

# DRIVING WORKERS TO THE I. W. W.

### Such Is the Effect of the Organized Employers' Campaign Against Unions in California.

(Special to Solidarity)

Fresno, Cal., Oct. 12.

While in war-stricken Europe, the slaves, at their masters' behest, are murdering one another, here in this land of great prosperity (?) and particularly in Golden California, quite another kind of war is raging. I refer to the struggle of the M. M. and E. to oust the A. F. of L. craft unions, and to make of Stockton, an "open shop" town.

Now the M. M. and E. threatens to invade Fresno, and some of the capitalist papers, notably the Fresno Republican, are waxing hysterical over the situation. You see, the attempt up in Stockton of the M. M. and E. to cast out the A. F. of L. has had a kind of "boomerang effect," that is to say, the battle has resulted in driving many former A. F. of L. men into the despit (and feared) I. W. W.

Hence the hysterics upon the part of the Republican, and other papers. One notable result of the strife in Stockton, is the organization of a local of the Marine Transport Workers (M. T. W.) local No. 5, with a present membership of about one hundred, organized in the "one big union." Also, over two hundred of the concrete workers, and others of the A. F. of L. members have taken out cards in the I. W. W. Also, a number of women workers in Stockton have applied for a charter for a propaganda local, about fifty of them. In fact, the sentiment in favor of Industrial Unionism has increased more than a hundredfold, and now the enemy, the M. M. and E. are talking of bringing the fight upon Fresno. No specific time for firing the opening gun has as yet been set, but the idea seems to be that it will start in about another month (right in the midst of the worst time of seasonal industrial inactivity), oh, yes, we have our "dull season" in California, all reports from capitalist papers to the contrary notwithstanding.

I have been quietly sounding out employers with whom I have come into contact, also A. F. of L. men, without disclosing my connection with the I. W. W., and in the case of the former, I find, of course, about ninety per cent of them in favor of crushing the unions out of existence, and most of the employers seem not to regard the possibility of driving their employes into the I. W. W. as worthy of serious consideration upon their part. As for the craft unionists themselves, I find most of them, either apathetically indifferent to the impending struggle, or cock sure of winning, "hands down," this, in face of the disaster that has befallen the A. F. of L. in Stockton, Los Angeles, and most cities where the M. M. and E. have tried to undo them. (It's a fact that the M. M. and E. almost invariably win, where the old line craft unions are their only opponents, with their obsolete tactics.)

We of the I. W. W. are awaiting with interest, the opening gun of the war in Fresno, and when it comes, we look for an immediate change of front upon the part of the A. F. of L. men in this town, and perhaps, a substantial increase in the membership of our Fresno local, and also, the establishment of other locals as well.

The lesson of solidarity is a hard one to pound into the skulls of the slaves, but unless all signs fail, this winter, with its attendant misery and unemployment, together with the fight against the M. M. and E. is going to be a banner period for the growth of the "one big union."

One of the (to class conscious slaves) most puzzling and inexplicable things, is the childlike, touching (?) faith, with which the "patriotic scissor-bills" swallow the sort of rot that appears in the papers as the "longest leaf in the world."

I refer to the editorials in the Hearst papers, which tell, day after day, about the great prosperity, that must inevitably result to the people of America, from the European war. I have heard workmen, whose last square meal was with an outcry of the long and anxious over the prospect of "good times a-comin'" when this "cruel war is over."

R. L. H.

## DES MOINES FIGHT WON

(Special to Solidarity)

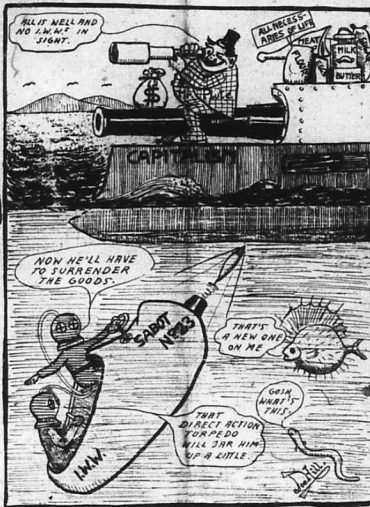
Des Moines, Iowa, Oct. 12.

The free speech fight in the city of Des Moines was started on Saturday, the 27th of September, and on Wednesday, the 7th of October, this fight was won by the prompt action taken by the different local and individual members, who got wind of the affair, and responded to the call for help. There are a number of members here who have been through the different fights of this kind, and all are agreed that they never did see such prompt action taken before, and that it is a sign of the times that has made the pluses sit up and consider where they are getting on, and when they back up, and when they can also learn something for our benefit from the experience of others, that is, a quick response in a case like this is a blow that staggers the opponent, and saves time and money. Now that the fight is won, L. U. 877 is prepared to go ahead with the work of educating the masses. We have a hall in the east end of town and expect to have one in a more central locality soon. Any good speakers on industrial unionism who are coming this way are cordially invited to give a talk on the swimming is good.

Following is a financial account of the fight, which goes to show that it doesn't take money alone to fight the

## CLASS WAR NEWS

### I. W. W. Submarines Are Annoying The Enemy Everywhere



## BUDGET OF BUTTE NEWS

(Special to Solidarity)

Butte, Mont., Oct. 16.

Major Donohue still maintains that Silver Bow county is in a state of insurrection, but feels that he can get along with a small force. He has chased 250 of the yellow boys home but we still have about 160 of them here for use in case we become bosteros.

The Company has several reasons for keeping the militia here. One of these is to assist the fakirs in driving the rank and file of the new union back into the W. F. of M. or to force them to affiliate with the United Mine Workers. Another is to permit them to continue their weeding-out process whereby the rebels are being eliminated so they can get control of the new union, which is their intention at this time.

To quote a high official of the Company: it is easier to control a man organized in an A. F. of L. union than it would be if open shop conditions prevailed. This man realizes that it is better for him to have his share in an organization that is friendly to the boss than to leave him free, as then there would always be a possibility of their becoming national and stampeding to the I. W. W. as they did in Lawrence. The militant spirit of the workers must be crushed, and there is no surer way to accomplish that end than to herd them into such apologies for unions as the W. F. of M. or the U. M. W. of A.

Everyone knows just how big a force the W. F. of M. has become, and for the enlightenment of those who favor an affiliation with the U. M. W. of A., let me point out a few things they stand for. There is the contract system which ties the hands of the workers and compels them to scab on members of their own union, as has been done repeatedly in the coal mining districts of the East. For instance, the miners in Illinois, after apprising the masters of their intention 90 days ahead, go out on strike. This naturally causes a shortage of coal in Illinois, but the Indiana miners continue at work as does his brother in Ohio, Pennsylvania and elsewhere. The Illinois market is flooded with coal and Mr. Striker is starved back to his job. Some union-for-the-master-but-I-don't-think-it-will-do-as-at-present constituted, for Butte, Shannan, McDonald and Bowly have been charged with kidnaping, and their bail is fixed at \$10,000 each.

Dawson and Wallace were released yesterday, but Wallace was double-crossed. He was released by the military authorities on conditions that he would apologize to the soldiers and salute the flag, which he did. This was supposed to have closed the incident, but McCaffery was on the job and had him re-arrested on a charge of second-degree assault. This same McCaffery was defeated at the primaries last month, and unless the Company puts him on their payroll he will have to move to other fields.

He is through here and seems to want to pull as much dirty stuff as possible before he has to go. To date the taxpayers of Montana have been bled to the tune of about \$125,000. The Company is said to be in at about \$75,000.

Several of the firms that signed the petition for the troops to come here have gone into the hands of receivers or bankruptcy. Bankrupt Sales, Receiver Sales, and Going Out of Business Sales seem to be the order of the day. Damage cases amounting in the aggregate to about \$150,000 have already been filed on behalf of the members of the Butte Mine Workers Union and against the Governor, Connelly, Major Rooter, and Donohue. Frank Conley as warden of the penitentiary is said to have profited to the extent of about \$1,000,000 through his merciless exploitation of the convicts. There are about 3,000 men working on the sheet claim more than twice that number. Where there was an anarchist six weeks ago there are several now, and the socialist claim that Major Boon and his summary court tactics have made it unnecessary for them to do any campaigning. Several members of the militia who live in the Glendive, upon being discharged, returned home under the impression that they would receive a routing welcome from their townspeople. They had visions of brass bands playing, "Hail, the conquering hero comes," and fair dames awaiting them with open arms. They were met at the station by a crowd of railroad workers who "rough-housed" them considerably and forcibly impressed on their minds the fact that the Glendive climate was not so good for such cold-blooded citizens as they had proved themselves to be. They immediately returned to Butte and are now under (Continued On Page Four)

## WHAT HAPPENED AT POPULAR, MONT.

### I. W. W. Men Held For Shooting Caused By Bandits Trying To Hold Them Up.

(Special to Solidarity)

Spokane, Wash., Oct. 11.

We presume you have read through the capitalist press of the incident at Popular, Montana, on the third instant, in which three people lost their lives. We, the press committee, have been authorized by the rank and file to send a true account to your paper.

On or about October 1, twenty-five members of the I. W. W., who were working on threshing machines near Ambrose, N. D., met at that place and proceeded to Minot under the impression that there would be a free speech fight there. The fight was postponed indefinitely, as you were previously informed.

Augmented to about 60 fellow workers, we were proceeding westward to the coast, saving little or no trouble until arriving at Poplar. There we were met by the Indian police who searched us for firearms, the deputy sheriff informing us that he had received wires from eastern towns that we were a band of armed bandits. Later the sheriff admitted to the committee that the railroad had put one over on them or he would never have molested us to us to proceed on our way that he woke up one of the committee at 3 A. M., handing him his lantern so as to flag the next train. About 7:30 A. M. on the 3rd we boarded a train for the west. The train was side-tracked at Chelms and abandoned by the crew owing to the 16-hour law.

We were occupying two cars on the extreme head-end of the train. One of the fellow workers went back to get a drink of water and on returning informed the boys that there were three men in the act of breaking into the station house.

We all followed over the track to the rear we found fifty or sixty others who had been riding the train. The three men who were in the act of breaking into the station house were recognized by fellow workers as being men who had held them up a few days ago in North Dakota.

They were requested not to molest them, whereupon one of them drew a gun and threatened to get us all. Awaiting an opportunity, one of the fellow workers covered them with a gun while others relieved them of their fire-arms. Two other members of the same gang of hold-ups were across the track about 200 yards away cleaning their guns in plain sight of us in preparatory to holding up the entire body of men.

Some of our boys went over to where they were and asked them to surrender; when they were a couple of shots. After the firing one man was seen to fall who proved to be an employe of the Great Northern Railroad, a civil engineer by the name of Gintarvalley. Then the firing became general. After the firing had ceased, Fellow Worker Hunt, believed to be a member of Local 66, Fresno, Calif., a Fellow Worker, Fred E. Boisinger of Local 839, Los Angeles, was shot through the arm, and also one of the bandits was found dead. After chasing the other bandit a short distance the trail was lost, and up to this writing this man has not been apprehended.

A false report was sent to Poplar, that a deputy sheriff and entire train crew had been killed. A great body of Indian deputies were sworn in, with the purpose of killing us all on sight. It required a good deal of explaining to keep them from carrying out their purpose and only the timely arrival of the deputy sheriff prevented a massacre. Then in the man of the law we were all remanded back to Poplar where we were held in box cars and kept in a hard starved condition for four days under the watchful eye of Indian deputies.

A great many were examined, and the fellow workers held as witnesses: Frank Shaffner, believed to be a member of the local I. E. Howard of the Butte Propaganda League, Fellow Worker George Edell. Upon our arrival at Havre, Fellow Worker E. Keman of local 571, Great Falls was arrested and

sent back to Poplar presumably as a witness.

We have information leading us to believe that Fellow Worker Shaffner is being held charged with the murder of the civil engineer, Gintarvalley, although it was thoroughly brought out at the inquest that he came to his death from a bullet fired by one of the bandits. As usual the powers that be see an opportunity to send another set of the gallows and will no doubt press their trumped-up charge if allowed. This case will come up for trial next month and it behoves all relatives to keep in close touch with the situation. It is merely another instance of our enemies trying to railroad another worker who they know is antagonistic to the present system.

Some action should be taken by fellow workers in regards to this case. Protests should be sent to Governor Stewart of Montana, Sheriff Bennett and Prosecuting Attorney Babcock of Sheridan county, Mont. Anyone wishing to communicate with the boys in jail, write to care Sheriff Bennett, Plentywood, Sheridan county, Montana.

Geo. D. Bradley, A. D. McLennan, Chas. Kruse, Execs Committee.

## I. W. W. INFLUENCE IN NEW YORK

(Special to Solidarity)

In New York city recently there was some talk of discontinuing city improvements because of the high rates of interest at which money would have to be borrowed for the purpose. This would mean unemployment to over 80,000 men employed by contractors. Many of them are allied with the A. F. of L. Central Federated Labor Union, who labored in their behalf. Some of the representatives of this organization, Hanna, warned the city authorities that if they are to discontinue these men, more I. W. W. unemployed agitation would be the result. The city has now decided to continue the improvements. Hanna's argument, no doubt, contributed to the decision. Which goes to show that I. W. W. agitation is even beneficial to the capitalists.

Just now there is much discussion concerning evictions in New York city. The city authorities, headed by the city chamberlain, are much concerned over the outlook for coming winter. A number of small private banks on the East Side have failed. Eighty families have been affected. In addition, the number of unemployed is characterized as "startlingly large" and the city authorities are appointing a "landlords" and tenants' commission who shall aim to prevent evictions. This commission idea, however, meets with the objection of the landlords' associations. It appears that writs of eviction are often withheld by the tenant going without food and clothing in order to first satisfy the demands of the landlords. In other words, they are a means of compulsion, levied by municipal justices, in favor of the landlord and at a sacrifice to the tenants and all his resources. The landlords want their money, the sustenance of the "good work," hence their objection to a commission consisting of settlement workers and charity officials, who often have to keep the tenants in their distress.

Many believe that this anti-eviction agitation also shows I. W. W. influence; as evictions and entire train crew had been killed. A great body of Indian deputies were sworn in, with the purpose of killing us all on sight. It required a good deal of explaining to keep them from carrying out their purpose and only the timely arrival of the deputy sheriff prevented a massacre. Then in the man of the law we were all remanded back to Poplar where we were held in box cars and kept in a hard starved condition for four days under the watchful eye of Indian deputies.

## TO NEW YORK READERS

The Industrialists' Propaganda League of New York City will hold an entertainment and dance on Saturday, Oct. 31, at 350 East 81st St., at 8 P. M., for the benefit of the Fraternal I. W. W. Local 169, a large number of whom are out of work on account of the war. The special feature of the program will be the appearance of Fellow Worker Benj. J. Lagere in Upton Sinclair's drama, "The Second Story Man." Admission 15 cents.

Frank Cady is the newly-elected secretary of the Portland locals, to whom all communications should be addressed at 309 Tavistock St.











