THE SHINGLE WEAVERS’ STRIKE.

The shingle weavers of Ballard, Wash., struck on the 24th of last month, for an increase in wages, and recognition of their union. After a bitter fight of over three months’ duration they called the strike off on the 26th, as it became evident that the wage and working conditions of the men were on a par with those of the men working on the roads and in the woods.

It usually takes courage to quit. There is the fear of being called a “quitter,” an epithet no union man likes to have thrown at him.

The Ballard weavers are not quitters. They are tacticians. They have laid sentiment aside, and applied mathematics to their case. In this they have made a long step in the right direction.

Sentiment has its place, no doubt, but a shingle mill is no place for it. It’s figures that rule there, color for figure is not a consideration. The striking weavers were keen enough to recognize that new truth, left their sentiment at home, voted the strike off and went back to the job, realizing that the first step had been achieved.

Thus, to real Socialists the mayor of Haledon is a good deal of a burlesque, and when Socialists seriously consider him a factor in the Paterson strike I begin to look searchingly into their Socialism.

LABOR DAY.

In Chicago, San Francisco, Seattle and other cities there will be no Labor Day parades. No demonstration of any kind that can think of working conditions only as a bunch of boneheads, must be herded and driven like oxen, and can never understand anything but a course command or the prod of a bayonet.

And we have, unfortunately, some of this breed of men in the labor movement. You can recognize them easily by their leaning toward strong government. They believe the state or some other institution is going to look after them about as well as the meek and powerless to command the dunces and tell them where to get off at.

The Ballard weavers seem to have known where to pull the bell at because a trip they took in a similar car in 1906. In that year they fought for four months and were beaten so badly that it took them seven years to recover.

They were green sentimentalisans then, today they are reasoning tacticians, who, considering all the facts in the case, decided upon a retreat in good order, keeping their organization intact. Now they can hide their time, strengthen their ranks, and wait for another favorable opportunity to strike.

Knowing this the bosses will be tame, and some of them are, indeed, paying an indemnity asked for, that the workers may form the union, and what do the weavers care about the bosses putting their names down, if they put the cash down instead.

When the workers use their striking powers intelligently there is no force that can defeat them. The Ballard weavers give the lie to the boneheaded theory. These men will control their work absolutely, by and by.

SOCIALISTS AND ECONOMICS.

The Socialists are bragging loudly about what they did for the progress of the strike by giving the workers the freedom of the streets in the neighboring town of Haledon, where one of the clan is mayor.

The mayor and some of the leaders say Haledon “liberty” was a curse to the strike; holding that in the streets of Paterson was the place for the conflict to be fought for free assembly against the government; instead of picketing in a neighboring town.

One thing is sure: If Haledon was a source of danger to the bosses they would find a way to put the kobosh on its Socialist mayor. The county or state officials would be turned on him. Vigilantes and specially trained Mr. Socialist Mayor would be invited to resign at the point of a gun, like the union-mine sheriff at Cripple Creek.

The myth of capitalism lies in the fact that capitalists have no regard for their own laws when these laws stand between them and victory.

Why should they? The laws are not made to endanger property and life, and when the law is inadequate, as it is, to some accident an official, unfriendly to property, gets elected, ways are found to prevent him from doing any damage. The law does not believe in, and swears to uphold and enforce the capitalist laws of property he does not believe in. He is twice a fraud to start with, and he is also a Marxist economist, standing on his head, if there is any juice in the materialist conception of history, according to which the Socialist official is the due universalization of the date claimed by the newowning class.

Thus, to real Socialists the mayor of Haledon is a good deal of a burlesque, and when Socialists seriously consider him a factor in the Paterson strike I begin to look searchingly into their Socialism.

HEARTH AND UNION LABOR.

The journeymen Tailors’ Union at its convention held recently in Bloomington, Ill., decided to extend its jurisdiction so it will embrace the entire field of needlework.

There are now four organizations in this industry, and the tailors want to push the idea of one organization forward with force by the passage of the resolution to extend its jurisdiction. What the rank and file of the tailors really want is amalgamation of all existing unions and they take this measure to force the hand of the leaders of the organizations are opposed to the amalgamation of the needle workers, and this action of the tailors, combined with the agitation initiated among the rank and file of New York, noted elsewhere, will have the desired effect, and the near future will witness a union of needle workers that will eclipse anything yet dreamed of.

PUTTING LABOR OUT OF BUSINESS.

At Erie, Pa., the National Association of Manufacturers has started war upon the workers in its textile industry. Twenty thousand operatives and others, or ten percent of the workers are flying the country for scabs. They evidently want to clean up the metal trades on one town at a time, and Erie has been selected as the first.

But the day is long when unionism can be cleaned out of the world. The growth of unionism is as sure as the evolution of society.

SOCIALISTS LEAVING THE PARTY.

According to the official report the Socialist party has lost fifty thousand members within the last few months.

This is a queer showing for a revolutionary party. It would be interesting to know just why these comrades quit paying dues to the S. P. Has the party grown too radical for them, or have they grown too radical for the party?

Death has removed the greatest figure in European Social Democracy, August Bebel died in Zurich, August 13, at the age of 73. Amon the German Socialists he was highly revered and actually ruled the party since the death of K. Liebknecht.

Conservative centralism still rules the International Typographical Union. By a azt major vote the executive council, in a plan that would decentralize the power in the union.

The potters’ union evidently appreciates the value of the printed word. At its convention in Atlantic City it made an appropriation of $150,000 for the purpose of establishing a printing plant.

JAY FOX.
THE SYNDICALIST FORMERLY THE AGITATOR

Issued twice a month, on the first and fifteenth, by The Syndicalist Publishing Association (Not Inc.). 2656 W. Division street, Chicago, Ill.

JAY FOX, Editor.
W. Z. POSTER, Manager.

Entered as second-class matter January 20, 1913, at the postoffice at Chicago, Illinois, under the act of March 3, 1879.

Subscriptions:
One dollar a year.
Six months, fifty cents.
Three months, twenty-five cents.

Bundle order, 10 and over, 1 cent a copy.

If freedom is the condition of progress, all invasion of that freedom is bad, and should be resisted, whether it is practiced by one upon another, by one upon many or by many upon one.

FRANCIS D. TANDY.

THE PATRONS STRIKE—ITS LESSON.

After a few months' fight against hunger and gumen the silk workers of Paterson have been forced to return to work without gaining their contract. The reason the I. W. W. conducted the strike. That is natural. If the poorest tactics win they are all right, but if they are all wrong, because victory is the measure of success. There are dozens of wise guys stepping up now with, "I told you so, I told you, I told you, and that strike is a failure." But the failure is just in telling and explaining the facts of the strike are lazy defending their failure and explaining that they were not the cause of it. As to the result, the strike is plain now that a closer application to the old practices with reference to individual settlements would have been the wiser.

Unlike Lawrence, the Paterson employers were many and practically without organization. A wise leadership would have observed this at the start and would have contrived to get them pulling against each other by derogating settlements with some threat of revenge on the enemy and increasing the strikers' strength.

But the I. W. W. has a theory to go by that forbids such "derogation" and the consequence was that the employers, not being allowed to sack on each other, formed an organization and starved the workers back to their tasks.

In no other respect has this big strike, conducted by the most revolutionary workers in the country, differed from the everyday "pure and simple" strike. And in this case it is the concealed new tactic was disastrous to the strikers.

The "new tactics" were full of ideas, but they found it takes a highly trained set of workers to put fancy tactics into effect. They must have knowledge of education, of the art of organizing and experience to conduct a strike along revolutionary lines. They were up against the real thing, the strike of workers of all kinds in the art of striking, without funds to sustain a long strike, without organization behind them; a mass that was in no way capable to withstand a long siege without great suffering—and that they held out for nearly five months is one of the marvels of the times. It shows the power of endurance and the solidarity that is developing in the ranks of toil.

But, why did the I. W. W. keep these workers out so long in the face of its theory of short strikes? Why did they copy the old A. F. of L. tactics, the A. F. of L. is discarding as can be seen by the report of the Shingle Weavers' strike.

This was a condition and not a theory that confronted them in Paterson; and, while they were able to play upon the sentiments of the mass and prevent the making of individual settlements, they did not make such an intermittent strike, fearing that once the strikers went back they would not come out again at the call of time, and thus new breaks would prove a failure. Why didn't they sabotage the jobs? Not a case was reported anywhere. The same answer, they lacked the "himber." The I. W. W. had no trained workers to conduct these things.

The I. W. W. made a poor showing in Paterson and a lot of the criticism I've read is coming to them; and their "answers" have not cleared up the matter; for they have left the salient facts untouched. Men don't like to lose their own pillars except to deny or denounce, and the I. W. W. has no new tactics in line.

No strike is ever really lost. The Paterson strikers work for themselves and the labor movement in general, and one of the plainest lessons, as it looks to me, is need for revolutionizing the work of the workers before we can expect them to carry out successfully new strike tactics.

This means a lot more than the I. W. W. has been doing these last eight years. You can't teach men anything by standing on a soap box and thrashing strikers into a hole to hate you. You can't decrease the number of unions by starting new ones. You can't bring about harmony in labor movement by the example of the Socialist Labor Party, which has had a weak, ineffectual, and corrupt organization, and in the meantime has failed to urge the workers to expect them to carry out successfully new strike tactics.

The Socialist Labor Party has simply demonstrated this all before the I. W. W. was, born, and every rebel outside of the few who still cling to the S. L. P. knew it. But men have the habit of patching their mistakes and calling them new ideas. The I. W. W. occupies a position in the minds of the organized workers that the S. L. P. "alliance" did—a bunch of Socialist ropeheads trying to divide the labor movement.

The labor movement offers the best field for education, and rebels are finding out, thanks to the Socialist Trade and Labor Alliance and the I. W. W., that they can carry on their propaganda with less friction and more effect inside the old unions than by attempting to start new and separate unions on the outside. By the time the S. L. P. finds itself a great labor edifice is there, two million strong, let us all dig in and help build the superstructure.

J. F.

LABOR WAR MUST BE ENDED.

The war within the ranks of the electrical workers, which has lasted seven or eight years, has given us all food for thought. It seems there is no longer hope for reconciliation unless the rank and file get together on the question of war.

The officials tried it and failed, because one set of officers wanted to swallow up the other and neither was patrician enough to be swallowed.

The A. F. of L. tried to do it, by official mandate, and miserably failed because official mandates don't settle anything of importance in the presence of the men who population they will continue to scab on each other and to slug one another on the "eternal joy of the bosses." And I say, let them go to it. Let them sack and scab and tilt till they hammer some sense into each other's heads. For that is the way the war is on. But out of it, only a lot of us have learned the lesson long ago.

It is the rank and file who have fought and are to be kept apart by any means and by any officials it is up to the rank and file in both factions to get busy and agitate for a joint convention to be held, barring all officers from the convention. Let the convention be called with membership of the men from the bottom, who did the fighting and felt the consequences of it. Only such men is it worth the while to get together. It is up to each of such men to find an opportunity for profitable result.

Let this convention be given power and scope and let the instructions call for the convention to be called, and let every member pledge himself in advance to accept the result of the convention. Let this convention elect the executive officers for the amalgamated body and let the electrical workers of the country get down to its original business again—that of fighting the bosses.

We of the other trades have been no less on trouble of account of this foolish quarrel that we take the line which the time is coming. "Get together or get out of the labor movement till you do, we have had enough of your child's play." When first boys start a scuffle in the meeting that disturbs the whole proceedings don't we put them out in the yard where they don't know what is going on. We can get along content without interfering with the peaceful pursuits of civilization.

It is the Rids and McNulty's that are keeping the electrical workers divided. Both sets of officers naturally want to hold their jobs. Then there is the foolish pride of "winning" over the other fellow that the I. W. W. are in the bosses and not over each other, they will devise ways and means to remove the official impediment that stands in the way of their amalgamation. When the men thoroughly realize what good use the boss is making of their family fight, how is it that one faction against another, as it is being done at this moment in the light and power strike in California, they will as a matter of fact become more reasonable towards each other and awaken to the fact that there is nothing more utterly stupid than a quarrel in the ranks of the organization. But this is a philosophical and not a practical consideration. The situation is unity and peace.

J. F.

NOTES FROM WASHINGTON.

A strike was called at Ballard, Wash., by Local No. 45, International Shipbuilding Workers and Woodmen, on the 7th of last April. The rank and file of the organization backed them up in their struggle with the employers, and after being out over three months they realized that they were losing out, their places being filled by all kinds of scab breakers. So they decided to call the strike off.

The National Industrial Union of Forest and Lumber Workers of America, I. W. W., called a strike on June 5th for the eight-hour day, a radical betterment of conditions. But lack of organization compelled them to return after being out a month. However, camp conditions were much bettered, even though they failed to get the eight-hour day.

Sabotage is the strike weapon of the future. The day of the long strikes is over in the lumber industry, because the workers realize that they win nothing by them.

Now, since both organizations have chosen the same weapons, there is not a great deal of difference between them. They are both composed of working men, and should have no fight with each other.

I have been a wage slave in the lumber industry of Oregon for over twenty years. I have watched the gradual disappearance of the timber. Soon there will not be much left. When that time comes we will all die, and then those who have access to the land. Will how be that brought about?

By solidarity and direct action. The workers must fight their own battles and choose their own weapons.

DAN PETERSON.

ONE UNION FOR GARMENT WORKERS.

The garment workers of New York are agitating for the amalgamation of the four international unions in the needle industry.

In the letter addressed to the local unions they give their reasons for the proposed move as follows:

"Whereas, in times of dispute, while one of the said international is striking, the members of the other internationals are working, and by doing so they split up our forces, while the manufacturers are organized in powerful associations, supporting each other in times of strikes and lockouts, a fact well known to all the workers, and who have at their disposal all the government forces also, while we workers have but one weapon and that is the army of men and women, which can only be effectively united when all our industry is in one large organization—one great international, instead of four."

THE SYNDICALIST
REVOLT OF COPPER MINERS.

Defensive Men and Women Attacked by Militia and Thugs—Were Driven to Resistance.

(A. F. of L. Service.]

Calumet, Mich.—On the 22d of July, 15,000 men laid down their tools and came out on strike. Previously these men had worked in the copper mines of the Upper Peninsula. These mines are known as the Calumet & Hecla Copper Company, and are owned and controlled by men who have their homes in Brookline, suburb of Boston, Mass. Some time before coming out on strike, these men had organized and become members of the Western Federation of Miners. They had been working a so-called ten-hour day. They got an average of $2.50 per week, but they were making only $1.60 per week last summer. Therefore, they got $0.90 per day, which was the rate in effect at the time they struck.

According to late reports, the Timber Workers' organization is making great strides along the coast, and locals Aberde and Hoquiam expect the week's increase to be very good. The "effect" of A. F. of L. may not be quite so radical in their propaganda as the I. W. W., but they demonstrate the value of their argumentative ability and have an excellent organization. A demonstrable and reasonable fact that organization must precede education.

The workers must be organized to produce action, and the principles of the I. W. W. demand a certain amount of class-conscious education before the workers can reasonably be expected to join such a group.

It is this dual cloak—that of union, and of an educational one—which must ever prove a stumbling block to the I. W. W., as at present constituted. Their place in the movement as an educational, and no more.

There is only one working class, and therefore need for only one organization, and the character of that organization is always open to change when the rank and file so will it.

WM. CRAIG.

TOM MANN TALKS TO LABOR.

We are here to fight for the abolition of poverty by peaceful means. In Great Britain there exists social murder. Millions of workers are dying off twenty years before their time because of the conditions there. Murder is going on in an extensive scale over there, and it is continuous. The capitalists are unceasingly and feverishly collecting wealth more than ever before and the percentage of capitalists is greater than before.

Solidarity is what will save the workers. By banding together and educating yourselves alone you will inherit the earth. We don't preach violence, but if it comes we don't shrink from it. But violence is only incidental. In our fight it is something that cannot be helped.

Strikes are as often as you must. Band yourselves together and let nothing thrust you apart. Ignore the ballot box. That way disunion lies. You can control the government and your leaders, once in power and in reach of wealth, would desert you. But if you stick together always, strike and inflict every blow you can at your oppressors and lift one another up, you will be invincible. Who controls the government will not matter then. The government will come to you.

Parliamentarians Only Politicians.

A small percentage of the English working people are found to sit in Parliament, but that has not altered conditions. Those who are elected to represent the people are usually wealthy and are not above being above the working people. They sit back in their chairs and listen to the Liberals or other would-be leaders of the working people. They wait for an opportunity to talk in favor of their constituents. When that chance arrives they sell their workingmen, saying that more factory inspectors should be appointed or that the mines should be better protected. The way to do it is to get at the rock bottom of the situation and that is sabotage.

The only place where the people have the power is in the place where they work. And there they can exert their power individually to such an extent that capitalists will have to give recognition.

TWO FELLOW FIGHTERS.

"Kazoo Tarasadam" (co-operative commonwealth), is a monthly Hungarian Syndicalist paper published by E. C. Scott and others at 154 Mission street, San Francisco. Hungarian Syndicalists throughout the country should co-operate with these brothers workingmen, for it is the only way to build up a power for the cause of Syndicalist propaganda.

"Freedom," an eight-page monthly published in New York (P. O. Box 347) devoted to the attention of every Syndicalist who reads Yiddish. It is well written and its contributors take no stand save that of the labor situation. It is new and abreast of the times, following closely the Syndicalist propaganda.
SOLDIERS ON VANCITY ISLAND. (Special to the Syndicalist.)

The capitalists of all countries are alike. Our Canadian bourgeoisie just like yourselves. In fact, they are the same set. The set of capitalists who own this island, or the valuable mining part of it, are said to be the governing body of the province. Orders from the mine owners with the same alacrity yours did in West Virginia and elsewhere.

They are allowed here for months and are making it very expensive for the companies to get coal from these hills. We maintained a picket line, but we could not get any help from the miners, for the police would not afford us protection we would supply it ourselves, and we did it.

The scabs were all supplied with guns, and seeing the distance from us, and the police mauled by the masters, they began to practice shooting at us. You can plainly see where that would have been a very important asset to the masters, seeing they had us terrorized properly when our men took to their heels to get out of range. It was hardly necessary. We were not even taking aim. We were being carried too far and getting our guns we came back to protect ourselves and families from the vicious scabs.

We cleaned them up in short order, putting some of them on the sick list. The coward flew to the mines, leaving their families at the mercy of the enem. Some of the slackers caught fire. They blamed us for it. They might as well have blamed us, though, the scabs burned them to prevent us from taking possession of them. At any rate, while the dogs were skulking in the mine they helped our women and kids to get away from the place, and very soon the topwork of the mine caught fire and burned down.

The fire department was at once sent out, but the mines were in the hands of the howling mob of strikers who shot and burned and slaughtered right and left. I don't think the ashes of the burned-out mines were suffered, here we are, and still the militia was called out, and we are on the cold ground.

This is what the masters wanted from the start and the whole thing was cooked up for that very purpose. We knew this but we could not help acting as we did. We were compelled to protect ourselves. And as soon as we raised a hand in our defense, the knaves saw the chance for more money and made a little spree with us.

I have almost forgotten our original demands, so many new things have been crowded into my mind since this strike started. I used to think that in a general way at least, the government stood apart from rich and poor and for the principle of justice and equality. I had an idea that truth and justice were a bit far and I am not much impressed by them. But when I see these armed scabs and mounted police and soldiers, when I see all the acts of incitement perpetrated upon my comrades and myself here by law and order, when I see every device known to man, the newspaper, the pulpit, the platform, all turned against us, I am not defied any longer.

There is no justice any longer in my mind, there is no equality. We have no freedom of speech, we have no freedom of the press, we have no freedom of thought now, and I don't care whether we win this strike in a material way or not, we have won our minds' freedom of expression. It's a living, a working knowledge of everything that is against everything that is, for everything that is against working class.

They have Chinese, negroes and white scum in here mining coal under the protection of the government. We have been here as long as the mines of the world, we dare say have never been on the island, yet we don't seem to have any rights here at all. How is that? I ask my fellow strikers here: is there any form of human rights. That is all a sham invented by the priests to keep us quiet. There is only property rights. And that is all the sovereign right of the state. That is what we have so far got out of this strike, and if we get no more strike is won.

Vancouver Island, B. C.

[Since receiving above, news came that one company had signed up the union agreement, and others expected to follow.—Editor.]

OUR AUSTRALIAN LETTER.

Dear Comrade; Every city in Australia is holding large unmolested meetings. The lord mayor of Melbourne has appealed for assistance for the strikers. Confronted with the inevitable, the workers, the federal and state governments are besieged. The suffering of the destitute is painful. The strikers are not wholehearted, the constitutions of parties underlying each other, offering themselves at any price. Some are working for six shillings and keep.

So serious is the situation that the churches have held an unemployed Sunday, every person making an appeal for aid. This in Australia, the workers' paradise and the land of idealism that foolish feith the Labor-Political Swindle.

The Federal Labor party has been thrown out of power.

The state of Victoria, too, has been seized by the trade unionists, it being through sheer disgust with their greedy rush for graft. The labor and liberal politicians are eating the very vitals out of the state. So the state government has been driven out of Melbourne with degenerate cadets. Self-respect is very rare. Since the advent of the labor politician, a generation of sordid scum of men, made between sleeping and waking are trampling the liberties our fathers gave to us, liberties soaked with the blood of the freemen, made in red, we are now left with this pseuo-political poltroon masquerading as labor champions.

There are no strikes in Australia at present, the rats have been driven into their holes.

The capitalist need only threaten and obedience immediate comes forth. Confronted by the cherished weapon of the oppressors, is firmly rooted. Children fourteen years of age are imprisoned in a military fort one hundred miles from Melbourne. This is what labor government has brought Austa.

To, oh, hell, can these human weeds ever become virtu? I am shouting against the world.

W. FLEMING

Victoria, Australia.

NEW BOOKS.

"The New Unionism," by Andre Tridon, (W. H. Huebner, New York, Cloth; $1; paper cover, 30 cents.)

A book which is being turned out on Syndicalism is little better than the stuff the magazines dressed us with some time ago. This book purports to be a record of fact set down in pure journalistic style. The advantage claimed for a book written in this style is that it gives you the facts and leaves out the author's opinions, which is very good. Only Tridon beat the game by quoting just such facts as reflect with his own opinions. And he did the thing so grossly that the most careless reading reveals the whole thing on the face of the pages.

Tridon, as his book reveals him, is an I. W. W. of the governmental type, anti-Anarchist, anti- Syndicalist, anti-Communist.

His careful record of "facts" on The New Unionism contains no mention of the Syndicalist movement in this country.

He quotes authorities, and even sticks in his own opinions, to show that anarchism is "exasperated bourgeoisanism" and out of order, but that we have no hand in the birth of The New Unionism.

He quotes Bill Haywood as saying, "Remember the men who are 20,000 workers in the United States who cannot join the Federation of Labor. It isn't a working class organization. They are working for Andrew Carnegie, and it's not only not true but that it is the wildest kind of an untruth; and I am vastly more astounded that

Haywood should make such a foul statement than that Tridon should quote it, and that such rot should get inside the covers of a book in, indeed, regrettable.

There is a lot of matter in the book about the movement in foreign countries, and chapters on "Intellectuals," "Sabotage" and "Modern "Thugs."—J. F.

LIBERTY AND THE GREAT LIBERATARIANS. By Charles T. Spradling. A Handbook of Freedom. Presents succinctly the best statements of the greatest thinkers on every phase of human freedom, with preface, introduction and index by the editor. Devotes a chapter each to selections from the writings of thirty-two of the world's greatest libertarians, giving some biographical information, citations from as many noted authors. A comprehensive library within itself on the subject of Liberty, every topic treated by a master mind. A most suitable book to hand to a conservative neighbor as it presents arguments by the recognized thinkers, but which substantiate the anarchist's position in every particular.

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