



HARRIMAN STRIKE SITUATION IN THE CHICAGO SHOPS

(Speaks for Solidarity.)

Chicago, Oct. 9.
A word in regard to the Illinois Central strike at the Burnside shops may be of interest to the industrial unionist of the country. It may also throw a side-light upon the so-called federation and show up the real character of industrial unionism as advocated by the A. F. of L.

The federation does not include all men upon the railways but only the skilled workers within the shop. It practically leaves out of account all unskilled workers on the inside. It still retains the system of collecting a new initiation fee from anyone who changes from one line of craft work to another, and has made no attempt to lower these fees. It appears to have had no other results than the creation of an extra set of parasitic officeholders.

There are in no case more than 9 of the 10 railway crafts involved in this strike and in some places only 5 crafts are on strike. It is sure that the strike will prove a failure unless by some miracle the crafts upon the rolling stock should disregard their sacred contracts and refuse to continue to scab.

Among the strikers at Burnside are 1800 unorganized workers—mostly Hungarian, Polish, Lithuanians, Italians and Russian. These are standing firm with the strikers, but there seems to be no disposition on the part of the A. F. of L. to care for these men.

The I. W. U. is holding numerous meetings among them in different languages. A lack of literature is a great handicap and must be overcome if the I. W. U. is to make any headway among the vast foreign speaking population of the industrial centers. Those who have been speaking so far are Wm. E. Trautmann, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Joseph J. Elzer, Walker C. Smith in English, Chas. Rothfischer in Hungarian, and A. A. Zielinski in Polish. Some of these have been on the ground at all times.

The foreign speaking element are better grounded in the labor movement than are the English speaking workers and if left to themselves would instinctively organize on correct lines. But even at this early stage of the strike it is clearly seen that the "Hunkies" are to be used by the craft union leaders to pull chestnuts out of the fire. They will be cast aside as soon as the strike is concluded.

At the beginning of the strike there was a lot of talk about shorter hours and higher wages but already this has been frowned down by the leaders. At a mass meeting—opened with prayer—the leaders, about 20 in number, stated that the fight was solely for recognition of the federation. Where will that leave the 1800 unorganized at the end of the strike?

The speakers, most of them socialists

candidates at the last election, handed forth the rottenest kind of dope of which the following are samples.

One Christian Socialist said, "Federation is not a new idea. God believed in federation. He placed Eve in the garden with Adam that they might federate. For 29 years I have been federated and I want to say that I thoroughly believe in it. We are going to federate the workers on the railways."

A sanctified brother handed out the following: "The formation of a Church Federation was the first modern step in that direction. If it is good for the churches it must also be a desirable thing for the wage earners."

Another Socialist Party leader of the federation delivered himself of the following gem of thought: "There is no such thing as a good time to strike. If you strike in the winter you have to stay in the house to keep warm, and if you strike in the summer you have to go to the parks to keep cool."

One of the corpulent, salaried officials said: "Boys we'll win this strike if we have to stay out for 23 months. We'll manage to get along, somehow."

Nearly all the speakers spent most of their time calling Hearst names because of the incorrect accounts of the strike appearing in the Hearst papers. This was merely political claptrap as other speakers are just as incorrect yet they were not mentioned.

It is no wonder that the rank and file of the A. F. of L. are not further advanced when they have had more than 25 years of conservative training, and at this late date the above passes for "socialistic radicalism." This brand of socialism would kill the fighting spirit of any body of men. Strike meetings opened with prayers, delivered by members of the Socialist Party. Even Judas would blush to witness such infamy.

The I. W. U. organized some of the unskilled workers and has gained the respect of the rest. The committee of these organized men has already demanded the following from the company:

- A nine hour day.
- Abolition of all hospital fees.
- Abolition of the pension system.
- Discharge of foremen known to have grafted upon the men.

The unskilled workers can, if organized, return to the work at the same time, as the "federated" employers can use their strength to gain better conditions for themselves. Their body will act as a nucleus for the ONE BIG UNION in the transportation industry which will finally operate the railway system in the interests of the workers.

WALKER C. SMITH.

Now is the Time!

Just now, if ever, I. W. U. agitators ought to be alive. And every I. W. U. member ought to be an agitator. There is nothing that catches the ear of the slaves at present as readily as the proposal of ONE BIG UNION on the industrial field. All workers want that union. They want to know how to get it. We must show them that it all depends upon themselves. We must inspire them with a knowledge of the forms of organization and the tactics that will put backbones in the mass of workers. We must warn them against misleaders who would betray them. We must gain their confidence in our integrity and singleness of purpose, before we can hope to organize them.

Don't depend on industrial and social conditions alone. Remember, the capital-

ist enemy is always busy weaving its network of CONTROL throughout those conditions, in order to make social evolution conform to capitalist class interest.

We must not drift along with conditions, but must do our part towards circumventing the enemy's plans.

Get busy everywhere and keep busy with I. W. U. agitation and education!

Boost the I. W. U. papers. Order prepaid cards and sell them.

Get literature, and help the I. W. U. Publishing Bureau to print more.

Agitate, educate, and ORGANIZATION will follow!

"Why Strikes Are Lost?" is just the pamphlet now. Order from this office.

RAILROAD MEN No Scab So Despicable as a Union Scab

TIE UP THE ROAD! Use L. W. W. Tactics Solidarity Wins!

The above is a copy of a sticker used by the San Francisco I. W. U. in their agitation during the Harriman Railroad strike. Other locals in railroad centers should get same printed and circulated in their localities. Help to stop union scabbing!

KANSAS CITY POLICE

Again Busy Disturbing and Breaking Up I. W. W. Meetings—Albert V. Roe Arrested and Fined.

(Speaks to Solidarity.)

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 9.
On last Friday a bunch of fellow workers and myself went to the corner of Sixth and Main streets to hold a street meeting and advertise Fellow Worker Thompson's meeting in the ball in the evening. Fellow Worker Moore of Cheyenne took the soap box and talked for about half an hour. He was followed by Fellow Worker Reeder. We had a fair crowd. When Reeder was done, I took the soap box and started to explain to the crowd why we were compelled to hold our meetings on a narrow street in a poor locality, while the sky pilots and the starvation army were allowed to hold forth at Market Square, where the streets were wider.

I had spoken but a few minutes, when a big sergeant of police and another ball came charging down the street, broke into our meeting and pulled me off the box. I asked him what the trouble was, and he told me that the cockroaches in the neighborhood were complaining that we were disturbing their mid-day dreams, and we would have to move on. I tried to reason with the "representative of law and order," but there was nothing doing. He told me to beat it or he would run me in. I refused to beat it, and he escorted me to the police station.

I was charged with "disturbing the peace, blocking the street, inciting the people to disregard the sacred law," and a few other things. I was being searched, a bull, who happened to make a hit with the chief, butted in and claimed that I had been caught several times trying to pass things into the county jail. I told him he was a liar, and I could prove it. He got sore at being called a liar, and struck me in the face with his club.

I was in the can all night, and the next day in kangaroo court was given a \$50 fine. A couple of fellow workers put up \$10 in the afternoon to bail me out, and my case was appealed to the superior court to come up Oct. 20.

We are unable to hold street meetings here now, and it would be foolish to start a free speech fight here this winter; but Kansas City should be put on the map the first thing next spring. The city is badly in need of a dose of direct action and has got to be put on the map before we can hope to do much here. We have had some banners painted and will parade the streets tomorrow, agitating for the one big union and the general strike to free the McNamara brothers.

Thompson had some good meetings here last week.

ALBERT V. ROE.

Agitate for the 8-hour day! Order literature and sub cards.

BATTLE IN MISSISSIPPI!

Strikers in South Use Guns Against Scabs

(New Orleans "Item," Oct. 4)

"That dozens of men were not killed at McComb City is a miracle," said Edward James, who was in charge of the 500 men who came to New Orleans for the Illinois Central Railroad company to take the place of the men who have gone out on a strike. James was referring to the miniature battle which took place in McComb City (Miss.) Tuesday night when the strikebreakers passed through that town and either precipitated or were the victims of an attack which resulted in the calling out of the State militia by Gov. Noel.

"We reached McComb City about 2 P. M.," said James Wednesday morning when seen at the Stuyvesant dock yards. "The train in which the 500 men were took a switch and they got off to eat sandwiches. We had orders to put 120 of the men in McComb to replace the striking employees. Everything went along all right until the train started to pull out to get on the main line. On each side of the track were fully 400 strikers. They were not bunched but seemed to have had prearranged plans. I say this because they were scattered in such a way as to insure none of them being hurt when the firing would begin.

"Our train had hardly got to the main line when suddenly from both sides volley on top of volley of revolver and shotgun shots were poured into our car. Our men did not fire back because they had nothing to shoot with. We had something like 375 men on the train then, having left off about a quarter of our original force at McComb. The men in my charge absolutely did nothing to warrant the attack and behaved themselves well.

"Before we reached McComb City and were passing on our way to the station, our train was going at the rate of about five miles an hour. There were a lot of strikers playing ball in a field nearby where our train had to pass and without any cause they began stoning the occupants of the car. No one was injured, and when we reached the station we thought everything would be all right, but they were lined up and waiting for their chance."

James says the majority of the men came from Buffalo, N. Y., and Philadelphia and would be placed to work in New Orleans during the day. At the Stuyvesant Dock, shed No. 31, a regular hotel has been fitted out for the accommodation of the men. Wednesday morning when the reporter for the Item called the men were at breakfast. There were some 400 of them whom James said had not yet been assigned to duty, but would be Wednesday during the day. He said the majority of the men were mechanics. The men told a graphic story of the shooting and held diverse opinions as to how many shots were actually fired. Some held that 1,000 shots were fired, while others placed the number as high as 5,000.

The eight coaches comprising the train in which the men arrived in New Orleans were riddled with bullets. The windows were smashed to pieces and the coaches looked like they had been the target for a number of gatling guns. The men said that when the firing began they laid down in the cars. Not one was killed or injured.

The arrival of the strikebreakers was witnessed by a number of strikers who have headquarters near the docks, but there was no attempt by the strikers in any way to interfere with the new arrivals. The strikers were very orderly in every way.

TO ORGANIZE THE LUMBER INDUSTRY

At a regular business meeting of Local 432, I. W. W., Seattle, Wash., the following motion was discussed:

"That we put men in the lumber industry as organizers, giving each one a certain district; to visit each worker personally to try to get him to join the union or get his reasons for not doing so. Organization should be placed on a salary or commission basis, and that they should be men experienced as organizers, but not necessarily members of the organization. That we set aside a space of two weeks for them to send in applications for positions as organizers, the names to be placed in a prominent position at headquarters and the men selected at a regular business meeting of the local. Other organizers not members to be selected in a similar manner. This motion to be sent out to all the members of the Local whose addresses are in possession of the Secretary and that the vote be closed and counted on the second meeting in the month of October."

After much discussion on minor details the motion as a whole was defeated. But as all were agreed that there was need for better and more efficient methods of organizing, a committee was elected to draw up resolutions to be sent to members and to Solidarity for discussion with a view to a referendum vote on the motion as a whole or in a modified form.

Therefore we, the committee duly elected, present the following resolutions: That the lumber industry be divided into districts. Each district to be convenient for organization purposes, the organizers to be placed in such districts for a

certain period of time, changing from time to time, as the Local sees fit.

Organizers work on a salary and commission basis. Organizers to be hired by the Locals in their respective districts. If found advisable to hire organizers outside the union, such organizers to be men of real ability, having had experience in similar work, to have no vote or voice in the Locals and to work under instructions of Locals at all times; to be hired and fired whenever found advisable. Any organizers hired by Locals to visit camps and mills to see every worker personally and try to get him to join the union, or get his reason for not doing so.

All organizers to put in their application to Locals and the Locals to place their names in a prominent place at headquarters, the same to be accepted or rejected at the business meeting.

These resolutions to be sent to a referendum vote of the Lumber Workers' Locals, the date to be fixed at some future time.

Signed: John Musselman, Earl Osborne, G. W. Kinney, committee.

The resolutions were accepted at the business meeting of Local 432 on Sunday, Sept. 10, and the secretary was instructed to get the same out as a referendum to all members of the Local, which has already been done. Any member not receiving one should communicate with the secretary of Local 432.

J. H. REYNOLDS, Fin. Sec.

ST. LOUIS I. W. U.

Local 84, I. W. U., St. Louis, Mo. open headquarters at 1214 Frank. Business meeting every Friday, 8 P. M. Soap boxes coming through please drop in. All slaves welcome.

Wm. YOUNG, Sec'y.

SOLIDARITY

EASTERN ORGAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

P. O. Drawer #32

New Castle, Pa.

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GENERAL OFFICERS

Vincent St. John, General Sec'y-Treas.
W. E. Trautmann, General Organizer

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

J. J. Ector, Chas. Scowlock, C. H. Arason,
Francis Miller, George Spood.

WATCH FOR YOUR NUMBER.

Each subscriber will find a number opposite his name on the wrapper enclosing SOLIDARITY. For instance 94. That means that your sub. expired last week, and you should renew. This is NUMBER **95**

DON'T OVERLOOK THIS!

Local secretaries and sub hustlers appear to have forgotten Solidarity in the past two or three weeks. Our receipts have been very meager in that period, while expenses are heavier than usual. Bundle bills must be paid promptly and if possible in advance, to insure us getting through the month with anything like a clear date. No further credit will be extended on bundle accounts of long standing. All such bundles will be cut off our list after this issue, unless we hear from the bills.

How about those three months' sub cards? The convention urged all locals to buy at least \$5.00 worth each, and try to dispose of them as rapidly as possible, with a view to getting more. This is a practical plan, and every local ought to brace up and try it. So far only one local has come through with an order and the cash sub cards.

How about that ad for your local headquarters, at the rate of \$5.00 per year? Here's another thing that will help us wonderfully, and ought to be easy for you. Up to date, only three locals have responded, and the total cash for advertising is only \$3.00.

We dislike to make these admissions, but they seem necessary. If the press and literature bureau are not worth maintaining, let us know about it soon. The office force here is human, and dislike to be tortured by uncertainty. Let us have some interest in behalf of our press! Wake up!

PHASES OF THE HARRIMAN STRIKE

There are several phases of the Harriman Railroad's stop strike worth noting at this time. For one thing, the so-called "system federation" is on trial and its true character is being revealed as in the limelight. It is found to be in form simply an aggregation of "international" craft unions no one of which has surrendered any of its official machinery of high dues and initiation fees, contracts, etc., or shows any tendency to organize all workers—skilled and unskilled—in any subdivision of the industry. The strike, according to its official spokesmen, is not for better wages or better conditions, but simply for recognition of the "system federation."

The question may be asked, then, why all this fuss on the side of the corporation,

over a little thing like this? Why don't the Harriman Railroad company recognize the "system federation" as a harmless thing, anyway, and be done with the trouble? Another phase of the strike situation as it appears just now may help to answer that question. That is the attitude of the rank and file of strikers. Whatever may be the game of the craft officials, the strikers as a whole appear to be in dead earnest. Besides, the discerning student of events can see that their tactics are changing. A tendency in American strikes is to disregard the orders of labor leaders and to make it more difficult for the latter to control their men. The rank and file seem to be about to take things into their own hands. That is the grave danger confronting all employers of labor just now, and doubtless many employers have perceived that danger. At least some of the union spokesmen, the craft papers, are proclaiming it constantly, as will be noted elsewhere in quotations from two of them about the objection of industrial unionism. In this sense, the "system federation" becomes the embodiment of a higher form of union, and therefore a potential if not an actual menace to the employing class. To recognize this "new form" would mean to give it a practical demonstration and thereby result in clearing it off the field as a part of the cost of experience of the slaves. A better way, from the employers' standpoint, would be to nip the "system federation" in the bud thereby keeping alive in the workers' minds the illusion that that was just the organization they needed. At least, that would appear to be the logical reason, in view of the changing and menacing attitude of the rank and file.

The chief characteristic of the "new attitude" of the strikers is their tendency to violence aggressiveness. This is getting more and more pronounced in American strikes. Scabs in various sections find it exceedingly unhealthy work trying to break the railroad strike. Around New Orleans and other Southern division points the mobbing of strikebreakers by armed strikers or sympathizers is an every day report. Similar stories of violence come from other sections as well. Strikes nowadays are assuming more and more of the characteristics of an unyielded civil war, wherein the strikers are learning to play the aggressor. This augurs not well for the employing class. It presages the advent of the One Big Union of Slaves that will put the masters to work.

Of course the inevitable "injunction" appears in this strike, as usual, furnished reasons to some politicians who desire to "represent the working class" through the courts. In this instance, a demand is made for an injunction that will "dissolve the system federation," on the ground that it is "a labor trust" under the provisions of the Sherman anti-trust law. Not only that, but the threat is made by the Harriman attorneys to institute criminal proceedings against all labor leaders who are in any way prominent in the affairs of the federations. Up to this writing, the injunction has not been issued or the criminal proceedings instituted. Perhaps they are only intended as threats to spur the labor officials to greater exertions in breaking the strike or bamboozling the strikers. At first thought, it appears highly amusing to note the great flutter in labor's camp upon the appearance of the "order of the court." But that is due, of course, not so much to fear in the minds of the slaves, as to their "respect for judicial opinions" even when the judges are known to be notorious corporation tools. "A craft union 'labor trust' may be dissolved by an injunction. But the One Big Class Union of the workers will laugh at all judicial puppets in their efforts to dissolve it."

This railroad strike as a whole is contradictory. It presents both reactionary and progressive features. It seems to show that the craft union is passing, and that a new form and tactics in labor organization are about to take its place. On with the I. W. W. agitation!

NEW PAMPHLET OUT

"Why Strikes Are Lost," the new pamphlet, is selling rapidly. Send in your orders at once, with the cash. Price 5 cents per copy; in quantities to Local Unions, 3 cents per copy.

SUPERIOR, WIS.

Until further notice, all communications to Local 247 should be addressed to Jas. L. Corbin, Fin. Sec'y., 1616 N. 5th St., Superior, Wis.

SOLIDARITY

PRICE ACQUITTED

UNANIMOUSLY

Prosecution of Liberal Commander Proves Utter Fiasco.

("Regeneration," Los Angeles)

Gen Carl Rhy's Pryce, late in command of the Mexican Liberal Party forces in Lower California, has been declared innocent of the charges of robbery made against him at the instigation of the Mexican authorities, United States Commissioner William Van Dyke expressing himself thus: "It is needless to dwell at length on the testimony that has been adduced in this case. I am satisfied a state of war existed in Lower California at the time of the alleged crime, and that the movements of the defendant were a part of the general campaign waged against the old administration. The defendant is discharged."

Frank Stewart, formerly assistant prosecuting attorney for the United States government but now retained by the Mexican authorities, thereupon moved that the charges of murder and arson be dismissed.

Attorney Holsten and Sawyer are to be congratulated on the success with which they broke down completely the network of alleged evidence in which the Mexican authorities endeavored to entangle the defendant, and the action of the prosecution in putting the Mexican consul on the stand seems worthy of special notice. Under cross-examination he refused to answer questions, asserting that his correspondence was privileged, and Commissioner Van Dyke remarked pointedly that to bring out apparently damaging evidence on direct examination and then decline to submit to cross-examination was indefensible.

Two indictments charging Gen. Pryce with violation of the neutrality laws are still pending and he has been returned to the county jail, but it is hoped that the \$2500 bonds necessary for his release may be forthcoming without delay.

The Mexicans authorities are still seeking the extradition of Jack R. Mosby, J. B. Laffin and Samuel L. Reed, and we are justified in reminding our readers that such extradition will be tantamount to death. Efforts to bring about results similar to that which happily has attended the prosecution of Gen. Pryce should not be relaxed for a single instant. We are satisfied that their counsel and the large section of the public which is in full sympathy with the accused will not abate their vigilance.

I. W. W. ORGANIZER KIDNAPPED IN B. C.

The kidnaping of officers and employes of working class organizations is becoming fashionable. The latest addition to the list of victims of this nefarious and therefore, more acceptable practice, is Fellow Worker J. S. Biscay.

Any one following the unusually rapid progress of Local 327 since its inception, will not be surprised at this. The contractors, disimfounded at the sight, marvelous even for those against whom the movement is directed, of seeing the displaced and heretofore absolutely unorganized workers employed on railroad construction work, come together and form a union along the whole line of the C. N. R. R., now under construction, had sooner or later to come back at the young but healthy and strong organization.

Like everybody else, who is regaining his senses after having been hit on the head with a brick, the contractors coming out of their stupor, did the wrong thing. They reasoned that by taking the leader they would have the rest of it in the hollow of their hands. But they have only one of them and by the time they get the rest of them they will have nobody to build their railroads for them.

But here is how it happened: Fellow Worker Biscay, organizer for Local 327, was visiting a camp 15 miles from Grant, Smith & McDonald's works, near Savona. While busy agitating among the boys in the bunkhouse, the walking boss, who goes by the name of Tom Woodbury, arrived on the scene and commanded him to get out.

Fellow Worker Biscay declared his willingness to do so, provided the boys in the camp desired it also. Of course such was not to be, and Tommy had to take leave rather hastily. All went well and as it was late, Fellow Worker Johnson offered

Biscay to share his bunk. In the meantime the boss had sent the time keeper across the lake to phone to Superintendent Murdock.

About 11 o'clock Biscay woke up on the floor, with Supt. Murdock, Walking Boss Woodbury, and to complete the trio, the policeman (so-called) from Savona, cuffling him into his clothes. Before any of the boys could get their eyes opened enough to see, they had Biscay well on the way to Savona.

All this took place without any formality, warrants, etc., being considered superfluous. In searching his grip a gun was found, and this gave somebody the inspiration to word the charge "A dangerous character and a menace to society." After this proof of the justice that they dispense at Savona (a throw-up-around-the-water-knuff) Biscay demanded that his case be transferred to Kamloops.

There he is now, looking through the bars, but it must be said in justice to the jail at Kamloops that it is a better place to live in than the camps on the C. N. R. He had no complaint to make, when his case had to be postponed until Friday, Oct. 6, owing to the absence of his lawyer.

In the meantime Local 327 is still progressing, and the gain on the part of the contractors is not noticeable, if there is any. But there is a little more than a suspicion that Supt. Murdock is out some of the long greets. Maybe the "iron arm of the law" at Savona could give particulars.

ARTHUR HOLLAND.
Lytton, B. C.

COMMENTS ON CONVENTION

The hall in which the Sixth annual convention of the I. W. W. was held, Schweizer Turner Hall, has a place in the history of the American labor movement as the hall in which the American Labor Union was launched and buried.

The delegates truly represented the I. W. W., nearly all young men, live wires! It was interesting to see them at committee work at headquarters evenings. Most of them seemed as familiar with the operation of the various makes of typewriters, the adding machine, or mimeograph, as graduates of "business colleges" instead of being lumber jacks, building workers, textile workers, or floating workers of the West.

The recess on Wednesday afternoon in honor of the Chicago martyrs was a happy idea. It is not likely that the delegates and friends that filled two to 'LD' cars will soon forget that trip to Waldheim. Revolutionary songs were the order of the day on the out-bound trip.

This convention was educational par excellence. The time spent in discussing the Pacific Coast District Organization was well spent. The friction caused by the various propositions was clearly shown to be due to misunderstanding on all sides, and it is safe to say that all the delegates were satisfied at that point before the discussion was closed.

The fraternal delegates of the Brotherhood of Timber Workers made a good impression. They are fighters and know what they are after.

Here are a few stray shots from the "daffydill" corner, selected from the "doings" of the "bunch," a little group of delegates, who found time to perpetrate them in spite of the regular convention work and committee duties. (The names of the guilty parties will not be revealed.)

If Douglas don't know what is the mates with the P. C. D. O., does Filig—? If the I. W. W. fosters comradeship, what does W. Z. Foster?

If Koettgen heads the list of delegates, what does Tom White—head?

If a Fiji islander would have eaten a woman, would Joe also Etor?

If Perry can run like hell, how fast can George Speed?

If the rank and file of the I. W. W. rule the organization, where will the G. E. B.?

This convention by unanimous consent is the best since the Second convention of the I. W. W. Its work impressed me with the urgent need of the hour, to which all efforts should be bent: First, to strengthen our press by building for suits and seeing to it that our organizations do the same, and by contributions. Second, the building up of a National Industrial Union of Lumber Workers. This work falls mainly on our fellow workers of the West; and unless all signs fail, they will prove that they are on the job.

F. MILLER.

On Strike

Workers Who ...

in Them, A.

To the wage working class of a ... Thirty-five thousand workers at ... are on strike in the railroad shops ... Harriman lines west of Chicago.

But only 20,000 of those men were organized in their respective craft unions, federated together in a so-called shop federation. All other workers are of that class called by the trade union leaders the "unorganizable." They have no place in their unions for this class of workers.

In the Burdick shops of the Illinois Central system there are at present 3,000 workers on strike. Of these about 1,800 are organized in the nine craft unions federated together in the shop federation. One of the unions, also affiliated with the American Federation of Labor—the International Association of Car Workers—signed a separate contract with the Illinois Central Railroad Co., thereby assisting the company to retain 300 workers as union scabs, and forcing all other scabs when taking employment to put in their application for membership in that organization.

But 1,200 of the so-called unskilled, whom there is no place in the federations of the American Federation of Labor, could not be bribed by the corporation to scab on the trade unions who had called the strike. They were offered a slight improvement in their working conditions, but only ten of them snapped at the bait. All the rest are on strike, willing to stay out until the rest of their fellow workers are ready to resume work again.

Of these 1,200 there are 500 Hungarians, 400 Poles and Lithuanians, 100 Rutherfords and Russians, 150 Italians, and 50 Austrian Germans, also 14 Americans who are members of the Industrial Workers of the World and who would not scab on their fellow men.

All of these men have now formed an organization, and although we do not agree with the outworn and antiquated tactics employed in this strike by the leaders of the craft federated unions, yet we have no say in the direction of the strike, except that we furnish the pickets and perform other necessary duties which the other organizations have neglected and discouraged.

But if the thousands on strike are not supported there is danger of many of them accepting the bribe of better wages, promotion to the ranks of the "skilled," and returning to work before the strike is ended.

Money is needed to feed the hungry! Most of them have made only 16 cents per hour, a magnanimous salary indeed, in hard and oppressive toil.

These are plain statements of facts. We know that you will not desert us because we refuse to desert the members of our class, and thereby do the bidding of the employing class.

Money is needed—needed at once! We appeal to you to support the men, to help support the families depending up on them for their livelihood.

Please send all contributions to William Rice, treasurer, 213 West 110 Place, Chicago, Ill., who will promptly acknowledge receipt.

Thanking you in advance for any every little help you may give, we remain

Yours for Industrial Freedom,
R. R. Workers' Industrial Union No. 250,
Per Wm. Rice, Treas.,
213 W. 110 Place, Chicago, Ill.

KIRBY CAN'T STOP TIMBER WORKERS

Brotherhood of Timber Workers, Alexandria, La., Oct. 2.

Editor Solidarity: Everything is booming with the B. of T. W. Our office force is working day and night, and it seems that we can't catch up. The mills shutting down have had no effect on this organization. Our skies were never clearer. In spite of the boss the boys are determined to unite on the industrial field.

Yours in will the cause,
JAY SMITH, Secretary.

VICTORIA, B. C.

The I. W. W. has no new locals here in Victoria, B. C. We will have a hall at 1830 Langley St. Treasurer's Local meets first and third Fridays of each month. Recruiting local meets every Monday at 8 p. m. Members coming this way are invited to call and see us.

J. WEBB, Sec'y.

GERMANY

L. Foster.

(Continued from No. 94.)

Contracts.

The contract is another favorite Socialist scheme of choking the fighting spirit of the unions. The dominating central committees tie the workers up with contracts that force them to scab on each other. They call this procedure "fighting the boss." At first the stiff-necked employers couldn't see the beauty of this plan. But they are learning that there are more ways of killing an elephant than feeding it to death on peacock tongues. The contract system is becoming popular with them. So much so that the highest court in Germany has held it to be legally binding. Unions have been jeeringly "stung" financially for breach of contract. In Hamburg, 1906, a few wood workers, locked out as a result of taking May Day off, got sore and struck. Their employers claimed this was a breach of contract and sued the "Woodworkers' Union." This organization crawled out of the affair by placing the responsibility on the local union. The latter was indicted for 5,500 marks and went to five year legal proceedings. Needless to say, the legal rights of the unions as complainants in such cases can only be discerned with a powerful microscope. They are invisible to the naked eye. But as the Socialist motto is "Peace at any price," this little hindrance don't stop them from making contracts. They say for the labor movement to grow it must have "rest." Contract chloroform is a very efficient soporific.

The principal demand of the employers during the great building trade lockout in 1910 was that all contracts should be made through the central committees—thus excluding even the perfunctory meddling of the local unions. They succeeded in tying up the whole building trades of Germany in a three-year contract, and in exchange granted the workers a few paltry concessions. This was hailed by Socialists all over the world as a great victory, but it was only by the most skillful juggling that the rebellious local unions were made to accept their conquest.

A Berlin brewing workers' "Kartell contract" gives a fair idea of the usual method of carrying on this contract warfare. Thirteen national unions with members employed in the brewery in question insisted on helping the "Brewery Workers" to formulate their demands. They all agreed that in case of a strike of one category of workers that the rest would remain at work until their respective central committees endorsed the strike. Fine chance for modern union tactics where the consent of 14 national committees has to be secured in order to tie up a brewery.

"Positive Success."

To disprove Kautsky's contention that the Socialist unions are at the end of their period of usefulness, Legien in his "Schnapsbaritel oder Positive Erfolg," attempts to prove that they are a great success. As a working basis he takes Calver's statistics of a 27.5 per cent increase in the cost of living in Germany from 1895 to 1908, and then shows how some of the stronger unions have increased their wages still more in the same period. Naturally Calver's figures are warped to make the increase in the cost of living seem lower than it really has been. Exact knowledge on the increase is practically impossible to secure, but 33 to 40 per cent would probably be nearer than 27.5 per cent. The building trades organizations and a few others particularly favored by the unexampled prosperity of the last dozen years, and the wages organizations of their employers beat Calver's figures by a few per cent. The printers' results during this period are, however, a fair gauge of the general success of the unions. Since 1896 until 1906 their wages have increased 22 1/2 per cent, or 5 per cent below Calver's figure.

In 1906 they were tied up with a national contract for ten years. Whilst the price of living goes soaring these workers, bound by this contract, which they dare not break under servitude of the severest legal penalties, can console themselves with the thought that they belong to the "progressive" Socialist unions. The miners, textile and metal workers are also in bad shape. They are opposed by modern combinations of capital and are almost defenseless. Legien don't venture on any figures of their "success." They can't even get contracts to hold their wages at their present levels. "Forward!"

gives a long table of figures on the rapid decline of the wages of the miners. A few are: Prussian miners, per shift, in marks, 1907, 4.31; 1908, 4.27; 1909, 4.07. Yearly wages in marks, 1907, 1389; 1908, 1398; 1909, 1304; a decrease of 184 marks in three years. It will doubtless take the miners some time to achieve their emancipation at this rate of "progress."

All told, the material success of the German Socialist unions is but little if any better than that of the A. F. of L. unions. And naturally, as the tactics of the two groups of unions are essentially the same. They are both defensive organizations. The A. F. of L. recognizes capitalism as a reality, and in reality is aiming to make wages keep pace with the increase in the cost of living; and the German unions as far as their own action is concerned do likewise, they leaving the task of overthrowing capitalism to the "ballot box stuffers."

If they can exhibit more "success" as a result of their efforts than the A. F. of L. unions, which is doubtful, it is chiefly because they are more favored by national conditions than the A. F. of L. The immense unemployed army that characterizes the U. S. is largely absent in Germany. The latter's industries, particularly farming, are not so well developed as in the U. S. They soak up thousands of workers who in the United States would be unemployed, and thus a dead weight on the labor movement. The army occupies another 700,000 men, as soldiers alone, not to speak of the thousands of workers employed in producing war material, the numberless functionaries, etc. And then the German employers are not so well organized as those in the U. S., though their organizations are rapidly taking on the more modern trust form. Where this form is strongly developed, as in the textile, mining and metal industries, the German unions are naturally almost as helpless as the A. F. of L. unions in similar circumstances. To successfully oppose these modern capitalistic organizations they must escape from the tutelage of their political guardians, who won't permit them to fight for fear they will discover their true strength. They must adopt modern methods of industrial warfare, sabotage, general strike, etc. They must become aggressive and "carry the war into Africa," or, as Kautsky says, their period of success is at an end.

It is very difficult to see wherein the boasted progressiveness of the German unions lies. Their one feature that might justly be labelled "progress," i. e. their gradually fusing into larger groups, I have shown to be a distinct disadvantage to the movement by making the power of the bureaucracies ever stronger and rendering aggressive tactics more impossible. In all other respects they are at a standstill as far as development of their fighting abilities is concerned. How long they will consent to this rest tranquil and be led by the political movement and oppressed by their masters, is problematical. But as the employers, emboldened by the helplessness of the unions, are forcing the issue by making Germany the classic land of the lockout, perhaps they may foolishly go so far as to drive the workers to revolt against the peaceful counsels of their leaders; a revolt that seems hardly to be expected from any other source as the workers are so absorbed in the political situation that only a real jar can call their attention to their true interests.

W. Z. FOSTER.

THE STRIKE IN NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans, La., Oct. 4.

Solidarity:
I am sending you a ten days' prepaid subscription to the "Item," commencing October 2. We are in the midst of a general strike of the railroad men (shop federation). This strike was by the men, against the orders of the Federation officials. There are no strike benefits. It is men against red tape. The men are way ahead in their tactics from five years ago. They are talking "a fair deal and no trouble," but the scabs are getting it all around and the company property is suffering.

The men employed are sending loaded cars everywhere but to the right place. Engines are coming in crippled; accidents are happening, such as loaded cars breaking loose on inclines, etc.

C. L. GRIFFING.

PORTLAND, OREGON I. W. W.

Portland I. W. W. Headquarters and Free Reading Room, 309 Davis St. Business meeting, Sunday at 2 p. m. Stereopticon views and lecture every Sunday night at 8 o'clock.

SLAVES GET RIDES IN AUTOS

Street Car Workers' Strike in Detroit Made It Necessary For Masters to Provide Transportation to Jobs.

During the recent street car strike in Detroit, the people of that city had a good object lesson on what would happen should the slaves everywhere decide some morning to "just fold their arms and refuse to work."

The Detroit News of Sept. 20 described the situation the morning after the strike broke out, as follows:

"At about 7 o'clock the effect of the early morning rush was at its height. Women began to join the crowds of waiters and waitresses. As office men and employees learned of the situation there was heard the first grumbling.

"By this time taxicabs whizzed and dodged, racing to trains, burdened with overdue passengers and luggage. Speed laws were entirely forgotten.

"Factories called into action every available automobile and, hastily compiling routes from their payrolls, sped out in search of their men that the wheels of the city's industries might stand idle no longer than could be prevented.

"The automobile plants, of course, had every machine, from the manager's limousine to the testing chassis, in commission.

"Out Michigan, Grand River, Woodward, Gratiot, Mack, Fort Jefferson and along the Fourteenth avenue line the automobiles hurried, foremen searching the sidewalk procession for glimpses of their men. Loaded until the springs threatened to collapse, the machines raced back to the plants and by degrees tens of thousands of workers were assembled to their tasks. But almost every plant of any size got under way long after the regular hour and worked shorthanded all day."

At the time of the strike, the Chalmers Motor Company published the following announcement:

"Beginning Thursday morning we shall have automobiles at Woodward and Jefferson avenues and at Mt. Elliott and Jefferson avenue at 2:30 a. m. to bring our employees to the factory. We will be able to get all employees to the factory within an hour from this time.

"We have also made arrangements to get all our men down town inside of an hour in the evening. This plan will continue in force during the street car strike.

"The automobiles will load up, come to the factory, unload and return a sin until all the employees are at the plant.

"Cars start from Woodward and Jefferson avenues and from Jefferson and Mt. Elliott, beginning at 5:30 Thursday morning.

THE CHALMERS MOTOR CO.

Who said the "master doesn't care for his slave?" He evidently cares very much when he needs the slave to produce profits for him. But One Big Union will teach the slave to care for himself, and to become a worker without a master. Get hip to this!

MISSOULA REORGANIZED

Ellow Workers Knox, Steele, Toner, McNeely, Goshak, Meyers and Nelson among delegates of Spokane and Missoula locals have succeeded in reorganizing Local 40, at Missoula, Mont. They have rented new headquarters at \$25 per month and are receiving the old members and holding street meetings once more.

New members are coming into the organization, receipts for the first six days amounting to \$51.10. The membership of Local 40 are bucking the Blackfoot Lumber Co., a part of the Standard Oil Co., the Great Northern Railway Co., as well as the Citizens' Alliance of that section of Montana.

In spite of all obstacles with which the Local has had to contend in the past, the membership are determined to persevere in their efforts to build up an organization in the lumber industry until they have succeeded in establishing an organization that will be capable of coping with the power of their opponents.

To the end of assisting in this work, all rebels who are in shape to do so are requested to secure employment in and around Missoula lumber districts and all members to communicate with Walter Knox, acting secretary, General Delivery, Missoula, Mont.

VINCENT ST. JOHN,

Gen. Sec. I. W. W.

There is indeed a reason for building up the I. W. W. press. Send in your bunch of subs today.

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 billions 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 trades 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 wage 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.

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INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT

(From the "Bulletin International.")

Revolutionary Union in Spain.

Last week Spain seemed to be on the eve of a revolution. At Bilbao, till now under the influence of parliamentary socialism, a revolutionary strike broke out first. Saragozza followed soon. At Valencia, where nearly all work was at a standstill, the people acclaimed the republic. The towns Lerma and Saragosa, near Valencia, drove away the authorities and proclaimed the republic. Barcelona had been crushed, showed its solidarity. The Union General de Trabajadores at Madrid proclaimed a general strike in the whole country. Unhappily once again the strike did not attain the expected extent. Was it owing to the rigorous measures of the government, the arrest of the leaders, the military intervention, and especially the betrayal of the radicals of the party of Lerroux, the republican deputy of Barcelona, who, taking his holidays at the French seaside, disapproved of any attempt of insurrection? Undoubtedly all these causes have contributed to diminish the importance of the movement, but it would be premature to say that it has failed. If it fails, if the Alfonso monarchy remains still on the throne, it may be said that the defeat of the republican and socialist workers is due for a great part to the incapacity, the jealousy, the division and even the betrayal of political leaders who for thirteen years have allowed a criminal monarchy to retain its power over the Spanish people. However, it is not yet possible to say how the movement will end, as it continues in all places.

The General Strike on the Irish Railways.

One of the most remarkable strikes of the last year is that of the Irish railway men, which paralyzes entirely the traffic of the country. The origin of the conflict was the refusal of a number of railway employees of Kingsbridge Station at Dublin to handle goods of a firm where the workers were on strike. From there the movement rapidly spread. It is important to remember that a stoppage of work became a general strike in two, three days, not on a question of wages, but of principles; the railwaymen declare that they will not handle goods of employers whose men are on strike. This clearly proves that the workers do not always think of their profit, but begin more and more to fraternize and

SOLIDARITY

hope so, at least. This clipping was taken from the Spokane Press of Sept. 30. It is headed "Power's Labor Talks." I do not know who Powers is, but he surely can see farther than his nose.

Yours for the One Big Union,
P. G. NUFFER, Local 434.

PETER POWER'S LABOR TALKS.

The great victories of British workers in striking along industrial lines are producing a wonderful effect in the country in educating the laboring people to the necessity of merging their craft unions and organizing along broad lines to include whole industries.

When two years ago Tom Mann returned to England from Australia, after an absence of a dozen years, and pointed out that certain industries had become trustified, and that, therefore, the workers must unite in one all-embracing union, Mann was bitterly fought by some of the old-line, stand-pat officials.

But Ben Tillett and Jim Sexton of the dockers, J. Harbeck Wilson of the seamen, and a number of other radicals supported Mann in his contentions, and a campaign was inaugurated throughout Great Britain in favor of industrial unionism which proved so successful that year ago the British Trade Union congress, representing nearly 2,000,000 workers, while refusing to bind itself definitely to the principles of industrialism, nevertheless urged that the affiliated national unions in the various industries consider the advisability of amalgamating and report their views at this year's conference.

The British victory has fired the working class of America with enthusiasm, and I predict that before Labor day 1912 comes around organized labor in this country will have taken a long forward stride away from the old craft policies and into industrial unionism.

Led by the miners, brewery workers and other industrial unions the transformation will proceed speedily. The rank and file are clamoring for the change and the alleged leaders who are deaf to their demands will be left by the wayside.

The time is rapidly approaching when, for example, the iron and steel workers walk out of the trust mills, that huge octopus will be beleaguered. The engineers and firemen will shut off steam, the miners will refuse to furnish iron ore and fuel, the railway men, seamen, teamsters, dockers, etc., will transport no products, and other workers directly or indirectly employed in producing or distributing for the trust will likewise make common cause with the men of the mills.

HOW THE STATE PROTECTS THE BOSS

M'Comb City, Miss., Oct. 6.—With a picket fence of a half thousand bayonets around the railroad property here, a 10-foot board fence, topped with barbed wire strands inclosing all of the workshops, and a couple of automatic rifles installed on top of a two-story office building, Illinois Central railroad officials to-day express the opinion that they will be enabled to work as many strike breakers as necessary in their shops here. A special train of laborers arrived last night, and at daybreak this morning were put to work on the construction of the board fence. It will be completed, before nightfall, say the railroad men. Another contingent of strike breakers is expected to arrive during the day from the East. Probably a couple of carloads will be sent here from New Orleans.

Four hundred troops were in camp here this morning, a company from Gulfport and a detachment of 30 dismounted cavalry from Mason arriving about midnight. Fully a hundred more troops are expected to reach M'Comb before tonight and with the Second Mississippi Regiment held in readiness, military officials believe they have the situation well in hand.

Orders were issued from here last night by Adjutant General Arthur Fridge instructing companies at Oxford, Columbia, Newton and Aberdeen to report immediately at Water Valley, where the Illinois Central railroad shops are located, and where trouble was feared today. The troops were furnished, at the request of the Water Valley authorities.

Up to noon today no arrests have been made by the United States deputies on warrants charging violence of the restraining order growing out of Tuesday's rioting. The delay in the issuance of the warrants is the unexplained reason given for no arrests having been made.

The strikers agree to accept the present situation philosophically. They attend daily meetings of the union.

NEW EDITION

HAYWOOD "GENERAL STRIKE"

An Address delivered for the defense of a member of the Rank and File against Capitalist Aggression. Strong argument for INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATION—the Power that makes good the motto, "An Injury to One Worker is an Injury to All Workers." Gives many illustrations of the General Strike as a Working Class Weapon in different capitalist countries.

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FREE SPEECH PRECEDENT

New York, Oct. 8.

Solidarity:

Those interested in free speech may like to know that a precedent has been established in this city, that a policeman may not interfere with a socialist or labor meeting without hearing of it later. On Saturday evening, Sept. 16, at a meeting of the Irish Socialist Federation at 39th St. and Broadway, a policeman plunged through the crowd and demanded a permit for the meeting. The chairman, Thomas Flynn, informed the intruder that the I. S. F. had a letter from the police department saying that no written permits were in New York City and that it was only necessary to inform the police beforehand of the time and place of the meeting.

The policeman said he "didn't give a f—d— what we had; if we didn't have a permit we would have to get to hell out of there." We produced our letter for the policeman, who then went away, after interfering with the progress and success of the meeting. He stood in the middle of the street, between the car tracks, swinging his club as if he owned creation, and watching the meeting as if waiting for an excuse to break it up.

But we were not willing to let the matter rest there, and brought the policeman up on charges. The matter came before Commissioner Waldo's attention on October 5. There were quite a few policemen there in court to answer charges for arresting an intoxicated man "for nothing at all" to bring off duty at the wrong time. We told our story to the commissioner, and the culprit told his. The commissioner found him guilty, but reserved sentence. During the discourse with the commissioner, the policeman dropped the remark that he had been on the force only a month, which was equivalent to pleading for mercy, on the grounds of inexperience.

Accordingly, the rule is established in New York City that no policeman can interfere with a labor meeting without being brought up on charges; and in this city, at least, a policeman may not use the time-worn excuse of "no permit" for such interference.

KATHERINE FLYNN,
Sec'y, Irish Socialist Federation.

TO MAKE STRIKING A CRIME

Following the splendid victory of the workers of England in their recent mass strike when they tied up the country and showed the enormous power they possess when they act together on the industrial field, comes the announcement that a bill has been introduced in parliament making it "unlawful for any employer to go on strike on account of any dispute," and imposing "a fine of not less than \$10 for each day or part of a day that such employer is on strike of the leaders, who, being employed by the unions and cannot be punished by the other clause, this clause is inserted: "Any person who incites, encourages, or aids in any manner an employer to go on, or continue on strike shall be guilty of an offense and liable to a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$800."

The strike is the last hope of the forlorn workers. For 100 years they have been groping in the dark. During that time unionism has been gradually groping its way to the front. To-day it has reached that stage in its evolution where it is a formidable power. From the little isolated local trade union it has developed into international proportions and is on the verge of assuming the industrial form. Once the workers of the world have been

SYNDIKALISTEN

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thoroughly impregnated with the idea of Industrial Unionism no power on earth can stay the fulfillment of their ambitions. Freedom will then be theirs and the canon of plutocracy can not prevail against them.

It is the spectre of Industrial Unionism looming large on the horizon of the labor world that is causing the exploiters to shiver and urge their puppets in parliament to attempt to cloud it with the fetid smoke of legislation.

This compulsory arbitration hump has been tried in Australia, together with the "liberty for labor" through legislation, both with the result that in no country is capitalism more secure, and the revolutionary movement weaker.

One of the great victories achieved by the labor politicians of England is the payment of a big salary to members of the house of commons. Now they will support this measure for the enslavement of their fellows.

Will the English workers stand for this measure, or will they raise such a protest that the roof will rattle over the heads of the capitalist and labor fakirs in the old parliament building?—The Agitator.

TO CANADIAN READERS

By arrangement with the management of the Industrial Worker, Solidarity is now pleased to announce a special COMBINATION RATE for the Worker and Solidarity of TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR.

In other words the two papers are now offered to Canadian readers, in combination at the same rate as the regular subscription price in the United States. We pay the extra postage on combination sale sent to Canadian addresses.

Here is a chance to boost the Canadian sub list of both I. W. W. papers, that should not be missed by any active worker in that country. Roll up a big list for Canada. Do it now.

CHICAGO I. W. W.

Local 85, branch 2 (English) meets every Friday night at 185 West Madison St. (near Erie Ave.), Chicago.
Wilbur M. Wolfe, Pres.; Karl Rathje, Rec. Sec'y.; 881 La Salle Ave., Tillie Meyer, Fin. Sec'y.; 612 N. State St.

NEW HEADQUARTERS IN MINNEAPOLIS.

Until further notice the address of the Minneapolis locals will be at Room 5, Webb Block, 10 Third St. S. All communications should be directed to the above address.

JEAN E. SPIELMAN, Sec'y.

MOVING IN LOS ANGELES.

The I. W. W. has just moved into new and up to date headquarters with a seating capacity of about 500, at 387 East 6th Street, Los Angeles, Calif. Everybody welcome who comes this way.
H. WEINSTEIN, Sec'y.

CAPITALIST PRESS AND INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM

Grand Rapids, Mich., Oct. 4.

Solved.
Find enclosed an editorial published in the Grand Rapids "Evening Press" of October 2. While the slaves here and elsewhere as a rule refuse to listen to our agitators or read our literature, the hired hands that develop the editorials for the capitalists' publicity department have some kind of idea of revolutionary industrial unionism. Of course the general idea as here presented is a reflex of the material interests of the capitalist class and their retainers. They hope, and that strongly, that the "adoption of the industrial principle" will indeed be "gradual." However, some of the slaves who pooh pooh the "industrial principle" when some fellow slave endeavors to explain it, may take cognizance of some when the master's voice, "per the capitalist press, bellows it at him.

Yours for the I. W. W.,
T. F. G. DOUGHERTY.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STRIKE.

The strike on the Harriman railroad lines, so long threatened and so long delayed, has been ordered. It is reported by the unions involved that between 20,000 and 30,000 men have gone out, but this statement is disputed by the railroad officials.

The number of men who have left their work, however great, does not serve to measure the importance of this strike. Its claim to attention rests on the principle involved. What it means is that the institution of industrial unionism—called syndicalism in Europe—becomes acute in this country. The great strike of English workmen that came so near starving the United Kingdom was along these lines. The general strike in France some time

to consider themselves as a class of disinherited and oppressed. The position has become more critical still by the attitude of the executive committee of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, which, far from disapproving the strikers, as the capitalist press had hoped, proclaimed a general strike in Ireland. In this strike, as in the recent railway strike in England, the leaders have been pushed on by the masses. The liberal government has, of course, sided with the railway companies, and has even organized a special police corps.

International Painters' Congress.

The first International Painters' Congress has been held at Zurich Sept. 10 to 13. The reports of the different nationalities, representing 150,000 organized workers, gave an interesting picture of the economic and social situation of the various countries. In order to develop international relations among the painters' organizations of the different countries the congress unanimously decided to create an International Secretariat in Hamburg. Comrade Tobler, president of the German Painters' Union, was elected secretary, and at the same time will be editor of the International Review, which will be published in four languages. Every three years an International Congress will be held, and an extraordinary congress can be convoked by three organizations representing 10,000 members. A reciprocity contract, beginning January 1, 1912, was adopted. This contract obligates members of an organization when seeking work in another country to become a member of a local union affiliated with the International Secretariat. The formalities of passing from one union to another, the rights of those members to financial help, etc., was arranged specially. A resolution was unanimously adopted declaring it a duty of international solidarity to support sister organizations in fight with employers, not only morally but also financially. This help has to be given through the International Secretariat.

Union Victory in Australia.

The Railway and Tramway Association has won a splendid victory at Brisbane, which has resulted in an increase in wages for all classes of skilled and unskilled labor. The increase affects over 5,000 workers. In addition to the wage increase the agreement provides for an eight-hour day, extra pay for overtime, and for traveling and rest time.

ago was of a similar nature.

The unions involved in the present disturbance, it must be recalled, already have been recognized in their various groups, as machinists, boiler-makers, blacksmiths, clerks, hammers, etc. The demand is for recognition of the federation in which all have pooled their interests.

The significance of this departure in the front with which labor confronts capital can hardly be over-estimated. The logical sequel of success in this struggle will be a new alignment of unionists, not along the old craft union divisions, but on the broader basis of industries. The idea, it should be stated here, is not by any means acceptable to all union men. In fact, it has been strongly opposed by some of the most prominent leaders. Especially in the East the innovation is not welcomed by the rank and file, so, even if the Harriman employer win their strike, it will be a considerable time before the new method comes into general vogue. If the present contest ends favorably for the men, however, a gradual adoption of the industrial principle is inevitable.

From the point of view of the laboring man it offers the advantage of an undivided line of battle. An entire industry and not simply a branch can be tied up. The contracts by which thousands of men all over the country work can be made to expire simultaneously and at this time demands which no single union could hope to enforce can be made by the federation. Essentially, the new method is the capitalist trust principle applied to labor. The result, therefore, of this western struggle is of great interest in every State of the Union.

Spokane, Wash., Oct. 4.

Solidarity:

Enclosed you will find a clipping taken from the Spokane "Press." It touches on the progress industrial unionism is making in England and is to make in the United States in the near future. Let us