



# RESULTS OF PHILA. BOATMEN'S STRIKE

Employing Boatmen Desperate. Jails Ready

The Boatmen's Branch of Local No. 8 was organized in Philadelphia on July 17, 1913. The membership consists of a few tugboat men and the remainder are captains of the lighters in the harbor of Philadelphia and vicinity.

Their organization had rapid growth and on September 22 a committee was elected by the branch to formulate demands to be presented to the employing boatmen. This accomplished they submitted the demands together with a suggestion that the employers meet a committee of their employes and come to some agreement.

At the time the demands were made the wages paid to these men amounted to \$45 for those employed on the small lighters and \$50 per month for those employed on the larger boats.

The wages were very unsatisfactory and not only that these men were virtual slaves of the boat owners. They were subject to call at any time, either to land or to sea. They did not dare to call their lives their own.

The arrogant master was always waiting for an opportunity to add additional burdens to those men overworked and underpaid.

The men when they had the necessary strength submitted the demands as before stated.

Now, here is where the pinch came. The men had at last demanded some degree of liberty and were quite willing to fight for it. When the demands reached the bosses they were struck as by a bolt of lightning. While they read their employes' demands, they

resort to try to get back to work. However, the wages are now \$55 and \$60 per month, which is an increase of \$10.00 per month at least. Not so bad after all, considering that these men were receiving \$45 and \$50 per month before the strike.

Then came the aftermath.

The employers know what is going on in this city, especially on the water front. We now have four branches of Local No. 8 in working order, with a central committee in charge. The employers know that we will, if permitted to perfect the present branches with the consequent additions which are bound to come, make this local the greatest power Philadelphia has seen. So a campaign of destruction is now on. The employing boatmen have begun it. They have possibly started too late to destroy the union, but they have resorted to the courts to punish those who are guilty (as they think) of organizing the boatmen and conducting the strike. (As gauges is now on and they have secured first blood.

On November 1, an employe of Bernard Tasker, who was formerly a member of the Boatmen's Branch and who scabbed it on us, was arrested. On the following Tuesday, Nov. 4, the president of the branch and another member were arrested and charged with the crime of aggravated assault and battery. They were held under \$500 and \$400 bail for court. Then the following Thursday the defendant Wilgot, who was already under bail of \$400, was arrested on a warrant charging him with conspiracy to assault the scab.

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## 'TIS A "MAN HUNT"

So One Describes Acts of the Prosecutors of Wheatland Hop Pickers. Boost Fund For Defense

(Sent out by International Workers Defense League, Publicity Dept., Room 12, Sherman Clay Bldg., Oakland, Calif., December 5, 1913.)

On January 12, four of the strikers on the Durst hop ranch at Wheatland will be brought to trial. These men are charged with the murder of District Attorney Stanwood and Deputy Sheriff Resnick, who formed part of an armed force which by violence broke up a protest meeting of the hop pickers—a meeting which the sheriff himself testified was "perfectly peaceable."

In the sheriff's raid on the Durst ranch two of the strikers were killed. It will be noted that no murder charges have been brought against Ralph Durst, who incited the attack and it is known to have collected arms from among his neighbors on the very day of the so-called riot. Nor have any complaints been filed against Sheriff Voss or Deputy Sheriff Dahlen, whose stupidity and cowardice sent into the mixed crowd of men, women and children the first shots, which resulted directly or indirectly in four deaths.

On the other hand another murder charge—that against Earl R. Coley—has been added to the previous five against the hop pickers, and on pretenses even more shamefully frivolous than in the other cases.

In suggesting the consolidation of their cases, which brings the four men—Durst, Ford, Beck and Bagen—up for trial the second week in January (Malouf, the Knights of Pythias men, will have separate trial some time in January), these oppressed Wheatland strikers show their readiness to strip the whole question down to one of straight and prompt justice. They have thus focused the attention for its decisive character on the minds of the friends of the hop pickers or of other classes of workers, and on the minds of the very community of the county.

By latest advice Coley's alibi is a grave difference between Coley's case and that of Leonard. The county of Yuba was having to pay for Leonard's three burials and one for Leonard's wife and child, or Suh's wife and two children, or Ford's wife and two children, or Malouf's wife and child. But the burials and the burials had run a bill of \$97.10 against the county. As old Leonard says: "It was the burials got me out."

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