The Passing Show

THE CHEAPEST SHALL BE DEAREST.

Another of those periodical horrors of the mining industry has happened. The Finleyville Mine consumed a hundred miners at a gulp. Miners are cheap—they cost nothing.

The only thing under heaven’s blue vaults that comes without price—begging you to take him—is a working man. This levels the white man with the black, the yellow and the brown.

Why should we be so particular then about preserving their lives, since they are so plentiful and so cheap? That is the question sordid business asks itself.

And the answer is a mine explosion and a shirt factory fire, a train wreck and a ship wreck, and a million crippled railroad and factory workers to supplement the heap of dead.

For the object of business is profit. And the purpose of profit is luxury and ease.

The mansion and the auto are far removed from the mine explosion, and it is gruesome business to trace their connection. To follow the invisible line from the diced and wrenched head of Miss Vanity Fair back to the crisp and mangled forms of the dead in the Finleyville mine—that is not the task of Miss Fair to do.

She is not interested in making her life uncomfortable. She wants to add to the number and variety of her pleasures. She wants to lengthen the days and the nights that their joys may be prolonged.

It is not her business; it is not the business of sordid business to look after the miners’ safety and happiness. They don’t purposely make the mines unsafe, but they are not interested in that kind of philanthropy. They are interested in getting profits and diamonds. They are not their brother’s keepers, at least not of the brothers so low down in the scale as the miners.

Of course they will be a little disturbed that the miners should be killed in their mine. If the slaughter took place in the mine near by they would pass over quickly to the society page.

I have no blame for this. I merely explain. It is human to have a mind that warms up to the idea of someone in the next county who has died.

Then there will be no more mine explosions. If they cannot be prevented, places to work in the mines will be closed entirely and we will turn elsewhere for our motive power. For then a worker’s life will not be the cheapest thing on earth, but the dearest.

THE BELGIAN STRIKE, WON?

The Belgian strike is over. That is all I can safely say for it now. That is all I may be able to say for years. I may live to learn the verdict and I may not. The government agreed to have a commission take up the matter and draw up a bill along the lines of the general strike demand. There is no assurance it will ever pass such a bill.

I am inclined to think the socialists fell too easily. They may again have to resort to the “dark age weapon,” the general strike, before they get a chance to strike at the ballot box.

I am sure it was with extreme reluctance, and only as “the last resort of desperation,” that the leaders of the social democracy soiled their dainty fingers with such rough stuff as the general strike.

As it was, they handled it very gently, dined in it aside when the government but winked at it, like he, who, having once attained the uppermost round, turns his back upon the ladder, scorning the base degrees by which he ascended.

At any rate I would be glad if the Belgian workers get equal sufferage without any further delay. I would have them learn for themselves what I believe to be true, to wit: that a strike at the ballot box is not a strike at the money box.

ARCH TRAITOR TO BE FREE.

Oriole McManigal is one of the most despicable creatures of the age; a craven coward who feared to take the consequences of his own acts; a knavish, unprincipled skunk, without a spark of manhood, who betrayed his comrades in order to save his own corrupt hide; a vile thing without the soul of a louse, moving about in the mask of a man.

This object we learn is to be released from prison as a reward for his viciousness.

But will he be safe? The fear of retribution will follow him to the grave. He traded all that is dear to man for a shadow. He has been cheated.

There is some freedom for him inside the jail. There will be none outside. The dispatch says he will make his way promptly to some place where he is unknown. He cannot go where he will be unknown to himself.

He is, no doubt, pondering now over the fate of another historical traitor, Cary, who betrayed his Irish revolutionary comrades into the noose of the British hangman; of how they packed him, disguised as a woman, where he would be “unknown,” and of how retribution reached him before he landed in Australia.

PROGRESS AND THE PESSIMIST.

Let the pessimist, who has predicted the early downfall of the A. F. of L., sit on this right quick. The A. F. of L. has passed the two million mark; an increase of a quarter of a million since its last convention, in November.

Do you think the pessimist is going to be crushed by this weight of numbers? Not much.

I see him crawling out from under it all twisted and bent, propounding a brand new theory, which is that the capitalists have conspired to defeat the sudden and beneficent effect of his other theory upon the working class.

The swift growth of the labor unions is the result of a fast awakening going on in the ranks of labor and the active efforts, not forward by the unions to take advantage of it. The tactic being put into effect now in Pennsylvania, of gathering the organizers of all unions into a district and cleaning it up with one big round of agitation, is a winner, and will no doubt be applied systematically to every section of the country.

It is a means of organization Socialists can well boost. It has mass and force to it, the things that, with activity, make the world move.

But the pessimist says the capitalists are behind it. I hope they are, and so very far they’ll never catch up.

SOMETHING ROTTEN IN D—.

An editor, renowned for the flavor of this bunk, expected to believe that this paper thinks the United Mine Workers’ Union an adjunct of the capitalist class,” and forthwith dug into its hide. The advertising will help considerable, for there is nothing a labor paper needs more. That is not all, however, I am thankful for.

The screw means something more. It emphasizes the urgent need for Socialist activity in the W. F. M.

For, where there is an editor so dull or indifferent as not to understand a plain proposition in English, or so crooked he will purposely misconstrue it, I say there is something rotten in Denver, and it is about time to make a cleanup.

GOING TOO FAR.

A celebrated Chicago surgeon, Doctor Murphy, says that 600,000 deaths in the United States can be prevented and nearly two billions saved each year if the proper precautions were taken against disease. He blames his own profession for not teaching the principle of prevention to the people.

The doctor is unreasonable. A limited amount of philanthropy and public spiritedness is, no doubt, to be expected from the time-honored profession of medicine. But to expect it to teach how to avoid disease and thereby annihilate itself, is exceeding the speed limit.

MORE JAILING FOR WORKERS.

A number of strike leaders in Paterson, including Bill Haywood, have been indicted on the charge of inciting riot, which shows the strike of the silk workers is a good job. If it wasn’t, there would be no arrests. Arrests of this sort is a sabotage used by the bosses. It drains our pockets for lawyers’ fees.

Closing their headquarters and locking some women up is not going to settle the women’s question for John Bull. It will only get him in worse.

A jail never yet settled a question for very long.

The high cost of going up will come down if Professor Wilson has his way. Bibles are on his tariff free list.

JAY FOX.
SYNDICALISM: A WORKING-CLASS CONCEPTION OF SOCIALISM.

II.

The best-known French Socialist leaders, as Geoffroy-Dechaux in the Revolutionnaire Herve, always assert that the Socialist side of the Syndicalist programme has been taken from them, and compare Syndicalist formulae with any Socialist or radical schools we find that if they are related to any it is with the great French peasant upriser, Patrice de Pompadour, who in his L'Idée Générale de la Révolution says, "to melt, to merge, to dissolve the political or governmental system into an economic one by reducing, simplifying, decentralizing and abolishing one after the other, all the parts of the enormous machine, called government or state." This is a hand, the device of the parliamentary Socialist, "by political action to arrive at a social transformation," is nearly word by word a repetition of the Radical creed before the time of 1848, as expressed by the great Radical leader, Ledru-Rollin, the ardent advocate of universal suffrage, which he introduced during the revolution of 1848: "The tendencies distinguishing the Democratic party from others are that it strives to arrive by politics to social transformation." As the origin of the ideas of French Syndicalism can be traced to Proudhon, those of English Syndicalism can be directly attributed to Robert Owen and the Owenite movement (1825-40). The Owenites understood quite well that the so-called labor legislation, the so-called reforms, the so-called solution of the social problem may be seen from the following words of Thompson: "Industrious classes, they are absolute. They vote and never are consulted in regulating their destinies, are now learning their own interests and their importance as rational beings; they will soon speak out; and theseforward they alone will regulate human affairs, essentially their affairs." Robert Owen's declaration at a great meeting in 1833 was as categorical and clear: "The source of wealth is labor. Wealth will remain in the hands of the workers when they act in concert to this end."

We wish the newly started English Syndicalist movement the same success as was enjoyed by the Owenites during the Owenite period, when the Owenite General Union of Productive Classes had more than 50,000 members, among whom were many agricultural laborers, miners, as well as working women's organizations.

But Proudhon's Mutualism, as well as the Owenite movement, were diverted from their economic action by political movements, as, for instance, Chartism. This will not be the case with Syndicalism, with its concentration of the interests of the state. To act against the state means to attack, to destroy its political institutions, and to substitute for them the organization of the industrial unions of the producing classes.

Robert Owen and Proudhon were both children of the people, and, like all great men, they lived the life of the poor. They knew, there-fore, by experience that the people's idea of social justice is simply to liberate the producer from legal- or non-legalized robbery by capitalists, or church, and to allow him to dispose freely of his entire produce.

Except Robert Owen and Proudhon, the founders of all other Socialist schools were men belonging to the privileged classes; and in order to demonstrate the possibilities of productions they were always obliged to recourse to various political, religious and philosophical arguments. So Saint-Simon and his followers based the idea of social justice on the historical development of mankind and on human nature. Louis Blanc's project of organization of production, as well as that of other authoritarian communists, was founded on the state in the role of reformer and benefactor. The same is the case with the present conception of doctrines of mental democracy, which are argued and defended in the name of the interests of the state.

In order to convince a member of the privileged classes, imbued with the prejudices of his position, of the immorality of appropriating the produce of other people's labor, perhaps he must enter into an elaborate explanation; but a worker, a peasant without philosophy or political economy, is always in a much better position to comprehend the whole philosophy of work ought to belong to the producer. That is why the Syndicalist formula, the statute of the French Confederation of Labor, expressing this popular idea of social justice, is so short, clear and convincing: "To organize, outside all political parties, all the enterprises of the struggles, all the alliances, in order to abolish the wage system and employers." For people with such a fundamental conception of Socialism, it is necessary to create new mental and political means to prove their rights; their whole attention is absorbed by the vital problem how to realize their idea of social justice. Once this question of realization had arisen, the workers recognized the necessity—(1) to organize production, which means to create a union or Syndicate of each branch of production; (2) to place the use and destination of the produce entirely under the control of the producing collective; (3) to let the exchange and consumption of the produce of all branches of industries be controlled by the confederation of all the unions of industries.

Once this conception of popular Socialism was formulated, the logical conclusion was drawn, that there are no contemporary syndicates, with its millions of non-producing officials, must disappear, and give place to the confederal delegations of the syndicate, whether local, national or provincial, thus realizing Proudhon's prophecy, "l'atelier fera l'aparai re le gouvernement"—"(The workshop will triumph over the state.) Our correspondents France during the last fifteen years have worked in this direction; they created a powerful organization of 600,000 members united on this basis. That is why French Syndicalism has taken the lead in the international working-class movement. Syndicalism itself in reality meant till recent years simple association and as social trade unions of England and Germany are more powerful, richer and more numerous than those of France, but the French take the lead in the universal mental popular conception of social justice—to keep the whole produce for the producer; they thought Syndicalism might be realized on the basis of the state and parliamentary action. But the French Syndicalists dared to affirm the possibility of realizing Socialism based on the organization of the working classes themselves. By this declaration the French Syndicalist organization ceased to be a simple trade union movement and became a new independent and truly popular Socialist party.

"FREEDOM." LONDON.

SYNDICALIST LEAGUE OF CHICAGO

Meetings every Friday evening in Colonial Hall, Paulina and Taylor Sts. Talks on labor topics.

The bread and cake bakers of this city have secured an advance of a dollar without a strike.

The granite cutters of the country are trying to establish a $4.00-a-day minimum to be universal. The Chicago bosses have just signed up, and the strike of "the Chicago" has been called off.

The Philadelphia painters are on strike. They refuse to be "A. P. A." (American pack animals) any longer. All material orders must be delivered on a settlement from jobs by the bosses. The painters there have awakened to the fact that a suit of clothes is easily spoiled. The Chicago painters are still "A. P. A."

The threatened strike of the switchmen on nineteen of the railroads entering Chicago has been called off, the railroads having conceded all the demands made, except the Sunday and overtime rates. This is to be taken up later, but, like all "leftist" nonsense, demands a determination of policy, or a manifestation of force, in the near future.

Unions of garment workers of Chicago have begun a campaign for the protection of the fifty thousand toilers who work at that trade in Chicago. The New York victory is the inspiration, and it is working well.

Every member is acting as an organizer, and are going to the homes of the workers to talk unionism.

A peculiar effect of the recent affiliation of the carpenters and bricklayers with the Chicago building trades council is that it will probably compel the master carpenters' and masons' associations to join the general body of the building trades employers, which treats directly with the building trades council. Like officials of the state, the officials of the master carpenters' and masons' associations strenuously object to being absorbed by the larger body. They fear the loss of their positions, or, at least, of considerable prestige. The workers are not the only ones hard to organize; nor their organizations the only ones infested with grafters.

The most important strike of the year was that of the Painters. Getting $4.05 for 8 hours, on April 1st they struck to enforce an advance of 50c. They had another important demand. They demanded that the bosses shall post copies of the specifications on every job, so that the painters can see what the contract calls for. The men claim that the bosses often fail to live up to the specifications. Not that they care a rap, except that they lose the business as well as the owner, and they propose to protect their interests. If a contractor agrees to put five men on a job and does not use five, the painter gets only three days' work, where he should have five. That's what the painters of Dubuque. The bosses hated to do it, but they came through, after a month's idleness. All are back to work again.

A BIT OF SABOTAGE.

The following report from the firing line of the Illinois Central Railroad strike reads very "sabotage-

Train No. 135 jumped the tracks in the yards and was delayed for some time. Passenger engine No. 1953 knocked out a cylinder head at Rockport, and they had to work a freight engine on a passenger train. Engine No. 1954, on a passenger train, lost guides and knocked out a cylinder head at Cicero, Ky. Engine No. 1872, a local engine, had to pull a train in, and when it arrived at Central City the driving boxes were burning up.

LUCY PARRS ARRESTED.

Lucy E. Parsons and George Markatt were ar-rested in Los Angeles on April 19th for selling lit-erature without a license, and beg leave to say that they have not been up without being allowed to communicate the news of their arrest to their friends. Mrs. Parsons was subjected to the humiliation of being stripped of her coat and shoes. She was then given a can of hot water and a sponge. She was not allowed to use the toilet. The product of Mad Odis and his labor-bating M. and M.
LEAGUE NO. I, NELSON, B. C. 

TROUBLE IN NELSON—FOR THE BOSSES.

After some discussion among the various unions, and in the Trades and Labor Council (the business union of Nelson, B. C.), it was decided that the unions requiring improved conditions present their schedules together; and strike together, if necessary, to enforce the demands. This was refused to "come through" so it was decided to celebrate the birthday of the working class, April 1st, by taking a vacation of indefinite length.

The only unapriciatory elements were the Brotherhood of Carpenters and the Amalgamated Carpenters. They were attached to the financial conditions (or the lack of it), the boss should not be asked to give a birthday present. This element threatened with a strike, and the matter was referred to the road, figuring out how the poor boss is going to get along.

The dominating element is a boss carpenter, who is also Mayor of the town. (A later report says the carpenter has won their tools and joined the strike, but made no demands—Editor.)

The celebration began, with the exception of the adjacent street-car men; and the spirit of solidarity shown was supreme. J. A. von Scholts, organiser for the electricians, said it was as fine an exhibition as he has seen.

The town is like a combination of Sundays in the middle of the week. What few there are working over in the field, and field hands; a few non-employees preferred by the retail stores, and the bosses themselves, who are chiefly small contractors, who take in the taking a little work to improve their digestive organs. A case of forlorn "eugenes" for them! They ought to be grateful to us for the opportunity, and not take it through with extra compensation when matters are being fixed up.

"Peaceful picketing" and "moral suasion" of varying and diversified grades are the methods employed. Several black eyes and decorated faces resulted during the process. The workers are the same plodding, anonymous body which is always demanding consideration during labor disputes, and to which presumably the workers don't belong—barely able to keep a coal and other supplies running out; and a little trouble arose owing to some of them taking out the teams themselves. To smooth matters it was decided to let the transfer men own their teams themselves.

The hospital also bowled for coal and ice for its patients; but, upon representation from the directories that need existed, a wagon was loaded with the necessary supplies, and placarded "With permission of the Trades and Labor Council, this wagon too is mentioned on occasion; but the fighting spirit couldn't be better—and also good-natured.

Tradesmen Hold Out for Laborers.

On the afternoon of the 1st, the electricians signed an agreement granting them 35c increase per day, but refused to go back until the others did. The entire town plant, which supplies the city with light and power, is a vulnerable point.

The machinists also obtained their schedule, but refused to return until the helpers got theirs. Latterly the machinists offered to accept 35c per hour instead of the 30c asked, if the laborers be considered.

The teamsters, also, not to be outdone, agreed to accept the old scale, if the laborers got their demands.

In fact, the bosses tried all the known tricks to make the men split up, and break the strike, but the men are with the three-man situation.

It seemed to trouble the employers that the skilled trades should make common cause with the laborers, one of them remarking in an aggrieved tone that he did not expect the unionization of the tradesmen. They had been the feeling of the labor men in Nelson in the past, and another complaining that one of his men had been allowed to finish his shift, but had been taken out.

The employers are strongly organized. At one meeting 51 votes were taken. After holding up the city scavenger work for a week, it was decided to let it go ahead unhindered. Before the meeting adjourned, two men, named Harry and Litchfield, were arrested; and, after conducting their own case, were fined $30. It need not be here inferred that they were fined the 20 bucks because they conducted their own case. The prosecution had not a leg to stand on, even according to their own law, as the men did not intimidate the driver concerned, containing themselves with pass-by greetings, and not being a dandy with the lines! But the intention undoubtedly was to make an example of them, and thus scare the strikers. And so it was that the court sentenced, the option was made 90 days.

In the meantime various committees of the men have been employed, and ultimately the differences were boiled down to that of the laborers. And there the matter stands at the present time. The employers are holding out for a 9-hour day and the men want 40c per hour for an 8-hour shift.

That the sentiments propagated by the I. W. W., and latterly by the Syndicists, have borne fruit, and the laborer is not as the boss wishes; there is too manifest to the question. While many of the agitators thought their work was just so much mis-spent energy, and the men in paying little attention to what was being said, the idea has filtered in just the same.

The moral to be drawn from our case is: No matter how conservative and lethargic the workers may appear, stay with them, and keep driling the ideas in; they will bear fruit when action is called for.

And another moral can also be drawn: The Syndicists, unlike the I. W. W., were here operating inside the unions, not as disrupters, but as bulldozers, up as a solidifying force, welding the various units into a cohesive whole, producing a class-conscious and united action effect.

The result was surprising, both to themselves and the employers.

W. M. CRAIG.

AUSTRALIA'S CORRUPT LABOR POLITICS.

Australia's slump has arrived; 5,000 unemployed demonstrated recently and tried to obtain work from the government, but failed. The building, boat and boat employes are affected. Unemployed artists are roaming the city in desolation. The wages boards, which the workers expected would accomplish so much, are being shattered by combinations of the board. Evictions are being reported from many quarters. Recently a strike of gas workers happened, and the laborer's premier has condemned the strike and appealed to the citizens to do gas stoking, thus acting as strike breakers. The Lord Mayor of Sydney and a number of students worked as blacklegs and were publicly thanked by the labor premier, proving that the worker lifted into power becomes a brutal tyrant.

The Australians have departed from the path of understanding and entered the city of the dead. Tyranny is paramount. Meeting the objection to being a war profiteer, the one who propped up the Commonwealth Steel plant during their strike a few weeks since. The bosses conceded the defeat of the workers, which demonstrates that democracy means the bludgeoning of the people by the people, for the people.

We celebrated the anniversary of the Paris Commune, pointing out success was insured as long as Direct Action was upheld. Failure commenced with the advent of politicians. I drew attention to the heroic revolution of the Mexicans, which was a conception of the fight for liberty, equality and fraternity.

Victoria, Australia.

LECTURES ON SYNDICALISM.

Laura Payne Emerson, the well-known California rebel, has arranged a lecture tour in the interests of Syndicalism following.

Los Angeles, May 2d to 10th; Ontario, May 11th; San Francisco, May 15th, 16th, 17th; Oakland, May 15th and 19th; Alameda May 28th; Palo Alto, May 21st; Chico, May 24th and 25th; Portland, May 26th and 27th; 28th and 29th; Seattle, May 31st, June 1st and 2d; Tacoma, June 3d and 4th; Everett, June 5th and 6th.

All our readers at these points are urged to join in making these meetings a success.

Social workers report that you can buy a baby for $2 or a pillow for $100 in Boston. We'd like to ask President Wilson if he'd do anything to cut down the high cost of pillows.

SYNDICALIST LEAGUE OF ST. LOUIS AND TIN WORKERS.

Headquarters, 1214 Franklin Ave., St. Louis, Mo., July 11 p.m.

Weed Days; also Sunday Afternoon

Business Meeting Every Saturday at 8 p.m.

AMALGAMATED ASSOCIATION OF IRON, STEEL AND TIN WORKERS.

Lodge No. II, of Granite City, III., held their regular meeting Saturday night. The principal business of the meeting was the election of delegates to the national convention, to be held in Fort Wayne, Ind., in May. Every delegate elected was a progressive. This is a brilliant victory for the militants, who are trying to place the Amalgamated Association in the vanguard of the labor movement. These delegates were elected by an overwhelming majority, which shows the members of the Amalgamated Association have good prospects of getting out of the quagmire that they have been struggling through for many years.

Molders, I. M. U. of N. A.

The I. M. U. of this locality are up and doing. The boys are becoming very active in spite of the many drawbacks. Coreakmers' Local No. 426 is an active bunch of unionists, and shows the solid St. Louis and vicinity on the map as a progressive center. The I. M. U. of this district now has an organizer in the field, and the active ones assisting him in his work, things are taking on a lively turn. During the month nearly 100 members have been made, and one hundred new members have been transferred from Granite City. Local No. 426 has endorsed the Federated Strike Committee proposition.

Local No. 20, Waiters' Union.

The federation of strike committees proposition was endorsed at the regular meeting held April 24th. Waiters' Union was present from the meeting of April 16th, and the members therefore had one week to consider the proposition. And the fact that it was endorsed practically unanimously shows the membership is well in the plan. Furthermore, Local No. 20 asks the Central Trades and Labor Union to act on the proposition. The C. T. & L. meets Sunday, April 27th, and no doubt the federation of strike committees will find many friends there, even should it be temporarily turned down. The waiters are making good success of their twice-a-month educational meeting.

Molders' Helpers and Laborers.

The Molders' Helpers and Laborers, a new union, has been organized at Granite City as a result of the live wires. They called themselves the Progressive Molders' Helpers and Laborers, and put up the Commonwealth Steel plant during their strike a few weeks since. The bosses conceded the defeat of the workers, which demonstrates that democracy means the bludgeoning of the people by the people, for the people.

PROTECT THE BURGLAR.

Under this title the Berlin "UK" satirizes the rottenness of capitalism as follows.

"What would Germany, or for that matter any other country, countenanced by the two bourgeois? Two hundred fifty thousand night watchmen would be breadless if it were not for the burglar.

"More than 250,000 dollars are invested in safe alarm signals, safety locks, etc., less than 25,000 workers employed in this industry would be on the streets at once if the burglar disappeared.

"Ten thousand 'cops' would all of a sudden become useless ornaments; and of course the trade in reds, knives, black-jacks, etc., would be severely injured.

"Even the theaters, moving picture shows, as well as literati, would suffer. Fifty thousand put out the burglar. And don't forget the millions spent on detectives.

"That is the story which pays the paltry million tax annually by the burglar, in comparison to the vast number he gives employment to.

"It is clear that the State ought to protect the thief industry for the benefit of the entire country.

This Jap agitation is good for the war business in Japan also.
THE REVOLT OF LABOR

One of the most remarkable situations in the history of the American labor movement was that caused by the recent revolt of the Boston telephone girls. Devoid of desperation by their miserable wages, 2,000 of these girls decided to strike if their demands were not granted. The telephone company, realizing the strategic position of the girls and their power to paralyze Boston's industrial life by a strike, took most vigorous measures to prevent or break the threatened strike. Threats, threats, and more threats, with the usual jailing for time by means of conferences, etc., they sent hasty calls for scabs to their offices in surrounding cities. By means of threats and threats, they practically starved the operators in various cities were induced to become scabs. They were loaded into special coaches, all properly equipped with chapel and chapel bells. They were lodged at the most fashionable hotels, and generally made much of during the several days they awaited the arrival of their heroic rescues in the form of scabs. Meanwhile the Boston telephone girls received concessions from their employers, and the threatened strike was averted. The silk stockings scabs de luxe were then hurried back to their homes and jobs to slave in readiness for the next opportunity to more securely fasten the letters about their own necks by breaking the strike of their more courageous sisters. Truly a disgusting exhibition of working-class ignorance and cowardice, relieved only by the gallant uprising of the Boston girls.

The Erdman Act arbitration board that has been constantly in the back of the labor leaders' minds, was rendered its decision. As was to be expected, the firemen got the worst of it. While a few concessions were granted, the principal one was a ten-cent increase in the ten-cent minimum wage of two firemen upon the larger engines, were denied them. In consequence, the firemen are much discontented, and the principle of arbitration has received another much needed jolt.

During the past year the workers have had greater and greater experience with arbitration than ever before. Vast numbers of them, in various industries and at different times, have submitted their grievances to the board. And also of the same result: a defeat for the workers. Soon the latter will learn that they have nothing to hope for from the arbitration house-pence, per se, and that the only way for them to secure concessions is to build up powerful labor unions, and with them wresting these concessions from their masters by brute force; or, as in some cases, by displaying a thorough willingness to use this force. Once the workers have such militant and powerful unions, they can coercede their employers into arbitration, and they so constructed, and until they are thus in a position to use coercion, they can expect "justice" from no arbitration board, no matter of whom it consists.

A fine illustration has been recently given of the growth and power of labor unions: the telegraphers. The marble-setters declared a general strike on March 1st. Not daring to replace them by scabs, the management gave in giving the "silent treatment." By making no effort to finish the marble work, or by changing the specifications so as to permit the use of other material than marble, they hoped to break the strike when the marble work would be completed according to the original specifications. Perceiving the danger in these tactics, the other laboring men were decided to declare general strikes on every building requiring marble work. Accordingly, several weekapers were completely tied up, and many thousands of men have alleged handicap of autonomy, striking as one union. These tactics quickly reduced the bosses to submission, and they satisfactorily settled the marble-workers' difficulty.

At the end of March the A. F. of L. had 2,000,000 members. This is the high-water mark in its history, having increased 200,000 since the convention last November. The increase is to be ascribed to a number of causes, chief of which are the convention of the C. I. O., the C. L. U., the A. F. of L. and the new unions. Since the convention last November, the intense organizing campaigns being carried on by the various international unions, and the development of a spirit of enthusiasm and activity known as the "Labor Forward Movement." Judging by the new spirit prevailing in the A. F. of L., it will be but a short time until it will add another million to its already huge host.

Trouble is looked for in 1915 in the Chicago building trades, as the bosses are making all contracts to expire at that time. It is believed they are preparing for a general strike in the hope of thus creating the aggressively militant Chicago building trades union. From the temper of the latter, it is safe to prophesy that the streets of Chicago will have a merry job on their hands in 1915.

The great Belgian strike for mankind suffrage has been a great success but its results are not yet at hand, but according to press reports the settlement was reached upon the vague promise of the government to appoint a committee to consider electoral reforms.

The big I. W. W. strike of Paterson silk workers is developing into a second Lawrence affair. At present writing preparations are being made to ship several thousand of the strikers' children to neighboring cities to be there cared for. Many of the strike leaders are being thrown into jail on trumped-up charges.

In its sixth weeks of existence the new A. F. of L. lumber workers' union organizing in the Northwest has secured 5,000 members. An intense agitation is being carried on throughout the lumber districts, and judging by the results being achieved, undoubtedly before the winter sets in the lumber workers, for the first time, will have a substantial union organized.

W. M. Z. FOSTER

BE IN THE VAN OF PROGRESS.

To the National Brotherhood of Operative Potters: Brothers,—For some years past, the International Federation of Pottery Workers has appealed to the N. B. of O. to take an active part in the federation of the occupational union. Those appeals have been made in vain.

The A. F. of L., to which we belong, is affiliated with the European federation, but only the nearly all unions composing it are organized internationally. If we desire to be in the van of progress we must act at once and fall into line.

Everything in the march of progress leads to internationalism. All discoveries and inventions contribute to the process. The recent Naval War in Europe, the Telegraph and telephones encircle the earth; railroad runs in all directions; vessels cross the ocean—all tend to annihilate distances, and the mobility of the world's races points the way to internationalism. There already exists an international exchange of ideas, in the shape of books, reviews, and newspapers, which cross the vast ocean world over, and we now know what is going on in Europe and even in China; knowledge is ours which was beyond the reach of our forefathers.

In the great human laboratory the fusion of all men without distinction of race, is taking place. This has to be completely solved. The race may reach its final goal as unions—the possession of food and all the other necessities and comforts of life, which should be at the disposal of all, as certain and free as the air we breathe. For this purpose we must unite, not only in cities, states and countries, but internationally.

It may be said that we do not need the fraternal solidarity of workers of other countries. That is a very narrow, and to my mind, selfish view to take; for if we do not need it they do; and there can be no doubt that in fraternizing with European Potters, we would increase our power, besides contributing immensely to the progress of unionism.

As a whole, our conditions may be bearable, but what of the individuals in our ranks, who, on ac count of lack of skill or the house is alive to misery and poverty even lacking bread for their starving children? In this imperfectly organized society, what happens to one of us sooner or later happens to all.

Brothers, I appeal to you to instruct your delegates to the convention of the N. B. of O. to use every effort to bring about the affiliation of our National Union to the International Federation of Pottery Workers.

JULES SCARCEGARVE.
Delegate to the C. L. U. from Local No. 45.

WHAT IS THE MATURE WITH MEXICO?

The Metropolitan Magazine for May has an article "What's the Matter With Mexico," by John Kenneth Turner. "Seven years ago," says this article, "practically all of the cities of the country." What's that's the matter with Mexico?

That is why close to 100,000 lives have been sacrificed since the war began three years ago. The struggle is not to change men at the head, but to change the land for the benefit of the people. This shows if this was just an ordinary political revolution, Madero would be today the president of a restored Mexico.

Madero failed to help the men below, and he went down himself, struck by the revolutionists who would have given up their lives to save his. They had no more use for him than the bees had Madero the common men behind him.

And the United States government sent the Mexican Revolution the perjured evidence. Sworn statements by men who collected the perjured stuff at $10 a day are before me. These men are in McNeill, and prison, put there by perjury, and you and I are silent about it. Madero's death cost $400,000, $600,000, $800,000, $2,000,000.

SOCIETY NOTES.

Carl Pearson has been arrested by the United States officials on the charge of using the mails to injure the Illinois Central Railroad.

He has mailed pictures of wrecks and warnings to the public not to patronize the C. I. R. or C. P. railroads. On May 30th for the fourth time in his life on the history of the Anarchist, Life of Albert R. Parsons, with a history of the Anarchists.

Anarchism and Other Essays, Emma Goldman.

The Coming of Age, Edward Carpenter.


Thoughts of a Fool.

The Materialistic Conception of History, La-briola.

The Principles of Legal Science.


The Philosophy of Property, F. L. Lardaga.

Slavery of Our Times, Tolstoy.

Right to Be Lazy and Other Studies, F. L. Lardaga.

Two Thieves, D. H. Lawrence.

From His Life, and Martial-Words.

Modern Science and Anarchism, Kropotkin.

Anarchism, Syndicalism, and Labor Movements, P. P. Fehder.

The Wage System; Revolutionary Government.

The Anarchist and the Young American.

Evolution and Revolution, Reclus.

Trade Unionism and Anarchism, Jay Fox.

Anarchist Communism, Kropotkin.


The National Education of Children, Ferrer.

HENDERSON RAY ROUTE—Steamer Tyconda leaves Commercial Dock, Tacoma, for all points on Puget Sound, Bay, Bellingham, June 8, 2:30 p.m., returning morning. Sunday at 8 a.m.

COMMUNIST LIBRARY—Meets every Thursday night from 8 to 10 o'clock; every Sunday morning from 10 to 12 o'clock. 1210 Jefferson St., Seattle. Books in any language. 711 Harrison St., Seattle; and 711 Fremont, Seattle.

FOR SALE—Cheap—In Home Colony; an acre with four-room house, chicken house, bearing trees; good barn and pigpen. 711 Washington St., Seattle.


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