, coupled with the antipathy of the workers, as a rule rendered all such efforts abortive. Some good fellows were arrested and sent over the road; others, denied work and bread had either to succumb or get out and go elsewhere in search of a master.

Long hours, short pay on coal produced,

WORLD OF LABOR

The past two weeks have been eventful ones for Labor.

In three States the militia are aiding corporations to break railway strikes.

In South Bend, Ind.; Brooklyn, N. Y.; Wilkesbarre, Pa., and Greensburg, Pa., Pinkertons, strikebreakers, corporation officials and Cossacks have shot and killed strikers.

Taking it all in all this country is, at present, in a condition that denies the theory that capitalists and laborers are brothers with mutual interests. They are classes with antagonistic interests, that are productive of social war.

Below are a few of the many conflicts now being waged between capitalists and laborers that give the lie to "the mutual interests" theory.

The sugar trust strike extended to the Spreckels independent refinery at Yonkers, N. Y. Eight hundred men went out, and won more wages and better conditions in short order.

Over 800 employees of the American Sugar Refinery in Jersey City, N. J., also struck. This strike is still on and is characterized by active co-operation between the police and the trust officials.

In the Williamsburg sugar strike a man was killed and several wounded in a riot, provoked by private detectives for the purpose of breaking the strike. A trust official has been arrested for doing the shooting.

The Grand Trunk R. R. strike still continues. The militia is protecting its property in several States. Conferences are held without result. The engineers may go out against incompetent scab helpers. This would cripple the railroad.

The cloakmakers' general strike in New York City drags on with few changes, if any. Conferences have availed nothing. The bosses stick for the open shop and the men for union recognition and control. There is talk of reconciling the two, but it looks impossible.

The Columbus, O., car strike has assumed a warlike aspect. Militia are now patrolling the streets, following the usual disorders provoked by strikebreakers. Wholesale arrests were made. The workmen of the city are aroused.

After devoting an entire day to consideration of the lookout in force against union miners in the Black Hills district of South Dakota the Western Federation of Miners voted an assessment of \$2 per member to aid the strikers at the Homestake mine. The sum raised by the assessment will be \$140,000.

A jurisdictional fight between elevator constructors, backed by the American Federation of Labor, and machinists, backed by the Otis Elevator Co., threatens a complete tie-up of Chicago building construction. Eighteen thousand men are affected.

According to Terre Haute, Ind., dispatches, the coal miners of district No. 11 of the central field have voted in favor of putting a firing clause into the 1910-12 contract. This means that the long controversy between miners and operators over the contract which was begun last May is

I. W. W. STRIKE IN READING

Complete Tie-up of the Automobile Frame Manufacturing Shop of the Parish Manufacturing Company.

(By Our Special Correspondent)

A history of the causes leading up to the strike at the Parish Manufacturing Company, of Reading, Pa., is pretty much the same as of any other strike at this stage of capitalist evolution. The Parish Manufacturing Co. makes automobile frames. It established its business some years ago in the old Philadelphia & Reading R. R. machine shops at 7th and Chestnut Streets, with flying colors. It made great promises, and fair inducements to labor. The conditions of the workers were fair for a time, but in the past year, these fair conditions changed to very unfair. The bosses began speeding up. Business increased, and hours did likewise; a day and night shift was inaugurated.

Conditions became so bad that the men began whispering complaints to one another. These whispers grew to growls, and the growls to vigorous protests, all to no purpose. Finally, some of the wise ones decided to organize. A paper was circulated, asking signers to organize. Ninety-two names were secured. A meeting was called. A temporary organization was formed, and the following week the firm showed that a spy was on the job. Men were discharged, and strange to say, they were men who were at that first meeting.

The following Saturday another meeting was held, and it decided to join the I. W. W.

The next week things began to hum at the shop. One after the other of the men who had joined were fired. Thursday of that week the men were called to desperation, and the live spirits cried out in protest: "We can not endure this, our manhood, our honor, will not tolerate this treatment."

The result was that a strike was declared right on the spot, and MEN WENT THROUGH THE SHOP, GRABBING THEIR FELLOW WORKMEN, TEARING THEM AWAY FROM THE MACHINES.

The few that failed to go out in the beginning week the firm showed that a spy was on the job. Men were discharged, and strange to say, they were men who were at that first meeting.

The firm has resorted to all the old tricks, and applied to the Mayor for protection. The amusing part of this was, the strikers' committee was consulting with the Mayor when the employers clamored over the phone for police protection. The firm has advertised in the large cities for scabs, while the strikers' ads in the same papers asking men to stay away, were turned down.

The bosses have lied; they have done everything to break the strike. They have brought men from a distance under false representation. The strikers have not done a single act to injure their cause.

The men—many never having been on strike before—act as veterans. The solidarity is magnificent. If they can be maintained in anything like living conditions, they will to all appearances win.

Reading, Pa., July 27, 1910.

C. A. MAURER.

Cleveland, Ohio; Detroit, Mich.; Grand Rapids, Mich., and Chicago, Ill.

In order that the work of agitation be started on this circuit as early as possible, we would request that the organization take immediate action and let us know how many dates you can arrange for Fellow Worker Stirton.

The costs of the dates will be \$3.00 per days and a pro rata of the railroad fare for the trip. Roughly estimated the railroad fare for the trip will not exceed \$2.00 for each point made in the circuit; This would make a cost to the locals of \$5.00 for one day and \$3.00 for each additional day.

Attend to this at once and let us hear from you as to the number of dates you can use on this trip.

With best wishes, I remain Yours for Industrial Freedom,

VINCENT ST. JOHN,

Gen. Secy.

All Local Unions and individuals who are in arrears for bundles of Solidarity are urged to remit for same at once. We are in need of funds. Push the agitation, too, and increase your bundle order.

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Continued on Page Two.

Continued on Page Four.

I. W. W. ACTIVITY

Reports from all sides show growth and activity on the part of the organization comprising the Industrial Workers of the World.

The New York locals are actively engaged in holding a series of street meetings in the principal working class parts of the metropolis.

The Spokane industrial unions are busy raising funds to aid the strike of the Garment Workers' Union No. 188, St. Louis.

The laborers employed by the Pacific Telephone Co. of Spokane are on strike for a raise from \$2.50 to \$2.75 a day. The strike is due to the persuasive powers of local I. W. W. men.

Another I. W. W. strike is on at Reading, Pa., in the plant of the Parrish Mfg. Co., makers of auto frames. It involves riveters, machinists and laborers, who have the plant shut up tight.

The I. W. W. harvesters at Rosalie, Wash., compelled the farmers to pay as high as \$3 to \$3.50 per day to harvest hands. The farmers related with poor boards, so that now a movement is afoot to secure good board as well as good pay.

The Spokane locals have engaged Fellow Worker Franklin Jordan, late of Portland, Ore., as organizer. Jordan is described as a live wire, and is expected to be considerable, with the co-operation of the members. In making the Spokane I. W. W. movement even stronger than it is at present.

Three of the leading Spokane employment agencies are now bewailing a lack of patronage. The Industrial Worker, by its expose of the swindle practiced by these sharks, has made the business a less profitable one. Thanks to it, the jobless worker is no longer plucked as easily as formerly.

The Portland agitation circuit, though not completed as yet, has already been set in motion. Fellow Worker J. P. Thompson has gone from Spokane to Seattle, where he will lecture in the interests of the I. W. W. locals of that city.

Timber workers in and around Hamilton, Montana, are being successfully agitated by Fellow Workers Frank Reed, Pete Brown and others. The press is being plashed. The country is rotten-ripe for organization.

The I. W. W. men of the northwest are quietly at work creating a spirit of unrest and pushing organization among the harvest hands at Pendleton, Walla Walla, Pasco and other places in the harvest country.

In the lumber camps of Washington and Oregon the I. W. W. members are conducting a campaign of education and organization without brass bands and with good results.

Local Los Angeles reports holding a big Sunday meeting recently. Eight hundred slaves listened to the message of industrial unionism delivered by Fellow Worker Mrs. L. Emerson of Local 18, San Diego. There is the usual A. F. of L. general strike going on in Los Angeles. As a result, our fellow worker's address made a good impression.

Local Tacoma reports that it is still growing. Twenty new members were recently added. More are expected. Agitation by members in their place of employment is responsible for the growth reported. "Organize on the job" is the motto of Local Tacoma. Good street meetings are also held every night, with the exception of business meeting nights.

Local Union No. 26, of Denver, Col., is also taking in new members right along. Headquarters are maintained at 1017 1/2th street. Street meetings are held every night. Convention Hall is expected to locate in Denver permanently. The local is boosting the circuit plan. It believes that the speakers and organizers traveling under it will enliven the locals and wake up the natives.

Another local that is progressing rapidly is 318, Sedro Woolley, Wash. Beginning but a short time ago with only a few members, it now has over 75 on its list. Shingle weavers, patternmakers, carmen and loggers are included. The local has taken the lead in erecting a labor temple in the city. The shingle weavers in this district are reported as favoring the I. W. W. A much bigger growth is expected, as a consequence.

The New York locals again appeal for

assistance to make their bazaar and picnic in October a financial success. They so-berly present that may be easily sold at the bazaar. Send them to Willard Northrup, 44 W. 10th street, New York, who will make due acknowledgment of their receipt in the I. W. W. press. The affair will be for the benefit of the agitation fund.

An open-air meeting under the auspices of the I. W. W. National Union of Textile Workers was held on a recent Saturday evening on Market Square, Woonsocket, R. I. The attendance was larger one of the local papers described it as "a goodly gathering of men." Organizer Fielder was in charge of the meeting. He held the attention of his audience to the last.

The latest I. W. W. directory shows 97 locals, with 99 branch organizations, one National Union of Textile Workers, composed of 6 locals, and a general administration, with headquarters in Chicago. In addition there are two national unions in process of formation, one composed of steel and iron workers and the other of lumber workers. The I. W. W. press consists of one Spanish, one French, one Polish, one Italian and two English weekly newspapers. Pamphlets, leaflets and reports are also published in numerous languages. The I. W. W. is a live and growing organization, in better condition than ever before. Join it; all wage workers are welcome, regardless of sex, creed, color, nationality, religion or politics.

THE FERMENT IN PULLMAN

Much Discussion, Preparatory to Action, in the Famous Suburb of Chicago.

Pullman, Illinois.

Editor of Solidarity: As press committee of Local No. 500, I may as well submit an account in short of the state of affairs among the workers here. The few revolutionists in this vicinity are divided into S. L. P.ites (no ambiguity here meant), S. L. P.ites and "bums," alias I. W. W. members. This division causes argument and discussion and ultimate investigation, the last being in all cases favorable to the I. W. W.

At our street corner meetings, we usually have a triangular bombardment of the "masses," by the Salvation Army with its celestial heaven, the Socialist Party with its political millennium and the I. W. W., which promises nothing, but guarantees a good lively scrimmage with the masters, and victory in proportion to organized strength.

But what about the masses? How do the workers take these conflicting addresses?

Well, the music of the Salvation Army diverts them—their Glory Hallelujahs amuse them, and the promise of a home beyond the skies enchants them by its distance, leaving sufficient room for the imagination to interest those whose bumps of fancy are abnormally developed. Fortunately, they are no loss to the I. W. W. And the Socialist Party? Indeed it is thrilling to observe matter and slave standing side by side applying a vivid description by a socialist minister, doctor or lawyer, of a sweet, peaceful revolution by ballot whereby the master is to be gently but firmly disinherited and put to work. A beautiful ideal, quite as beautiful as the eternal post mortem bliss of the Salvation Army, and quite as nebulous. But very easy. Nothing to do but talk Socialism and vote a Socialist into office every four years or so. Expertly master and slave unanimously voting the former out of power! Never mind diversity of interest. Never mind the economic power of the one over the other. They both possess the sign "Faith" of universal "brotherhood" and human "equality," and that is enough! Religion isn't in it with the S. P. for downright faith.

But now, back to earth and earthly conditions. With due apology for the length of my wind, I should like to explain how the Pullman Company raises wages out of the fulness of its cof. . . . heart. A certain gang of men received \$32 per car for a certain kind of work. The company cut them to \$11. Now at \$22 the men were earning 44 cents per hour. Strange to say, the men were ungrateful enough to kick. So, then, the company raised the price to \$16. Greatly encouraged by such generosity, the gang went to work with a will and "knocked out" 44 cents an hour. Six dollars less per car and 5 cents more an hour. And then they paraded around with their thumbs stuck into the place where the amoebae of their vests would have been, if they had had the "gratitude" around that way and proudly asserted they had a raise of 2c an hour! Wouldn't it make an arithmetic bluish?

Hope you will correct mistakes, I am yours for Industrial Unionism and its only advocate, the I. W. W.

WM. D. BORGER, Secretary No. 500, N. B.—Will order literature soon.

ANOTHER CONSPIRACY

Continued From Page One.

When we were outsize, one of these same fellows who is now agitating a strike pleaded that the Company was "good to the Americans, and we should show it in no mistaken action, by all good men going to work in the morning." He said further, "We will not be molested and interfered with by the foreigners. I would advise all to arm themselves, and shoot the first s. o. b. that tries to stop you. I tell you fellows we must kill this I. W. W., for if it should succeed in this district as it is trying to do, it will make our lot more miserable than a dog's." To this exhortation were given the cheers of the combined officialdom of the masters. If these fellows want to strike now let them strike. They said in the past that they needed not the support of the "damned Hunkies."

Next spoke Joseph Schmidt. "He was at his best. He exhorted his hearers to be true to the great history of the McKees Rocks strike of last year. "Be brave," he said, "show these fellows your animosity, that you too have brains that can be used to your own advantage," was his advice.

Cheer after cheer greeted the speakers, and from all parts of the hall could be heard the remark familiar among all uneducated and, until recently, neglected wage slaves of this district, "I. W. W. yest dobre." (The I. W. W. is all right.) The meeting by unanimous vote, resolved:

"That in the event any one started to lead a strike in this mill aside from any sanctioned by the union, we will all remain at work and urge all those who are in the work of organization to remain at work. That we will only strike in the event that the body who goes on strike enroll itself in our ranks as bona-fide members of the Industrial Workers of the World."

"Strike" Fails to Materialize.

On Monday morning nothing happened; all appeared for work; no sign of "strike" was to be noticed.

And thus, once more, the laborers, the unskilled, the despised and so-called "ignorant foreigners" of McKees Rocks showed that they are not to be played with; that their are men who love to struggle for better conditions in life, but they will not be tied by any body that has always shown itself ready at all times to cajole and betray them.

Union Protects Saturday Holiday.

Since the strike last April this is the second attempt upon the part of the Pressed Steel Car Company to provoke trouble and break up the organization of the workers.

Some five weeks ago it posted notices, calling upon the workers of the erection department to turn out to work at 4 o'clock Saturday mornings. The general foreman urged a "good and strong turnout" so that the gang could finish the regular day number of cars. It was a scheme to take away the Saturday half holiday from the workers.

But the I. W. W. union is not bothered by any contract with the company. Whenever anything like that happens the organizers, who stand instructed "with full power to act immediately," get the stencil and rotary machine to work and call a meeting of the union men to take action, and action is taken.

That is just what happened in this case. Result as usual. The word is given, "No work on Saturdays, only a half day. No true workman will pack a dinner pail on Saturday. If he does it is a sure sign that he proposes to scab," and he is remembered by all.

We don't expect this is the last time the Pressed Steel Car Company will test the power of the I. W. W. In fact we hope not; for in the language of the Italian Syndicalists we say: "We don't invite peace or concord. We want to struggle with our oppressors and robbers. We want to fight, yes struggle; for we know that we cannot be defeated. During the struggle comes out the best that is in us."

More anon. Yours for Industrial Freedom through Solidarity,

JOSEPH J. ETTOR. Later—Word comes that one of the gang who attended the meeting on July 17 is spreading the dope that "Extorted for a strike, but the 'Hunkies' would not follow."

The company must really be hard pressed.

J. J. E.

Subscribe for Solidarity and push its circulation. Do it now.

SOLIDARITY

Official Organ of the Pittsburg District Union of the Industrial Workers of the World.

ONLY I. W. W. PAPER

East of the Rocky Mountains.

We are Getting Up Toward the

TEN THOUSAND MARK

KEEP IT GOING!

Liberal Commission to Agents

SOLIDARITY,

P. O. BOX 622

NEW CASTLE, PA.

THE I. W. W. PREAMBLE

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace as 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.

A Red Hot, Fearless Working Class Paper

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ADDRESS

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Box 622 NEW CASTLE, PA.

ILLINOIS COAL MINERS

Demand Resignation of President Tom L. Lewis of the U. M. W. of A.

From Springfield, Ill., under date of July 30, comes the below interesting report of the coal miners' situation, following the "compromise settlement" of the strike by President Lewis and other officials of the United Mine Workers:

Springfield, Ill., July 30.—Fourteen locals of the United Mine Workers of Illinois have passed resolutions demanding that President Thomas L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers and the members of the International Executive Board who voted with him on the compromise presented to the Illinois coal operators, resign their positions in the union.

The move against Lewis' action started at Herrin. Men here and at Herrin point out that only a short time ago the official organ of the Illinois Coal Operators' Association, Fuel, declared that only the intervention of the International Executive Board of the miners, with Lewis at its head, and the disregard of the State officials of the union would settle the matter. Lewis, a few days later, entered the Illinois field and, with the executive board, prepared a compromise, which, among other things, took the engine and pump men out of the jurisdiction of the State officials of the miners and placed them under the power of the executive board of the International organization. This was just what the operators desired, as the calling out of the pump and engine men by the State officials had brought many of the bosses to time.

Practical Failure.

It is predicted that the compromise will be defeated 10 to 1 on a referendum. The resolutions, which had their inception in Herrin, have been passed by 14 locals.

The resolutions recite that the miners of Illinois have been on strike for the last four months, and that the miners are not asking any more than that to which they are justly entitled under the demands framed at Peoria; that many operators have left the Illinois Coal Operators' Association and have signed the "Victory was in our grasp," is a phrase used at that point in the resolutions. Lewis is charged in the resolutions with calling in the International Board over the heads of the State officials and without the consent of the rank and file of the miners of the State. The position of the State officials is indorsed, and the miners are called on to vote the plan of the International Executive Board down.

"Be it further resolved," says the resolution near its close, "that we demand the resignation of President Lewis and of the members of the International Executive Board who voted with him." This refers to the men who voted with Lewis to make the compromise demand on the Illinois operators.

PEONAGE IN CANADA.

Letter From a Workman Arrested and Put on Chain Gang for "Vagrancy."

Some time ago Solidarity referred to a case of peonage in Ontario, Canada, and from the following letter by a fellow worker now in the clutches of the authorities of that Province, it appears that a regular system of peonage is in vogue in that section. Peonage is a form of involuntary slavery, and is well known in the United States as well as Canada. Although involuntary slavery is forbidden by the U. S. Constitution, it exists all the same, and can only be stopped by a national organization on industrial lines. Only a strong industrial union will be able to protect its members from such outrages as are detailed here. The below copy of this victim's letter comes to us from Chicago:

On F. & O. Ry., on the way, July 18, 1910.

Fellow Worker:

I wrote, or at least sent two letters from Sudbury jail, but perhaps you did not receive them.

I was arrested at Wellwood, New Ontario, on the Canadian Pacific. I was charged with "vagrancy, indolent, no visible means of support." I received three months hard labor, June 7.

I did five days in the cells on bread and water, then I was given some food and rest until I left there with the others, this morning, 18th of July.

I have not done any work yet. They may make it pretty warm for me up here. I am in poor health, my heart and lungs are bothering me considerably. From June 27 to July 18 I was not outside of the jail

corridors. Kindly write me at the Sudbury jail and the turnkeys will have it reforwarded. I do not know which camp I am going to yet. I am writing this on the train. I am handcuffed to a chain with seven other fellows who are talking, smoking, etc., so grasp my ideas as best you can.

When arrested my underclothing, top shirt and socks were clean. I had a \$9.00 watch, a \$1.00 knife, a \$10.00 suit and a clean and presentable appearance. I was hunting for a job on Saturday, June 29; arrested on Sunday, June 20.

I begged two homes for something to eat, offered to work for it. One was the Mayor's, which I did not know until I had gone back four or five hours afterward and struck him for a job mixing concrete. He refused me and offered me \$25.00 a month working in the woods; black flies eat you up. I refused him. I wanted \$1.50 a day and board which is the wages around most places within a few miles.

Encl. seal.
(Signed) CHARLES W. CONNOR,
Sudbury (Jail), Ontario.

WORLD OF LABOR

Continued From Page One.

practically ended, and will be signed as soon as the joint convention is called into session. It also means a victory for the operators.

The American Zinc, Lead & Smelting Co. has adjusted the strike at its mines at Joplin, Mo. Five hundred strikers went back to work at the new wage scale, which is a reduction of 25 cents a day.

The Avery Manufacturing Co. of Peoria, Ill., is understood to have laid off 300 men because of the poor outlook for crops in the northwest. The company, which manufactures farm implements, has had a number of men out looking over the crop in that section, and it was on their reports that the hands were discharged.

The Illinois Central, through its vice president, W. L. Park, has issued an appeal to 40,000 employes to make the railroad's interest their own, and strive to educate the people to the idea that railroads need more revenue; that the price of the commodity the railroad sells, transportation, is controlled largely by those who do not and can not know the difficulties and expenses to be met in operating a railroad, is declared, and the employes are told that an attack upon the railroad is an attack upon them.

The Indiana Steel Co. at Gary has paid out \$224,550 to its employes for the first two weeks in July, and at this rate the annual pay roll of the steel company will reach \$7,000,000.

Beginning August 1 it is expected that 10,000 additional men will be employed. The pay is \$40,000 less than the first two weeks in June. Although many reports have gone out that there is a period of retrenchment, officials of the company deny the report and say the decrease in the pay roll is due to the usual summer slackness.

The officials of the Delaware & Hudson road and others who have been arrested, charged with the killing of James Ciccone, the striker, at Wilkesbarre, Pa., were released on bail. They are J. H. Rosenstock, trainmaster; C. A. Morgan, assistant trainmaster; O. E. Culbertson, general yardmaster; J. J. Rounds, chief engineer; M. W. Sullivan, road foreman of engines; the train crew in charge of Engineer Gilroy and Conductor Ruddy; Thomas J. G. Arnest and John Mesko of the State constabulary, and two strike-breakers, James Johnson and George Wilson.

LABOR IN PENNSYLVANIA

The Cambridge Coal Co. colliery at Shenandoah, which have been idle for two months undergoing extensive repairs, has resumed operations on a five-day schedule, giving employment to several hundred men. All the washeries of the Reading Coal & Iron Co. and individual concerns were put on full time until further notice.

The striking coal miners in the Irwin, Greensburg and Jamison fields in Pennsylvania, have been notified by the International Executive Board of the United Mine Workers that a committee consisting of some of the most prominent officials of the union has been appointed to endeavor to bring about a settlement of the strike. The appointment of this committee seems to give a new color to the strike situation. It is said, however, by persons in close touch with the operators that the recogni-

tion of the union is out of the question.

After several weeks of negotiations with employes in different branches of its service, the Philadelphia & Reading Railway Co. has adjusted its wage scale to a basis similar to that prevailing on the New York Central. In addition to a general increase the company grants other increases in certain departments.

Reports received from Chicago announce that the wage conference between the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers and the conference committee of the Western Bar Association has reached an agreement, the wage scale being signed on the basis of the Republic Iron and Steel Co. settlement, which gives the men an advance of from 6 to 10 per cent.

It is asserted by A. D. Lowe, International President of the Maintenance of Way Employers' Union, who has charge of the strike of the 1,500 trackmen on the Delaware & Hudson at Carbondale, that the men get only \$6.30 a week. They are paid \$1.26 a day of 9 hours, but are allowed to work only five days a week. They want to work six days of 10 hours each. Section men on the Boston & Maine get \$1.80 a day. The same scale is paid on the Pennsylvania, Jersey Central and other lines competitive to the Delaware & Hudson.

Pittsburg Civil Service Commission medical examiners are wondering if Pittsburg men are becoming shorter in stature. Out of 11 applicants in one examination nine were found too short in stature, while out of 29 examined later 25 were disqualified, a majority of whom were too short. The commission requires applicants to be at least 5 feet 7 inches tall. The hard labor of the Pittsburg mills is stunting the working class of the district.

LABOR IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Almost 25 per cent of the machinery at New Bedford is reported to be idle. Curtailment is the cause.

Thirty Fall River mills employing 8,000 textile operatives are shut down for the purpose of curtailing production.

At Biddeford and Saco, Maine, 5,000 textile operatives are affected by the closing of mills in order to curtail production. At Dover, N. H., 2,900 operatives are affected.

It is estimated that curtailment now effective among Southern mills amounts to from 35 to 50 per cent among cloth mills and from 50 to 65 per cent among yard mills.

The American Woolen Co. mills at Providence, R. I., are shut down for two weeks. Five thousand operatives are affected. The Skinner silk mills at Holyoke, Mass., are also closed down.

The Mason Machine works at Taunton, Mass., employing 300 men, have gone on a schedule of five days a week. A falling off in the demand for cotton mill machinery is the cause of the curtailment.

The Federation of Master Cotton Spinners of Manchester, Eng., at a recent meeting, ratified a five-year agreement with the operatives on the wage question. The Federation recommended a continuance of short time running and increased curtailment wherever possible.

EUROPEAN LABOR TROUBLES

The shipbuilding companies of Hanburg have refused the demands of their workmen, 35,000 of whom have united for an increase of 10 per cent in wages and a 53-hour week. The companies now propose that a conference be held.

Grave diggers in Pere Lachaise cemetery, the largest in Paris, went on strike on July 30 because of the employment of a non-union workman. Grave diggers at all the other cemeteries threatened to go out unless the non-union man is discharged. Soldiers are doing the work of the Pere Lachaise strikers.

There is considerable apprehension of a general railway strike in France. The optimism expressed by some high railway officials does not seem to satisfy Premier Briand, who is taking energetic measures to guarantee the working of the various systems by the artillery. Train maneuvers have been proceeding for some time at military headquarters at Versailles, while regiments of sappers are rehearsing possible duties on the state owned lines.

FOR THE 20,000

Now is the Time for Everyone to Hustle for Subs to Solidarity.

We have nothing startling to report in the way of sub-getting the past week. A. M. Stirtion's work in Michigan has ended for the time being, but he will soon take up the agitation again on Circuit No. 4, and carry it all along the line in the east from Chicago to New York and back. See the provisional schedule elsewhere in this issue.

Local unions and individual hustlers along the way should work hard to make these meetings of Stirtion a success, not only in the way of organization, but also to build up the circulation of SOLIDARITY and the other I. W. W. papers.

Be sure to send for a good big bundle before the date of the meeting, or let us know the date and we will have the papers there.

A good plan would be to get bundles of SOLIDARITY for several weeks beforehand and distribute them judiciously from house to house, canvass for subs and advertise the meeting.

Fellow Worker Otto Schmidt, of McKees Rocks, is getting results on his plan of soliciting subs in that vicinity. He distributes a bundle of SOLIDARITY in a certain part of the town for two or three weeks in succession, and then goes over the route again, soliciting the houses for subs. A number have come in this week as a result of his systematic work. Schmidt is also Johnny on the spot at every picnic or outing of the I. W. W. and other organizations, and never fails to land a few subs. This sort of work counts. Let others take it up.

Bundle orders are good. Individual subs rather slow. Our regular edition of 5,000 copies was completely exhausted last week on Friday morning, one day before the date of publication. A few belated bundle orders had to be cut down. We hope to increase the regular edition to 6,000 in August. That will depend upon your activity. Push it along to 20,000 by Christmas, fellow workers.

NOTICE, CHEYENNE!

I, W. W. soap box agitators when coming through CHEYENNE, Wyo., stop and help to build the Local here.

TEXTILE WORKERS' CONVENTION.

All readers of Solidarity living in Philadelphia who can help in arranging meetings while the textile workers' delegates are in the city (September 8, 9 and 10) are urged to get in touch with the Textile Workers' Union of Philadelphia. Address all mail to Local No. 425, I. W. W., Kensington Labor Lyceum, Second and Cambria Sts., French Textile Box. Please also notify Francis Miller, 12 Rosemont Terrace, Lymanville, R. I.

Delegates should bring along full sets of the quarterly financial reports sent out from the National office, to check off the report of the auditing committee.

Notice, Butte, Mont.

All communications for the I. W. W., Propaganda League of Butte, Mont., should be addressed to:

J. W. BLETTE, Fin. Sec.,
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