LEAGUE No. 1, NELSON, B. C.

Strikes, and rumors of strikes! Most every paper one reads is full of reports about the growing strength of working men or women striking, having struck, or just going to strike. British Columbia is having its share of these.

At the "Britishain" mine, Home Sound, members of the W. F. M. of M. have been out some time, owing to the refusal of the company to allow their business agent on the property, and general discrimination and all-round cussedness. The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Amalgamated, and Society of Engineers are also out in sympathy. An arbitration board was called and "sat" on the matter, and gave its decision. The "Britishain" has refused to submit to this and is determined to enforce the decision. Certainly not Dickie McBride's government, since one of his benefices is one of the "Britishain" company. Anyway, these laws were not put in the statute book to be enforced against capitalist companies by themselves. This decision was made a miscarriage of justice—by, pardon, law—and ought to be declared unconstitutional. Arbitration is a damned farce, anyway, and the sooner the workers get next to the business the better. What in hell is there to arbitrate? The soft end of a Donnybrook shillelagh is the best pacifier.

Darn these "foreign" unions, anyway. They are still at it, hammer and tongs, on Vancouver Island, with the United States and the foreign capitalists. Capitalism is international. Just the same, it is truly amusing to hear the management of the coal companies, who are American (and free-born at that) complain about a foreign "American" union. The company has stated all along that it was a "foreign" company, and, to show that it meant business, have formed a union of scabs at Ladysmith and labeled it the "Do- mission of Canada Miners' Union," with the company officials acting as officers. As an organizing advertisement the unionless union held a bean-feast at Duncan. The workers said that was a good pointer to the unorganized on "how to get organized cheaply."

The strike situation is still much the same. The coal companies of America paying out $15.000 a week towards the strike. If they would educate their membership in more effective tactics, with a fringe of sabotage thrown in, the strike would have been over long ago. One weekly installment of the strike benefit inveterate, and would give the bosses delinquent union treasurers. But, then, sabotage is anarchistic, immoral, unchristian; in fact, too business-like.

A good move has been taken in Vancouver by the amalgamation of the civic employees and building and common laborers. There will thus be one charter, one agenda, increased membership and greater solidarity and efficiency.

The W. F. M. of M. in the interior are still pondering over that Arbitration Board decision. She's a "lemon," boys!

Nelson is also worried by the arbitration bone. It's a cinch that the men who invented work must also have invented arbitration. He sure had it "in" for the workers.

The Socialist "pollys" around here are somewhat sore. A few "renegades" officials of the U. M. W. of A. in the Crow's Nest Pass took a notion to form a "labor party" and participate in the late election, with the result that the sole socialist representative in the Alberta Legislature was elected. They did O'Brien a good turn, as he can now go ahead educating and organizing the workers instead of lecturing a pinched-headed aggregation of lawyers on economics.

W. CRAIG.

CAPITALISTIC LIBERTY

Oh, yes, liberty is sweet, I grant. But, like every other general rule, it has its exceptions. The liberty, for instance, of standing on a hungry street corner just because there is no work in the world for you to do, in the exception that dams the whole fabric of our much vaunted "economic" institutions. This "economic" system is strong of our age, and until it has been replaced there cannot be anything on earth worthy of the name of civilization.

EL TUERTO.

THE SYNDICALIST

THEORY AND PRACTICE

When the I. W. W. was formed it was equipped with a whole array of dogmas regarding labor unionism, based on the theory that labor unions were never known to change, were governed by their leaders, were subject to various failings inherent in them, and abuses of the craft unions irreparable, but the ideal form and tactics of the I. W. W. were permanent. Evidence: They were founded for a labor organization was held impossible, although the whole history of the labor movement was to the contrary.

The theory of rigidity was the very life theory of the I. W. W., for if it admitted that craft unions could change, and that the I. W. W. could change for the worse, there would have been no excuse for the I. W. W. coming into existence.

Practice has shown the dogmas based on this fluxity of type theory to be valueless. On the one hand the craft unions, under the pressure of economic pressure, are falsifying many of their so-called fundamental principles. Everywhere they are adopting revolutionary ideals and repudiating the "hard hand" phase of Civil Government. Many of them are federating or amalgamating into higher forms of unions and are removing theiclass, with the result of being coopted into the craft unions. The sacredness of the contract theory is also being given up, the St. Louis union at present having placed a bond on all those for not having violated their contract and struck in sympathy with the waiters.

Sabotage is becoming a recognized weapon. In short, the craft unions are rapidly departing from their "fundamental principles" and are placing themselves upon industrial lines. On the other hand, the I. W. W. is not so rapidly evolving. Thrown by the Lawrence strike from the realm of theory into that of practice, it is casting aside as worthless many of its most cherished "fundamental principles." One of the more important of these is the well-known "no contract" plan. For years the I. W. W. has been insisting that the contract root and branch as "the death warrant of the working class," and yet in the hatters' strike in New York it is found that the contract had not a ripple of protest from the erstwhile contract-hostile theorists.

The I. W. W. of today has also bitterly assailed the A. F. of L. for keeping the workers out on long strikes. They had a whole series of fancy tactics as substitutes. Yet the same long Paterson strike is a typical "dime against dollars" strike. The much boasted and theorized of "intermittent" strike, widely practiced and believed in by many W. W. theory, has been found to be inapplicable. "A. F. of L. tactics" had to be used, however inconsistent.

And, worse yet, many I. W. W.'s would be glad to see part of the Paterson strikers go back to the books for lack of funds, even though for years this practice by the craft unions has been labeled the rankest treachery by the I. W. W. And it's the same with the absurd centralization theory of the I. W. W. Practice has shown them, too, to be fallacious. The old fanatical cry of no autonomy is being succeeded by an intelligent demand for decentralization. Two of the I. W. W. four English papers are edited by avowed decentralists.

The old "fundamental" cry of "no leaders" in the I. W. W. is also falling into disrepute, as today the I. W. W. undoubtedly has more labor leaders than any union of its size in the country. Its progressive leaders are not the "autocracy" theory of the I. W. W. Practitioners has shown that without the help of the militant minority. The labor faker is also beginning to bloom in the I. W. W., though this was supposed to be the "craft union" theory of the I. W. W. And so goes the evolution of the I. W. W.

Nor is this evolution liable to cease. Not only are the craft unions falsifying themseles, but still more, but the I. W. W. also will change radically as it gets more experience. Now that Wm. E. Truexman, the king-pin I. W. W. theorist, has been jettisoned from the official pie counter and characterized by the hand that fed him for years, it may be expected that many of his theories, including the "ideal form of the Union" chart, which, with its freak and arbitrary industries and departments, will be repudiated.

The writer believes that in the crucible of practice the I. W. W. provided it secures any considerable membership, eventually will be forced to give up even its ambitious theory of being the whole labor movement, and will be compelled to join forces with the craft unions. Seeing that the I. W. W. is not only given up, but has been and is in many cases and adopted some erastwhile condemned A. F. of L. tactics, it don't seem impossible that this former adherent of "dogmatic" unionism will be compelled to join forces with the easier, not only because the craft unions are showing such signs of progress that it will soon be a toss up between them and the I. W. W., which is the better union, but also because both will soon be in the hands of the Socialists.

The I. W. W. represented the labor union virtues and the craft unions all their vices, and these were supposed to be fixed attributes of both organizations, there was some excuse for the I. W. W. attempting to adopt some semblance of the other movement. But now that the I. W. W. and the craft unions in practice are rapidly approaching each other in form, tactics, etc., and will continue to do so, there seems but slight excuse for the preservation of the last and master theory of the I. W. W....i.e., the need of a complete new labor movement.

It, too, will join the many other discorded freak theologies foisted upon the I. W. W. by its utopian founders.

W. Z. FOSTER.

THE ORIGINAL CONSPIRACY

Now, the original industrial conspiracy has been on the part of the strong to take the earth, and the workers haven't been doing it. They are doing something. But now it is time we got all the good working men and women, and when the time is ripe to make them as much wealth as they need, to do it. We need a conspiracy now. The workers need a conspiracy now. In the United States there is no other possible way as the conspiracy of the working men of the world, and it has only one object. We may temporize; we may be content with a little; we may stop at half measures, but in the end it has only one object and that is for the workers of the world to take back the earth that has been stolen from them.

Take it back, and have all the products of their toil, and part of it, and all of it. Now, it is a universal, worldwide conspiracy by the intelligent working people and their friends the world over to set the earth that has been stolen by direct action.

Now, no one who understands this question wants anything less, and the employer is right when he says if working men are permitted to organize they won't stop with that; and they won't. You may place every lawyer on the bench, and you may place a jail in every block and a penitentiary in every wards, and the workingmen won't stop. If they will they deserve to be workingmen forever.

CLARENCE S. D ARROW.

(From "Industrial Conspiracies," a pamphlet, 10c, for sale by The Syndicalist.)

A MEMORIAL TO VOLTAINRE DE CLEYRE

America has already produced some great figures, figures that will stand out in bold relief upon the pages of history, where they will be seen by future generations even more clearly than the most clear-sighted of their own time saw them.

Voltairine de Cleyre is one of these figures. A poet of wonderful, strange power, a clear thinker, a forceful prose writer, a true rebel, the type that always hews to the line, that is never lured from the straight, direct road of action. William Thurston Brown, Honore Jaxon, Hilda Potter Loomis, Julius Menke, Jay Fox, and Irving Abrams were the speakers, the latter speaking in Yiddish.

Subscriptions were taken for a volume of Voltairine's writings, which will be published in the fall.

A collection of over $19 was also taken up for the Paterson strikers.

FOR KANSAS CITY

Kansas City Syndicalist Educational League has opened headquarters and reading room at Schtte Building, room 8, 7300 Grand Ave., from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day, all wage-workers welcome.