



## REASONS FOR THE STRIKE

Little Falls Workers Testify to Low Wages and Other Conditions that led to Revolt.

(Special to Solidarity.)

Little Falls, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Testimony of the pitifully low wages paid in the local textile mills was given by strikers today before the three members of the State Labor Commission ordered here by State Labor Commissioner Williams to inquire into the causes of the strike which began here October 10. The board consists of W. C. Rogers, chief; P. J. Downey and James McLannan. L. C. Wagner and I. O. Burt acted as Polish and Italian interpreters respectively.

The first witness was Mary Sroka, a Russian Polish girl 30 years of age, a piece worker in the finishing room of the Phoenix mill. Her hours were from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m. six days a week. She said that she had always worked Saturday afternoons up to a short time ago.

"What time off have you for lunch?" asked Mr. Rogers.

"I have no time to eat" was the reply. "I can't buy anything to eat for lunch on wages of \$4 and \$5 a week."

The highest wage she was ever paid in one week was \$6, she said, and \$2.50 was the lowest. She has parents in the old country, she said, but nothing to send them. She pays for a sleeping room \$3 a month and sleeps with two other girls in one bed. She lives on one loaf of bread per week and about two pounds of meat which she cooks herself. She testified that she does not belong to any labor organization, but wants a 15 per cent increase on old rates with one hour off for lunch at night.

The next witness was Susie Miarcek, a Slavic widow whose husband was killed

a week by the enforced reduction in pay following the passage of the 7 1/2-hour law. She pays \$5.60 per month for room and boards herself. "We will go back as soon as they give us what we want," was her reply to a question.

Agnes Kocotka, a Polish girl of 30 years, said the attack because her pay was cut from \$7 a week to \$6.37. Previously she was paid \$1 a week for each spinning she tended and was able to handle seven of them by fast work. She helps support her parents in the old country.

Maria Klimachek, a Slavic girl with clear blue eyes and beautiful yellow hair, said she was a piece worker in the Gilbert mill and that she lost 50 cents per week by the reduction in pay. She had averaged \$7 a week, but could no longer live after the wage cut because she has to help her parents and a small brother in Austria. She said she pays \$4 a week for room and board.

Tina Olli, another Slavic girl of 18 years, earned \$6 and \$4.50 a week at winding, but was reduced to \$3.50 the week before she quit. She takes five minutes off for lunch and could take more, but it would cut down her earnings. Her hours are from 8 a. m. to 7 p. m. while at work. She helps support a widowed mother at home and pays \$4 a month for room and evening dinner, preparing the other meals for herself.

Ambile Stromby, an Italian boy of 18 years, said he does day work in the doffing room of the Phoenix mill. He worked 10 hours a day for wages of \$7.50 a week, which were cut to \$6.75 when the hours were cut down by law. He helps

## MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND WORKERS

Welcome Eitor and Giovannitti at Three Justice meetings in Philadelphia

(Special to Solidarity.)

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 23. Fully 4,000 men, women and children gathered at the Kensington Labor Temple, Labor Lyceum and Lyric Hall Saturday evening, Sunday afternoon and evening, respectively, to welcome Joseph J. Eitor and Arturo Giovannitti.

At all the meetings Fellow Worker Eitor was received with much enthusiasm and cheer. In a few fitting remarks he began his address by thanking those present for their demonstration, hoping that same was not given to him personally, but rather for the cause and principles he represents. Then followed a two hours' address, punctuated frequently by applause and vigorous cheering. Eitor graphically described the deplorable conditions of the "God and Country" crowd of New England headed by Wood, Breen and others of their ilk, or cited the statistics that say, in so many words, that 45,000 of our class are killed yearly in the industrial establishments of America, because their flesh and blood is needed as a lubricant for the machines.

In conclusion, he said in part: "This movement—the industrial union movement—is about the only movement worth while. It is no longer something for dispute, but is now a reality, an issue that has met and conquered the best that the enemy dares. What have we to lose? NOTHING! But if we win, we win everything, and WE WILL WIN! Fellow workers, WE WILL WIN! Just as we can and do answer one bell or whistle that calls millions of us to toil for others, so we can and will answer the call

## TEXTILE WORKERS OF AMERICA, UNITE!

Organize! Get Together! UNDER THE BANNER OF ONE BIG UNION—THE L. W. W.

To all textile workers, to all the men, women and children toiling in the mills of America, producing material to clothe the world, we call for unity.

The time is here when the great principle of solidarity should stir in the heart of every textile worker and batter down the barriers of prejudice that keep us divided in our common struggle for better conditions and emancipation.

The year 1912 has been a great year for the textile workers.

A great awakening has taken place everywhere throughout the textile industry on the part of those who for years have been the patient, submissive slaves of the mill barons.

The name of Lawrence has been writ large in the labor history of the world.

And the spirit which moved the mill workers there to rebellion has found an echo in a hundred lesser struggles.

Everywhere the pent-up discontent of the workers in the textile industry is bursting into a flame of revolt and workers are going on strike for more of the product of their labor.

We all should be able to clearly understand this condition.

For years the conditions in the textile industry have been growing from bad to worse.

The mill owners have been sitting; they have been consolidating their forces and organizing. They have built up the powerful woolen trust, the Morgan-Whitman combination of cotton and woolen mill interests and other powerful organizations of capital.

They have steadily improved all their machinery for the exploitation of labor.

gether in Lawrence under the banner of One Big Union was \$15,000,000 in increased wages this year for 300,000 textile workers.

Surely you can see what an unconquerable force all those 300,000 workers would be if they followed the splendid example set by the 30,000 in Lawrence and united in One Big Union.

The Industrial Workers of the World have already become a powerful force in the textile industry. Every unprejudiced observer must admit that other labor organizations have failed to organize the textile workers.

The few remaining old unions, independent or affiliated with the A. F. of L., can now remain only as barriers to the progress of the textile workers toward better conditions and industrial freedom.

LET US WRITE OUR FUTURE!

Embrace the principles of the new kind of unionism advocated by the I. W. W., which invites all the workers in all mills into One Big Union regardless of race, creed, color or sex.

Beginning Saturday, January 11, 1913, in New Bedford, Mass., I. W. W. Hall, 44 Delaware St., the Fourth Annual Convention of the National Industrial Union of Textile Workers of the I. W. W. will be held.

This convention will be the most important gathering of textile workers ever held in America. It is the purpose of the National Industrial Union of Textile Workers to make this convention a great open assemblage where representative textile workers organized and unorganized can gather and by their collective reasoning pave the way for one big organization of all textile workers.

We, therefore, cordially invite all organizations of textile workers to send fraternal delegates to this convention and also urge all unorganized and enthusiastic believers in the idea of One Big Union who now work in unorganized mills to endeavor to be present or at least communicate with the secretary and tell us the possibilities for organization in your locality.

TEXTILE WORKERS, PUT YOUR SHOULDERS TO THE WHEEL. A great start has been made in 1912. Let the year 1913 show the textile workers of America, aroused and awakened, united and battling steadily for the day when the human race, emancipated, will no longer be clothed in garments stained with the blood and tears and sweat of plundered, betrayed and oppressed workers weaving their lives and growth into textile fabrics while the mill owners fatten in luxury upon the wealth wrung from your toil.

GET TOGETHER IN ONE BIG UNION! ORGANIZE! PREPARE FOR INDUSTRIAL FREEDOM.

Ex. B. N. I. U. of T. W.—Aug. Detolensens, Thomas J. Power, C. Vanderfelde, Paul Celdita, Arthur Tomlinson.

Wm. Yates, Financial Secretary-Treasurer, Central Building, Lawrence, Mass. Ewald Koettgen, Member G. E. B., I. W. W.

AN EVENT IN NEW YORK

Clothing Workers' Local 189, and Building Workers' Local 95 of the Industrial Workers of the World, will jointly give their first annual ball, in Webster Hall, 119 E. Eleventh St., New York, Thursday evening, Jan. 23, at 8 o'clock.

Joseph J. Eitor, Arturo Giovannitti and Wm. D. Haywood will be present. Tickets admitting lady and gentleman, 35 cents, including wardrobe. Everybody invited.

Local 54, I. W. W., has permanent headquarters on the corner of Third and Chestnut Sts., Columbus, O. Reading room open all day. All agitators and members coming this way take notice.

Organize into One Big Union and put a crimp in the pocketbook of the master class. You slaves can do that through the I. W. W., and get the goods for yourselves.

## LITTLE FALLS STRIKE CHILDEN AT SCHENECTADY



Warm Clothing they Wear, Furnished by Strike Committee in Little Falls.

The Parents of these Children Make Underwear for Other People, for \$6 a Week

while at work. She said she had been five years in this country and had worked all that time in Little Falls in the Phoenix mill. She is a piece worker in the winding room. Her hours, she said, were from 6 a. m. to 8 p. m. usually. She could afford to take no time off for lunch, she said, but she while walking through her machine. She supports two children and an old mother in the old country on her earnings of \$5, \$6 and \$7 a week.

Stanciana Gacua, a Polish day worker in the Gilbert mill, testified that she had been one year in this country, coming straight to Little Falls. She got \$1 a day previous to the strike. She lost 50 cents support father, mother and sister in old country. He said he pays \$3 a month for lodging and cooking privileges, buying and preparing his own food.

Giuseppe Giromoni said he was married and had worked at the Gilbert mill as a finisher before the strike. His wages ranged from \$5 during slack times to \$10 a week when there was plenty of work. He thought that for two months out of the year he made \$10 a week, the rest of the time less. In the summer his earnings ran at low as \$3 or \$4 a week. Witness said he had two children. His wife does not work in the mills. Witness said his rent cost him \$12 a month.

The result has been that the wages of the textile workers have steadily decreased while profits and dividends, plunder wrested from us by mill owners, has steadily increased.

The bosses have learned to fight together.

We, the workers, must learn the same lesson.

When the spectre of industrial unionism appeared upon the horizon of the textile industry at Lawrence the frightened mill barons hastened to grant small increases of wages everywhere throughout this country in textile mills.

Thirty thousand workers fighting to

# SOLIDARITY

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**WATCH FOR YOUR NUMBER.**

Each subscriber will find a number opposite his name on the wrapper enclosing SOLIDARITY. For instance 157. That means that your sub expired last week, and you should renew. **158**—This is NUMBER.

**LABOR "DYNAMITERS" AND OTHERS**

Thirty-eight members and allies of the Bridge-and-Structural-Iron Workers Union have been found guilty by the Indianapolis court, of "conspiracy" to illegally transport dynamite and other explosives, presumably to blow up "scab" bridges and other structures in different localities. The National Erectors' Association, which employed the scab labor, has drawn its net about these union men, and a jury has found them guilty. A few of the 38 received suspended sentences; the rest will be sent to the federal prison at Leavenworth for terms ranging from one year to seven years.

Doubtless all the owls of capitalism and "political socialism," (and especially the latter,) will labor and bring forth tedious dissertations on the "filly of violence in conflicts between capital and labor," and on the profound wisdom embodied in a certain section of the S. P. national convention. We opine, however, that the I. W. W. will decline to join in this unholy medley of condemnation. Assuming that these men were really guilty of the "jobs" charged against them, may we question the expediency of their methods, but we cannot question the sincerity of men who will stake their lives and liberty in behalf of their union. Indeed, we can only view the actions of these men as another incident in the class struggle—not perhaps as that struggle appears to fifth-story editors, lawyers and other saviors of the working class; but as it is viewed by the sturdy men who risk their lives daily that gigantic structures necessary to civilization may be put in place. Whether mistaken or not in their methods, these men took chances on saving their union and the working conditions they had gained through that union—against one of the most relentless and powerful corporations in the world.

The National Erectors' Association is a limb of the steel trust, its stockholders, clamoring for ever more dividends, never risked their lives dangling hundreds of feet in the air on slippery beams of steel. They only "risked their capital"—the accumulated plunder they had "legally" stolen from the life-blood of these iron workers. Why should we weep over the destruction of that property? What Labor has created, it can re-create. As for the scabs who may have been killed or injured, they also "took chances" in their desire to get Judas money by serving their

masters and injuring fellow workers.

But, you say, we are not sympathizing with the National Erectors' Association or with the scabs; we are sympathizing with the working class, which might get a "bad reputation" from such acts of violence. Nonsense! ONE YEAR OF CAPITALIST VIOLENCE will outweigh a thousand years of Labor's "peaceful" history. Must we meekly apologize for those of our kind who occasionally strike back under great provocation? The capitalist sowed the wind and reaped a little crop of a cyclone in this case under consideration. Let the blood be upon the heads of our masters!

But there is another "dynamite conspiracy" case that seems to have been well-nigh forgotten. The capitalist papers have long since quit talking about it; the socialist papers also have little to say about it. We refer to Billy Wood, president of the American Woolen Co., and his advisers and abettors in the dynamite conspiracy against the I. W. W. last winter. Unable to cajole, browbeat or otherwise induce the I. W. W. to resort to methods similar to those alleged against the iron workers, Billy Wood is supposed to have taken the task upon himself, and hired men to plant dynamite in Lawrence to discredit the strikers and "get" the strike leaders. Anyway, he was indicted for that crime, notified by telephone to be at court on a certain day with his bail money, was turned loose and that's the last we hear about it from the capitalist publicity agents. One of Billy Wood's pals committed suicide before he could be arraigned, thus conferring to the crime charged against him. And that "planting" of dynamite in Lawrence was a cowardly act, too. It might have resulted in much loss of life, as well as in the imprisonment of many innocent workers, had not John J. Breen fortunately bungled the job. Unlike the iron workers, who we are told, tried to be careful not to kill anyone, the reckless and irresponsible act of Wood et al. endangered a community. Then why all this silence about the Lawrence case? Why this wolf-hunt against slaves, and this tender soliloquy for a cowardly parasite? Let the "apologists" for the "reputation of the working class" answer these questions, before they inflict upon us their "lesson" on "working class violence."

They strike without a grievance to show their power, return to work without an agreement and indulge in sabotage, a term and practice springing up in France, where the workmen threw their wooden shoes into the looms. They respect no contract. As one of their leaders said recently: "As to whether a thing is right or wrong makes no difference in our plan." Their plan is to revolutionize the present industrial system.—Joliet, Ill., News.

**"RIGHT" AND "WRONG"**

No one phase of the revolutionary union movement has been more harped upon by the enemies of the I. W. W. than that of the alleged ethical attitude of our organization. "The question of right or wrong does not concern us." Horrors! shouts the hypocritical "servant of God" who has never considered it "wrong" to preach contempt and resignation to 80-a-week slaves of the mills and sweatshops. Infamous! hollows the brate in human form and armed with steel and gat wherever "to protect property and preserve law and order" which are only threatened by his vicious acts of repression. Seditious! echoes the corporation judge, who regards as "right" the holding of labor leaders in durance vile regardless of their constitutional "rights." And so on, with all the sincere as well as perverted upholders of capitalism. "The I. W. W. is unethical; its members don't consider the right and wrong of their action."

Nevertheless, gentlemen, you are in error; the I. W. W. does believe in "right" and "wrong." But we understand that these terms are relative, depending in their ethical significance upon the standpoint from which they are considered.

**OUR ETHICAL CODE IS INTERPRETED SOLELY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE WORKING CLASS AND ITS INTERESTS!** For instance: "Labor produces all wealth." It follows logically that Labor has a right to all it produces. Anything which furthers the aim of getting all wealth for those who produce it, is right. The capitalist denies this; his ethical viewpoint is that of a parasite—a labor skinner. From that viewpoint it is wrong for Labor to claim everything, because that would result eventually in compelling the capitalist to engage in productive labor. He considers

it perfectly right for him to rob his slaves of four-fifths of their normal product, and looks upon the slaves' rebellion against that robbery as "wrong," "sedition," and a warfare against "God and country."

Again, it is wrong for one worker or group of workers to "sue upon another, whether or not the scabs carry "union" cards in their pockets. Anything on the side of Labor which interferes with the solidarity of a strike against the masters is wrong, from an I. W. W. ethical standpoint. Anything which promotes that solidarity is right, whether the boss so regard it or not. A time contract with the employers interferes with unity of action and is therefore wrong. If, as a result of any sort of pressure, an I. W. W. group should be induced to sign such a contract, and the choice came to that group to either uphold the contract, and thereby sue upon a fellow group, or break the contract in the interest of their fellow workers, it would be right to break the contract. For that reason, we say: "No contracts with the masters are sacred in the ethical code of the I. W. W."

The master considers it right to speed up the slaves at work to the limit of their endurance for substance wages. The slaves rebel against this intensity of toil and low wages. They strike; stay out for a time, and are forced back to work—beaten for the time being. They resort to another method—sabotage—to gain their demands. They terminate the boss until he comes to terms—grants more wages and less work. Who shall say that such sabotage is wrong? Why, only the master and all his supporters, of course! The I. W. W. is all wrong, from their standpoint.

Nevertheless, we shall continue to oppose to the capitalist ethical code the ethical code of the working class. We are not concerned with what the master considers "right" or "wrong." Our aim is definite and unmistakable—we want the earth, and in order to get it we must unite the working class for that purpose. Anything which tends to promote that revolutionizing is right. That is the I. W. W. ethical code. **WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?**

**ARGUES FOR DECENTRALIZATION**

San Diego, Calif., Dec. 18.

Solidarity: I ask the privilege of getting the following printed in Solidarity, so that the rank and file will have an opportunity of discussing the formation of our organization. I consider the present form of organization, which is centralized, less effective than decentralization, and that the former has a tendency toward building an autocracy. Either, decentralization is a great democratic principle, or it is something to be avoided as a menace to our movement. One thing is certain, if it is right, then centralization is wrong. We must, if we are to perfect our organization, be able to stand criticism. We too often talk about the faults of others, but fail to see that we likewise may have some faults.

It is evident that a some of the members at our last convention were very eager to make centralization secure. If they are successful in passing the amendments to the referendum, then the spirit of genuine democracy will be killed and a similar organization to the A. F. of L. will be formulated. What are the members going to do about it? Are they going to delegate their power to the G. E. B., and so enable them to form a machine "which the members will not be able to break, similar to Compton," or are they going to demand that the rank and file shall dominate?

It is an insult to the members, to say the least, to try to take away the right of selecting their officers and editors. In other words, it assumes that the rank and file are not competent to select them. The only way to decide which is the best form of organization is to make a comparison of the two methods. I submit the following sketches. Please print these, as it will be easier for the members to understand.

[The sketches made by my correspondent, can not well be reproduced without cuts, so we are presenting a simpler form of the same, which I think will be readily understood.—E. Solidarity.]

**CENTRALIZATION**

Treasurer—General Secretary; General Organizer—G. E. B.—National Organizer, Executive Committee, etc., of Industrial Unionism—Rank and File.

**DECENTRALIZATION**

District Secretary—Rank and File.

I will state as briefly as possible a few things decentralization would do:

1. Quicker means of communication.
2. Leave more money in district for organization purposes.
3. Allow enough money in the district to issue a bulletin where all subjects vital to the organization, can be discussed from and con.
4. Utilize bulletins to operate referendum, whenever necessary, thus saving time and expense.
5. Elect or recall organizers by referendum vote and compel them to render reports to district secretary weekly. The same to be published so that the members can determine whether they are delivering the goods or not.

There are many more things too numerous to mention, which decentralization would do. Take for instance our last referendum. The convention passed upon amendments last September and the membership will not know the result of same till the month of February, thus taking five months to do what could be done through bulletins in one month.

It is a well known fact that the bigger an organization gets, the slower its action is. Therefore, decentralization would facilitate and make more effective any organization that is intelligent enough to adopt it. This certainly applies to the Pacific coast locals anyway.

If you are unable to print the above, let me know, as Local 15 voted unanimously to have it published.

A. R. WHITE.

## PRISON MEMOIRS OF AN ANARCHIST

(Reviewed by Wm. J. White)

PRISON MEMOIRS OF AN ANARCHIST, by Alexander Berkman. Master Book Publishing Association, 10 West 25th St., New York City, E. S. P. 1910.

In "Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist," by Alexander Berkman, we have a great document that is an indictment against our thinly veneered civilization, which, when scratched, shows how near we are to the barbarian in our pretensions.

Brutality stands forth in all its nakedness under the guise of this master painter, who with cold and unerring strokes makes us realize our hollow pretensions when we hypocritically prate about improving to reform the imprisoned. How the mercenary commercial pocket-serve of the penitentiary and the workhouse is exposed to us we see how closely big business in the department stores of Pittsburg and the Lang Broom Co. is allied with the politicians of Allegheny county and the state.

The deed of the rag shop chicken is under his trenchant pen, and we see the sick and insane driven to their task by their brutal taskmasters, under the threat of the dungeon or the work-camp, with bread and water for food and drink once in 24 hours, unless these unfortunate produced for the profit of those on the outside who control the toil into gold.

Reaching rapidly from his early home life in Russia, with its ideals nurtured and strengthened under the cry of liberty for the masses in the writings of Chernobrovetz, Turgenev, E. Herodotus, Tolstoy, Lenin and Kropotkin, those writers who did so much to spread the philosophy of Nietzsche and Anarchy throughout Europe, he pictures for us what is the East can immigrant in the land of the free and its rapid disillusionment, under the free battle for bread, in the struggle to live after he reaches the shores of this capitalist-cursed land. His activity in the anarchist movement in New York is lightly touched up to the time of the Homestead strike in July, 1892.

When the newspapers told of this struggle he at last saw an opportunity to realize his long-cherished ambition to strike a blow for the rank and file. Here at last was a chance to emulate the heroes of his dreams in removing not H. C. Frick, the man, but Bloody Frick, the Oppressor of the People. The journey to Pittsburg, from New York, on this mission, and his unsuccessful attempt at executing the removal of his oppressor is linked up with a background of conditions surrounding the events of the Homestead strike. His agency and brutality which makes us see once again that struggle and the results to the skilled worker leading up to and out of the Homestead strike.

We passed through the struggle with him in the office, where Frick, after receiving a slight blow saved his life by pretending death as he lay on the floor. How they overpowered and arrested him and the fruitless efforts of the police and detectives to incriminate others by putting him through the inhuman and brutal "Third Degree," in inquisitorial methods of the twelfth century might bring honor to that symbol of all that is low and brutal in the race; the modern detective bureau, the multiplying of the charges, and the hope that a long incarceration in the modern hell might accomplish, in another form what had been done in the case of

the workers in Chicago, in a more open manner. The long wait in the jail, and the haste at the trial, where the servile tools of capitalism made every effort to suppress their joy at being able to do as they work they were hired to perform for the master class, it made to stand boldly forth to this master class, the master class. The irony of that phrase "Equality of the Rich and poor before the law" will never have a better educating background than the picture of the man who came to this country of age, unable to speak the language of the country; pitted against the wealth and power of the Carnegie Steel Company, and the State, whose motto to crush out life. What a spectacle! Alexander Berkman, branded an anarchist and all it implied at that time, meeting in a capitalist court, not a judge, but a bench but who was a tool of his prosecutor, H. C. Frick, who had plundered and robbed his victims by the thousands. Oh! the pity of it.

He takes us with him through his long years in the penitentiary and we see again the contrast of the rich thief who, having stolen thousands, treated with difference because he has a money bag, with the practical tools of big business and the petty persecutions of the poor who are unable to pay big fees to lawyers to beat holes in laws, or who have with them the means to break inside or out. We hear the crash of the club of the keepers on the head of the insane. We are with him in the basket and the new man, as he is called by the "with the others who are of the accused."

The writer has heard the tale of many of these, our poor, maimed, bruised and persecuted brothers and sisters who are obliged to tell their tales of persecution, and he marvels at the fidelity and truthfulness of the picture of this charnel bed of defiled and crushed humanity.

What a wonderful thing is truth in the hands of this man.

And yet out of all the persecutions, hate, inhumanity and cruelty there grows friendship, love and compact that blossom and bloom in that desert of associating intrigue and beastliness.

The loyalty, trustfulness and comradeship of "Horvath's" Bob," as he makes it possible to talk to Carl Noll through the pipes and walls. "Old Jimmie" Mitchell's moody serenity and joking about which he always insisted on being granted of the request. The compact of love and comradeship with the nineteen-year-old boy in the dungeon. The preservation of the great stolen from the greenhouse. The sad ending of the friendship with Russell Schroyer, whose sad death came through the criminal carelessness of a prisoner with a political "pull." The unflinching loyalty of the girl and her steady and indefatigable fight through the long lonely weary years near like a silent and patient soldier, until its finish, making it a story to be studied by all.

And after you have read and reread its tragic pages to all and there grows hope and trust and faith in the ultimate triumph of the ideal that held this man through the weary years. You gaze on the growing and the flowering of the rapidly solidifying working class that some time in the near future will make it impossible to hang and gibbet our brothers and you are glad and glad that you know that gave this man strength to face this Gethsemane of 14 frightful years, and you hope with his beloved Burns that the time will come when he will say: "When men to men through all the world shall brothers be for a' that!"

**WANTS MORE EDUCATION**

Portland, Ore., Dec. 21.

Solidarity: I read with a great appreciation the article of Dec. 14 under the caption: "Is this fellow crazy?"

No, he is not crazy. Fellow Worker, Marlin knows what he is talking about. If his plan would be adopted, the I. W. W. should grow in such formidable force that indeed all vigilantes, uniformed thugs, spy system, men of lawyers, etc., would be done away with.

Now is the very opportune time to put his plan into practice. We are in the midst of winter; slaves are flocking into the towns; evenings are long and the educational meetings within our own ranks could be easily held.

Blackboard to another of valuable secrets. There are questions in economics that befuddle even an apt student on account of their seeming abstractness. By drawn illustrations on the blackboard, the subject of discussion loses its abstractness and assumes a concrete form that will penetrate the brains even of a least grasping student.

As it is now, I agree with Marlin that only 1 per cent of our members can hold their own in an argument with their opponents. How many, for instance, can reason to the logical conclusion: "Why the general rank and file does not mean increased cost of living?"

If we go it in a systematic way, the success of our educational meetings will be assured, our ranks will be better equipped, our arguments with opponents will become irrefutable, and, if one educated member could not get one recruit in a year?" It would be for the sake of solidarity and action. Having the latter, the theory of today will become an accomplished fact tomorrow.

Yours for educational work,  
RALPH CHERVINSKI

Solidarity guarantees that each issue will contain good propaganda material. Order a bundle, and send us sub order.

# PROLETARIAN PITTSBURG

By H. A. Coff.

Professor Huxley gave us the finest and most concise definition of the word "proletariat," that is in the books. He defined it thus, "The plant is the dual proletariat—the worker who produces."

I am writing as a proletarian, and for the proletarian only. The proletarian has no occasion to concern himself about any other component to society except his own type—the worker who produces, the honest working class. Any other divisions in society, who "sympathize" with the proletarian, and who perform their various and amazing capers (from the political and industrial fields, need not be taken at all seriously by the proletarian. In the last analysis, this breed of phrase mongers and timber-tipped blathermouths need do anything for the proletarian except get off his back.

In fact, as a matter of history, every parasite and idler in society professes an immense interest in the welfare of the worker because they all aspire to live at the expense of his work and his life. In the pursuit of his noble aspirations, the idler has been uniformly successful.

The history and experience of the proletariat shows conclusively that they cannot afford to enter into any organization or alliance with any other class or division in society. And, as history further shows, when the proletarian enters into any organization with others, they are invariably exploited for political purposes just as they are exploited for profits at the point of production.

It appears, that while the proletarian is fairly well on his guard against the great capitalist exploiter, yet it is still easily hoodwinked by the middle class. Hence it follows, that the middle class has always been quick to ally itself with the proletarian. And by the "sympathy" dodge, the middle class has been able to impose upon the credulity of the proletarian, and thus have the political and profit-mongering interests of the petty bourgeoisie. From almost the nascent stages of capitalism to the present, both the great capitalist exploiter and the petty bourgeois have always used the proletarian as a buffer in their political and industrial battles with each other. At the same time, these political and industrial battles had their cessation in the common desire of both the great capitalist and the middle class to win the working class.

While the petty bourgeois in the economic decadence of the ancient "freeman," yet in his modern type he is essentially the product of capitalism. As a class these gentry have always occupied an untenable position even until this time. Not only is their position untenable, but it is even ridiculous. Their mission is to buy by the peck and sell by the pint, using short weights and measures as a necessity.

Yes, the petty bourgeois are many of them socialists; coming in several varieties, as described in Part III of the "Communist Manifesto." But they are bourgeois socialists, who are only reactionary from the proletarian standpoint. When the proletarian finds itself within an organization that consists in part of workers, in part of petty bourgeoisie, with a sprinkling of millionaires, that organization is going to exploit the proletarian.

The proletarian psychology can never dominate an organization that is not strictly proletarian. This also, is an economic determinism.

## The I. W. W.

For the first time in the history of the workers, we have in the Industrial Workers of the World an organization that is at once class conscious, revolutionary and industrial. To be sure, the I. W. W. was three years in the making. This was because the politicians insisted on officiating as midwives.

But now that the I. W. W. has finally "arrived," not by reason of the heroic efforts of the midwives, but because of them, the infant is able to stand upon its feet, and the Egyptian destruction of Hebrew children is only equalled by the vindictive capitalist campaign against this last year's organization that alone measures efficiently with the latest developments of capitalism.

Never before in the working class epoch has there been such a determined effort to take over shop control. Because the I. W. W. recognizes that the socialism of the proletarian finds its birthplace at the point of production.

On the other hand, the capitalist class are well aware that if they lose shop control they lose all else with it. And with the way for shop control, the way, it is not hard to understand that the vindictive hatred of the capitalists toward the I. W. W. was thus when there could be no finer tribute to the character of the I. W. W.

The proposed new organization of society will either be an industrial society or

another political state. And at this point the proletarian must ask himself which of these two social structures he wants and must have. To the proletarian this is a life and death question, because, as the class struggle now presents itself, the fate of the small middle class is now written, and as between the capitalist class and the proletarian it is only a question of self-preservation. Therefore, the proletarian must choose a future form of society wherein they can exist to the best advantage.

Again history comes to our aid and reveals the fact that no political state has ever undertaken and carried out an industrial enterprise but what it has developed into state capitalism with its inevitable concomitant of state slavery. When we consider the building of Solomon's temple; the excavating of the catacombs of ancient Rome; the pyramids of Egypt; the building of the great Chinese wall; and at present, the construction of the Panama canal, the existence of these great works can be accounted for upon no other hypothesis than the practice of state capitalism and state slavery.

Here, then, is something for the proletarian to consider very carefully, and decide whether we shall struggle for a political state or make our battle for shop control, thereby establishing an industrial society that will bring with it its own political relief.

In the light of this history, it is clear that the I. W. W. has, wholly chosen the proletarian method, and, as Joseph Dietzen has said: "The battle must be fought out upon the economic field."

## THE I. W. W. IN PITTSBURG

The community in and about Pittsburg is one of the most conservative in the United States. But, for that same reason, when the people of this community take a stand on any proposition, it is all the more significant as several historical occasions have demonstrated.

The workers of Pittsburg are very much of the same conservative temper. For a century they were the most skillful, highest paid, and most independent body of workers in the world. As a rule, the Pittsburg workers have always been union men, and nearly all of the greater craft unions have maintained their headquarters here for many years.

Pittsburg has between immense hills of solid granite, and is cut into sections by three rivers. It is crowded, dirty, has crooked streets running by hill and dale. Has 750,000 of the most productive wage slaves the world has ever known. Has more multi-millionaires than any other city in its size in the world. Has the most Peasant-like polity. Commands the finest natural gas and soft coal fuel supply in the world. Has the only bank that never suspended during the war. Has a population of 180,000. It is the only city that ever during a strike locked the militia in a fair stand up fight. Its annual newspaper circulation is the highest of New York, Chicago and Philadelphia. It gets the smallest offender than any other city in the U. S. It is the home and stronghold of the U. S. steel trust. Its proletarians are living 43 per cent below the normal subsistence line. Its once powerful craft unions have blown up and gone to the devil. Its main industries are the steel, the Russian police lock like smelters, and the Pennsylvania coals are as efficient as a bunch of trained murderers as ever captured. It has the finest Garment Institute in the world, into which the proletarian never enters. This city is the classic type of capitalist exploitation.

One hundred and fifty years ago, the sturdy yeomanry of western Pennsylvania began to make some very excellent whiskey. At the same time they also assembled the rich native coal, iron ore and limestone, and the primitive blast furnaces; their little carved fire; their little water power driven trip hammers, and began to turn out some good iron and steel. It was an iron and steel mill. And what with the whiskey and the iron, Vulcan and Bacchus covered through the tall timber band in hand. But this proceeding so annoyed the righteous wrath of the pot-bellied Britons that in 1778 the English House of Commons was moved to declare the blast furnaces of Pennsylvania a public nuisance.

But the whiskey and the iron and steel are still being made. Now the whiskey is made by slaves and owned by the whiskey trust; and the iron and steel are made by slaves and owned by the steel trust. The iron and steel are not nearly as good as they used to be. Neither is the whiskey. Now when we drink whiskey we get the carbon tetrachloride when we work in the steel mills we die at 38 of overwork and underfeeding.

For the last 12 years the proletariat of Pittsburg has been very indifferent toward the matter of organizing. As for the I. W. W., it had no standing except with some of the "foreigners." But, in this year, the seething discontent, more or less latent in our organizations, has been kindled into a cool determination to organize industrially. The crust of conservatism is breaking up. Under the increasing oppression of the English speaking proletarian is getting his petty prejudices squeezed out of him.

We are learning the value of shop control, we are learning that capitalist employment is but a necessary evil, to be gotten rid of as soon as possible. We are learning that as a means of living, capitalist employment is an exploded fallacy, and only serves to prolong the workers' misery. And so long as we continue to work for the capitalist class we furnish that class with all they want—political power

included.

We are learning that it does not pay to work and starve at the same time. Capitalist employers have lost nearly all their incentive, and we are learning that by destroying profits we thereby destroy capitalist incentive also. We are organizing industrially for revolution, to take and hold the means of production.

Conservative Pittsburg is waking up, and through industrial unionism her influence upon the emancipation of the proletariat will be immense.

## CONTRACTS AND THE I. W. W.

Under a triple-column heading, "Practice vs. Pretense," an A. F. of L. organ, the Toledo Union Leader, announces a brilliant discovery. Here it is:

### PRACTICE

Any Agreement entered into between the members of any local union, or organization, and their employers as a final settlement of any difficulty or trouble which may occur hereafter, shall not be considered valid or binding until the same shall have the approval of the general executive board of the Industrial Workers of the World. From Constitution Chicago faction, I. W. W., Sec. 5, Art. 8.)

The above section is found verbatim in the constitution of the Detroit faction, I. W. W., Sec. 11 (b), Art. 2.

### PRETENSE

The organization does not allow any party to enter into time contracts with its employers. The I. W. W. maintains that nothing will be considered a contract except that which we have the power to take and hold by the strength of our organization. Therefore, we seek no agreements with the employers. (From pamphlet by Vincent St. John, "The I. W. W., Its History, Structure and Methods," page 17.)

Time contracts. The workers, when organized in industrial unions, will not permit the crippling of their power by such contracts. (From pamphlet by W. E. Trautmann, "Why Strikes Are Lost," page 21.)

There is no issue that affords the so-called "industrialists" with more thunder and wild assertion than the subject of "contracts," which they denounce in season and out of season as a sort of hell stew invented by capitalists, trade union officials and other fallen angels to trap the unwary and misguided. Many a collection basket has been filled in overflowing by inflamed workers, who actually believed they were so-called industrialists, who alleged they were "re-organizing" they would "walk out on the same street with the boss. And when it came to enter into contracts with the said boss, the so-called industrialist would rather stick his head in a blast furnace. That is the public opinion of the "industrialists," which we show under the caption "Pretense," printed above, and which are extracts from the two "classics" of the Chicago faction of the I. W. W., of which St. John is general secretary-treasurer, and Trautmann is jurisconsult.

The Detroit faction of the I. W. W. takes the same position, publicly, as does its rival on the question of contracts. But the constitutions of these two world-saving institutions tell a different story. As their hysterical followers rarely see these precious documents, we print, under the caption "Practice" what their laws provide for, and ask the members of the latter to give their own opinion of organizations that openly condemn contracts and at the same time declare that their officers shall have power to sign such contracts. They are a "final settlement of any difficulty."

All these documents are official. They speak for themselves, and if any can read and understand them, they will find them and hypocrisy, yet either shall further not. For sensational mongering and down-right duplicity, both factions of the I. W. W. stand convicted by their own statements.—Toledo Union Leader, Dec. 27.

The supposed cleverness of Editor Egan appears to consist in the instances (as usual) not only in his utter disregard for the facts of I. W. W. history, but also in a supreme contempt for the dictionary and for the commonest principles of everyday logic. True enough, the statement by St. John: "Therefore, we seek no agreements with the employers," is misleading, when taken by itself apart from its context, since obviously no contract between workers and their employers can be settled without an agreement or understanding of some sort. But taken with its context, the quotation from St. John refers only to TIME CONTRACTS, which the I. W. W. does not want, because, as St. John says in the same paragraph, (omitted by the Leader) "it aims where strikes are used, to paralyze all branches of the industry involved, when the employer can best afford a cessation of work—during the busy season and when there are rush orders to be filled." Therefore, it follows logically, we seek no BINDING agreements—time contracts—with the employers. SUCH HAS BEEN THE UNIVERSAL PRACTICE OF THE I. W. W. SINCE ITS FOUNDATION! If Editor Egan does not believe this, let him come

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## I. W. W. PREAMBLE

The working class and the employing class have long been enemies. There can be no peace between the two, so long as the one class exploits the other, and so long as the latter class exploits the former.

Therefore, the two classes a struggle must ensue until the workers of the world organize as a class, lay possession of the earth and the instruments of production, and abolish the wage system.

For the elimination of the wage system, the workers of the world must first organize as a class, lay possession of the earth and the instruments of production, and abolish the wage system.

Such conditions can be changed and the labor of the world be organized as a class, only by the workers of the world organizing as a class, laying possession of the earth and the instruments of production, and abolishing the wage system.

forth with evidence to the contrary.

Oh, yes; there was one instance in which a local union of the I. W. W. entered into a time contract with the bosses—that was a local union in Great Falls, Mont., in 1900. Let us see what happened. Immediately the fact was known that this local had signed a contract for a term of years with Great Falls employers, an I. W. W. organizer was sent to that locality to investigate the matter. He failed to report accurately on the situation, and a General Executive Board member followed him to Great Falls. The G. E. B. member found that a time contract had been entered into, and, acting under instructions from the Board, took away the charter of the Great Falls local, thus refusing to make the I. W. W. responsible for the local's violation of the principle and PRACTICE of the I. W. W. as an organization. This is the only instance where a subordinate body in the I. W. W. has attempted to enter into a time agreement with employers. The PRACTICE of the I. W. W. has been invariably against time contracts, thereby squaring its deeds with its words.

Now let us consider the above quoted section of the I. W. W. constitution referring to agreements. True enough, an "agreement" may be anything from a verbal understanding to a duly signed and sealed "time contract." For instance, the Textile Workers' Industrial Union No. 20, Lawrence, Mass., might perchance have entered into an agreement with the woollen and cotton mill owners, to work for a reduction of 10 per cent in wages following the 9 weeks' strike, instead of agreeing to work for a "sliding" increase of from 5 to 25 per cent. The local might have signed a "contract" for 10 years for the former terms, had it chosen to do so. But, in either event—verbal or written agreement—what would have been the outcome? Why, of course, nothing but an immediate repudiation on the part of the I. W. W. through its G. E. B., of any such "agreement." And a G. E. B. that would refuse to act as one against such a violation of the principles of the I. W. W., would very soon bear from the active membership all over the country. The same would have been true, as in the Great Falls case, had the textile local in Lawrence signed a time contract for the increase in wages

which they gained through the strike. Such a contract would, if lived up to, tie the hands of the Lawrence textile slaves, and prevent them from acting in concert with their fellow workers in other localities—exactly as is the case in the A. F. of L. Such an action, would be intolerable, from an I. W. W. standpoint.

So, while the I. W. W. constitution does not forbid agreements in the form of time contracts, it insists that no local or subordinate body in the organization can make binding agreements without the consent of the rest of the organization, since the rest of the organization is affected by such agreements. The G. E. B. is empowered to see that the subordinate bodies adhere to this principle so necessary to unity and solidarity of action. Whether or not the I. W. W. constitution should expressly forbid time contracts, is a matter for the I. W. W. membership itself to decide. But, while forbidden firms may not always be the wisest, it is well to observe that FLEXIBILITY in a revolutionary organization is indispensable to its normal growth and development. It is more to the point, to establish a rule of action through the invariable principle of solidarity—that to put a lot of "dots" in the constitution. The A. F. of L. prides itself on "craft autonomy," but the constant interference of craft union officials, executive boards and other governing bodies, with the "free" movement of the craft locals, shows how absurd "craft autonomy" really is. On the other hand, the adherence to the principles of industrial unionism and the practice of solidarity on the part of the I. W. W. local bodies, results in the widest possible local autonomy. In this matter the capillaries (local units) as well as the arteries of the industrial union body are vitalized, and the entire body performs its functions properly. An intelligent understanding all along the line, of principles and methods, together with few "dots" in the constitution, forms the best possible safeguard to united and effective action. Flexibility goes with revolutionary activity.

We are only too pleased to have our opponents point out any defects in the I. W. W. constitution, principles or methods, but their criticisms must conform to facts, and not be simply the mouthings of envious and spiteful "labor editors," whose effusions are being poured into the ears of a rapidly decreasing constituency of readers and hearers.

# REED, WILLOW AND RATTAN WORKERS ORGANIZE

(Special to Solidarity)  
New York, Dec. 29.  
The first union of reed, willow and rattan workers in this city was formed on Sunday, the 15th., at Bethoven hall, on the East Side.

In commenting on the union there formed, the "Furniture World" says: "The organization of the industry has been attempted several times, but for many reasons, practically a lack of interest among the workers, and a consequent failure of any united action, previous attempts have not been successful."

The same journal, however, is constrained to admit that: "The meeting last week, however, appears as though it may be successful in attaining its object. The uniting of the plants is being conducted under the auspices of the Industrial Workers of the World."

The same authority says that the union is made up of workers in prairie grass furniture, reed and willow ware and baby carriages.

The trade is said to be booming, but that the workers do not share in the boom is shown by the following extract from the above-mentioned paper: "Under the present system of piece work men in the trade are said to average about \$2.56 a day, but claim that they are forced to be idle four or five months out of the year, and that the slowest workers do not make \$10 a week, even during the rush season."

The new local, No. 546, I. W. W., held another meeting last Friday night at 104 E. 12th St., I. W. W. headquarters, at which a good number of new members were initiated. On Friday next another meeting will be held at the same place. We expect to get the greater portion of the trade organized. A splendid spirit is evinced by the workers. Efforts are being made to organize in other places through the I. W. W., of which more will be reported.

The manufacturers, strange to say, are not evincing any alarm at the I. W. W. perfecting this organization.

The reason for this may be found in the fact that the manufacturers are hopeful of any movement which seems likely to relieve them of the competition of prison labor. Arnold Pabow, of the Pabow Reed and Willow Manufacturing Co. is quoted by the Furniture World: "I am not against any effort on the part of the Workers to organize. They have my sympathy. Our condition at present is just this: Our business is suffering under a tariff inadequate to protect the basket trade, and in consequence there are no skilled basket operators in this country to amount to anything. THE REED AND WILLOW WORKERS, IF STRONGLY ORGANIZED, COULD DICTATE TERMS TO THE MANUFACTURERS. The price on reed work in late years has been cut down to a great extent by the necessary competition with prison and institution labor. The willow operators are the best skilled men in the business and any organization they effect will be a strong one, as they are earning good salaries and control the situation."

The Furniture World has taken enough interest in the new union to interview other manufacturers who express themselves along the same lines as the above.

The workers in this local are projecting the establishing of a club room headquarters for the workers in this industry in New York and vicinity.

# MORE THAN 2,000 WORKERS

(Continued From Page One)  
did. Giovannitti's appearance on the stage was the signal for cheer after cheer, pandemonium reigning fully ten minutes. Giovannitti then proceeded to deliver the greatest address in Italian ever heard in Philadelphia—a matchless rhythm, a perfect masterpiece of oratory. He appeared the scholar, poet, orator and agitator combined in one.

"Today I am going to speak to you not from my head, but from my heart," said Giovannitti. Then a description of the Lawrence strike, outcome, etc.; his incarceration, trial and acquittal. All these phases were discussed, as well as a stirring review of the Dai Martini at Chicago (the martyrs of Chicago).

Total collection ad receipts netted about \$250, leaving about \$75 to be forwarded to those on the filing line.

Yours for Industrial Freedom  
BENJ. H. FLETCHER.

Don't let the work of education lag. Push the press and literature.

# PORCUPINE STRIKE NEWS

(Special to Solidarity.)  
South Porcupine, Ontario, Dec. 31.  
The master class in this district here now throws off all pretense at observing the law, and have enlisted all the powers of government to assist them in carrying out their nefarious design.

Last Friday night 10 were brought in to the Pullman car "Inverness" and as soon as it pulled into the station, the Provincial Police blocked the approaches to the cars, even those which formed part of the regular train, refusing to allow anyone to board the train.

Some of the boys having the idea that the public had the right to use a railroad that they are supposed to own, insisted on their rights with the result that four of them were badly clubbed and beaten up, and thrown into jail, being held on bail of \$1,000 each.

There can be no doubt that this whole episode was purposely arranged by the authorities in order to incite a disturbance, which would provide an excuse for the militia being shipped in to murder the workers wholesale.

We have dozens of witnesses who are willing to swear that one of the Provincial Officers emptied his revolver in the attempt to murder a man who was doing his best to avoid trouble, by leaving the scene of the disturbance. This miserable caricature of insulted humanity is known and he may rest in the assurance that somewhere, sometime, he will reap his reward—the reward of any other car, that losing his usefulness to his owner, is spurned under his master's feet.

It should be noted here, that the THIEL gunmen, who shot down our brothers in Timmins in cold blood, are still at liberty. The only one who was committed for trial being allowed out on \$1,000 bail, and has not been seen since. If a slave tries to enter a public vehicle, and only succeeds in getting his head broken and thrown into jail, his bail is \$1,000 (might as well be \$1,000,000), while a company tool can attempt murder and get away with it, \$1,000 being less to his employers than 10 cents is to a workman.

Notwithstanding these difficulties the fight is going on with added vigor and the ultimate result is no longer in doubt. The workers are now becoming too intelligent to allow themselves to be divided upon the field of industrial conflict and defeated by detachments.

The gigantic strides that have been made in this respect may be seen by comparing this strike with that in Cobalt in 1907.

At that time it was a simple matter for the labor leaders of Cobalt to get all the miners they wanted from the unorganized districts of the various Eastern Provinces. The scabbers of Canada and the United States have been securing the country to secure miners to break the strike; it would not be too conservative an estimate to say that there are not 20 competent men working in the mine mines in this whole camp. The first bunch of real miners that the operators have been able to hoodwink into coming up here deserted in a body when they discovered that they were required to work against their own class interests, and these men were from the vicinity of Sunbury, where it has been the proud boast of the Canadian Copper Co. that an organizer of labor could not stay.

Authoritative word has been brought out from the Dome mines, that even the scabs have organized a little strike of their own, as they all want to quit and the company has refused to pay them.

The Hollinger mines have set on the personal effects of a lot of the men who quit their employ and refuse to give it up, and when this was reported to the local judicial authority, he made the remark that he did not give a damn if they ever got their baggage.

One thing is certain, that the workers in this camp are not getting what they voted for, as at the last election the workers here got rolled up, a big majority for the socialist candidate, and whatever the result of the industrial fight may be, there will be some capitalist politicians who will sincerely regret having opened the slaves eyes to what they may expect from a parasitic government under the present system of exploitation.

HAROLD E. BOTLY.

MAY BE IT'S THE ALTITUDE  
The editor of the Miners' Magazine, long suffering from the effects of a strange obsession, seems to have contracted chronic hydrophobia. His latest spasm resulted in his tearing out a handful of hair and butting his head against the wall, after

which necessary preliminaries be proceeded to rave at the I. W. W., calling its members workless loafers. The freight check in the West will perhaps remember that he has honored many a card of the W. F. of M. and wonder why the pot calls the kettle black. Why, indeed? Why should any man claiming to be a socialist have a word to say against the unemployed? No reason, whatever, except the delirium tremens. And no reason why his slobbering ravings should reach the printer other than that the padded cells in Denver are pretty well occupied.

Keep quiet, Napoleon; humor the doctor; he's out.

JIM SEYMOUR.

EQUALITY  
San Francisco, Dec. 24.

This is one subject which has not been given due consideration.

In view of the development of labor-saving machinery we may know that the army of the unemployed will not only increase, but the producing capacities of labor will be more and more equalized. Any one with his eyes open will be able to see that the common laborer is the principal factor in production today. So-called skill is being reduced to a minimum. Knowing then that the common laborer, the unprivileged slave, is in the overwhelming majority, why not take up his cry for industrial equality. Is not this after all what we are striving to obtain.

As long as the importance to production, so long as he considers himself inferior to this so-called skilled or privileged slave, so long it will be utterly futile and hopeless to attempt to overthrow the capitalist class.

I would like to advance some arguments to prove that the common laborer is just as necessary (if not more so) as the mechanic, but I presume space will not permit. This subject is as important as it is unpopular at present.

Yours for industrial freedom.  
E. S. NELSON.

# CHEF LONG "WON'T TALK FOR PAPERS"

(Special to Solidarity.)  
Little Falls, N. Y., Dec. 27.

Benjamin Schragar, of Chicago, former editor of "Solidarity," and Tomasso Volpe, of Rochester, were arrested early this morning on the street and badly beaten by Special Cops Nos. 6 and 16.

Schragar was bruised about the face, while Volpe got such a blow over the spine from a heavy club that he was ordered to his bed by a doctor.

On reporting his injuries Schragar went to the office of Mayor Shall with Attorney Fred H. Moore, a stenographer and a representative of the New York World. The most the mayor would do was to promise to "investigate the matter."

He suggested that a report be made to Chief of Police Long.

The chief received the party with a surly glow.

Moore asked leave to see the record, so that the names of the policemen could be secured.

The chief said there was no such record. Then began a remarkable colloquy, which was taken verbatim by Moore's stenographer, Miss Mabel Bidwell.

Moore: You have received the letter I have in mind, the one containing affidavits, didn't you?

Long: I don't know whether I have or not.

Moore: You would not want to say that you had it?

Long: Nor would I want to say that I had. Look here, Mr. Moore, you have come down here to get some more of that damned stuff for the newspapers, such as was published in the New York World, and you are mistaken if you think you can get anything out of me, for you can't.

That is all you came down here for, loading the newspapers with lies. These yellow journals, the New York World, there is nothing decent about them. A lot of lies. The whole damned crowd of you are looking for trouble. The New York World and them other damn yellow newspapers publish a lot of lies to stir the people up and you'll get all there is coming to you, from me.

(Interjection by plain clothes detective) That is what I say, chief; throw the whole damn bunch out. I would like to have been here yesterday when he called you a liar. I WOULD HAVE SOAKED HIM!

All this took place in the presence of Recorder Collins, the judge of the city

# SOLIDARITY

lice court who looked on in great enjoyment.

The detective's interjection referred to the trial of Mike Snyder, a strike sympathizer, the day before, when Lawyer Moore, in referring to the testimony of Special Policeman Jerry Hartnett, said that "a man who will lie once is likely to lie twice." Hartnett caused the arrest of Mike Snyder last Monday, because Snyder had given an affidavit to the New York World telling of his beating at the hands of Hartnett.

This Hartnett, by the way, is a "union man." He carries a card in the United Textile Workers of the A. F. of L. in one hand and a club in the other. He admitted on the stand that he had obtained a withdrawal card at the time of the strike in order to join the police force. A woman striker, Sallie Mizner, still carries the marks of blows she got from this "union man's" club.

The whole town and the authorities are wild with anger at the publicity given the strike by the World, and the State Labor Commission's investigation, and reports of special correspondents.

Joe Ettor will be here Sunday.

# PITTSBURG NOTES

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 30.  
On Saturday night last at Homestead, the striking railroad workers, who have joined the I. W. W., a few socialists and I. W. W. members, gathered and held a parade through the streets of Homestead to Seventh avenue and Ann street, where a street meeting had been advertised.

An empty vinegar barrel was pressed in to service, as the usual soap box was not handy, from which numerous speakers addressed the crowd of 1,000 or 1,200 that stood on street corners and held their hands fully listening to every word the speakers had to say.

The meeting was addressed by some of the speakers, and by Treasman, Merrick and Speed, the three best being especially well received. Treasman spoke on organization, Merrick on tactics suggesting sabotage as possibly being useful to the workers in the steel mills. Speed made an excellent talk in which he tried to arouse the class consciousness of the workers in the audience and very likely not without success, for one would judge that the applause which came as he made point after point.

We learned that the superintendent of the Carnegie Steel Co. came back the third time in his buggy to listen. We hope to see his application for membership in the I. W. W. soon, for he surely was interested.

This meeting is significant, for a couple of months ago we could have howled our heads off on the streets of Homestead without attracting a crowd of 100, the streets being timid and afraid to listen, but now more and more are adopting the I. W. W. password, "Damn the boss."

Frank Morris was invited to give a talk on "Industrial Unionism" before the Homestead branch of the S. P. on Sunday, December 29. He accepted and gave a short and clear exposition of the subject, which was well received by the subjects, who occupied the audience mostly.

He showed the development of industry, went into details and showed just how the capitalist class gets its power and the nature of that power. He also showed the "remedy suggested to the Gospel of St. John" and not one suggested preference for the "bi-plan" method of travel after he had finished.

It seems that the S. P. has reached the point that some of the churches reached long ago, namely, it is not enough that you make a confession of faith upon joining, but you must at all times be ready to reaffirm your unwavering belief in the thing as it is handed to you without question, investigation or anything that is likely to endanger the condition of the band of political adventurers, as are now in control of the S. P.

In Pittsburg we are witnessing such actions as when in high form of the middle ages, that is, heresy hunting. Those who cannot go forward are bringing up before the Supreme Court of the S. P. those who have become possessed of a new idea, industrial unionism, and are charging them with heresy, high treason and other things terrible to the ear.

Predictions are freely made that all heretics will be thrown out of the "only political party that stands for all the people," the S. P.

I will frankly state that there is one thing that I have a chance to throw out, for I solemnly promise not to pay any more dues to the S. P. or attend their meetings. I also wish to say that if I had the two dollars I gave to the cause at last election, they would have to fight like tigers to get their lunch looks on it again.

But our ideals and hopes shattered, but if they leave us undisturbed, we are wiser and should profit by our experience, be it ever so bitter.

About two weeks ago eight stogie workers, members of the National Stogie Makers' League, employed in Tannerbaum's shop, went out on strike. The president of the League appeared on the

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scene, had an interview with the boss as it ordered the men back to work. They obeyed the orders of their president and went back to work and after working a week went out again.

In the meantime the I. W. W. local of Spogie Workers, some of whose members are employed in the same shop, elected a committee to investigate the strike with full power to act. As a result of this action on the part of the I. W. W., the firm conceded the demands of the strikers.

The secretary of the National League ordered the men back to work, giving the boss the right to take back whoever he saw fit. As a result of this action three of the men were discriminated against with the sanction of the National Stogie Workers' League.

The next day these three were arrested on complaint of their fellow strikers who had gone back to work, on charge of threatening to interfere with their working in the shop. This charge is denied by the men arrested. They have been released and stand decerted by their union.

# "HEALTH INSPECTORS"

(Special to Solidarity)  
Little Falls, N. Y., Dec. 30.—The testimony given by strikers to the State Board of Medicine is in accord with the facts brought out by the investigation of the State Factory Commission conducted here last August.

At that time Dr. A. B. Santry, health officer of Little Falls, appeared before the commission as witness. He described the local sanitary inspector as "an old man who looks after the smells around."

Asked if the town of Little Falls had any sanitary code, Dr. Santry replied: "We have what we call rules and regulations."

"Have you got a copy of them?"  
"No, I haven't. They are very ancient. We have got a committee appointed to revise them."

"How old are they?" "Must be 10 or 15 years old, I guess."

"And you don't ever inspect the factories in this city at all to find out whether they are being conducted in a sanitary condition or not?" "WE NEVER HAVE."

"How about the families—mean the houses and the conditions in which they live?"  
"Unless there is an infectious disease like tuberculosis or typhoid fever or measles or scarlet fever, of course, then we fumigate."

"Otherwise you don't pay any attention?"  
"No."

"No inspection of sanitary arrangements?"  
"No, haven't anything in the code that requires it. I don't know about contagious disease whether we have had any."

"Have you a building code?" "No."  
"Tenement house code, either?" "No."  
"Your department doesn't know anything about the conditions described here by a few mutants ago about a messy woman living in one room?" "We have never taken action on it. Of course, I, as a physician, know of these conditions."

"The local authorities have not taken any interest in it?" "We haven't taken any action."

All this is from the stenographic record of the commission which was composed of Representatives Robert F. Wagner, Edward D. Jackson, Cyrus W. Phillips, Miss Mary E. Dickson and Frank A. Tierney as secretary or stenographer.

The Dr. Santry, whose testimony is given here, later took part in an indignation meeting held by the business men of Little Falls, Pa. protesting against the presence in the city of "outside agitators who seek to stir up discontent."

PHILLIPS RUSSELL.

# LEAFLETS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

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