THE REVOLT OF LABOR

The garment workers' strike in New York has been officially decared off. Many thousands of the workers, however, refused to accept the Civic Federa tion's agreement, and are continuing the strike. They claim Riickert, president of the United Garment Workers, betrayed them by making the agreement and giving them no chance to pass it over.

Many employers, seeing the determined attitude of the strikers, have deserted the employer associations and acceded to the union's demands. The chances of the remaining strikers making a come back are extremely good.

In spite of its doubtful conclusion this great strike must be registered as an important victory, as 40,000 garment workers have joined the Ameri can Federation of Labor unions in recent years. The workers, besides winning important concessions and increasing their union's membership, have just about destroyed the many New York associations of clothing manufactur ers. Two new and very important factors in the winning of this strike were the solidarity shown by the garment workers in outlying cities, and the wholesome fear the bosses had of forcing the gar ment slaves into the J. W. B. by crushing their A. F. of L. unions. The days are almost past in this country when the workers in one city or trade will suffer for the gain of those in another. The same is true of such Civic Federation arguments as that of Riickert. The workers will not much longer submit to them.

The structural iron workers in their convention recently expressed the opinion of the union. They are also going to levy an assessment on the general membership of $100,000 to defend the convicted of the old union and support them. The two facts alone are conclusive proof that the old trade unions are not so devoid of spirit as many would have us believe. It would have been very easy to find some excuse to forsake Ryan and the rest. It takes courage to provoke and face the chorus of captives that have been raised over the heads of this union electing "convicted criminals" as officials. Had the structural iron workers "flunked" in this, they were going to raise the solidarity of the A. F. of L.

However, seeing that the right thing has been done, these same critics, always professing on the theory that the A. F. of L. can do no right, will have nothing to say. Let us therefore at least record the praiseworthy stand taken by the iron workers.

The Hodcarriers' International Union recently had its jurisdiction extended to all kinds of laborers engaged in construction work, such as sewer diggers, etc. Of course, this is an important move, and if followed up by a vigorously agitated campaign of organization will be of immense benefit to all the workers in the fields of iron and steel. The old Wagner-Labor Union arrangement has been abandoned, and the Hodcarriers are the only one of the big labor organizations in the nation that cannot be said to have any solidarity at all. The A. F. of L. is organizing the floating workers of the West because of the necessity of establishing an all-union arrangement, and if the Hod carriers will not pay a new initiation fee each time they change from one industry to another. Recent events show that this objection is falling to the ground. Provided present A. F. of L. plans are carried out, the bulk of the floating workers will be eligible to membership in two organizations—the hodcarriers' and the woodworkers. Once these unions have a considerable membership, what more natural than that they establish a free transfer system between them. Thus the many union disadvantages would cease at once.

One of the most important questions now agitating the French labor movement is that of Catholic labor unions. The leaders of the Catholic Church, encouraged by their successes in Belgium and Germany, are endeavoring to found a Catholic labor movement in France. So far they have been alto gether unsuccessful except among the railroadmen, of whom 10,000 have been able to found a Catholic union in that field. The French society is not much stronger than the syndicalists and Socialistists. While they have been fighting each other, the priests, aided by the employers, have had the upper hand. However, the militant Catholics are now fully aroused and will soon drive out the Catholic unions.

A committee of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, now in negotiation with the railroad managers in Chicago regarding local conditions, discovered that a department of the committee which had been sending out men for a couple of days, without molesting it, they con cluded all kinds of horrible plots for the benefit of the listeners. In fact, they may have raised the holdout on an adjoining room and there found a couple of Burns detectives taking down a stenographic re cord of what was being said. The committee is seriously considering the advisability of studying the mime language.

The United States government is limiting itself to encouraging the production of wireless telegraph operators. It is at present taking a census to learn just how many the various schools could furnish in the future. The government will telegrapher as a rule receive ridiculously low wages, and as over the world they are rapidly organize into the Commercial Telegraphers' International Union, a strike may be looked for at any moment.

The machinists and electricians have agreed to henceforth make joint contracts. Instead of each singly making contracts with individual companies, as at present, it is proposed that both unions meet in joint conference and draw up a wage scale, etc., for all the electric supply companies throughout the United States and Canada. Thus the "un联合 craft unions are learning.

The Illinois miners in convention, amid the wildest enthusiasm, voted to assess themselves $100,000 for the benefit of the miners who have been fired. The miners also voted to give the remaining $600,000 in their treasury if it becomes necessary. This incident clearly proves that the miners' union is "an adjunct of the capitalist class."

The big I. W. W. strike of rubber workers at Akron, Ohio, has produced a new wrinkle in the labor situation. Between the I. W. W. strikers and A. F. of L. proposes to give the strikers $35 per week and thus lay the foundation for a union that will take all in 1907 in the rubber industry.

The structural iron workers have declared off their eight-year strike against the American Bridge Company. They believe this will net them at least 5,000 members.

Up to date, sixteen of the convicted "dynamiters" have been released on bond from Leavenworth peni tentiary.

For several hours Pittsburgh steel workers suc ceeded in keeping the girders rolling suite to the coupling hose to the fire plugs and publicly dousing the "links."

W. Z. FOSTER.

SOCIETY NOTES.

A parcel post package broke. It contained peas. Everyone moved out of the postoffice.

JUDICIAL distribution of just plain snatch broke up an English summit meeting.

A small piece of brown soap dissolved in the blacksmith's tub will stop the tempering of tools. Tools dipped in this solution become coated, which prevents the quick transfer of heat to the water.

A "flank" on the Illinois Central Railroad took three days putting cylinder packing rings in a locomotive. First half-day cost $1 each. The Illinois Central passed its last dividend.

A rush order of cotton landed on a side track with seven hot boxes. On examination it was found minus seven bales. How the fell (7) out is a mystery. The company was sued for non-fulfill ment of contract.

Tubes containing phosphorus were placed in Eng lish mailboxes. These tubes broke when the boxes were emptied into mailbags. Vast quantities of mail matter was thus released. A number of telegraphers the mails are one of the strike-breaking аг е s.

The Socialist party's own dear Victor Berger has just confessed to clogging the mechanism of the United States government's printing and mail ing department with 2,000,000 ballots of the Socialist party. If this is an effort to save the life of the United States government, it is a most feeble effort. This is not sabotage and in viola tion of Article 2, Section 3, of the Constitution, building tridges, if spotted with lime-water stains, is an exceedingly hard prop osal for the painter to get around.

The recent invention of carrying 500,000 pounds of butter in Chicago was found to contain a 16 per cent surplus of water. Twenty million pounds of butter in storage have been spoiled, as soon as it was learned that investigation was on foot. Some sabot age—eh?

J. A. JONES.

GERMANS SAT DOG.

Berlin is a progressive city and its Council has the welfare of the people greatly at heart. In the slaughter houses, too, a sad se t has been set aside for the killing of dogs. This is no joke, but a dire fact. It is well known that for a long time the dog has been eating dog meat, beef having become a delicious food beyond their reach. Verily we are progressing—Freie Arbeiter.

Statistics show that during the last two years the miners have received, as an increase of wages, $4,000,000. They also show that the price of coal has gone up $13,500,000 during that time.

The men who own the earth and its products own you.

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