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FREE LAND, FREE INDUSTRIES
THE WORLD OVER.

Organizati  is Power

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THE VOICE F THE PEOPLE

Owned by the Rebel Clan of Toil

VOL. II—NO. 43.

PORLTAND, OREGON, JURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1914

MIGHT IS RIGHT

Union Men, or Hold-Up Men, Which?

A large part of the workers in the United States, and especially in the west, are casual laborers. Often the work itself lasts but a short time, in other cases the work is so hard, and the conditions of labor so unbearable, that the workers cannot and will not stay long at the job.

When they leave one job they must seek another, and they often have to go long distances before they ever have a chance to apply for work.

They seldom earn enough money so they can afford to pay their fare and travel on comfortable cushion seats. To walk would cost them almost as much as to pay the fare, because they must have food to sustain them on the way. And some sections of the country are so sparsely settled that food cannot be obtained at all.

The railroads were built almost entirely by "casual labor." A great deal of the work of maintaining the railroads is done by casual labor.

It is these conditions which have forced upon casual laborers the necessity of "beating their way," has even made it an established custom. Railroad companies and other employers of casual labor pay such low wages that the workers cannot afford to pay out any part of their money for railroad fare. Railroad companies find it cheaper to let the workers beat their way, than to pay enough wages so the workers can ride in greater comfort.

There are many places on a train where a man may hide away in order to get over the road. All such places are uncomfortable, and some of them are extremely dangerous. Men who beat their way are not traveling for their pleasure. There is no pleasure in such travel. They must get over the road in their search for work. Every attempt to stop them from beating their way only forces them to seek some other place to hide, even if it places their lives in greater danger.

Most of the brakemen are union men. At least they carry a union card. They draw wages regularly. Perhaps their wages are too small, but they get better wages, and much more regular, than do the casual laborers.

Many of these union (?) brakemen make a practice of searching their trains, and if they find anyone who is beating his way, to demand money from him. If no money is forthcoming, they threaten to drive him off in some place where it may be impossible to obtain food or shelter, or to throw him off the train while it is still moving.

And such threats are sometimes carried out. Not so long ago one man was thrown off between the cars of a moving train. He fell under the wheels and died within a very short time. The case came up in court, but nothing was done to the brakeman.

The whole train-crew is usually in on the deal; they are protected by the railroad company and by the company's courts of law; and the train-crews are usually armed, while their victims are unarmed. This makes this cheap and dirty hold-up game comparatively safe for them, especially as no serious efforts have been made to stop it.

The first step towards stopping this business is far those who have been held up to immediately report the matter to the nearest I. W. W. local. All information so received should be filed so as to be available for those who expect to travel over that road. Other locals on the same road should also be notified. It would be a good idea to send lists of these hold-up brakemen to the Railroad Brotherhoods, so as to give them an opportunity to decide whether their unions shall be composed of workingmen or of professional hold-up men.

I would recommend that all locals take this matter up for immediate consideration and action.

BUTTE, MONT. UNEMPLOYED

IN WISCONSIN

UNIVERSAL UNEMPLOYMENT

WOMEN ARE LAYED OFF IN MILWAUKEE ROAD SHOPS; MORE TO LOSE POSITIONS

Sidy Stream of Jobless to Employment Agencies Unabated—Stories Reek With Misery and Misfortune

Butte, Mont., November 7, 1914. Contrary to our expectations the Socialist Party Ticket was defeated at the election of last Tuesday. In view of what has been happening here for several months past, we were of the opinion that the slaves would at least fight the Company hirelings on the Old Party Tickets, but as usual the word was passed around in the mines that unless a victory was forthcoming for the Company the mines would shut down and it had its usual effect.

The scissor-bill always runs or cover when his meal ticket is involved.

The A. F. of L. Unions did not give to the Socialists the support they expected.

The W. F. of M., as a recruiting agency for gun-men, is in a class by itself. Butte Local No. 1, with a membership of less than 300 men, has furnished the Company with nearly all they wanted.

I have secured the names of fourteen (14) of these vermin and every one of them belongs to the W. F. of M. The names follow:

Martin Seahill, vice president, No. 1, W. F. of M.; Con Tierney, Jack Coyne, James Matthews, Tony Robinson, Bob McGowan, Dominic Martin, John McBroom, James Grant, James White, George Siddons, Peter Murphy, Martin Harkins, Frank Martin. The last named is the one who signed the affidavit which brought the troops in here.

Peter Murphy is a cousin of John C. Lowneys and was forced to leave Michigan for striking a member of the U. M. W. over the head with a gun.

Judge Donlan of the A. C. M. Co. has issued an order for a change of venue in the case of Bradley, Shannon and McDonald. If their cases ever come up again, which I doubt very much, it will be in Boulder, Jefferson County.

THE I. W. W. AND IDEALISM

By E. S. Nelson

By idealism as relating to materialism I do not mean any imaginary model of perfection, but merely a better and truer economic and social relationship between man and man. For fear of being called a visionary or dreamer, the average member of the Industrial Workers of the World is unwilling to explain his ideas about a future society. That a person or an organization which proclaims and defends a certain ideal—a conception of a higher social system, or condition of human life, is a visionary person or organization, is untrue, in so far as it is meant to indicate utter uselessness and waste of time. It is idealists we must thank for all the practical, useful and interesting things we see about us. All the inventions in the world were first conceived, visioned, idealized, before they could be brought into reality.

While we understand the urgent necessity of improving our every day living conditions, we should not lose sight of the ideal we are striving to reach. The ideal should be clear in the minds of every member, for it, in itself, is the dynamic power of human desire, which overcomes all obstacles, and finally reproduces itself in reality. The social idealists, whom I have met, I have found to be sincere, revolutionary, optimistic, energetic and constructive. To my mind, there are no nobler or higher attributes. Of course I do not wish to be understood to say that the I. W. W. is void of all idealistic conceptions; for it is not. In the measure the I. W. W. proclaims and pictures its ideal, it must grow. But, the reason its growth is slow is because it is too eagerly describing negative or undesirable social conditions, and too reluctant in depicting the positive or desirable social conditions which ought to be. It is easy to talk about poverty, strikes, unemployment, labor fakers, and so on, for these are facts of common everyday experience, but it requires creative or inventive thought, to explain an ideal system of society, which would eliminate these conditions for good.

Two hundred men employed in the locomotive and boiler departments of the West Milwaukee shops of the Milwaukee road were laid off Tuesday night. It is reported that 400 more will be laid off Wednesday night. According to employes, workers in the shops have been employed only part time for several weeks. The stream of job seekers to the free employment agencies and factories is unabated.

A woman who applied to Mrs. W. L. Esson of the free employment agency Wednesday said that she had eight children to help support. Her husband has only a little work and in the last two weeks has brought home \$14 to pay the rent and feed and clothe ten members of his family.

Cries as She Talks.
The woman was on the point of breaking down and her eyes filled with tears as she said it was the eighteenth anniversary of her wedding and there was no coal in the house to keep her babies warm.

Another woman whose husband is out of work said that she has earned only 30 cents in a week. The husband has earned nothing in long time. There are four children in the family.

Another woman said she had four children ranging in age from 18 months to 11 years, when her husband was injured while at work and lost his job. Authorities took two of her children, including the youngest, from her. The youngest died and he mother accuses the authorities of being responsible.

Since then the husband has taken to drink and the unfortunate mother's burden has been doubled.

Don't Ask Charity.

Another young woman applied saying that her husband was out of work and she has one young daughter.

Investigation into this case revealed that the husband had been thrown out of work and finds it absolutely impossible to earn money to support his family. As a last resort the mother seeks employment to keep her family together.

The men applying at the free employment agency say little of their troubles, but it is evident that they are desperate and would do anything to get work. They don't ask charity—they hate it—Milwaukee Leader.

WANTS 90 DAYS AND GETS THEM

Stanislaus Eodicki, 21, was given ninety days in the house of correction at his own request. He admitted stealing potatoes from George Utterch, Grand avenue and Fortieth street. He said he had been sleeping in the woods west of the city, and, as the nights were getting chilly he would prefer being in jail.—Milwaukee Leader.

It is a pretty safe bet that at least one-fifth of the house room in Milwaukee is vacant.

SACRAMENTO, CAL.

Ford and Suhr were denied a new trial by the Supreme Court.

C. L. LAMBERT.

AS USUAL

Lawyer (fiercely)—Are you telling the truth?

Badgered Witness (wearily)—As much of it as you will let me.—Detroit Free Press.

Its Effect and Solution For All the Workers

With the coming of winter the city is being invaded by a vast army, this army carries no weapons, it is not greeted by the blare of brass bands and parades; neither is it greeted by the politicians and the elite of society. No, this is not an army of destruction, but it is an army of protection. This is the army that builds the railroads through the wood and the deserts; it is the army that harvests the crops and sows the seed; in fact, this is the right wing of the army on which the entire structure of society rests.

It is met in the city, not with the glad hand of fellowship, but it is looked upon as intruding in the field of labor and competitors in the labor market.

The factory hands who for the last few months have been receiving just enough work to maintain body and soul together, find that their already overcrowded market is to be flooded some more. The mechanic who has boasted that the panic of last winter did not touch him now finds himself unable to find a market for his labor power.

In the large mail order houses of this city they are working half crews or half time. The Pullman works are running with a crew of 4,500, where in good times it requires 14,000 men and about 200 women to fill their orders. The Taylor system is being inaugurated throughout.

MECHANICAL POWER AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Among other labor displacing inventions of recent date no doubt the Diesel motor is one of the most extensively employed throughout the civilized world. The Diesel motor not only takes the jobs from hundreds of thousands of unskilled workers in all branches of industry. Where power can be employed but it also does away with the firemen, engineers and machinist, as it feeds itself and requires very little attention.

In Europe most of the leading engine works are building Diesel motors in all sizes and for all purposes the same thing is true of Asia and Australia. The General Petroleum Company of San Francisco is about to build Diesel Motor ships for coastwise shipping and other companies will be forced to follow suit or go out of business. This means that hundreds of thousands of coal heavers, firemen, engineers, etc., will lose their jobs in the near future.

SKILLED TRADES FEEL PRESSURE

In the newspaper offices of the city they are installing something new in the line of efficient production, a central ad setting bureau; where all display ads are being set, and matrices made and sent to the different newspapers to be printed. If you have noticed of late most of the papers in the city are running eight columns of exact size. This in itself would suggest to the average thinker that the Newspaper Publishers' Association has a bitter pill which they are preparing to hand to the aristocrats of labor within a very short time, even at the present time the printers are facing one of the biggest crises since the eight-hour strike of the printing trades. According to the reports of Typographical Union No. 16, out of 4,407 members, 804 are out of work, and the rest of the trades of the printing industry in like proportion.

Building trades have moves on foot to aid their unemployed members. In the Building Laborers and Hod Carriers' Union the pass word is no work till next spring.

The railroads are doing no new work and are entrenching on all sides, regardless of the fact that an agreement has been signed with the city council that work was to start immediately.

(Continued on last page)

The Voice of the People

Entered as Second-class Matter, August 12, 1914, at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

Published weekly by the Portland Locals of the Industrial Workers of the World.

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION
309 DAVIS ST.
PORTLAND OREGON

B. E. Nilsson Editor

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

United States: 52 weeks, \$1.00; 26 weeks	\$0.25
50¢; 13 weeks	
Foreign: One year	1.50
Single copies	.05

BUNDLE ORDER RATES

United States: 5 copies, 13 weeks, \$1.00; or 10 or more copies paid 10 weeks in advance, 14¢ per copy.

OTHERWISE, in United States or Canada, 2¢ per copy.

No accounts carried beyond current month.

CASH MUST ACCOMPANY ALL ORDERS.

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CONDITIONS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Wages have been cut and the migratory workers have begun to line up on the highways and byways and on the railroads.

Los Angeles has put on a large extra force of police for the suburb district, to keep the hungry hordes that intend to put in the winter in this rich man's paradise, at a safe distance from the City of the Angels.

They think it will off-set the tourist travel to have the hungry hordes rubbing elbows with the soft white hand brigade.

A man informed me recently that he had a gun pulled on him several times in different parts of Pasadena for asking for something to eat. He also told me that he had found no work for six months.

I am now working for a millionaire; there is no chance for sabotage, except working slow; too many stools on the job.

Men offer to work for nothing every day, but the bosses are afraid to hire them.

Do you see how they recognize your economic power; they are afraid of wooden shoe artists.

I would suggest to those who come here: Try to make the boss believe you are a home-guard. Get on the job, never mind how, even if you have to tip your hat to the boss, as a fellow-worker in the South suggests.

C.O.G.

Everyone knows, in a general way, that great industrial changes have taken place during the last hundred years. We know that these changes have led from the small shops of our forefathers to the great industries of today; and that the many small establishments have been brought together in fewer and larger and more efficient establishments.

Scientists, inventors, engineers, and even the untold millions of unknown workers who have ever discovered a new way of saving any part of the labor of production; these people have used their intelligence to perfect the processes of production.

The owners, on the other hand, have one idea uppermost in their minds, how to make a profit for themselves from the industrial labor. They will favor a new machine, or a new process, if it is profitable for them to do so; but if the new process or methods threatens their personal interest they will do all in their power to keep it back no matter how essential it may be to the further development of the industries.

The owners of industry are forever working at cross purposes, each trying to get the lion share of the industrial plunder. The "captains of industry" seldom, if ever, begin intelligent co-operation before they have fought each other to the point of exhaustion; and these fights invariably retard the normal development of industry.

The so-called panics is one of the results of these fights between the industrial hyenas. Compulsory unemployment is another result. Labor waste in the form of wholly irrational advertising contests, is also due to the efforts of the "captains of industry" to over-reach each other.

The most spectacular result of the greed of the property-owners is War. The industrial plunderbunds of the various nations see a new market and a new field of exploitation, and they plunge the nations into war to decide which national plunderbund shall get the spoils.

The owners of industry compete with each

other as long as it is possible, and when they have to eliminate competition in some particular field, it is only to carry on the competition so much more fiercely in the narrower field that still remains.

When the owners of industry attempt to use their intelligence it is always to get the best out of someone, and it always tends in the direction of panics or unemployment, or war, and reflect, but I will be unable to help put some other interruption of production.

The present European war is a pretty good illustration, only it would take too much space to point out where all the prospective plunders First—Large and clean reading rooms, with is located, and why the nations are fighting.

the Daily Capitalist papers and Magazines, as well as our radical publications. Thus we will

get the best of each other, but the industry drives out competition in one field after another. The U. S. is not directly involved in this war, it is a neutral nation,

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WORKING WOMEN

By Adelaid Kassovsky

Class conscious workingmen like the recent speaker at Tampa, Covington Hall, pronounce women as sex conscious, not class conscious. This unpleasant fact is true. Women are not conscious of their own welfare as a class although the new method of production have placed them economically on an equal basis with men. Gentleman of the ballroom and the church say that women are superior to men; under the cloak of this flattery to better exploit her, but sincere men who work side by side with women in every-day life, say that an economic dependent is never a superior. Matter of sex is of no consequence in relation to the necessity for food, shelter and clothes. The class that produce these things are prevented by the capitalist class from enjoying the product of their toil. Race, sex, country, has nothing to do with this matter; it is a class monopoly of production and distribution of necessities of life. The capitalist class is consciously organized in support of their interest, but the working class is not organized as a class to their own interest. Men and women who carry their labor power with them, whether on a job or out of a job, skilled or unskilled, belong to the working class. Organize as one class and take the world over to exercise your right of labor in the interest of your comfort. Not conscious of her class interest, women undermines the working class, and defeats her own interest by joining religious institutions and female organizations in control of the capitalist class. The church has never produced one grain of corn, one blade of grass, or prevented strong men from standing in the bread line; church has sent class conscious, good men, homeless men who sought shelter from the bitter cold of winter beneath its roof, to the chain gang. Yet churches are supported by the sweat of the working class through the women. Girl scouts is a new stunt of a female organization, they are drilled by and for the interest of the capitalist class, which stands ever ready to send the working class to slaughter. These girls of the working class are drilled how to pick up bleeding cripples from the capitalist scrap heap of destruction, instead of enjoying the healthy companionship of those men at home and keeping them away from the field of murder. These girls of the working class are also drilled how to take the place of men in the shops and fields, while they are being slaughtered for the country of the capitalist class. O shame! O women! was ever an insult added to injury offered with more impudence in view of women's ignorance in relation to her class interest as mothers, wives, sisters of the working class. To be sure women are not the only transgressor of class interest, as the craft unionist prove by dividing the skilled worker from the unskilled they are dividing working class interest as ruthlessly as do the women in disorganized condition. The working class have been led to believe that they must have a head to everything but their own shoulders, they are supposed to be wise (?) enough to create a head, yet not wise enough to be the head of their own labor power, applied to land, from which by the might of their arm, comfort springs, shops, mines, factories and homes. I hope Fellow Worker Covington Hall will forgive my reference to him as it is through his remark I write this letter.

WHEN WAR SHALL END

By Patrick Brennan

The cannons roar, o'er the earth once more, And the preachers have started to preach. To pray for the dead that are shattered with lead. To their God their poor souls to keep They stand at the head of the armies, With arms outstretched to the sky, And call to their God to receive them, Who are anxious and willing to die. Their death is the death of the heroes, All shattered and covered with blood, To be mangled and torn, that their souls may be borne. To the home they have pictured above. But what of the wives and the children, Who are weeping and wailing for bread? Does the lords of the universe feed them, Now that the fathers lie dead. Yes, they say "suffer you poor little children, But don't come unto me until you're dead." And a hell for the mother is waiting, If she steals just a morsel of bread. But some day the war will be over, And kingdoms and monarchies dead. And the preachers so blind, with the rest of their kind, Shall work for their daily bread. No more shall those guns wreak destruction, No more shall the preachers cry. To their God up on high, to receive them Who are anxious and willing to die.

PRIVATE MILITARISM
THE NATIONAL MENACE

BY

Clifford B. Ellis

10TH AND YAMHILL LIBRARY HALL PORTLAND, OREGON

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18

Being the third of a series of five lectures to be delivered on succeeding Wednesdays

SOME OF THE INFORMATION WE NEED

1—Accurate knowledge about the average wages of unskilled labor. Each worker knows, of course, what wages he receives, and he is quite ready to make a guess about what other workers get. Such half-knowledge is of very little use.

What we need to do is to get accurate reports about the wages in as many places of employment as possible. From these we can get a fairly reliable average, with which the wages in each place may be compared.

2—It is more difficult to get really useful information about other working conditions, but it is possible to learn what is the greatest cause of discontent on each job.

3—We also need approximately correct data about the number of unemployed in a given locality at any given time. This will give a solid foundation to our agitation for a shorter work day. It will also guide us in our activities among the unemployed.

4—We should know where our active members are and what they are doing. And that knowledge should be on file so as to be available at a moment's notice. This will enable us to supply them with such news and information as they may have use for, it will make it possible for us to help them if help is needed and to call upon them whenever they are needed.

5—We should know every place where any kind of work is going on, and how to get there. That would do more towards eliminating the employment shark than all the agitation we have ever done.

In order to collect such information, we must keep it in such shape that it could be of use to us. We would have to have something like a record office. There would be a good deal of work for secretaries and for any of the members who could be induced to gather this information and there would be nothing sensational about this work.

But it would give a solid foundation to our work of agitation and organization which nothing else can give.

It would enable us to clinch our argument to the workers with accurate information about their own jobs, instead of with guesses at generalities about jobs on the other side of the world.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE VOICE

November 2-7

	Receipts
Cash on hand forwarded	\$16.5
Receipts bundle orders	21.3
Receipts subscriptions	6.9
Donations	3.9
M. O. returned	1.0
Total	\$48.5
	Expenses
No. 2—Marsh Ptg. Co.	\$30.9
Nov. 5—Stamps	.9
Nov. 5—Mailing issue No. 94	3.9
Nov. 5—Postage	1.9
Nov. 5—Express wagon	.9
Nov. 7—B. E. Nilsson, wages	8.0
Total	\$43.9
Amount due Marsh Ptg. Co.:	
Balance due November 2	\$90.6
By 3000 No. 94	32.4
By mailing list	1.9
Total	\$123.5
Paid November 2	30.10
Balance due November 7	\$93.65

GEORGE BISH

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of George Bish, a member of the old local 332 of Los Angeles, kindly forward such information to his sister, Miss Ray Bish, 408 Penn avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa. Yours in revolt,

THOS. FITZGERALD,
Financial Secretary, I. W. W., P. L.

SMOKER IN SACRAMENTO

A Thanksgiving Smoker will be held in the hall of the Joint Locals of the I. W. W. in Sacramento, Thanksgiving evening, November 25, 1914.

The hall is newly painted and decorated for the occasion, and we have had the co-operation of the members to make this the biggest and best smoker pulled off on the coast this year. Refreshments will be served, and a fine program arranged.

You will get a run for your money on this occasion.

Don't forget the time. Thanksgiving evening. The place, I. W. W. Hall, Sacramento. The girl—bring her with you.

Please run and oblige, yours for the One Big Union.

S. L. LAMBERT,
Secretary, Joint Locals, I. W. W.

HELPING GOD

Primitive peoples believe in magic rather than religion. When the god—embodied in some wooden image—doesn't grant their requests, they beat him or force him by some hocus-pocus to do what they made him for. The god is powerful, but needs some human pressure or assistance.

This seems to have been the idea of the German minister who is reported to have said: "God may not always side with the big guns, but big guns will certainly help Him make a right decision." Instead of asking God to help them, the German militarists are helping God—to reach a right decision. But those who will help God can punish him as well. What will happen if the Kaiser's bosom companion does not make the right decision? In view of the German militarists' well-known addiction to cruel and unusual punishments, we fear the worst.—The Masses.

CHEER UP

It is one of the tragedies of the I. W. W. that the members seldom think of writing to the paper unless someone is in jail, or dead, or near dead. The result is that, to one who occasionally reads one of our papers, or listens to one of our soap-boxers, our whole agitation seems like one long and loud wail of defeat. You might as well go out on the street corner and say: "Come and join the I. W. W., and we will help you to get in jail, or get your head caved in, or something equally cheerful."

We should not deceive the workers. But we do deceive them by making them think that a man can not belong to the I. W. W. without having the police beating a continuous tattoo on his head.

Please be more cheerful once in a while—and send cheerful news to the paper sometimes for a change.

OFFENSIVE NEATNESS

(Flies try to be clean; they wipe their feet frequently.—Scientific Note.)
Flies may be neat and wipe their feet;
I will admit all that.
They also take your pie or cake
And use it as a mat.

These pesky pests, unbidden guests,
In wiping their soiled soles,
Can't use the floor; they much prefer
Your flaky breakfast rolls.

The tribe of flies, it really tries,
It seems, to give offense.
It is not meet to be so neat
At other folks' expense.

Some very bad breaks on the side of the "sacred rights" of private property are to be seen as a result of the war.

WAR IN EUROPE—WHY?
It's cause, and what it really means.

By James O'Neil.
Price 10 cents, postage paid; 100 copies, postage paid, \$5.00

This pamphlet, by a widely known writer on social science, treats of the War in Europe in a manner vastly different from writers in the capitalist press. Its economic interpretation is startlingly intense. The veil is torn from the Invisible Government behind the thrones. Appeals to every type of reader, wage worker, student, scholar.

Address, James O'Neil, Box 28, Station C, Los Angeles, California. (X99)

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UNIVERSAL UNEMPLOYMENT

(Continued from first page)

THE SLAVERY OF TODAY

If in the years gone by you noticed a sign, "for sale at a bargain, one able-bodied boy," it would not in any way shock your sense, but when in the Twentieth Century a sign of this nature is brought to your attention, then you are able to realize that we are facing a panic that is not to be pooh-poohed by saying that things are going to pick up. Not only does the Daily News present his ad in a three column, full length display announcement, but the actual facts under which the workers must compete for a job; for instance, the ad states, "this youth, his enthusiasm, his ambition, his willingness to work, his good character and his necessities," and then the full force of what the unemployed army means to the capitalist is put in this statement, "Because many of the legions are out of work just now they'll give the boss every ounce of service that is in their willing bodies."

When the voice of capital, i. e., the Press, has the audacity to flaunt in the face of the workers their miserable condition, then we can well understand that his great army of unemployed has reached the stage where they will soon be compelled to do something in order to get back that unpaid wealth, i. e., unpaid product of their toil—which is laying idle in strong boxes and warehouses of the master class.

THE WORKERS GOAL

This vast army is slowly but surely marching forward to the day when it will take and hold that which it produces regardless of all the "Christmas Ships," "Good Fellow Clubs," "Associated Charities" or slimy politicians with their sop who seek to quench the thirst for liberty of this rapid increasing horde.

In the meanwhile, however, we are confronted with the problem of how we are going to get the means of subsistence until the awakening. In the past demonstrations the unemployed have marched in bodies to the City Hall, the Capital Buildings to beseech the Honorable Lawmakers to pass laws that will alleviate the poverty stricken masses of the country; and of course, it has never been done. How could you expect a dog to bite his own master?

You who are unemployed and unable to secure a means of subsistence; don't forget that you with the rest of your fellow-workers have made it possible for the boss to ride in automobiles, live in mansions built of stone with the latest improvements; electric lights, steam-heated, telephone, servants to answer at their beck and call, and every possible luxury imaginable, and in return for these services you are now facing the cold blizzards that come in the wake of Chicago's winters.

WHAT TO DO

You the same as the rest of us know that we are unable to buy back that which we produce with the wages that we receive. Being unable to buy back these commodities forces the employer who has his warehouse full to shut down his plants, and when the plants are closed for any length of time you know that we, the workers, are soon at the end of our finances, and a fit subject for public charges.

The cause is that we do not get the full product of our oil. So as we do not receive that which is ours, when in need, why not organize our forces in order to compel the master class to maintain us until such time when our organization will have sufficient strength to take and hold that which we produce.—I.W.W. Record.

NEWS OF THE DAY

(As It Ought To Be)

The only bill ever presented to Congress making the owners of steamships liable for the safety of passengers, and fixing their responsibility at one million dollars for every life lost, was passed by both houses and signed by the President amid the applause of everybody except the steamship owners—Life.

This is the lightning, the thunder, and the bursting storm of human evolution. It will clarify Europe's fetid atmosphere, bring keener perceptions, and deeper sympathies—to those who may not be killed!

Perhaps this, civilization's greatest war, will be its last. The struggle for industrial freedom, for access to the earth, will not be military. Men capable of fighting for a reality instead of a flag will be too intelligent to offer themselves as targets for machine guns for the masters to blow them to hell with.

MASS MEETING

in memory of the Chicago Anarchists, will be held at the Plaza if weather permits. If the weather is unfavorable for open air meeting, the meeting will be held in I. W. W. Hall at 309 Davis street.

POLITICAL CONTROL OF INDUSTRY

Let us consider the political government as a factor in the control of productive or other necessary labor; how it affects such work at present, and whether it is fitted to take any part in the control of industry in a new social order established by and for the workers.

Such partial control of industry as municipal laws regarding streetcar fares and gas rates are of little importance to the workers. Laws of that kind may affect some workingmen in their home life, but they do not affect workingmen as a class, nor do they affect or improve the conditions of labor.

If we wish to study the government as a factor in the control of useful labor, we can find no better example than the Post Office Department. This is often cited as an example of government ownership of public utilities, and an evidence that we—"the people"—are competent to manage industry. Let us see to what extent "the people" do control the Post Office Department, and what effect such control has on the employees.

The people elect a president and some senators and congressmen whom they know practically nothing about; the president appoints a postmaster-general, and Congress passes a few laws relating to the Post Office Department. The people know nothing about these matters, and would have nothing to say about them if they did know.

This makes the postmaster general the monarch of the Post Office Department, except that he is subject to removal by the president. Congress still has a certain power to interfere in post office affairs, but the congressmen are almost as ignorant about this business as are the people, and are therefore likely to take only such action as the postmaster general may desire. Is Congress should see fit to act otherwise, it would probably have no better effect than to lessen the efficiency of the mail service. Within the limits of legal and established customs, the postmaster general appoints such minor officials as he requires, and employs such other subordinates as the service needs. These employees are subject to the postmaster general's authority; if they should fail to please him, he can easily hound them out of the service; if discharged for any real or alleged cause, they are very effectively blacklisted; if they make any organized effort to better their conditions of labor, it will be called conspiracy and treason; and they are subject to a more rigid discipline than any private employer can establish or enforce.

As we can see, the people have about as much control over the Post Office Department as they have over the weather or the tides; and the post office employees are no better off than other wage slaves—rather worse.

And there is no difference between the Post Office Department and other government and municipal work in these respects. Whatever democracy there is, or is supposed to be, about the political government, it does not in the least enter into the control or management of government or municipal work. The employees of the government or of a city are subject to the same kind of industrial despotism as if they were employed by the steel trust or working in a coal mine or a sawmill, except that in government work this despotism is exaggerated by certain ideas of patriotism. Whatever advantages they may have in regard to wages and hours are due to certain educational qualifications that are not required in other labor, rather than to any benevolence on the part of the government.

The advocates of government ownership, state capitalism, state socialism, or political socialism will probably assure us that this kind of a regime is not at all what they advocate; that they want something entirely different; but, as a simple matter of fact, there can be no other plan of state control over industry. THE CONTROLLING POWER MUST BE PLACED IN THE HANDS OF THE EMPLOYEES THEMSELVES, AND NOT IN ANY POLITICAL GOVERNMENT, IF ANYTHING LIKE DEMOCRACY IS TO ENTER INTO THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRY.

There is only one way in which the industrial despotism can be overthrown, and an industrial democracy established in its place. The rules that are to govern in industry must be enacted only by those workers who know what kind of rule is needed and why it is needed; that is, by those whom the rules will directly affect: to follow any other plan would be to establish an industrial government in which ignorance would reign supreme. Industrial officials must be elected by those who are in a position to know who is competent for the work; to leave the election of such officials to a mass vote of the workers in all industries—as in a political election—would be to leave the whole matter to chance. It would serve as well, and be much cheaper, to let the candidates draw straws for the job.

It would be no more absurd to give the people who live in Portland a vote in the elec-

tion of a mayor for the city of New York, to give coal miners a vote in the election officials for the lumber industry, or to give tramps a vote in making shop rules for a mill. In either case the voters would be expected to decide questions which they know nothing about. This is exactly why real democracy has been such a flat failure—the great mass of people do not know they are voting about, and have no idea what they vote as they are told by those who do understand and who use the s and the ignorance of the great mass for personal advantage.

The idea of introducing anything of this kind into a new social system would hardly ever be mentioned, if it were not that the allied radical element of the middle class busy with elaborate schemes of state control over industry, and that all such schemes based on this very idea of indiscriminate irrational suffrage. The motive behind this movement is quite natural and simple. These people see their independence and their present living slipping away from them, and they want to reconstruct the world so as to give them a chance to interfere with industrial production. This will provide them with another easy, dignified, and profitable job.

As we have seen, the political government does not contribute anything towards the efficiency of that work which is now supposed to be under political control. About all that the politicians or the people can do is to demand efficient service, or to create disorder in the work by undue interference. The work is reality under the control of a bureaucratic government which is practically independent of the political state.

We know that from a capitalistic point of view, efficiency consists in getting the greatest possible amount of work out of the wage-earners; and the officials who have charge of government or municipal work, like the hired bosses who have charge of privately owned industry, must secure that kind of efficiency. The workers have another idea of efficiency and will therefore change the functions of officials and bosses when they take over the control of the industries.

SONG OF THE PORTERHOUSE STEAK

Words and Music by Strawberry Burns

harken, ye slaves of starvation,
prisoners of want and privation,
hale your guts with their emptiness shake,
the song of the porterhouse steak.

(Chorus)
our inches in thickness and two pounds in weight,
how delightful it looks when exposed on a plate;
how pleasant it looks with French fried on the side;
when you get it your happiness reaches high tide.

at one steak in three years is the limit for you.
you'd acquire the dyspepsia should you get it in two.
go back to your muckstick you scissorbill slaves,
and leave porterhouse steaks to the rich men and knaves.

THE COTTON SITUATION

It is necessary to go into the cotton situation carefully in order to misunderstand it properly. On account of the war and the excessive imports of climatic conditions and the cotton grows, we have so much cotton that people who are badly in need of it for clothing and other purposes are in great danger of getting it. That is to say, unforeseen events have come about with such celerity that our speculators have been unable to adjust cotton to that high-cost-of-living standard to which we have accustomed ourselves during the reign of the trusts. Consequently something had to be done or we would sink into that barbaric condition known as low-cost-of-living, which would leave more leisure time from the daily grind than we would know what to do with.

The buy-a-bale movement was the answer of our expert economists. It means that we are to get together and agree to pay a high price for a lot of cotton that we don't want in order to keep our selves from getting cotton that we do want at a low price. Needles to say, it is the fervent prayer of every sane and right-thinking man and club woman that the movement meet with unanimous support—Life.

Always think your own thought,
All other thoughts reject;
Learn to use your own brain
And boldly stand erect.

Redbeard's Review—Lond. 1901.

UNEMPLOYED LISTEN TO MUCH RADICAL ADVICE

Direct Actionists Predominate at Meeting Addressed by Mayor and Chief of Police

An endeavor to find a solution for the unemployed problem brought nearly one thousand people to the Redman's hall, on fourth avenue, last night where at a meeting, presided over by Dr. H. F. Titus, they cheered and jeered Mayor Gill, suffered Chief Griffiths to talk, and advanced all sorts of radical direct actionistic theories to further their cause. J. P. Thompson, an avowed I. W. W., who led the workingmen at the Lawrence strike, came forward after the regular speakers and repeated the unemployed, telling them that they were going at the problem in the wrong manner.

He advocated that men with work share their jobs with the less fortunate.

"An empty stomach knows no law—nor should it," cried one speaker, and the crowd yelled its approval.

Mayor Gill told the people that the city was unable to do anything for the unemployed in the way of direct assistance, as the treasury was depleted and the laws of the state forbade an open-handed charity. "Neither can the city supply work unless there is some to be done," said the mayor.

Chief Griffiths spoke for a few minutes and admitted that society could not let the unemployed starve.

The unemployed seemed to enjoy and approve immensely the remarks of one of the speakers who said: "No one can do anything for you but yourselves. Property is the product of labor, and property has no rights that a hungry man is bound to respect. Last year I was unable to obtain work, but I ate, and I advise you to do the same".

"If you make yourselves so dangerous to society that society must solve this great problem, then it will be solved rapidly," was the substance of a talk by another speaker. Mrs. Dr. Titus also spoke.

Direct actionists predominated in the audience—Exchange.

EFFICIENCY'S NEW TRIUMPH

The great efficiency of modern machines is illustrated by the error of European governments in calculating war casualties. They figured on seventeen and one-half per cent of casualties (one hundred and seventy-five thousand in every million men), and, to be on the safe side provided for twenty per cent. So far, thanks to the improvement in transportation, guns and all the apparatus of warfare, the casualties have reached thirty-five per cent, and hospital supplies and all means of caring for the wounded have run short. Motors enable generals to get their men into action faster than ever before, and the new machine guns and other artillery kill them at a rate that makes old-time warfare seem playful. So man continues to outdo himself even to his own undoing—Life.

LAW AND ORDER

Chris. Totten, chairman strike committee of the Manufacturers' and Employers' Association, Stockton, Cal.

I consider we have the right to defy the law if necessary. I consider our men were only wise in arming themselves, and I think we would have been justified in turning gatling guns on the strikers in Stockton.

Cadger—Can you spare a pore bloke a trifile, Mister?

Mister—What! A big able-bodied man like you begging?

Cadger—Well, yer got ter be big an' strong ter beg these days widout getting hurt.—Sydney Bulletin.

"Laws" and "rules" imposed on you

From days of old renown

Are not intended for your "good"

But for your crushing down.

SEND IN FOR A SUPPLY OF 13-WEEK PREPAID SUBCARDS TO THE VOICE. FIVE (5) FOR ONE (\$1.00) DOLLAR. 26 WEEK CARDS, FIVE (5) FOR TWO (\$2.00) DOLLARS;

NOW IS THE TIME

TO READ B. E. NILSSON'S PAMPHLET

"Political Socialism Capturing the Government."

It will be sold to Locals and speakers at \$2.50 per hundred copies, postage prepaid, as long as they last. Single copies five cents.