



VOLUME I. NUMBER 27.

NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA, SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1910.

SIX MONTHS, 50 CENTS. \$1.00 PER YEAR

Fair to the Boss

BY EARLE F. MOORE.

The "Amalgamated Journal," organ of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, under date of June 2 contained an article headed "Are You Doing Your Duty?" After exhorting the membership of the "Brotherhood" to pay their dues, presumably to insure a continuation of the luxurious existence enjoyed by the officials, it said in part:

"Brothers, 'fair play is a jewel' and to be fair to the company and not unfair to the employe" is the motto of our order. So, if you hear a knocker threaten to do all he can to prevent men from coming into or remaining with the Brotherhood because the Brotherhood did not sustain his unjust claim, note such a one and put him down as a most undesirable citizen." Our organization must and will stand for a square deal and protection for its members, but it must and does also stand for a square deal for the companies we serve."

This is the labor organization which with the help of the A. F. of L., whose motto is "Identity of Interests," is engaged present with the task of licking the steel trust. In a previous war with the same trust this union agreed to stop organizing in the remaining non-union plants of the corporation, if in turn the latter would sign the scale for the then organized mills. This act repudiated the very purpose for which the union existed. It first meant stagnation, then reaction and now dissolution.

On July 1 of last year the A. A. rebelled against the open shop order of the trust by going on strike. It had never made any provision in its structure for laborers and various other forms of skilled and unskilled labor employed in and about the mills, and these workers, of course, had nothing to gain as individuals in striking. Thinking it would be unfair to their employers to call out the so-called "Independent" mills, which they now admit are not independent, they allowed these workers to continue producing tin. The market was being supplied. The strike was weakened.

The following Christmas, during this time war the A. A. in New Castle issued a proclamation declaring peace on earth and their good will toward all men, including the employing class. We have not heard of a like sentiment being expressed by the steel trust.

The licking process has been waged so successfully in accordance with the latter part of the motto, "a square deal for the company," that after 11 long and weary months of going ragged, starving and lying in jail by the rank and file, their organization is practically eliminated from the industry, as are all other forms of exclusive unions.

Yet in spite of defects in form of organization, mistakes and treachery on the part of officials, our fellow-workers have displayed an unequalled spirit of solidarity.

The tin mill strike has cost the trust an enormous amount of money, and they are yet unable to operate the plants as successfully as before the strike. But this does not spell victory for the workers; it means that the United States Steel Corporation has unlimited wealth at command, and is slowly starving the slaves into submission.

When a worker leaves his home town to seek work in an independent mill, he is sent back to his former manager to obtain his consent.

The spirit of solidarity manifested by steel workers on strike, when harassed by

industrial unionism and revolutionary I. W. W. tactics will prove invincible. That the steel trust fears this brand of organization is shown by the persecution of Solidarity and other labor papers for advocating one big union for all workers in the steel industry, with a structure found elsewhere only in the highly developed trusts, and whose purpose is to obtain shorter hours, higher wages and eventually take the industry and operate it in the interest of the workers themselves.

The steel trust has reached that point in its development by the process of concentration and elimination of antiquated craft unions that is ready for industrial organization—that is, for the I. W. W. Fellow-workers, join us in this the greatest movement of all the ages.

CONTRIBUTION TO TEXTILE STRIKERS

TO THE EDITOR:

Fellow-Worker—Will you kindly publish in your next issue the following list of contributions to the striking Textile Workers of Local 157, New Bedford, Mass., and express to the Fellow-Workers who have interested themselves in our behalf, the sincere thanks of the membership No. 157:

- Collected by C. L. Filigno, C. E. C., Spokane, \$102.50
- Local No. 301, Hammond, Ind., per William Treutman, 8.00
- Local No. 45-592, Vancouver, B. C., per J. B. King, 10.00
- Local No. 457, Holtville, Cal., and return, \$10.00
- C. E. C., Portland, Ore., per Ed. Gilbert, 4.25
- Local No. 95, New York, per W. Northrop, 5.00
- Local No. 357, Bellingham, per Harry Larson, 5.00
- Local No. 85, Newark 2, Chicago, Ill., per Mrs. T. Meyer, 3.00
- Local No. 24, Newark, N. J., per Harold Jones, 5.00
- Local No. 457, Branch 2, Brawley, Cal., per J. M. Sanderson, 5.75
- Local No. 84, St. Louis, Mo., per L. H. Hanel, 2.10
- Local No. 425, Philadelphia, Pa., per Francois Vermeir, 3.00
- Michael Dumas, New York, 3.50
- Local No. 64-137, Minneapolis, Minn., per Peter Johnson, 3.20
- Local No. 20, Lawrence, Mass., per Peter Claus, 34.25
- Local No. 436, Lowell, Mass., per Cottages Coupan, 10.00
- Holtville, Cal., per F. W. Black, 25
- National Industrial Union of Textile Workers, F. Miller, 30.00
- Total \$233.05

WILLIAM YATES, Financial Secretary-Treasurer.

If you want to find out where the class struggle really lies begin organizing at the point of production for higher wages and shorter hours.

Attorney General Wickham has advised Samuel Gompers, president of the A. F. of L., that the Department of Justice (?) has no jurisdiction over the assaults, batteries and acts of oppression, which are alleged in the Federation's charges against the United States Steel Corporation.

A new weekly paper in French language is now published by the I. W. W., 60 cents a year. L'Emancipation, 9 Mason street, Lawrence, Mass.

Join the I. W. W.

STRAY BULLETS

While the workers are divided into craft organizations with constant squabbles over jurisdiction, the bosses will have jurisdiction over all of them.

There is one thing that ought to be "divided up" right away, and that is the working day. Organize industrially, get shorter hours for the men at work and jobs for the unemployed.

It is better to divide up the work day among the workers than to divide up the workers into craft organizations.

Short hours tend toward higher wages; long hours toward low wages. That is only another way of saying that the law of supply and demand operates in the sale of labor power as in all other commodities.

The capitalist class can no more stop the revolution by shutting up the revolutionists in jail than they can keep the wind from blowing by bottling up the atmosphere.

The capitalist class are utterly, savagely, ruthless when their profits are threatened. Beneath the thin veneer of their costly refinement lurks the aspect of the wolf. The men who take 90 days out of our lives would take our whole lives if they could, and thought it necessary to protect their profits. The workers must be as relentless and determined as the capitalists are ruthless and unprincipled, or they will be mercilessly ground into the dust.

There are no "laws of war" in the class struggle.

More and more the jails will be used to lock up those of the working class who show a spirit of rebellion against the masters. This is another sign of the impending breakup of the present social order.

Ho, ye social reformers, who want to do something for the working class without striking at the cause of all our miseries! See that we get better, with more sunlight and better fare, for the jail is destined to be the home of more and more of the working class as time goes by.

Suppose they do throw you in jail, what of it? You at least have a shelter over your head and are sure of a place where you can eat and sleep. That is more than thousands of the workers are sure of from one day to another on the outside.

Do you think they would be ready to lay hands on the workers for demanding their rights, and least of all on some dirty quibble, if the workers were industrially organized? So that they could carry on a general strike even in one industry? So that, for instance, they could throw a city in darkness when an outrage was perpetrated on one of their class? The pompous humbugs who now hand out or enforce stiff sentences on the workers would come whining to their feet like whipped curs. The way to get control of the policeman's club is to organize industrially.

Wages always have about the cost of subsistence with a constant tendency downward to the level of the poorest paid, except where the workers are strong enough through their union to force wages upward. Where they are that's a different story.

The immediate demands to which the workers should give their attention are the getting of shorter hours and shorter hours. Let the propertyed classes fight out their tax and tariff, trust busting and trust regulating squabbles among themselves; it's a matter of no concern of ours. Our concern is to get all we can of what we produce. Industrially organization is the method.

NEW BEDFORD

Textile Workers' Strike Sold Out by A. F. of L. Fakirs.

By Our Special Correspondent.

New Bedford, Mass.

Owing to the fact that an appeal has been sent out for funds to support members of Local 157, I. W. W., who were heavily involved in a strike at the Gosnold mills in this city, and also that the same was brought before the Fifth convention, we feel it necessary to inform the members and friends of the I. W. W., as to how the aforesaid strike was broken by the treachery of the craft union leaders of New Bedford.

With this purpose in view I am writing of the incidents that led up to, and the means that were used by the craft union strike breakers to break the strike.

Just previous to March 31 a cut in the price for weaving a certain grade of cloth took place in the Gosnold mills. This cut took the form of changing over a certain number of styles from a five to a six loom job and the price for weaving same from 87 to 72 cents, thereby reducing wages about 20 per cent. This is an old trick of the masters in the cotton mills of this section to reduce wages without going through the formality of posting a notice to that effect, a trick in fact that a certain corporation had boasted of as being an effective method of reducing wages than by giving warning of the same.

The weavers, of course, resented this cut. A mass meeting of all weavers was at once called, and to the number of 350 they assembled in Phelan's hall, the headquarters of the I. W. W. The greater part of these textile workers were unorganized; a very few belonged to the local Weavers' Union, and about 75 were members of Local 157, I. W. W.

The meeting took place on Wednesday evening, March 31, and was called to order by Secretary Yates, of No. 157, who in a few words stated that what was causing so much dissatisfaction in the Gosnold mill was being done almost in all the other mills, and that now was the time to organize, not only to resist cuts of this nature, but to get increases in wages commensurate with the increased cost of living, and that any system of regulating wages such as "standard list," etc., that failed to take into consideration the increased cost of the necessities of life, would be of no benefit to the workers. It was further pointed out that the masters were making this cut, realizing the unorganized condition of the workers in the textile mills; that in their present unorganized state they were completely at the mercy of the master class.

There are in New Bedford about 20,000 textile workers, of whom only around 5,000 are connected with any labor union at all, thus showing the absolute poverty of the A. F. of L. to organize the workers employed in the textile industry.

At this meeting a committee consisting of Polish, French, Portuguese and English workers, was elected to confer with the agent of the mill. The committee waited upon the agent next morning, and after being in conference for nearly two hours failed to get any satisfaction.

Two further meetings of the weavers were held with the result that a walk-out occurred on April 4. Every weaver in the mill, to the number of 450, went out.

A rather peculiar thing happened at this stage of the game: The whole crowd of strikers proceeded to the hall of the Weavers' association, about two miles from the

mill, notwithstanding their two previous meetings had been held in the I. W. W. hall, which is quite close to the mill. The secretary of the Weavers' association received them with open arms, gave them a jolly about their splendid walk-out, etc., called the meeting to order and while it was in progress got on the telephone to the agent of the mill, talked to him for 30 minutes, and then went before the strikers with the message that Mr. Booth, the agent, wanted to see a committee at once. A committee was at once elected and proceeded to the mill to confer with the agent. He told them that he had nothing further to add to what he had already said.

This telephone incident and what followed aroused the suspicion of the workers. After several committees had been elected the meeting adjourned until the next day.

On the following morning the aforesaid secretary, Matt Hart, appointed himself chairman of the meeting. The pickets were called upon to give their reports. Objection was raised to Hart's assuming control of the strike. One worker raised the point that it had always been usual at meetings of this nature to first of all proceed to the election of a chairman, and suggested that this be done at once. Hart had no alternative but to comply. In the election he was absolutely snubbed under and one of the strikers placed in that position. The meeting then proceeded to business, which was completed in short order, and adjourned. The following day the hall was closed to the strikers with the excuse that it was used for lodge purposes and that no further meetings could be held in that hall. The strikers were offered a small room that would not hold half their number, which they indignantly refused and agreed to hold all future meetings in the I. W. W. hall.

At this stage Organizer Etoro, of the I. W. W., came to town and infused new life into the fight, causing great enthusiasm by his vigorous speeches, flaying the police unmercifully for their treatment of the pickets. Etoro pointed out that by organizing industrially we should get the support of all textile workers not only financially, but that if necessary all the workers in the mills would walk out in sympathy with the weavers; he called on the other departments to leave the mill until the grievance of the weavers was settled.

The Fixers' Union (A. F. of L.) held one of the liveliest meetings in its history, lasting till midnight. They passed a motion that their men "remain away from the mill till the strike was settled," but left the execution of this order to the officials of the United Textile Workers of America, A. F. of L., thus practically nullifying their action.

When the strike had been in progress two weeks without a break in the ranks of the strikers the mill shut down all departments, thus proving their inability to procure strike-breakers. The fight was being conducted independently of any organization, though the I. W. W. gave the strikers all the help possible, allowed them the use of our hall free of cost, had Organizers Etoro, Taylor and Weibert speak at open air meetings, and help out generally. Good agitation was carried on; everything was running as smoothly as

(Continued on Page 3.)

