THE AGITATOR
A SEMI-MONTHLY ADVOCATE OF THE MODERN SCHOOL, INDUSTRIAL UNIONISM, INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

THE PASSING SHOW.
To Make Striking a Crime.

Following the splendid victory of the workers of England in their recent mass strike when they tied up the country and showed the enormous power they possess when they act together on the industrial field, comes the announcement that a bill has been introduced in parliament making it "unlawful for any employee to go on strike on account of any dispute," and imposing "a fine of not less than $10.00 for each day or part of a day that such employee is on strike."

For the benefit of the leaders, who, being employed by the unions and cannot be punished by the other clause, this one is inserted: "Any person who incites, encourages, or aids in any manner an employee to go on or continue on strike shall be guilty of an offense and liable to a fine of not less than $50.00 nor more than $800.00."

This is the first attempt to throttle the strike in England.

The strike is the last hope of the forlorn workers. For 100 years they have been grooping in the dark. During that time unionism has been gradually grooping its way to the front. Today it has reached that stage in its evolution where it is a formidable power. From the little isolated local trade union it has developed into international proportions and is on the verge of assuming the industrial form. Once the workers of the world have been thoroughly imbued with the idea of Industrial Unionism no power on earth will stay the fulfillment of their ambitions. Freedom will then be theirs and the canons of plutocracy cannot prevail against them.

It is the spectre of Industrial Unionism looming large on the horizon of the labor world that is causing the exploiters to shiver and urge their puppets in parliament to attempt to cloud it with the feebler snore of legislation.

The compulsory arbitration humps that have been tried in Australia, together with the "liberty-for-labor-through-legislation" bung, with the result that in no country is capitalism more secure, and the revolutionary movement weep.

One of the greatest victories achieved by the labor politicians of England is the payment of a big salary to members of the house of commons. Now they will support this measure for the enslavement of their fellows.

Will the English workers stand for this measure, or will they raise such a protest that the roof will rattle over the heads of the capitalist and labor fakers in the old parliament building?

Discontent, Riot, Revolution.
Are we on the eve of a world-wide revolution? From all parts of the globe comes news of revolt, riot, strike, and every kind of discontent.

In Mexico the spirit of revolution is as rampant today as it was at the heights of Madero's campaign, although it is not being so widely advertised by the capitalist press.

Being a tool of the system, Madero's exploiters were heralded widely throughout the world.

The real revolutionists, the Liberal Party, is being treated with silence by the press of all parties with the honorable exception of the few revolutionary papers. The politicians are afraid to have an election lest it be the signal for another general out-break and stampede to the liberal party. The watchword, "Land and Liberty," will not down in Mexico.

I wonder when we "intelligent" Americans will wake up and follow the lead of the Illiterate sons of the soil.

Spain is in the throes of revolution. Marshall law has been declared throughout the entire country. This gives evidence of a serious conflict between the people and their rulers.

A general strike has been declared. The people stormed a court room in Valencia, where some of their comrades had been convicted and killed a judge and wounded other officers of the law. This shows what utter contempt these ignorant foreigners have for the law, and is a fair warning to us law-abiding Americans to enter the field of entry to them, lest they contaminate our contented working class, and thus make the job of dispensing the laws a less desirable sinecure.

In this country the nearest we've got to hanging judges is to string up straw images of them. But some timid individuals would opine that straw images are dangerously near the real thing.

In Vienna the hungry mob became so pronounced in its protest against the high price of food that the soldiers fired upon it, killing and wounding something like 50 people.

But we need not be alarmed at that. For the killing of hungry working people is quite an old practice in this new country.

Has Capitalism Devoured This Man?
George Shoaf, special correspondent of the Appeal to Reason in Los Angeles, mysteriously disappeared on the night of August 13th and has not been seen or heard from since.

Shoaf had been working on the Times explosion and he had asserted he had evidence to prove that Otis had hired a notorious thug to blow up the building. All his papers disappeared with him.

Is this another case of kidnapping? If this Socialist had dangerous evidence in his possession, the easiest way to dispose of him would be to kill him. The brutal thugs in the employ of Otis and the capitalists' association have no scruples in the manner of suppressing their enemies.

The workers are the only humanitarians, the only party in this fierce economic fight that believe in fair play. Capitalism is a soulless thing, without feelings or conscience. It is a venomous beast that devours all who oppose it. Knowing this, I would not be surprised to learn positively that this troublesome correspondent has become a victim, and paid with his life the penalty of being on the side of the oppressor.

Slaves Must Not Drink Beer.
Springfield, Ill., Sept. 18.—"Claiming that the sale of liquor to their employes tended to make them unfit for work, the Illinois Midland Coal Company today obtained a temporary injunction in the Sangamon Circuit Court restraining saloonkeepers at Pawnee from selling liquor to the miners employed by the company. The case is an important one, as it sets a precedent."

How do you like that, my fellow slaves? The bosses are piling it on fast, ain't they? The next move will be to enter your little nest and injunction you to bed at nine and in other directions calculated to preserve your beastly pro-
pensions. For, like the mules, your vital energies belong to your masters, and they surely have a right to take care of their private property.

Some day, when you have had your fill of this cursed slavery, you will abolish the boss and private property also. You could do it to-morrow morning at nine, if you had sense enough. But you don't. You are on a par with the other beasts that capitalism exploits. If I were not part of you I would turn cyanic and groad you for your stupidity. I would drive a vitriolic pencil into your coloured hide, and metaphorically crack you on the hardened lump where brains ought to be and peer at the hollow sound. But being part of you I can only grit my teeth and wait.

Unrest Healthy.
"The present unrest of the working class throughout the world is a healthy sign."—Andrew Carnegie.

It is a healthy sign for the working class. Andy, if that's what you mean, but surely not for you and your crew of fellow vandals who are content to heap kingly heights on their backs. Do you think you are going to escape with a whole beard when this present healthy discontent is transformed into action?

I sincerely trust you shall, but history has repeated itself so often I confidently advise you to run to your castle and raise the drawbridge when you see the storm coming. For I am in grave doubts if your fine words and reading rooms are ever going to compensate the toilers for the millions of which you have received your share, for Homestead where your hired Pinkertons killed them.

Working people have a strange, uncomfortable faculty of remembering such trifling incidents. It is healthy, Andy, but watch out for your block.

Another big strike of garment workers is on in New York. This time it is the Ladies Tailors, to the number of ten thousand, that have crossed swords with their bosses, who are also organized.

Every strike is a healthy sign of discontent and, even though immediately lost, must have a great educational effect upon the workers. Every lost strike shows the necessity for Industrial Unionism.

JAY FOX.

ONE BETTER THAN THE OTHER.
John Jacob Astor turned over to Madame Force two million dollars in securities as his pre-nuptial settlement with her. The woman of the streets sells her body for decidedly less to the otherboro-
times who patronize her, but she has the sad excuse that she must do so or die. Disregarding the world's judgment in the matter, has not the woman of the town rather the better of the fair Madame in the argument? The one sells to material life, the other for cash, and nothing else.—Star.
THE AGITATOR

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The Human Race is in its best condition when it has the greatest degree of liberty. Dante.

RATIONAL EDUCATION

The most important thing in the life of every human being is education. It begins with the first breath, and it covers the whole of life, ending only with the last breath. All that is accomplished in his life, all the long evolution from nakedness and savagery to his present estate, has been through education.

Surely I do not need to prove that a rational, or reasonable, sane or natural educational method is a constructive process that will foster man's development! While an irrational or unnatural method is a destructive force, retarding his progress and inhibiting his growth.

In the last few centuries the educational machinery all over the world has crystallized into a set system of pedagogies centering in schools or institutions of learning. Thus, the educational life of the race has become institutionalized. And, like every other institution of man—as religion, government, economics—has become rotten and inefficient. It has suffered the fate of all institutions. It has become narrow, intolerant, inflexible. It now enslaves, instead of freeing man.

This condition of things is not strange, nor to be wondered at. It is the law of nature. The moment man seizes a truth and attempts to bind it to a rigid formula, or puts his spiritual life into a moral code, or his social or economic ideals into a set program governed by an institution, he signs his intellectual death warrant and eventual dissolution.

Man must be fluid. Must be able to change. Institutions are not fluid. They never change until forced to do so, and then they flight to the death to maintain their dogmas.

There are no institutions in nature. Nature is everywhere plastic, fluid. Man alone creates institutions, and then suffers the awful price of slavery to the dragons of his own creation.

Thus in education the institution has now become the important thing. Man himself is lost sight of. Subordinated to the machine he has created. Submerged in the educational system. As administered in our schools and colleges, education has lost its soul. Its spirit has died. It is a lifeless shell, having the letter, but not the substance. Teaching is everything, now but a mechanical maintenance of discipline.

The original purpose of the school and the teacher, as seen in those noble schools of Plato and Socrates, was to train the mind to grasp the facts of nature and organize them into an individual working conception of the cosmos; it was to free the student from obsession and superstition. To throw him upon the integrity of his own thought. To make his own soul the supreme center of his universe.

And that is what Rational Education must be. Also that is what it never will be so long as we permit it to become dogmatic and institutionalized.

Starting with the heroic Greekian period, what happened? Educational systems gradually became dogmatic, corrupt. Like churches and governments, the system no longer looked for truth, but degenerating into an organized tyranny to force the acceptance of recognized creeds and authorities, however repugnant to the thought of the individual. For more than 2,000 years education has been an intellectual tyranny compelling uniformity. The effort has been to standardize and to rigidify the thought processes of man. Where are the splendid intellects of Plato's day? Alas, the world knows them not! Since the rational schools which were the glory of intellectual Athens, the race has only produced six or seven men of intellect. A few great and noble spirits who flourished in spite of educational systems. The balance of humanity's millions are all scrubs. There is no intellectual liberty today. No individuality in the school system in all countries is a tyranny, forcing acceptance of its decrees with iron hand.

The crime lies in the fact that the educational system exerts its malevolent influence upon the plastic mind of youth. Upon the helpless child before it is able to protect itself. It is difficult to state in temperate language how wrong the school system thus perpetuates upon helpless, innocent childhood.

It is bad enough to take a man of developed mind and force him with the whip of starvation and social ostracism into conformity. Yet he can at least be sure of his holy job. His death does not mean the martyr in his immobilization. But to take a child and lock the clamps and fetters of conformity upon that little brain is so monstrous a wrong that there are no words to measure the terrible wrong the school system thus perpetuates upon helpless, innocent childhood.

It is positively true there is no place in our modern educational system for initiative, for originality. The child is denied the poor right to construct its own universe. With the mailed fist of authority, a cut-and-dried system of morals, economics, religion and government is thrust down his throat. His mind and his reasoning faculties are so paralyzed that he does not attempt to think. Not one in a million, I believe, of the human family today is capable of using his brains. The power to think has almost disappeared from among us. A man must pay the price of independent thought almost with his life. Surely at the cost of his comfort, social standing, financial independence and about everything else the hysterical world of today holds as desirable. Everywhere our system is built upon repression. Repression is death. Expression alone, full and free, is life.

BRUCE CALVERT, in "The Open Road".

NUDITY AND PURITY

A wholesome love of the body for its strength and beauty is one of the greatest foes of impurity. Only when a man despises or disregards his body is moral and physical uncleanness possible.

That being so, the whole method of snog, up-to-date "decency" and mock modesty is one of the worst ills of the social and moral deterioration which is so apparent at the present time.

For taking thought wherewithal we shall be clothed, we have lost that pride in our bodies which is so precious a possession.

Our clothes, tailor-made or manufactured under some vile sweating system, are decent; our bodies, which Nature, had she her way, would make beautiful and strong, are indecent.

That is the gist of the situation. Why?

Are straight rounded limbs to be counted as naught, while we may hold our heads high in the proud satisfaction of wearing trousers of the latest pattern? Is the well-shaped bust a chest fit to hold the pure, sweet breath of the hills; a strong, supple back, each to be whispered of, and shown never, while we may freely talk of our garments, as though our bodies were merely a means for the discard of clothes?

Truly we have forgotten the real life, and have too long accepted the artificial, the mere appearance, for our reality!

But perhaps the well-shaped bust, or the rounded limbs, be not there! Perhaps not. And may not this be the reason of our false shame, that we have despised our bodies, until we can but hide them—bury them decently in our clothes—lest seeing them we become really ashamed.

The Greek loved his body, honored it, and it became the abiding type of physical perfection. We hamper our appetites, dishonor our bodies, and creep about in our clothes, holding up our hands in pious horror at anything that might suggest the possession of limbs or torso, or hint at the possible existence of sexual desire.

Probably the body hidden so carefully is of weak structure; a thing of flaccid tissue and ugly form; scarcely fit to do the strenuous work of the world. How many such should we discover if we could see, as Carlyle has it, "as the making of man" of each of the bits of the whole dramatic corps. And Dukes, Gran- des, Bishops, etc., every mother's son of them, stand straddling there, not a shirt on them.

How each skullks into the nearest hiding place!!

"Skulks into the nearest hiding place," ashamed of himself? Why should a man be so ashamed, except he has despised his body, and thereby founded an unnatural modesty?

But let us suppose, instead, that each body had been made as strong and beautiful as possible. Where then the shame? Would not the individual be a matter of pride, and each man be proud of himself? No skulking then, but a magnificent uprightness, a splendid nudity! For the nude body should be more splendid than the clothed. On a stalwart or graceful, fine frame, clothes, especially beautiful draperies, look well; but the body, free to the sun and the air, should look better.

If we knew we must appear nude before our fellows upon a given day, how would we strive to remedy the defects and blemishes of our bodies? How eager we should be for any system of physical culture that would aid us to develop our forms, so that, at the time appointed, we might not be ashamed! Yet we are content to bear our shame about with us because it is hidden. And from one's present shame, and from the false shame of society, springs the impurity and the grossness of the age.

Let us cultivate a love for our bodies.—Ernest F. Pierce.
THE AGITATOR

FREEDOM!

They never fail who die

In a great cause; the block may

Soak their gore;

Their heads are sudden in the sun;

Their limbs

Be strong to city gates and castle

A mile or two.

But still their spirit walks abroad

Though years

Elbos, and others share as dark as

a doom,

They augment the deep and

Exulting through them:

Which overpower all others,

and conduct

The world at last to freedom.

—Byron.

DON'T PLAY THE POLITICAL GAME.

Charles E. Russell is one of the ablest and most earnest Socialists in this country. He was candidate for Governor of New York on the Socialist ticket at last election. Recently he made a tour of Australia and New Zealand, where he saw labor politics in operation. He returned a greatly disappointed man. His conclusions quoted below, from International Socialist Review for September, will weaken the arid of many of his fellow in the Socialist Party. But truth is more precious than party and the writer is true to the inducions.

"A proletarian movement can have no part, however slight, in the game of politics. The moment it takes politics seriously, the money board is in the moment it dies within. After that it may for a time maintain a semblance of life and motion, but in truth it is only a corpse. This has been proved many times. It is being proved today in Great Britain. It has been proved recently and most convincingly in the experience of Australia and New Zealand. In Australia the proletarian movement that began eighteen years ago has achieved an absolute triumph—its politics. Under the name of the Labor Party it has won power. Its successful combination can possibly win anywhere. It has played the political game to the limit and taken all the stakes in sight. The whole national government is in its hands. It has attained in fullest measure to the political success at which it aimed. It not merely influences the government; it is the government; "

"Naturally, as the Labor Party was now in and determined to stay in, the wise play indicated in the game of politics was to get in and to improve all these damaging allegations and to show that the Labor Party was just as patriotic as any other party could be. The first move was to adopt a universal system of military service, and the next to undertake vast schemes of national defense. The attempt to solve this social problem in the straightforward and practical manner was because of the fact that the Labor administration was the first to build small arms factories, to revise the military establishment so as to secure the greatest economy and to prepare the nation for deeds of valor on the battlefield."

"When we come to reason on it calmly what can be gained by electing any human being to any office beneath the skies? To get in and keep in does not seem any sort of an object to anyone that will consult the possibilities of the Cooperative Com-

monealth. How shall it profit the working class to have Mr. Smith made sheriff or Mr. Jones become the county courthouse? The first step was to adopt a universal system of military service, and the next to undertake vast schemes of national defense. The attempt to solve this social problem in the straightforward and practical manner was because of the fact that the Labor administration was the first to build small arms factories, to revise the military establishment so as to secure the greatest economy and to prepare the nation for deeds of valor on the battlefield."
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SINGLE TAX AND REVOLUTION.

Henry George wrote, as the one conclusion of his long enquiry: "This, then, is the remedy for the condition of wretchedness which now prevails in modern civilization, and for all the evils which flow from it: THE SINGLE TAX MAKES LAND COMMON PROPERTY."

"The Single Tax," said Mr. J. V. McKee, "is a line all in ourselves and the rest of the world a line all in ourselves and the rest of the world. Yet the Mexican Liberty Party is doing nothing in Mexico, at enormous risks and with a self-denial which is almost superhuman. The very thing Henry George declared we all must DO. Yet from its humblest camp follower to its booted and buckled, every member of every level of the Single Tax movement is as silent as the grave. It is a silence that is in itself one of the most per- directive features of his prophecy. As uncom- corded in revolutionary history. In letters that have come into my hands some of these leaders assure their followers that there is nothing for them to do except to watch. If they watch, then it is that—what a condition! For the Single Tax they will lend them their support. How shall I designate such a policy? It has not been artificially evanescent. It is naturally hereditary.

For all we know the Mexican Revolution may be crushed by force of arms, although at present it is showing astonishing powers of resistance. Its lead- ers may be sent once more to jail, as they have been so often in the past. But, however that may be, this much is true: in the course of less than six months the Single Tax Revolution has done far more to bring about the realization of the land for the people than have three or four generations of Americans. Single Taxers, just as the recent broil rats in Eng- land accomplished more in a few short hours ('An- d the broil rats') than three or four generations of Americans. Great human wrongs that have endured for ages do not yield to kid-glove treatment. The liber- tines of the people are free men, the best, the most noble, and loath forever want and fear of want, are not to be purchased by a few cheap displays of or- torial fireworks.

Now, for thirty years ago the reading of "Pro- gress and Poverty" created a genuine revolution in my own individual life just as it did, according to their history in the lives of certain of the Chicago Anarchists. For, it is not, as it was taught them, that until primary causes have been removed all political schemes or programs of poverty is of no use. If I criticize the Single Taxers, there- fore, it is not because I am not true to it, but be- cause I remain true to it, just as I always have been true to the entire worldly' Socialism's fundamental truth that economic dependence is the root of all slavery. That I keep alive in the single Is and Single Taxers is their abandonment of the popular propaganda for the sake of the cheaper kind of political victories—Vitor— which cheat the workman and delude the program is base. What I admire in the Mexican Revolutionists is that they refuse to participate in that fraudulent pretense and amoral result and to aid in this blunder which speak far more eloquently than earthy words, that without the economic independence that posses- sion of the land alone can give nothing can be done.

Today I watched Los Angeles' Labor Day parade, and tomorrow I shall read some eclogues of Lator's display of strength. It is all a sham: a hollow, nauseating burlesque. Labor in America is sinking deeper every year into the sough of absolute economic dependence on the monopolists, who have gathered the nation's life into their talons. But from the moment of the general protest comes that cause long ago it exchanged its tincture of virtue rebellion for the drugged mass of potage served up by the conservative press. Apparently, therefore, it is to the purer breeds and the simpler peoples that we must look for the overthow of conditions we ourselves dopamine uncannily but to which we lack the courage to apply the axe. For the present Mexico Is in the lead.—Wm. C. Owen, in "Regeneration."

THE BOSSES CALL FOR UNION.

A friend has been kind enough to supply me with a chapter from the morning paper of the Washington Agricultural Union, urging him to join that estimable organization, and pointing out to him the immense benefits which it promises and how it will accomplish so as soon as it gains sufficient power. The bungling, ungimnastic construction of the letter is the most remarkable thing about it. For the benefit of the unphilosophic worker who thinks the

GET YOUR REASON TO WORK.

The nobility of old lived upon the workers of their day not more certainly than the milli- naires live upon you workers today. They were protected and aided in that day by the laws that they made not more certainly than the millionaires of today are protected and aided by the laws they make now. The nobles claimed the right to an income from their men because they owned the lands and jobs—just as the millionaires today claim a right to their incomes for the same reason. The nobility of old could only maintain their advantage by reason of the ignorance and su- persition of the workers not more certainly than the millionaires of today maintain theirs for the same reason. Will you workers forever remain the same, or will you take the cattle for the master class? Are you so stupefied by generations of servitude that you cannot get your reason to work!—Appeal to Reason.

FOR THE SCRAPBOOK.

It is all very well for men in comfortable arm chairs to write about the dignity of labor, but those who have had nothing but labor in their lives have an instinctive hankering for the dignity of leisure.—Prof. Rauschenbusch.

The proudest boast of the old-time rubber barons was that they never robbed a poor man. "Those fellows are amateurs at the game," explained the great Captain of Industry, "and don't understand how much money there was in it."

There are nowadays professors of philoso- phy, but not philosophers.

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