The Passing Show

THE LAWRENCE LEADERS

Bitter and Giovannitti, the two Lawrence strike leaders, were shot and killed on Sept. 30, on charge of murder. A girl striker, Anna La Frasca, was killed by a shot during a clash between the strikers and police.

It is possible to place this question of the Lawrence strike in its proper perspective. The strike has been worked with considerable success in the past, to the nab the leaders on some frame-up, and thus disrupt the strike and drive the workers back to the factory. The trial is now in its last stage. It didn’t work in this case; in no case will it work any more. For leaders by the score will rise up out of the ranks as the active leaders are thrust from the bars, or the bulleting bullets lay them low.

The order of old has been reversed. Leaders don’t make strikes any more. It is the strikers that make the leaders nowadays. This was strikingly shown in the Lawrence revolt. There the leaders were incidental. They came on the scene after the strike was closed, after the mills were closed.

The real leader of the strike, the man with initiative who precipitated it, was quite unresentful of his leadership. He was one of the mass, and he was not of those who wait for the word of command before they act. He did not wait to see what the others were going to do.

He glanced at the abort-pay envelope, then he looked into the face of the well dressed paymaster, whom for the moment he characterized as the embodiment of the atrocious system that was oppressing him and his fellow slaves. Instantly the wrath of a thousand wrongs stored in his breast rose into a towering passion, and he flung the envelope in the face of the astonished official, exclaiming: ‘Back to hell I fling it.’

The strike was the expression of his comrades, who instinctively followed him out of the mill. Who could resist following such a leader? He is the type of leader that will one day empty the petticoat factories of the world and precipitate the Social Revolution

No other act of leadership would have moved that impulsive, unorganized mass, speaking a quarter of a hundred languages. They all understood him. Direct Action is the universal language of Labor.

Still the leader on the outside was as necessary as the one in the inside, but not so much. Without the latter there would be no need for the former.

Bitter and Giovannitti were the voice of solidarity that cemented the mass of individuals into a solid phalanx. They gave expression to the pent-up indignation of the strikers and put their demands into eloquent, forceful speech.

The mass heard itself when it spoke, and it marveled at its own voice.

They put tongues into every one of the thirty thousands wounded hearts and made them flash with the eloquence of their sacrifice.

Such leaders are dangerous, and call for serious attention from the pillion of the masters.

I do not wonder that with the forces of government were arrayed against them, I do not wonder that the priests denounced them, even as the priests of old denounced the leader these “Christians” pretend to follow.

I do not wonder that villainous put them on their tracks and that they, with the police and soldiery, were ordered to appear at them at first opportunity.

I do not wonder that respectable, christian mill-owner in their hour of despairing to fell the alarming charms of democracy and conspire to plant some of it where it would do the most good.

I do not wonder that the priests denounced them, even as the priests of old denounced the leader these “Christians” pretend to follow.

The trial go on. Bill Haywood, in his characteristic style of Union, as his friends, New York, September 14, gave due notice to whom it may concern that: “If Clifford Giovannitti are killed there will be more work for the undertaker, but it will be the workers, remember that.”

STRIKES BY PROCLAMATION

The I. W. W. of Pittsburg has issued a proclamation calling all workingmen in the Pittsburg district and the workers in the coke fields. It opens as follows: “The hour has arrived when you must all strike to win. All must quit work together to make it a winning fight. Strike now, strike all together, strike to win.”

It is quite a lengthy document, well written and rousing in its appeal to the workers: “To up every mine, close every mill! Flood every colliery! Stop the wheels of commerce! Tie up the railroads, the shops! Tie up all towns!”

The proclamation, surely this one will. But, unfortunately, the workers are not so easily aroused. If they responded so readily to the call of freedom, freedom would be a reality long ago; for innumerable proclamations have been issued and the toilers are still in chains.

I do not know what the I. W. W. hopes to accomplish by this proclamation. Conditions are bad in the iron and steel mills. The iron heel rests heavily on the toilers; the weight of oppression is terrible; every pound of iron is red with the red blood of labor. Still I doubt if the spirit of revolt is sufficiently prevalent to cause labor to rebel even for a day.

Experience has shown that under the shock of some new oppression, as, for instance, the case of the Lawrence strike, with or without an association, that can be made without or organization from within; but I have no memory of them answering the proclamation of the I. W. W. except by previous agreement, which implies organization.

The members of the I. W. W. may come out, and make non-jurors of themselves. But the men who are of other organizations will not strike, except they have agreed to do so, which I doubt.

Is the I. W. W. sufficiently strong in the steel industry that their proclamation and strike will cause a stampede amongst the non-members?

This I very much doubt. In fact, I am quite convinced that this proclamation will be answered by only a corporal’s guard of the great army of steel workers, in which case it will only expose the weakness of the I. W. W., and the powerlessness of its leadership, to speak of the discouraging effect such failures have on the workers.

The I. W. W. has an opportunity to show what its organization and organisation amongst the slaves before the general strike call will be responded to by a number sufficient to assure success.

A FORTUNE FOR A HEAD

The General Manager of the Industrial Lumber Co. of Lawrence, a wire lover, is reported in Boston to have said: “I’ll give $30,000 to see A. L. Emerson hang.”

Emerson is President of the Brotherhood of Timber Workers. With 65 of his fellow slaves he is now in prison on the charge of murder. The case is quite similar to the Lawrence outrage, only the Lumber trust is even a more blood-thirsty vulture than the textile trust.

These lumber kings of the South are the most merciful exploiters of labor on this continent, and that means a great deal. They actually hold men in slavery. This is not figurative language. It is an age worn practice for them to keep men in their pestilent camps, in the swamps of Louisiana, at the point of the rifle, having special guards for that purpose. They even keep blood-hounds to track down escaping slaves, who, upon being returned to camp, are punished by liberal application of the white man whip to their bare, ensconced backs.

The most celebrated stories of black slavery are exceeded in fact by the practices of this octopus of the South upon whites and blacks alike.

This is the profession since his fellow workers are up against him. They tried, thru the instrument of union, to abolish this terrible condition. They drew no “color line.” The black slave is as welcome to their union as a white one. And they succeeded in those efforts at freeing the toilers to the extent of getting them to strike, an extraordinary achievement considering the conditions.

This was the ultimate weapon of all against the back-souled white-skinned slave-masters, and they have succeeded in stamping out rebellion in the Southern States that has the hardihood to attempt to free the timber workers from its iron grasp.

It has set aside $100,000 as a “defence fund” and it is willing to pay $30,000 for the lone head of Emerson.

Give this case your attention. They will hang this man, but it will perhaps only add life to a living death on the worst penal farms in the world—those of Louisiana—unless you protest. Raise your voice high.

STERILIZATION FOR CRIME

The supreme court of this State, the court that is soon to hear the case of free press and decide whether or not I shall serve two months in a steel tank for mildly expressing my views relative to the law, has handed down a decision holding that the law for the sterilization of "habitual criminals" and those convicted for "unnatural" crimes is constitutional.

It quotes medical authority as saying that the operation is neither painful or dangerous, and therefore it cannot be cruel and inhuman to thus sterilize a human being.

Did these learned physicians and lawyers ever reflect that there is a cruelty and inhumanity that is mental in its operation, as well as physical, and that the so-called medical authority does not know to that the infliction of pain, of humiliation, is more cruel and inhuman than the pain of a physical torture?

And yet they are using the magic of their profession to turn the public in favor of getting the death of their fellow citizens, who have not yet inscribed it upon their inhuman statute books.

The higher-ups hold the key and can turn the flood-gates of Jeweh’s fire and fury upon them at any time. It is no joke for a man to believe he can be sent to burn for eternity at the word of another whom he thinks has the power to do so. And think, what a power that other one must have over him. Such is the condition of the Roman Catholic. He will reason on every subject but his religion. In order to do that he must have the power of the Church on which he depends.

The children get plentifully doped in the Public Schools, but they are not given any special kind of opiate that induces an everlasting obedience to the pope.

I play the children that have to live in a world where all the religious faiths are not only putting the Romans in jail but that the voice of revolt.

Rohn in a prison cell speaks more eloquently for the less than his voice from the soap-box at 12th and Pacific.

The religious faiths were not included in this issue, which shows for the millenium the law that the word of the man is the magic word of the Church.

We have just received a pamphlet by Ford and Foster, on Syndicalism. It is just what you want to give you a grasp of this last spreading idea and its relation to the movement in this country. Send in ten cents and get a copy.

This issue goes into type a little too soon for a report of the I. W. W. Conventions, which has just finished its session in Chicago. Comrade Foster will tell us what was done there in the next number.

J. W. PEAKER JALES

James Rohn, Sec. of the I. W. W. in Tacoma, is now serving a jail sentence for street speaking. The police recently issued an order forbidding street meetings at the corner of 12th and Pacific Ave.

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JAY PIX.
THE AGITATOR

Issued twice a month, on the first and fifteenth, by the Anti Anarchist Industrial Association from its printing office in Home, Wsh.

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Freedom is the one pursuit, wisely aimed at, or, unwillingly, by every man's struggling, toilings and sufferings on this earth.

SYNDICALISM & ANARCHISM

In our previous article on this subject it was shown how, in England since the years 1820-30, and in France after the unsuccessful political revolution of 1848, the efforts of a considerable section of the workers were di- rected towards a direct struggle of Labor against Capital, and to an endeavor to create for that purpose the neces- sary organizations. It was also shown how this idea became, in the years 1860-70, the leading idea of the newly created International Workingmen's Association; but how after the defeat of France in 1870, the paralysis of its revolution- ary forces after the fall of the Paris Commune, and the triumphant political element of a large part of the upper hand in the International, and became for a time the dominating element in the labor movement.

Since that time the two currents have continued to de- velop, each of them in the direction which was already implied in its program. Political Labor Parties were organized in all constitutional States. They did their best to increase as rapidly as possible the number of their representatives in their respective Parliaments, and to secure for their adherents the best possible opportunity of being elected to Parliament; their representatives, hunting for votes, eversntrically shrank their economic programs, so as to limit them to such minor restric- tions of the rights of the employers as only give a new force to the capitalists and help them to maintain the present condition. At the same time, as the Sociali- stas politicians conducted the representative of the po- litical bourgeoisie Radicalism, who competed with them for the votes, they helped—against their own will—to give a new lease to trumphant reaction all over Europe. Their ideology itself—that is, the ideas and the ideals they were spreding among the masses—was modeled in accord with the necessities of these States co- or- dination, as against local autonomy and the independ- ence of the smaller nations; and they worked out a philo- sophic and plan of work that is foreign completely to all industrial struggles, that, owing to the growing facilities for ex- ploring the peoples that are backward in industries, the English, the French, the Belgian and other capitalists are now exploiting the labor of hundreds of millions of men in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa; the result be- ing that the number of workers is growing up among the work of other people, far from being gradually reduced to the chief industrial countries of Europe, goes on increasing in an amazing way. And with the increase of their numbers grow also the numbers of those who are interested in the maintenance of the present capitalist State. Finally, the advocates of political agitation for the conquest of power in the present State bitterly op- posed everything that could spoil their chances of acquir- ing political power. They excluded from the Interna- tional Socialist Congresses all those who dared to criti- cize the results of their Parliamentary tactics; the depre- cated the term "Syndicalism". For them, the Industrial con- strike began to penetrate even into their Congresses, they wiingly opposed it by all possible means.

For full forty years these tactics have been pursued, and now it is evident to every one that all over Europe the workers are the dupes of it; many of them have fallen into it in disgust. This is the reason why we hear so much now of "Syndicalism".

However, during these forty years the other current—

the direct struggle of Labor against Capital—also contin- ued to develop, notwithstanding all the persecutions of the Governments and the demoralizations of its agencies. It has interested itself in the study of the present Form of Labor, and of the problems of the work of the Srudents, and the Anarchists on the other. But the time has not come to write such a work, and, after all, perhaps it is better that it should not be written, for there is a very strong and increasing personal influence of great currents of modern thought and the growth of selfish- ness among the workers of the old nations of America and Eu- rope, independent of the influence of the intellectual lea- ders, which has to be examined, if a real history of the Syndicalist movement is to be written.

All we need say at the present moment is, that quite independently of the teachings of the Socialists—in vir- tue of the theories of the syndicalists and the new men of Industry, the anarchical movement of Capital and Capitalists, to demonstrate the strength and economic power of the working men united in industrial centers, and that they had retained from times past the tradition of their profes- sional unions, both open and secret—they continually organized, in order to put a bridle on the over- growing exploitation and on the hardships of the em- ployees. And in proportion as the organized masses of workers grew larger and stronger, and more conscious of the great strength that is the very essence of the life of a civilized nation since the great French Revolution, their anti-capitalist tendencies became more and more definite.

During the last forty years, while all possible effort was made by the political leaders in the different coun- tries to prevent the revolts of Labor, and to sabote those of them which were to our advantage, protecting, in the more or less systematic way, the more or less openly on the one hand, and the Anarchists on the other. But the time has not come to write such a work, and, after all, perhaps it is better that it should not be written, for there is a very strong and increasing personal influence of great currents of modern thought and the growth of selfish-ness among the workers of the old nations of America and Eu- rope, independent of the influence of the intellectual lea- ders, which has to be examined, if a real history of the Syndicalist movement is to be written.

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And tho' ye caught your noble prey within your hank-er's enrol'd thrall;
And tho' your captive waxed forth beneath your city's rampart wall;
And tho' the grass lies o'er her green, where at the morning's early red
The peasant girl brings funeral wreaths, I tell you still, she is not dead.

And tho' from off the holy brook ye cut the rippling flowers,
And tho' ye've matted amid the thieves' and murderer's base decoy,
And tho' ye gave felon fare, felo dog forbade her livery be,
And tho' ye set the oak task, I tell you all, she still is free!

And tho' compelled to banishment, ye hunt her down thru' endless lands;
And tho' she seeks a foreign heart, and aint 'mid its ashes stand;
She shifts her wounded feet where foreign streams seek foreign seas;
Yet, yet, she never more will hang her harp on Caleb's willow tree.

Ah no! she strikes it very strong, and bids his loud defiance;
And as she masked your orderly start, she mocks your banishment as well.
She sings a song that starts you astounded from your slumberous seats,
Until your heart, your covenanted, your traitor's heart, with terror beats!

No song of plaint, no song of sighs for those who perish bare;
No song of pity, no song of mourn to those who die.
Nor yet a song of irony at wrong's fantastic interlude,
The beggar's opera that ye try to drag out thru its living scenes,
Tho' moth-eaten the purple that decks thy tinsel kings and queens.

Oh, no! the song those waters hear is not of sorrow, nor dismay, 'Tis triumph song, victorious song, the goss's promise of the future day.
The future, distant now not more, her prophet voice in ascending key.

As well as once your Godhead spoke: I was, I am, and I will be!

Will be, and lead the nation on the last of all your hosts to meet.

And on your necks, your heads, your crowns, I'll plant my strong, resistless feet.
Avenger, Liberator, Judge, red battles on my pathway to heaven.
I stretch forth my almighty arm, till it revivifies the world.

You see me only in your cells; ye see me only in the grave;
Ye see my wandering lone, beside the exile's sultry wave.
Ye fools! Do not live where ye have tried to pierce with vain.

Rest not a hook for me to dwell in every heart and every brain!

In every brow that boldly thinks, erect with manhood's honest pride,
Does ye not模板 shatter bo thatch better with honor's generous tide?

Not every workshop, brooding we; not every that bast

Ha! Am I not the Breath of Life, that pants and struggles for relief?
'Tis therefore I will be, and lead the people yet thy hosts to meet.
And on your necks, your heads, your crowns, will plant my strong, resistless feet.

It is no boast, it is no threat, thus history's iron law.

The day grows hot, oh, Babylon! 'Tis cool beneath thy willow trees!

—FREILOGET.

Whosoever will be free, must make himself free: freedom is no fairy's gift to fall into any man's lap.

Note thee.

The Agitator

From the Ritter-Giovannetti Defence Appeal to the Melbourne Trades Hall Convention, who passed a mo- tion opposing arbitration, and a protest to the President of the U. S. A. thru the American Consul. A reply was received that the protest would be forwarded. The cost of living has increased communally in Aus-

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We have no quarrel with that notice, for it is the very soul of truth. We simply note the speech and its reception as unquestionably significant, adding the recognition that this so-called Republic is already far down the Inebiogon that ends in the man on horseback.

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A PROTEST FROM ACROSS THE LINE.

Victoria, R. C., August 25, 1912. Governor Forse, Massachusetts, Honored Sir.

We, the citizens of the City of Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia, in mass meeting as-sembled, and after due consideration of the charges against J. R. G. and A. Giovannetti, do hereby protest against the imprisonment of these men: and to it further

Resolved, That we ask the Governor of Massachu-

The workers who are in a life and death struggle with the Southern Lumber Operators' Association, the local branch of the International Lumber Trust. For twenty long and terrible months we have been working with a fierce might to the end and the proud ones against the poor people of the South. Today sixty-five of our members are in the prison of the State, in the county of the taking lives in the State. We have saved lives, this is the outcome of the struggle of one people at Grabow, La., which occurred on Sunday, July 7, 1912. The whole Southern Oligarchy, and the world-in-famous for its merciless exploitation of labor, is back-

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THE AGITATOR

A TELEGRAM TO HAYWOOD

New York, Sept. 16, 1912.

Wm. D. Haywood,
Lawrence, Mass.

Stick to the General Strike and Direct Action. Thousands of workers in America are going to jail with you. Ritter, Giovannitti and Haywood must be freed, or every wheel in America will be stopped.

(Signed by 1000)

BERNARD BERKMAN

THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN FRANCE

A Study in Revolutionary Syndicalism

By Louis Levine Ph. D. Cloth $2.00. Paper cover $1.50. Longmans, Green & Co., N.Y.

As we have shown in the articles "Anarchism and Syndicalism," the second one of which is published in this issue, Syndicalism is not a creation of yesterday, nor a philosophy evolved from the fertile brain of an economist, but an evolution, a growth of over forty years, worked out of their experience by the workers themselves.

Foolish, backward workers may repudiate it; farming, designating capitalists may deride it, but it will not down. It is here, a vigorous, sturdy offspring of working class economics, and it is for us to accept it, as we accept the sky-scrapers, the flying machine and the various other marvels of modern society.

This is the first book to give a comprehensive sketch of the evolution and history of Revolutionary Syndicalism in English. The book is written in a most sympathetic manner, giving the spirit as well as the letter. The Syndicalism of the French Revolution and makes the efforts of the workers to organize, and the machinations of the ruling class to prevent organization.

He will start from Seattle, going east, and will cover all cities on the way. He will address indoor and outdoor meetings, and where meetings cannot be arranged at his own request, he wishes to confer with individuals interested in the new movement.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn what Syndicalism really is, and Jack Wood is just the man who can tell you.

Every I. W. W. local should arrange one or more meetings, and where the local will not do so, individual members should volunteer to arrange them.

The I. W. W. is not limited to the cities for which meetings cannot for some reason have not been fixed and the rank and file a ghost of a show to learn anything about Syndicalism. They have suppress everything, the subject of no further publication.

Why shun not the rank and file of the I. W. W. find out for itself.

Write Jack Wood, who is a member, at 803 Jane St., Seattle.

THE ENGINEER'S DEFENCE

The Editor of this paper has been convicted on the charge of "encouraging disrespect for the law". If this verdict is allowed to stand every radical paper in the State will be at the absolute mercy of the prosecutors, and may be thrown into jail at any moment.

The interest of free speech demands that this case be appealed, and we urge that you subscribe to this fund.

The Free Speech League,
NATHAN LEVIN, Treas.
Home, Lakebay, Wash.

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711 Hudson St., Trenton N.J.

WANTED—Working people for a co-operative colony in Tennessee. Address: H. T. Sawdon, St. Elmo Tenn.

Send us $5 for a copy of The Syndicalist.