Self-Reliance and Direct Action

After conducting a strike of such magnificent proportions, both as to numbers and solidarity, that it called forth the admiration of the world, the English railroad workers have been tricked out of the fruits that shed naturally from such an effort.

A Royal Commission was appointed to investigate and adjust the grievances of the men, and the men returned to work while waiting for their "reward." They demanded recognition of their unions and increased pay. They got neither. The "Royal" commission foolishly turned them as commission has ever done since the dawn of history. It seems almost incredible that, with its centuries of bitter experience, Labor would trust its grievances in the hands of a Royal commission, Boards of Arbitration and Politicians.

Yet the fact is there, and there is no use closing our eyes to it. There is no use deceiving ourselves. A long campaign of education is in prospect. The workers must be taught that the first step towards freedom is Self-Reliance. "Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string," said the immortal Emerson.

The worker has too long been the dupe of priest and politician, who have led him and enabled him for time immemorial. They have robbed him not only of his substance, they have stolen his individuality, piffled him of his self-reliance. He cannot move but at the direction of some power outside of himself. He has physical power, his arms are strong, but he lacks the mental force to properly appreciate that great strength, and appreciating, rightly direct it. Thus the working man is not only an economic slave, he is a slave to authority. He slavera under the hypnotic spell of big names. Long ages of forced obedience to laws made by others for his subjection, countless repetition of priests cast about the powers in the sky, and now, in our own time the prattle of the all-colored political priest about his devotion to the worker and all the sacrifices he is willing to make for him, has left the poor vic- tims in a condition of mental confusion and helplessness that nothing short of a thorough drilling in self-reliance will prepare him for the great task of freeing himself.

A new physiology must be created in him. He must be taught the absolute necessity for Direct Action. He must not alone be taught that Direct Action is good, he must be convinced that it is the only method.

He must be convinced that the most effective way to apply Direct Action is thru Industrial Unionism. He must be taught that to be black, yellow or white; German, Irish or Yank; Godist or Atheist; Blacksmith or Barber, is a matter of minor importance.

He must be shown, with all the emphasis at our command, that the great and all-important factor of his life is the circumstance that he is a wage-slave, and that this idea must predominate in his mind over all the others.

And finally, that he must unite with his fellow slaves in one big union, thru which, with one grand effort of Direct Action, to overthrow capitalism and become, for the first time in

The Fall of Kansas City

In Kansas City a few weeks ago a working man was arrested for obstructing the streets with certain economic truths which he had accumulated during his experience as a wage slave.

Now if there is one thing a government does not like to see scattered around, where working people can pick it up, it is Truth. And the most feared of all truths is economic truth, or the truth about things.

The streets of Kansas City have for years been literally strewn with gospel truths, but the policemen picked their way carefully thru them, never falling, never complaining. So soon, however, as a few hard economic facts came bounding down the thoroughfare, the guardians of the peoples' ignorance became aroused and, with all the splendor of their corpulent anatomy, pounced upon the speaker and jailed him. But the speaker wasn't alone; and herein lies the secret of what followed.

No sooner was he off the box than others leaped on to fill his place; and the word was flashed through the country that the war for free speech was on. A call for volunteer soldiers was issued from the Headquarters of the I. W. W. An industrial army invaded the city and established a camp on the outside, in true military fashion.

In the meantime arrests were being made and the jail and work farm were becoming over-crowded, and the politicians were beginning to feel uneasy about the outcome. They were face to face with a new condition. Nothing muffles a mudhead like a step from the beaten path.

The justice was ordered to lay it on heavy in the hope of scaring the bunch away. "I fine you five hundred dollars," he growled at the next "obstructionist" that was brought before him. "Thank you," politely answered the smiling soldier of peace; and a sigh of horror spread thru the court room, and all the officials traded looks of dismay and anguish.

The game was up. The jail was nearly full. And when men smiled at the limit of the law, that was surely the limit of official understanding.

They saw than what manner of men they were up against, and wisely decided to quit, for while there was a limit to the capacity of the jail there didn't seem to be any end to the stream of Industrialists that were pouring into the city from all quarters of the country.

The jail was unloked, the men marched in triumph and mounted the boxes on the corner of the next street to tell the people how a great city fell before a bunch of Agitators.

New York City, the Soch Harder

The greater part of New York has a strike on its hands. Of all the thousands employed by that big city none are performing so useful and necessary a service as the men in white uniforms who collect the garbage and clean the streets. No employment is more distaste- ful and filthy, none so dangerous to health. No man who works at it for a few years es- capes consumption or some other deadly dis- ease, of which the city is infested. Yet these

men are the poorest paid and the hardest worked of all city employes.

The mayor refused to increase their pay; and when they struck refused to treat with their union. The streets are heaped with garbage, breeding disease. Hundreds of police are trying to protect a few scabs from the wrath of popular indignation, aroused by the rank injustice being done to the street clean- ers, whom the mayor says will not be again employed.

Catch some fool workman shouting for pub- lic ownership as a relief from capitalist tyr- anny and hang him on the brain with this example of his ideal in operation.

Getting Behind the Guns

According to recent election returns "Socialism" is advancing "by leaps and bounds." Something like a dozen towns have been "capt- tured," and there is great rejoicing in party circles. The crowning "victory" of the year will be the "getting behind the guns," by the Horny-handed revolutionary working man, Job Harriman, in Los Angeles.

The city is posted with large signs, reading: "The Business Men's League is for Harriman." Which shows, without any further words from me, the extreme revolutionary character of the "Socialist movement."

With the lawyers, preachers and business men, all training their giant air guns upon the "class des of capitalism," its fall is hourly ex- pected. The main center of attack is in City Hall, where it is said vast treasuries are stored, which will be confiscated, as a war measure, by the mighty Job, and distributed among his gal- lant gang of job hunters, as a reward for their faithful services to the cause, and a reimburse- ment for ammunition used, which each soldier had to furnish from his private windmill.

The Jcp as an Undesirable

An Alhambra paper tells us that the Japanese- ners employed in the fishing industry are quarrilom, troublesome men and give no regard for a contract made with the bosses, that they breed discord, "will throw an employer down if the opportunity presents itself," and that they "have neither regard nor respect for our laws." For which anti-capitalistic traits the little brown men are, of course, becoming very undesirable citizens, and I will not be surprised soon to learn that they have been discharged and replaced by the more docile, "honorable" and law abiding white men.

Yachts from the Orient.

Mr. J. B. Wood has gone to Hongkong to build six gasoline yachts for Pacific Coast men. To the student of economies there is nothing especially strange about this. He knows that capital follows cheap labor even to the end of the earth. He knows that with the capitalist, color, creed and country cuts no figure. The capitalist is the great disillusioned internationalist. Patriotism! Bah! Sentimental sop for soft brains sissies. Let the working dopes who don't own a square inch of any country spate about patriotism and kill each other in its name.

JAY FOX.
THE AGITATOR

THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION

The arrest in Laredo, Texas, of General Bernardo Reyes and a dozen others charged with "conspiring against a friendly government," and "violating the neutrality laws," and an order from Washington and the governor of Texas that all Mexican revolutionists who leave the state, on the eve of a new outbreak in Mexico, is evidence that whoever else may have forsaken Madero, the U. S. government has not.

The quandary sold Mexico to the capitalists of the U. S. in a most scathing article in "Regeneracion" Win. C. Owen exposes the traitor, Madero, and shows him to be one of the most consummate rascals the world has ever known. I quote from it:

"We know that, following in the steps of Diros, he has surrounded himself with all the executive powers he must, seeking to build up a government of the type privilege must have for the perpetuation of its reign."

The International revolutionary group of Los Angeles has published 10,000 copies of Voltaire's de Cleyre's leaflet, "The Mexican Revolt," with the intention of giving the ablest possible publicity to the fact that the Mexican Revolution did not end with the change of rulers. This leaflet is a masterly appeal to the revolutionary spirit, and expose of the sham revolutionists on this side of the line. Send for quantities, enclose a little money, if you can, Order from Jos. Kursar: 914 Boston Street, Los Angeles, California.

FIGHTING FOR A PRINCIPLE

When men can avoid the persecution of others by helping to build up the so-called government and its in-\clinations, when men and women can quietly submit to have others give votes to untruths in their presence, when they can be made to believe and avoid the idea of the so-called government only to themselves by keeping silent, they lack principle.

Since men were first made, man has fought and died to uphold a principle. Whether that principle was a wrong one or not was of little consequence at the time, but the mere fact that a man or men believed in it was sufficient to cause man to die for it.

In our day the fight is waged against the press because men of money and power recognize in the press the greatest force with which little of today has to deal. All classes are concerned in what concerns the press. All classes are made to suffer when the press is bought and the printed pages tell a true but the truth. The greatest, most formidable weapon in the hands of men is this power of the press and he who has cause to fear it will fight to the death if need be. The press stands for the greatest principle man has met since Christianity dawned. It embodies the will of the people, the masses. It upholds all the phases and the worst criminal the world can produce is he who takes advantage of his position and sacrifices a principle for the price of the press stands.

The printed word reaches the heart and under- standing of many, is the word for good or ill and the guilt of the wronged is laid upon the head of the one who writes (to deceive with) the printed word.

Politics dominate our people today as the hand of the wealthy class is held heavily over the aspirations of the working man. If they succeed also in buying the right to all the working man wishes to wish, the mind of the entire working class, what have we left worth living for?

The press, every word upheld in its lofty ideals by only a few, must be fought for. The few who stand by ready to fight to the death for the right of free speech and a free press will win as they have won; the fighters of all time when they fought for a worthy principle. Fight they must, for in that fight lies all we have worth fighting for. The wealthy class may keep the bodies of the working people poorly clad and their homes poorly furnished but when the labor of the workers is done and the bodies of the people, that creates and creates wealth, just so long will the people have something to say as to how their minds and bodies are to be used. There must be one battle for and only here and there are the fighters gathered for the conflict.

We have a principle to fight for and money cannot give back the heritage when once we have sold it. The spirit of old John Gutenberg is in the fight today and stands by to cheer those who fall Fighting for the freedom of the press—Progressive Democrat.

In vain you tell me that artificial government is good, but that I fail just only with the absurd thing, the thing itself is the abuse.

Burke.

On To Abbeyec!

Free Speech fight on in Aberdeen, Wash. Organizer J. M. Train has not given up. Pile in men and gain your rights. Help is needed at once. As we go to press we have no news. This call on Aberdeen. M. A. to take this up, with the bunch, Tugwell is in on the map. Show them the political tool of the bosses that there are a few men yet left who will not lay down to be trampled on. It is the few men yet left that will think of things that are happening in this world. The sheeple, unthinking, sleepy musts have ever been the slaves of few heartless, greedy capitalists. It is time to assure at least a talk about the example. Freedom is dear and must be dearly bought. Julls have no terrors for the revolutionary resistances. Resis- tance to tyranny is the watch-ward of freedom. The men who are fighting today in Aberdeen and elsewhere are blunting the way for the Social Revolution.

The last barrier, who own Aberdeen, has organized a mob of shopkeepers "to clean up the I. W. W." Bah! The bourgeoisie never cleaned up anything bigger than a worker's pocket-book. It is better than a dangerous thing to good the wolf to the end of his den.

NEWS FROM THE FRONT

Fellow Worker Fox: Lively time here now. Free Speech. Fight on and five fellows arrested. Train and Thornd have jury trials tomorrow. It seems we must ed- ucate these school hills. Will soon be holding business meetings in the city jail. Give us all the publicity pos- sible. We sold all the Agitators and now have a "tag" day for free speech. Number Kings are backing and plates and fallores are looking sideways.

Votes for One Big Union——J. H. Allison. Aberdeen

TURK THE ROSE ON THE PEOPLE

Aberdeen, Wash. Nov. 25, 1911.

Fellow Worker: We opened a street meeting at 7:30 a hurried meeting. A large fellow worker opened a meeting in the restricted district. But the police did not arrest him. Then another fellow worker opened a meeting one block further down the main street. The police seemed dared at this fellow. Train spoke his meeting on the street, bringing his crowd to the hall. It was held to a protest meeting at the City Hall against holding mem- bers for street speaking when they allowed us to speak unmolested. About 400 people marched to the City Hall about four blocks distant. As soon as we arrived the Fire Dept. turned the hose on the crowd who began cheering and retreating. The I. W. W. went to the hall and discussed means and ways to meet these tactics. Public sentiment is with usSold 400 tags. Big protest meetings to be held in coming days.

Later: Fellow Worker Train arrested again for speak- ing on the street. Another fellow worker arrested just because he was a Union man.

I find the situation here well in hand. Fellow work- er Train is out on bonds as he was needed on the out- side. Five men in jail. Two more in tonight. The way the situation stands, all the sit-ua- tion against us to the advantage of the Salvation Army. They are trying to force the I. W. W. to go on a side street, back so far they could not get at. The Salvation Army was allowed to speak on the corner of the main street. It is a case of a fight to the finish.

Jeo. Murdock.

Agitation keeps society from becoming stagnant.
Report of I. W. W. Convention

As there seems to be a great deal of dissatisfac-
tion in the Northwest regarding the action taken by the Convention on some of the questions brought up for discussion, wisely by Western Delegations, a word on the subject from a Western Delegate will not be out of place.

Those who are not in accord with the various con-
clusions arrived at, at a job would be bound to move that the Convention should "by the handle" and think that nothing was ac-
complished, and that the rank and file were totally ignored. If some individuals who were important were turned down and not, as was expected, they would be submitted to a referendum, the blame, if any, should be placed on the shoulders of the members of the various Locals for not appointing Delegates better able to give the why and wherefore of the questions involved.

The Convention was a good one; admitted by those who attended the previous Conventions to be the best, if it was not the largest we have had. To my mind the Delegates were more active in viewing drawing their conclusions, and that was the upbuilding and strengthening of the organi-

zation. Although they refused to accept rank and file questions that had been dis-
cussed times without number by at least the Pacific Locals, this was due to the fact that the Delegates instructed how to represent their Locals in these matters were not able to make their case clear. I refer to the questions on a smaller per capita tax, one term for officers and the election of all general officers by referendum; and these questions were in the eyes of some Western Locals of sufficient im-

portance to be placed on the ballot.

To illustrate the above, the Delegates from No. 816, Nelson, B. C., stated on the floor of the Convention that the question of the quarter dollar in the West since the last Convention, and if the present Convention did not place them on the ballot it would mean the casting of a second ballot. G. K. Mem-

ber George Speed stated that he knew the West also and as far as he understood that, outside of one or two, the Locals, they were satisfied the way things were in regards to these questions. If the rank and file had heard the matters for and against these questions they would have been forced to admit that the Delegates did all they could with the material they had even if they did turn down every proposition except one that the writer brought up.

The afternoons of the first day and the forenoon of the second were taken up with discussion regard-

ing the charges against me, made by the G. E. B. They were to the following effect: That the said J. W. Johnston is not a fit person to have a seat in the Convention of the I. W. W. as proven by his actions while a Delegate at the Pacific Coast Con-

vention, where he was a chief instigator of a clique from the socialist press attacking the Fresno Free Speech Fight. Or, be guilty of such an act as to be blackmailed for all time in the eyes of a Revolutionary, and although the Convention seated me by a vote of 4 to 18, a word of explanation is still necessary. The most surprising thing of all was, although this trea-

tatorial act was supposed to be committed nine months previous to the calling of the Convention, I was allowed to sit in Convention for Local 816, without charges being placed against me. T. White- head and Kelly, Delegates both to the Convention and to the Portland Convention were as much surprised as I was when the charges were read. They stated on the floor of the Convention that there were absolutely no foundation to them.

Another of the Convention's discussions was about that awful P. C. D. O. and out of this discussion a temporary Middle States District Organization was created, and it is to be hoped the Western and Eastern States will do likewise, but make it per-
mansent. The results cannot be any but the best, and it is the way for a united district or-

ganization, which will go a long way to solve the problem of inter-communiation. It does not mean, as was thought, the splitting of the organization into two factions, but brings the Locals closer together.

It is the development of a more perfect fighting machine. The name of this revolution-

ary organization is to form itself in such a way that it can move quickly, act quickly, think quickly, strike suddenly, and have no foundation to them.

The delay of a day sometimes spells defeat, and in the elimina-
tion of the writer, the best thing the Convention was doing was placing its seal of approval on the formation of district organization to every member to see that it is pushed forward.

The formation of a temporary Labor Workers' tion is well, well, but it is up to all the lumber Wobblies to see that this is made a permanent organization. The Firebrands Delegates from the Lumber workers branch showed a revolution-

ary spirit that speaks ill for one nationism of the South, and they exhibited a willingness to co-

operate in the formation of a N. I. U., that should spur all the members in the lumber industry to quick action.

A question that caused a great deal of discussion was that of literation of the members. There is no question but that we are sadly to need of literacy. The material is there but the money is wanting, al-

though the argument is that we need some financial backing.

The fact that we need more literature should be a strong enough argument to appeal to every member to dig up twenty-five cents per month for six months. It is to be hoped that every member will vote for the assessment. If we want to get out of our baby stage, we must use a developer, and the best there is, is literature.

The lowering of the per capita tax was brought up for a second time on the last day of the Conven-

tion. The reason put up was that it was thought that it would cause a second ballot to be cast, and to place it on the first ballot would have been a money and time wasting thing. Reg-


ing the recent actions of the Spokane and Portland Locals justified that contention. The writer is in favor of Local 816, the actions made by Portland and Spokane Locals which, no doubt, will be published in the near future.

Notwithstanding differences of opinion, on the whole the Convention was constructive; there was no bitterness outside of the first day's session. The wrangling over politics was conspicuous by its ab-


dence, and there were times when it appeared that it was a harmonious group that raised their voices to the strains of the "Red Flag," and the "Interna-

tional." Some lingered in the hall for hours after-

ward discussing various points, and it was easily seen that although some Delegates (the writer in-

cluded) were not satisfied with some of the decisions, they were of one mind in answering Frank Dooh's question. The I. W. W. is a pretty live corpse, and the C. W. vention, on the whole, showed the spirit of the C. W. vention.

J. W. JOHNSTONE, No. 816, Nelson, B. C.

The Seattle Agitator Group will give its second annu-
on First of all, the Agitator has come to song.

Parsons, Spies, and their confederes suffered, that we might have life. See to it! It was a great meeting. Big literature sales, big collections, and pledges.

To fight the cause that lacks assistance, at the wrong which needs resistance for, the future in the distance, and the good that we can do."

Read the book "Live Questions" by J. P. Altgeld, he knew.

JACK WOOD.

Get Off Their Backs.

I sit on a man's neck, I weigh him down, and I demand that he carry me; and without descend-

ing from his shoulders I assure myself and others that I am very sorry for him, and that I desire to succor his esse by the most possible means, only not by getting off of him.

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Emma Goldman

Meetings 43 East 22nd Street, New York.

Dec. 28th, What is the use of an ardent propagandist? Dec 29th, Sex, the great creative excitement of work.

The Agitator was a weekly socialist newspaper published in the United States from 1904 to 1926. It was one of the most influential journals of the early American labor movement. The Agitator was founded by Emma Goldman and Alexander Berkman in 1904, and it became a key publication for the radical labor movement in the United States. The newspaper was known for its coverage of labor struggles, political events, and social issues, and it played a key role in the development of the anarchist movement in the United States. The Agitator wasclosed in 1926 due to financial difficulties, but it continued to be published as a weekly until its final issue in 1926.
THE SIMPLIFIED VOTER

One thing I have never been able to understand, one thing absolutely unexplainable to me, is this: That at this day, when I write these lines, how it is that in spite of all the sad experience, in spite of the numerous scandals, how does it come, I ask, that these people still believe, in the old fashioned, unscientific, inorganic, deceptive animal—willing to leave his business and pleasures to go and cast his vote for this or that candidate or platform. Isn't this a condition to confound the Philosopher and upset all the rules of reason? Where is a balance to be found in this physiological creation, the modern voter? Where is a Pharao to describe the mental condition of this incurable invalid? I can understand the ticket broker yet finds fools to cheat. I can understand when the sensor still has his advocates. I can even understand that one man can write historic dramas. Only one thing is left incomprehensible to me: how does it come that a politician, a senator, a governor, or any other political trickster, who can yet find a voter, that strange mortal, to support him with his bread and to clothe him with his wool, speaking to him with his blood and enriching him with his money. And for what? This fact surpasses even my most pestilential imaginations about human stupidity.

I am speaking now of the honest, convinced, theoretic voter: the poor devil who has formed the idea; that voting is the sacred right of the "free citi-zen" to judge the folly or wisdom of the people and to act, a political and social demands by means of the ballot. Of the voter who knows his business I have no complaint. He does not strive to be in time for the best time for business. He knows what he wants.

But the others, Oh the others! - The earnest ones, the rank and file who fan themselves into moral ignorance. "We are the electorate, nothing happens without us, we are the foundation of modern society." It is of them I am speaking; and for the moment I am convinced that there is such a strange creatures to be found in the universe. How does it come that they are not ashamed of their own work? How does it come that they have not a speck of respect for the political and social conditions of the ballot. Of the voter who knows his business I have no complaint. He does not strive to be in time for the best time for business. He knows what he wants.

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OCTAVY MIRBEAU

FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM

What makes poverty? Why, ages since, strong men of this world reached out their hands and captured the earth and they held it and the poor were their slaves; they took what was left. Down to the present time this state has continued; the powerful have taken all that is left and from that never has stored up in the earth; they have taken the forests and appropriated these to themselves. They have taken the shores of our rivers and the shores of our lakes and the shores of our seas. They have all the means of production and distribution. They have the great highways of commerce and the great mass of mankind, the poor, the despotic, have nothing to do but to sell their labor and their lives to anyone who buys. They clench at each other's throats for a poor chance to live. They don't own the earth. They own no share of the coal that is underneath the earth. The Steel Trust owns all the ore and the poor have none; they own no interests in the forests or the land. They have no time to look for a living and take such pay as the employer, the monopolist, sees fit to give.

There never has been but one way to abolish poverty in this old world of ours, and I don't speak of my opinions alone, but I speak the opinion of every political economist who has ever cared for the work; to abolish poverty in every one of them. You can't make the poor man rich unless you abolish the monopoly of the earth that is now in the hands of a few. Until you organize this country so that the poorest child born just on the earth shall have the same heritage as the richest who comes upon earth the same way as the common hermit crab and all and all a like, until that time comes there will be the rich and there will be the poor.

Have you looked over the history of the work- ingman? If you do you will find that 150 years ago in England and all over continental Europe he was a slave. He was bought and sold with the land. He was one common criminal so that it genertm His food was of the coarsest. He had no luxuries. But gradually the light began to dawn in the minds of the workingmen, they were turned by the things of the guilds and trade unions, and they met in the forests and waste places and formed their unions. They were successful in the gawls fighting for liberty; fighting for better food, for better clothing, shorter hours, for something to drink, for the laws that had once the little of hope for the workingman; they claimed for themstes; and you, the poor man of today, you have profited by the brave flight that your ancestors made in the years gone by.

The world's goal is liberty. There is no other way. It has never yet had very much. What we are fighting for the dreams and the hopes that will some day come to this old world of ours. If you look at the history of the human race, look at its progress in the last 150, 200, 500 years. If you look at the whole world upward and onward; if you look away back to where man first began, and it looked very helpless, and look at the world now and you think he has a good deal. Every step is marked with blood. It shows the toils and troubles of the human race that yet through all the world has gone on, moving upward, and every step has led by one hope and one dream, and that is the hope and dream of liberty, the dearest to the hearts of men.

CLARENCE S. DARROW.

WHEN WE SEE

When we witness the settlent of conditions of things, when we see little children bumbling around the factory gates—the poor little things whose houses are not yet hard—when we see them matched from the heartaches; taken from the family altar and carried to the battle of labor, and their little bones ground up into gold-dust to bedeck the form of some aristocratic Jezebel, then it stirs the man- hood in us and we speak out. We plead for the little ones. We plead for the helpless. We plead for the oppressed. We seek redress for those who are wronged. We stand up for the slave, for the ignorant. We seek liberty for the slaves. We seek the welfare of every human being.—A. Parsons.

MEN OR DOORKNAPS

Be men, not doormats. Light the red hell of revolution if need be! For what is life if it is but the accursed privilege of wearing yourselves out in the service of cannibals, of man-eating millionaires, of monsters that eat you up alive, you and your wives and children.

—J. Howard Moore.

THE AGITATOR

"I think we can understand that rotten stock on Jones. "I thought he was an intimate friend of yours. "I'm counting on that."—Life.

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