THE AGITATOR

Issued twice a month, on the first and fifteenth, by File AGITATOR Publishing Association from its printing office, Lakevich, Mass.

Entered at the postoffice at Lakeville, Wash., as Second Class Matter.

Subscription, One Dollar a Year.

Two copies to one address $1.50.

Address all communications to the National Office, Lakeville, Wash.

The AGITATOR does not bear the union stamp because it is not printed for profit. But it is union, every letter of it. It is printed not by printers but by unorganized 

people for the economic and political education of unorganized people. Most of the labor movement is given free. On the whole it is a work of love—the love of the idea, of a world fit for the free.

THE AGITATOR is not the name of a dog's obeying order. 

Author—a dog's obeyed in office. King Lear.

Your attention is extremely called to the article on tactics, which is the first of a series that will be published. You, who have fought in the past when the question has been thunely bailed before us, you and I can dig it and make the dust fly. Before reading the article, stop a minute and reflect upon this obvious truth: The trouble with the mass of mankind is they never examine their doctrines in the light of the new truth, but once having accepted them, continue, doggedly, to propound them even in the face of insurmountable facts. Gods, governments and grafters feed on this foolishness.

WHAT GOOD IS AUTHORITY? 

I. 

Bent over the plow and irrigating with his sweat the furrow as he turns it, the peon toils and enforces one of those inexpressible and folk-songs that seem to console and sum up all the bitterness. Social injustice has been accumulating for centuries in the pious man's heart. The peon toils and sings, thinking all the time of the bare where-in his family is awaiting him to share his humble meal. His heart is flooded with tenderness as he muses on his wife and little ones, and, looking up to note the position of the sun and tell how many hours he has passed since the last meal. After dust which grows as it approaches them. They are very soldiers and they ask: Are you Juan? Receive every command and if they say: You are not far from heaven. The government needs you. And away goes Juan, bound for the prison, to the road to the city, where the barracks await him until the end of the line. The hand of the baton is held out to die of hunger or turn thieves and prostitutes, that it may not die from the warmth of the nation. Will Juan tell you that Authority is a good thing for the poor?

II. 

For three days Petro has been crying the city eager- ly, in search of work. He is a good workman. His muscles are of steel; on his face, which stamps him a child of the people, honesty shines. Virtu teims the city, begging employers to exploit his sturdy arm. On every side the doors were shut against him, but Petro is energetic and does not allow himself to be discouraged. So, streaming with sweat and with the sharp teeth of hunger gnawing at his enticels, he offers and offers and offers and to the police, every man, to the last one, he has no other way. He is the opportunity moment to lay hands on the law and rend it pieces; to lay hands on private property and take what they want. The law makes it the property of the day. The government is formed of the human beings of whom is composed the republic of Mexico.

Let us not permit, therefore, the formation of a powerful government. To the world's exportation, therefore, without delay. And, if unbelievably, some other individual should come to the Presidency of the Republic, let us keep against him and his followers, to prevent him from becoming strong: continuing meanwhile the world's exportation.

(Ricardo Flores Magón, in "Regeneración" of March 30, 1912. Translated from the Spanish by W. C. Owen editor, English section.)

SPECIAL FROM AUSTRALIA

Dear Comrade: I suppose you have read of the General Strike in Brisbane, which has just been declared off. While the anarchists refused the right to wear a badge, when on duty, the employers are compelling them to sign an agreement giving them 14 days notice before giving them off again. The workers have learned thus experience that government uses violence to defend exploitation.

The State Premier appealed to the Federal Prime Minis- ter to send the Federal Troops to Brisbane. The re- quest was refused as it would have destroyed the Polit- ical Labor Party absolutely. Special constables were imme- diately enabled and relief cast and the workers marched as well as foot police lined across the streets to prohibit the unionists becoming a procession. Unfortu- nately the police succeeded in the attempt to put things warped. This grave mistake was the outcome of depending up on leaders who could when difficulties was demanded. Nowadays, the leaders who have all the power to go home as the police had detained they would hold him responsible for anything happened

The Labor Politicians throughout Australia have displayed deplorable blindness against the strikers. The minister of trade and commerce, Mr. Griffith, stated that they should be treated as industrial outlaws. King O. Mally a Federal Cabinet Minister endorsed the above, while the Federal Attorney General, Mr. Goad, stated that striking workers were not acting as members of the Sydney Trades Council remarked he had no sympa- thy with strikes. The Transport Workers of New South Wales, who were requested to demand a return to work, the strike was illegal. Also the New Castle miners re- fused to strike. This is the satisfaction the workers get by returning working men to fat jobs in Parliament.

There was a splendid chance to gain a grand victory, which might have commenced the Social Revolution. The labor movement has been, so far, completely nullified by the standing army of little importance. They could have seized supplies and declared for Equality. But the leaders bowed to the strikers sufficiently to inform the police when they were able to have them all arrested. The labor politicians once again proved themselves traitors, upholding authority, which was anox- iety to kill the strikers.

The lesson taught the workers self protection, Direct Action and the General Strike. Since the strike I have made many moves to Anarchist and have considerably increased my list of Anarchist Literature.

Your sincerely,

C. T. Coutts.

L. W. Fleming.

REVOLUTIONARY TACTICS

I. 

The gathering of Socialist labor leaders and the formulation of its program has been delayed by the political platform. This obviously its program and policies, and policy the understanding of the political platform. Previously, when establishing their political party, the universal custom of Socialists, they had scathingly criticized and condemned all existing political parties as being nature non-revo- lutionary, and organized their party entirely inde- pendent of and opposed to all others. When they felt the necessity for an organized, they move it instinctively pursued the same course of reasoning and tactics. They violently criticized and utterly condemned the existing con- servative labor unions and established the I. W. W. as an independent labor movement.

They reasoned, in effect, though perhaps without realizing it, as follows: The corrupt old parties do not represent the interests of the Working Class on the political field. We organized a new party and it is succeeding. The rotten craft unions don't represent the interests of the Working Class on the economic field. Therefore, let's organize the automatic universal union to replace them. It also will succeed.

The result of this self-conscious analogical lumping together of labor unions and political parties was that the serious problems was that the special problems ever present in the organization of dual labor unions were entirely neglected and the I. W. W. organized "illy nilly" on the gratuitous assumption that any political party can be made a success so can a dual labor union.

But as time has gone on the political party has had a continued growth while the I. W. W. is, in spite of a large and growing revolutionary sentiment, has vacillated, struggling with problems and difficulties entirely absent in the political party's experience. It is, therefore, high time that the problems facing the I. W. W. be given a long and thorough examination than the haphazard one accorded them at the outset, when they were all "settled" with a voice from heaven.

To contribute to this long delayed investigation will be the purpose of this series of articles.

George McDowall in his attempt to organize the American prolet- tariat on a revolutionary basis, the I. W. W. is performing this function. These are the principles on which the organisation. It has a double purpose. First it is serving as a propaganda league to propagate the principles of Individual Anarchism; second, it is func- tioning as a labor union, wherever possible and immedi- ately building up an entirely new labor movement.

We have been so accustomed to see these two principles together, that we have not heretofore even remarked them as being different entities. Proof of their individuality is seen.
A ROUSE YE WORKERS

Workingmen arise! the night departure
And the dawn draws nigh.
Of old, forebott, by prophet, poet,
Vision of sage and seer.
Arose ye, my brothers, and rouse from you
"The night of sorrow, the dawn of day!"

Rouse ye! for woes of weekly woe!
For crippled children crying:
For all the tugs and rare millions
Of ailing, crying, dying.
For the harlot, for the drunkard,
For the thief, for the knave,
For those poor "heirs of all ages"
Who are heirs to nothing but grief.

For the starving—yes, for the satiety
For the somnolent, the unconsign
For all fair fields of earth behoofed,
Rouse ye! stand for the truth,
Glitter arms and forces which are blighting,
And working ruin and ruth;

Because of wrongs which wait for righting,
Rise and strike for the truth.

—JOSEPH LEM

HOWEVER, in this many countries syndicalist propaganda
does not function as labor unions. The syndicalist propaganda league of Eng-
land is an example. On the other hand, innumerable labor organ-
bazations which are not functioning as propaganda agencies
in France, where the labor movement is controlled by direct action
agitators, are functionally equivalent to syndicalist
propaganda. In the United States, for example, there are
colonies of syndicalist propaganda in a number of organiza-
tions which, in the form of periodicals, leaflets, and the like,
function quite effectively. So-called campus organizations
are another example. The situation is quite the same in other
countries. The syndicalist propaganda leagues of various
nations are in existence. The list is quite long.

In France, where the labor movement is controlled by
direct action agitators, the functional equivalent of labor
organizations is its propaganda.