THE REVOLT OF LABOR

According to recent press reports, the I. C. and Har- riman strike is approaching an end. The officials of the I. C. and the men are working quietly behind the scenes with a strong possibility of a settlement being reached soon. The immediate issue of the strike is the question of wage scales. The labor troubles that have already occurred in the railroad industry, however, have brought the question of wage scales into sharp focus.

The agreement reached between the I. C. and the strike committee provides for a scale of wages that is significantly higher than that paid by other railroads. The strike committee has been successful in winning the support of the workers, and it is likely that the settlement will be ratified by the workers in a short time.

The settlement of the I. C. strike will have a significant impact on the labor situation in the railroad industry. It is expected that other railroads will follow the lead of the I. C. and raise their wage scales. This will have a positive impact on the economy as a whole, as it will reduce the cost of living and increase the purchasing power of workers.

A VOICE FROM ENGLAND

The Syndicalist line of action towards existing or- ganizations, composed of genuine workers, is unusual- ly clear and precisely defined. We believe that people, and their individual actions, have not been of such a revolutionary character that some will say that the Syndicalist line of action towards existing organizations is simply a means to an end. We believe that what we are doing is simply a means to an end.

The Syndicalist propagandists have spread to such an ex- tent that we are not surprised at anything happening in England. For instance, the North-Eastern Rail- way men's strike, where 10,000 men laid down their tools over one man. And they won the day. There have been other strikes, merely passive, taking place in London and elsewhere, and all the happenings in the province. And the crowning point is that at a mass meeting the Railway Workers' Union unanimously de- clared for a general strike on the railroads to stop victimization.

This is an industrial union, the outcome of the amara- tions of three craft unions who have been their way to new days. - DAVE ARMSTRONG

THE SYNDICALIST

BROADSIDE OF 28, THE SYNDICALIST

Republican socialists have recently somewhat startled railroad unionists by advocating a nation-wide federation of the various railroad brotherhoods. There is a prominent national federation of the railroad unionists at the way these organizations are being played one against the other by the wealthy railroads. Under the Railway Men's National Federation, there are now 100,000 members, and it is already afoot, and is rapidly spreading. The principle manifestation of it is the Railroad Men's Non- Partisan Political Association. This is an organization of railroad men who are opposed to the present system of rail- road rate fixing and to the internal affairs of the various railroad unions. The Railroad Men's Non-Partisan Political Association (in spite of its name) is a political organization. It is the most important development among railroad men since the A. L. U. In a later issue we will give more details regarding it. President Carter of the A. L. U. and E. is one of their executive secretaries who can see the coming storm and are taking corrective measures to avoid its fury.

Two Chicago unions (machinery movers and pile drivers) have just obtained charters from the International Association of Bridge and Structural Iron Work- ers. Speaking of the affiliation, President Ryan said what naively says: "There are many unions whose work overlaps that of another. This was the case with the machinery movers. The building trades depart- ment of the A. F. of L. has adopted a policy of opposing the amalgamation of trades that conflict with each other in order to prevent jurisdictional strife. In line with this policy, the building trades unions have joined the International." Nasty theorists say that the craft au- tonomy of the A. F. of L. unions precludes all possi- bility of any settlement of the jurisdictional quarrels between them. They overlook the fact that similar quarrels prevail in lesser degree between similar craft unions in every labor movement in the world, and that one sure specific amalgamation has been found for them. It is not surprising that this specific is also coming to be recognized and applied in the A. F. of L.

In a vote soon to be taken, it is authoritatively stated, the bricklayers will decide to affiliate with the A. F. of L. This union has a membership number 65,000 members. Their craft is one of the strongest organized and occupies one of the most strategic positions of any in the country, they are constantly being forced to get into closer touch with the labor movement. The same forces that are propelling the bricklayers into A. F. L. will also compel the A. L. of L. unions to come into the fold. The bricklayers of the country are the surest peo- ple these unions to gradually federate and amalgamate until they approximate the industrial form of organization.

The long expected general strike in Belgium is now scheduled to begin April 14. The government has categorically refused to grant the workers the ballot de- manding, and, as a consequence, the strike seems inev-itable. The labor movement of the whole world is awaiting this strike with interest. Not the least of the attention is the internationalization movement—Socialists, Syndicalists, and Anarchists are all working together in preparation for the strike. Great things can be looked for from Belgium next month.

The amalgamation movement in England, to which the Syndicalists are devoting great efforts, goes on space. The five largest unions in the garment trades are now voting on the proposition of fusing into one union. The transport workers' unions are also generally influenced by the movement for greater solidarity. Their leaders are now in the class war, and finding out the propositions of consolidation. Details are now be- ing worked out. A similar consolidation is also be- ing voted on by the building trade unions. It is high- time that an organized amalgamation movement be started in this country.

At its recent meeting the executive committee of the A. F. of L. instructed President Gompers to "encourage the federation of all organizations whose members are employed in kinds and closely allied trades, and to encourage the amalgamation of unions where it is mu- tually agreeable to them." Thus, the reactions in the A. F. of L. are in line with intense interest in industrial unions, even in the A. F. of L., of recognizing trends toward industrial unionism and are gradu- ally falling in with it.

By a majority of 60,000, the British miners have de- clared in favor of a merger. The proposition is also being voted on by the miners in the various other countries, which have been submitted to them last year at the international congress of miners in Amsterdam. The coming convention, set for next year, in Vienna, will proba- bly take definite action on the matter.

Two of the most important strikes now on are those of the Akron rubber workers and of the Paterson sil- ver workers. Both strikes have settled down into grim battles of endurance continuing to test the solidarity and ability to suffer privations against their master's pocketbooks, brutality, and stupidity.

According to recent official figures, the membership of the A. F. of L. at the end of January was 1,097,430. This is the largest in the history of the A. F. of L., and an increase of 204,600 since the Rochester convention. At this rate it may take the A. F. of L. several years to die out.

The difficulties of the 5,000 Chicago switchmen have been referred to a sort of temporary arbitration com- mittee. A strike still threatens.

SOCIETY NOTES

The first principle of the socialist is not to get caught.

Where you expense one penny and cause the boss to lose a thousand is considered good sabotage.

A copper nail driven into the heart of a tree will cause it to gradually die. Many trees were so treated in San Diego during the free speech fight. They are beginning to "viper off." * * *

A mouse in a loaf of bread was the direct cause of Health Commissioner Young of Chicago closing a bake shop. The owners were supposed to have put a dead mouse in some bread, and the mouse was due on the part of his employees.

Gold clubs houses and the very newest and most up- to-date railway stations in England are still being as- sisted skidrow, and the suffragettes are making no pro- test.

* * *

During the present rubber strike at Akron the sheriff shot his nose snub. He did not know that rubber manufacturers sell a rubber nose guard for the protection of rough house football players?

J. A. JONES

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