



VOLUME FOUR. No. 9. WHOLE No. 165. NEW CASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1913. SIX MONTHS, 50 CENTS. \$1.00 PER YEAR

20,000 RUBBER WORKERS REVOLT IN AKRON! I. W. W. IN FULL CONTROL

AKRON WORKERS STRIKE AGAINST CUTS OF WAGES AND SPEEDING-UP TO THE AKRON STRIKERS

Organization Alone Means Power!
Hold Your Organization!

\$100,000 IN TWO WEEKS!

(Telegram to Solidarity)

Akron, O., Feb. 18.
Fourteen thousand now out. Picket line at the Goodrich plant today was the greatest ever. All the red ribbon in town sold out. Every body wearing red. Firestone, Miller, Schweitzer, American plants completely shut down. Goodrich, Diamond and Goodyear crippled, with only one-third forces inside. Among others are 2,000 Hungarians and Slovaks in the I. W. W. I. W. W. in complete control. Rush funds to Gill, Treasurer, 42 West Miller Ave., Akron, O.

GEORGE H. SWASEY.

(Special to Solidarity.)

Akron, O., Feb. 17.
On Tuesday, February 11, there broke out in this city a revolt of rubber workers which promises to shake the foundations of capitalist society to the same extent or more than Lawrence did last spring. All strike meetings are jammed to the doors and thousands have been unable to hear the message. No meeting place is half big enough to accommodate the men, women and children who have laid down their tools against the cuts in wages, which have totaled 50 per cent in many cases.

The revolt started when the Pitstone Auto Tire Co. announced a new scale for piece workers which meant a decrease in the price per tire. Where men had received 21 cents for a 3-1-2 inch tire they were cut to 11 cents. No wonder they revolted.

In the Backery plant, which is shut down, there was no cut; but the entire shop of 600 emptied when the pickets' parade first approached the plant. The solidarity of otherwise hostile and divided elements is really wonderful. The Saturday afternoon parade, which took place immediately after Arturo Giovannitti spoke to 5,000 in Reinder Hall, was inspiring. The Akron Times, a scabby sheet, says that only 800 were on strike. This parade of 8,000 men, with a dozen banners, many flags and red ribbons on all their coats, proved this to be a lie.

All the papers (except the Scripps-McRae paper the "Press") are trying to incite the "people" to violence, a la Lawrence "American." The articles are highly incendiary and calculated to start trouble, so that the militia may be called. The strikers laugh at these articles, as they are pure bull. The newshyos who are right, won't sell any paper except that favorable to the strike. A boycott of the Akron Times is being enforced.

Railroad men have declared that they will not haul freight in or out of the shops if scabs are secured, which is unlikely. The Street Railwaymen's Union declare officially that if the A. F. of L. tries to butt into the Akron strike and oppose the I. W. W., they will turn in their A. F. of L. charter and get an I. W. W. one. Some solidarity, eh?

The girls in the Werner Book Publishing concern have asked for a raise or they will strike. I tell you that Akron is shaken to its foundations. All creeds, colors and flags are represented in the strike. The workers are determined to put a crimp in the bosses' pocketbooks, especially that of the Goodrich Co., which declared a 400 per cent dividend on January 1.

Committees are working night and day, and by Wednesday we expect to have all the 17 mills closed.
George Speed, Walter Glover, Walter

Knox and myself are working about 18 hours a day. Six secretaries are working 12 hours starting men up to the I. W. W. Haven't seen a cop since I have been here (four days), and everybody says it is the most peaceful strike ever heard of. All hail the rebel proletariat!
Hurrah for the strike!
Less loaves for bosses! More bread for workers!
GEORGE H. SWASEY.

THE BIG REVOLT

"It never rains but it pours," must be the uppermost thought in the minds of our masters, in times of almost continuous working class revolt. Three years between McKean, Roebuck and Lawrence; and only one year between Lawrence and Akron. Verily, that "people of the abyss"—the machine proletariat—which has been "naught" is moving rapidly to the state where it shall be "all."

Advices from Akron direct to Solidarity are meager so far, but sufficient in connection with daily reports in the Cleveland papers, to confirm the statements of strike leaders, to the effect that this strike of rubber workers is "bigger and more significant in many respects than that of Lawrence a year ago."

Citizens Civilized.

One noteworthy difference is the apparently peaceful attitude of Akron citizens. Although some of them, doubtless at the instigation of the mill owners, induced the mayor to ask the governor of Ohio for the state troops, others protested that there was no need of such action, and commended the government for refusing at the instigation of the police department, but they have little to do, when in congregation of strikers takes place anywhere, they have only to call upon the captains of pickets to clear the sidewalks and streets, and it is done. Only about two arrests have been reported in the week of stirring struggle. Only another proof that soldiers and bullying police are mainly responsible for violence in strikes.

Shaw's Bull.

The superintendent of the big Goodrich plant commonly known as the "rubber trust"—a \$90,000,000 corporation—trows that if compelled to shut down on account of this strike, he will move his plant from Akron. The strikers treat this bluff as a huge joke, and in one of their parades carried a banner saying: "Ten thousand rubber workers wanted to help move the Goodrich mill." (Signed) O. SHAW. Another amusing stunt is reported to have been pulled off by the strikers on Wednesday this week. In the strike parade was a real live bull, with a sign on his back bearing the legend: "This is Shaw's bull. Going to move from Akron." Following this was a cow labeled: "I. W. W.; this no bull." Superintendent Shaw will have to quit shooting the bull.

Reasons for the Strike.

The revolt started, as all such revolts do, after repeated and merciless efforts of the bosses to grind their slaves to the limit of human endurance for the sake of ever more dividends. The Goodrich Co. declared a dividend of 400 per cent on January 1. This was followed by a cut in prices on piece work—one of several, in the past six months, aggregating altogether about 50 per cent. In order to make

(Continued on Page Four)

The capitalist daily papers, in recording interviews with the Akron rubber bosses, state that they may be willing to grant some concessions in wages and hours, but WILL FIGHT ORGANIZATION OF THEIR EMPLOYEES TO THE BITTER END.

You should stop and think seriously on what this means. Why do the rubber factory owners want to stop you from organizing a union, although it is up after you have formed it? Because the rubber bosses are themselves organized, and know what it has meant for them. Through their thorough system of organization they have had you by the throat all these years, and have been paying you down to the point where you could stand it no longer, and were forced to revolt. The factory owners' system of organization has been a terrible engine of oppression, simply because it was forced in such a way that all parts worked together perfectly and harmoniously for the purpose of getting out of your muscle and brain the greatest amount of exertion in the least possible time for the least possible wage. THE BOSSES ARE ORGANIZED!

That's why they don't want you to organize, or to stay organized. They know that if you have ONE BIG UNION—systematically organized according to the plan of the I. W. W., with all parts working together, they the bosses, can no longer do with you what they have done in the past. By that organization, crystallizing the power of united action, you can stop the downward plunge in wages, do away with the speeding-up system that drives you to the grave in a few years, shorten the workday and otherwise improve your daily life, while eating into the companies' enormous dividends. That's why the bosses will fight your organization to the bitter end.

BUT DON'T ALLOW YOURSELVES TO BE DECEIVED! Your masters may grant your demands for the time being, in the hope that later you will forget how you won them—by your organized might—and let your union fall to pieces. Many a great victory has been turned to defeat in that way.

HOLD FAST TO YOUR UNION! Don't let it die or become weaker after the strike is over. Organize thoroughly now, and impress upon all your fellow workers the supreme importance of HOLDING THE ORGANIZATION after the fight is over.

In that way you will be able to hold your conditions won by united action and to improve them from time to time in the future. At the same time you will inspire thousands of fellow workers in other parts of the country and in other industries to do the same.

Let your watchword be ONE BIG UNION NOW AND FOREVER!

Fifteen hundred silk mill workers are on strike in Hazleton, Pa. Nine hundred joined the I. W. W. after listening to a debate between I. W. W. Organizer Frank Daniels, an Armenian, who speaks broken English, and a "polluted" A. F. of L. organizer. Workers don't have any trouble making out the difference.

The I. W. W. will have only ONE union of rubber workers in Akron, branched according to the requirements of the industry. The A. F. of L. would have many unions if it could, each one making separate time contracts with the bosses, thus making unity of action impossible. The A. F. of L. "union" is the kind the rubber bosses want.

The rubber workers of Akron have paralyzed the industry of their masters in that city. They are on strike nearly 20,000 strong at this writing. Three-fourths of their vast number have joined the I. W. W., and the rest are enrolling.

This is a bigger and more significant fight than that at Lawrence. But owing to the absence of violence, one in Lawrence to police and soldiers, the Akron strike is not being noticed to any extent by newspapers outside of this section.

For this reason, I. W. W. militants everywhere must be conscientiously on the job, making the Akron strike known, and raising funds for relief that will soon be needed. Girls who have been working in the rubber factories for as low as 50 cents a day, and men with large families, whose income just kept them going, cannot long resist the whip of hunger. The wolfish capitalists are counting upon that fact.

RAISE MONEY! Try every possible method. Place collection baskets on the street corners, with banners to explain what they are for; start "tag days" wherever possible; send speakers to unions and other meetings; start collection lists among your friends and shopmates. Gladden the hearts and stiffen the spines of the strikers with the assurance that the working class of the country is behind them in their struggle.

RAISE \$100,000 IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS!

Organize for that purpose today!
Send funds to GILL, TREAS., 42 West Miller Ave., Akron, O.

AKRON PREACHER TELLS OF CONDITIONS

(Cleveland Plain Dealer, Feb. 17.)

Harold Parsons, secretary of the Manufacturers' Association of Akron, was in communication today with officials of the rubber companies, and E. C. Shaw, general manager of the Goodrich Co., where the strikers' campaign is to center tomorrow, issued a written statement of his position. He said:

"The average wage of an experienced tire maker or a tire fainer is approximately 36c an hour, or \$3.60 a day. It is possible for an inexperienced, unskilled man to make from \$2.50 to \$3 a day after a preliminary training of from six to eight weeks.

"The B. F. Goodrich Co. has made an effort to house its employees under conditions affording the most hygienic and comfortable surroundings consistent with the industry. We have been assured by large numbers of our employes that they desire to continue work and are satisfied with conditions."

Rev. W. M. Davis, of United Evangelical church, who opened a street meeting of strikers with prayer at the beginning of the strike, made a statement tonight in which he flatly denies the claims of employers that any considerable number of workmen in the rubber factories earn \$3.50 a day.

"The conditions in the industry here are such that workmen could not be satisfied," he said. "Ever since I came to Akron there has been one cut after another. All the time the men have been subjected to a speeding up process which has constantly increased the output of each workman, while it has usury as constantly decreased his earnings."

"Some members of my church are stockholders in the rubber companies, but more of them are rubber workers. I am familiar with their home life and I know their condition.

"A few of the speediest men in the best paid sorts of work have made as much as \$3.50 a day. But the greater number of workmen cannot attain the speed at which that pay is fixed.

"I have in mind one member of my church who was employed at the factory where the strike started with the cut last week. He has five children. His wife is

most economical. He himself has devoted almost every cent of his earnings to his family. He does not drink, and he has never to his own use daily only the 5c he spends for chewing tobacco. No one should begrudge him that.

"At \$3.50 a day, and but \$1.75 on Saturday, when the factories close at noon, this man's weekly wages no more than equal the actual living expenses. There could be no allowance for extras. If a child broke he could not replace it. If one of the family became sick there was nothing for medicines or a doctor.

"When the cut came last week he found that his daily earnings had been reduced from \$3.50 a day to \$2.00. They were already buying the cheapest clothes and the cheapest foods. He could not continue to work at \$2.00 a day and live.

"Not many have such large families. A great number of married men have been forced out by the continuous cuts in wages and speeding up in work. That has brought about other conditions with which I am familiar because more young people come to me to be married than ever is almost any other clergyman in Akron."

"I ask the bride where they are going to live. She tells me they will have one furnished room. I ask if she will not find that an unhome-like place to remain all day. Then she tells me that her husband is working in a rubber factory and that she herself must go back to work to help out.

"This is no exceptional case. It is typical. The speeding up system is wearing out men and girls while they are yet young. It is borrowing from the future, and is creating a social condition which no person who knows of it can view without fear for the future.

"Many girls in the factories tell me they work for as little as 50 or 70 cents a day. It is true that many of these live at home, but not all. Those who live at home come from families like the one in which I first referred. They leave school to go to work because their fathers, and often their mothers had been fed into the speeding up system, and now it had come to their turn."

Superintendent Shaw threatens to move the big Goodrich's plant from Akron, to escape the I. W. W. But he forgets that the I. W. W. can move faster than Shaw can think. Oh, Pah! Tie your ball outside.

SOLIDARITY

EASTERN ORGAN OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

P. O. Drawer 622 New Castle, Pa.

Owned and Published Weekly by
C. H. MCCARTY and B. H. WILLIAMS
C. H. MCCARTY, L. U. 29F
B. H. WILLIAMS, L. U. 29T
Place of Publication—No. 418, Cross Ave.

S. H. Williams, Managing Editor
C. H. McCarty, Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION:
Yearly, \$1.00
Six Months, .50
Canada and Foreign, 1.50
Single Copies, per copy,
ONE & ONE-HALF CENTS.
Advertising Rates on Application.
Cash MUST Accompany All Orders.

All communications intended for publication in *Solidarity* should be addressed to the Managing Editor; all others, pertaining to financial matters, to the Business Manager.

Entered as second-class matter December 18, 1906, at the post office at New Castle, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD
General Headquarters—307 Mortimer Bldg.
164-66 W. Washington St. Chicago Ill.

GENERAL OFFICERS
Vincent St. John, General Sec'y-Treas.
Jas. P. Thompson, General Organizer

GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
J. J. Ector, F. H. Little, J. M. Foss,
Ewald Koenig, P. Eastman.

WATCH FOR YOUR NUMBER.

Each subscriber will find a number opposite his name on the wrapper enclosing *SOLIDARITY*. For instance 164. That means that your sub. expired last week, and you should have received **NUMBER 165**. This is **NUMBER 165**.

THE I. W. W. AND THE FARMER

The discussion going on in the I. W. W. press regarding our attitude toward the farmer and the land question is one that the editor of *Solidarity* has been looking for for some time. The possibility of a successful social revolution without a prior control of the agricultural industry, seems an irresistible conclusion to those who are at all acquainted with the strategic position of that industry in relation to others. Farming as it does the raw materials for the food and clothing supply of the country's population, agriculture in conjunction with mining and lumbering, constitutes the foundation stone of manufactures. Its increasing dominance over any other industry in the future society, is a probability that seems undebatable.

But for all that, at present, agriculture is in a comparatively backward stage of development. The area of land available for individual farming, is even now being extended by irrigation projects; while in the oldest section of the country practically no concentration of ownership and consequent "absentee" farming is in evidence. The individual farmer with his old-fashioned psychology is still dominant. Anyone who knows that "state of mind" will laugh at the idea of any friendship for the I. W. W. and its program on the part of the individual farm owner—whether a freeholder or one tied up with a mortgage. This typically American farmer judges his "hands" by their willingness to arise at unreasonably hours before dawn to begin their day's work by their "trustworthiness" on the long day job, and their alacrity in scabbing on other farm hands in the matter of low wages. Such ideas are a part of the religion of the American farmer, ground into him by economic necessity since pioneer days. The idea of a possible revolt of his "hands" against these conditions, never enters the head of the average farmer. For him, the only "insecurity" lies in the direction of bad weather, the loss of stock, the railroad company with its excessive freight rates, and the commission merchant with his corner on wheat and live stock. He still "hopes for happiness" in this life after a few trusts have been busted, and a government owned or "regulated" railroad system has reduced the rate to market on grain and hogs. The improbability of individual ownership of land in the near future, has never disturbed the dreams of the average American farmer, notwithstanding the fact of individual expropriation is being robbed under his nose

every day. The farmer has his face turned toward the past; he does not and cannot yet look toward the future.

What, then, seems to be the first essential in tackling this problem, from an I. W. W. standpoint? Evidently, that first essential must be to separate the farm hand in thought and purpose from his master. That has already been done to some extent in the middle section of the country, especially during times of harvest, when thousands of workers are brought from the cities to gather in the crops. For several years, in some sections, the I. W. W. has been busy with these workers, seeking to line them up against the farm owners for more wages and better conditions. This work could be extended indefinitely and result in powerful industrial unions of agricultural laborers, functioning at least in harvest times with power and efficiency. They will help to educate and train the farm laborers for their subsequent operation and control of the agricultural industry.

The second essential is to separate the individual small farm owner from his farm. This must be the joint work of the big capitalists, like Morgan, Hill and others, who are now looking to the farming industry as a future juicy field for investment of their surplus capital; and of the industrial union of agricultural workers, which will tend rapidly to make the small farm owner's position untenable. In other words, the two forces, will hasten the development of the agricultural industry, lessen the proportion of farm owners and increase that of purely proletarian farm workers. Only then, when the farmer becomes a wage worker, will his reactionary dream vanish, and the reality of capitalism cause him to right-about-face in a revolutionary direction. His eligibility to membership in the I. W. W. will not then be open to question.

This, it seems to us, is the only logical way of getting at the problem. Portions of the agricultural industry are ripe for organization industrially. The quicker a beginning is made, and the faster that organization proceeds, the better. To ignore it altogether would be fatal to the success of our revolutionary program. The revolution in the cities must be fed and clothed and fortified against possible reaction from the rural districts. We must be prepared to "take possession of the EARTH and the machinery of production."

"VOTES" AND "WOMEN'S WAGES"

Under the title, "The Point of View of the Suffragists," Anna Cadogan Ets writes in the *New York Sunday Call*:

"There is an old German adage to the effect that 'Woman is born with a stone on her head.' In these days the stone is getting lighter and lighter, but over in the city of Rochester, where I mingled with the men and women striking garment workers, I found that the stone was still there. This is the stone: Work and service are for women; but never any adequate wage or recognition."

"My business with the strikers was to bring home to them that the low wages of the men were due to the competition of the women; that to raise the men's wages the women's must be raised; that the vote for women was the lever by which they could get the same consideration from lawmakers and law enforcers that men received."

"The halls where the strikers assembled were largely filled with men. Where were the women? They were down on St. Paul street doing picket duty in near zero weather."

This is indeed a flash-light on the "point of view" of many suffragists, to whom the labor movement is like a sealed book. A struggle for more wages for women, conducted by the women themselves right under the very nose of this suffragist seemed entirely lost on her, obsessed as she was with the idea of getting the vote instead, as a "lever," with which to get the consideration of "lawmakers and law enforcers." In other words, the practical demonstration of women's activity in their own behalf, in matters of wages and living conditions, directly concerns them, is of less moment than the "lever" of the ballot with which to appeal to lawmakers!

From the viewpoint of the industrial unionist, the Rochester women were in exactly the right place—on the picket line, instead of in a hall listening to a suffrage lecture. Not that we have objection to any number of "suffrage" lectures, in their proper place; but they seem to us nothing less than absurd on occasions like

that in question. The women on the picket line at least have a fighting chance to show that they no longer intend to give "work and service" as hirelings without "adequate wage or recognition," and there is no other place where they can honestly do so. No "lawmakers" in Albany can possibly overcome the "law of competition of men and women in the wage market" of Rochester. But One Big Union of men, women and child garment workers in Rochester and other centers of that industry, can do that, and bring about "adequate wage and recognition" for the "wage-earner." Of course they may fail in this instance, largely on account of A. F. L. methods of conducting the strike. But that does not alter the fact that the UNION AT THE POINT OF PRODUCTION is the training school for the "equality of the sexes" that we hear so much about just now. ECONOMIC equality precedes any other kind; and as long as woman can be made the prey of the employing class, in the shop, her possession of the "vote" will not in the least free her from bondage. On the other hand, it might tend to delude her with the idea, by no means exclusively feminine—that some power outside of herself (for example, "lawmakers") can save her and her class.

The "equality of men and women" is being worked out primarily "on the picket line." All hail to the brave girls of Rochester and elsewhere, who are doing more to gain respect and "recognition" for their sex, than all the suffrage lectures in the country put together.

MARX "SPOON" AND "BOWL"

I am fully convinced that Fellow Workers Marx and Chevinkat are absolutely right in asking for more general education on certain subjects in the I. W. W.

In order to make this possible, I would suggest that the controversies published in our papers be cut down, and articles pertaining to the demands and victories of the I. W. W. be published.

That a great many members of the I. W. W. locals are badly in need of enlightenment on these subjects can easily be proven by visiting some of them.

One of the most common questions, and also the most important to clearly understand, is that of whether an increase of wages is simultaneously followed by a like increase in the price of commodities.

Let me state right now that no capitalist or capitalist industry was ever known to make such an invalid statement. That remained for Prof. Specknoodle in the University of Bankology and his brothers in misdirection—the Socialist politicians, preacher and fifth-story intellectuals.

The economic masters know only too well that their immense wealth is not accumulated by their immense hoards of the total value paid out as wages, but only by keeping the spoon (wages) filed down to the bare substance position possible, lest they (the workers) increase the size of their "spoon" and dip out of the national production (bowl) more of the necessities and some of the luxuries of life.

At present the capitalists are, with a slight exception, absolutely in possession of the "bowl" and well they know that a "lever" in the hands of the working class would play havoc with the bell with dividends, surplus, stocks or any of the 57 varieties of unpaid wages.

I will roughly mention some of the basic industries for example, to ascertain whether or not an increase of wages in those places could be offset by an increase in the selling price of the product.

More than two-thirds of the coal output is consumed by industries and railroads.

The steel works at South Chicago use more than 5,000 tons of coal a day, while the average working man and family gets along a month on one ton.

Who would be lit the hardest if the coal was increased 25c on a ton; as a result of the miners getting the like increase in wages?

If you have no idea of how much coal is consumed by the railroads and large industries, and by indagation, reason, because of the fact that the working class are in the majority, make the mistake that they must also be the greatest consumers, then you are positively inconsistent in clinging to the fact that the working class get only a small part of the output in the form of wages.

If the iron and steel industries are forced to give an increase in wages would that increase be placed arbitrarily on the products of iron and steel? Not much could be gained by increasing the price of jack knives or No. 3 shovels.

You must know that almost the total

amount of steel and iron is consumed in making machinery, structural iron for skyscrapers, and bridges and rails.

The lumber industry would also come into contact with the main purchaser, who, by the way, are not the working class.

Toothpicks, matches and cheap furniture consume but a very small part of the lumber output.

The textile industries would suffer the same fate, as ginghams and blue jean wear much longer and usually cost about one-twentieth as much as broadcloth, peau de cygne or erupe de chine.

All industries could be mentioned in the same way, and could easily be proven to be not disturbed or even within purchasing possibilities of the working class.

If it is true that increased wages mean increase in prices, why do the capitalists resist so violently the demand for higher wages? Why not convince the capitalist to give us \$20 a day, and become millionaires in a short time? Perhaps he will take a tumble some day, when the "comrades" in the S. P. show him the folly of his ways.

THE FARMER AND THE I. W. W.

In the initial number of The Lumberjack, and the issue of *Solidarity* appearing the same week, were two opposite views regarding the qualification of the farmer for membership in the I. W. W. Covington Hall extends an invitation to the farmer, while William Mead strongly opposes his admission.

I read Mead's article first, and felt it regrettable that the necessity of excluding the farmer should be a mooted point among us. But my experience in our local convinced me that his fears are well grounded and his warning timely. When afterwards I ran across the opinion of Covington Hall, with the prestige that such a well known and influential writer confers, I realized that grave danger threatened our organization. The valuable service that Fellow Worker Hall has rendered the I. W. W. would be more than cancelled were his advocacy of this idea to prevail, and the I. W. W. turned aside into a reactionary by-path. Why this confusion on anything so fundamental?

This condition betrays the fact that too often the meetings of our locals are so absorbed in petty and senseless wrangling that the primary object of the organization—education—is lost sight of, and no real progress is made. Any meeting which does not devote at least 30 minutes to discussing some phase of the labor movement under "Good and Welfare" has been without practical value. Of all questions we ought by now be able to readily determine who is, and who is not eligible to membership.

The hardness of part of our membership regarding the industrial status of the farmer is attributable to the erroneous teaching of the Socialist Party wage-earner propagandists, who shove the wage workers, farmers and petty business men into the same pack, hoping to delude themselves a winning political hand. Those S. P. records in the I. W. W. require to be shown that when the class line is drawn clearly through society the wage worker on one side of it, and the farmer and business man with the rest of the capitalist class are on the other side. This is our task, and to neglect it spells danger and threatens disaster to the I. W. W.

It is being argued, nevertheless, that industrially the position of the farmer and the wage worker is identical; that both are exploited, and the farmer even more so than the wage worker. In this connection it is contended that the farmer is in no sense a capitalist. Let us see. What is capital? Roughly speaking, capital is any form of wealth used for the exploitation of wage labor. In this sense, equally with the rolling mill of the Steel Trust, the hand of the farmer is capital, and the farmer is a capitalist as well as the owner of the steel mill. Nor does the fact that he exists in the cultivation of his farm remove that character, or make him any more acceptable to the proletariat.

It is true that as a capitalist in the ranks of the capitalist he is at a decided disadvantage in the distribution of the surplus value, out of which the capitalist class exploits the working class. He is in hearty accord, however, with the principle that such exploitation is justified, and kicks up a fuss because he does not receive what he considers an equitable share of the spoils. The farmer approaches all questions from the standpoint of the property owner, and consequently could not be in harmony with the members of the I. W. W. which, stripped of all property, have interests apart from and opposed to his. The I.

W. W. cannot without serious consequences to itself admit into its ranks an element foreign and antagonistic to the proletariat. We must meet in the I. W. W. on the plane of common interest. We must be sellers of labor power; we must have questions of hours, wages and conditions of employment to consider. In the settlement of these things peculiar to the proletariat we would, or a considerable portion of us anyway, find the farmer the party of the other part, i. e. in the role of employer and straining every nerve, in obedience to the dictates of his immediate personal and group interest, to defeat our aims. Let us have no mixings as to his industrial classification, and keep the farmer where he belongs. Then we shall always know him for what he is.

The form of property ownership to which the farmer is bringing on so desperately—individual private ownership—is long been superseded by other forms more powerful than it. While the principle underlying all ownership in means of production is the same, the degrees of power vested in the gradations of ownership need only to be glanced at to be appreciated. It is a long haul from the property holding of the farmer to that of the trust. The joint ownership of the company and the corporation were more powerful than his, and made him subsidiary and tributary to them. Later the development of machinery necessitated a reorganization of industrial management and compelled a still higher form of ownership—the trust. Trustified industry with its centralization of control and the extension of its range of influence left the farmer with his primitive property holding more and more helpless. He is not impressed with the lesson this industrial development is teaching, and bows with the reactionary chorus for a return to the good old days. He stands ready at all times to assist in any movement that would turn back the tide of industrial and social progress in the interest of his holding. He is fighting with might and main to avoid the lot of the proletarian. He sees the higher forms of capitalist property invading his domain and stripping agriculture one by one of the elements that contributed to his industrial importance and economic security.

The far-reaching, spinning and weaving—the making of clothes, underwear, the knitting of socks, etc., etc. These were at one time essentially farm occupations. Today they are in industries dissociated entirely from the farm. Some 10,000,000 workers in making of garments alone are now on strike and not one of them need necessarily ever see anything more rural than a city ball.

Even though we have not yet gotten the idea of separating butter from the farm, the making of better butter is a great and growing industry for which the farmer produces the raw material. Yet while the comparative independence of former times is his no longer, and while his position becomes more precarious, the farmer has not yet been reduced to the level of the wage worker. To etch his long hours, his unremitting toil, and the small return he receives for his labor investment, is not to prove that his lot is identical with the wage worker, but to show the disadvantage under which he competes with the business man who owns property in the contest with dominant capitalist property. The revolutionist realizes that the farmer's lot would be improved by the breaking up of his owned property into the smallest possible units, but the farmer cannot see it. His own ownership functions as a leak to whip him on to the maximum of effort to retain it. He spends himself, and drives his children, his wife and his hired hand, to the limit of endurance. On the average, he is an inconsiderate father, an exacting husband and a brutal and merciless employer. He and a brutal and merciless employer, and a household with his own means and a slave to it. No day is too long and no speed too great with which to serve it. He sacrifices manhood and spirit on the altar of the ownership of his own property. He endures and grows thin with success, when, after a life of toil, he leaves an unencumbered holding. Perhaps I ought to sympathize with him, and I will, inasmuch as for many of him, and I-well, I can't, that's all.

When, as is inevitable, the inventor furnishes the industrial means and the means of capitalizing his acres and hiring him to tend to them on a wage basis; when he like me is down to industrial bedrock, and I will be his fellow worker. Until then there is no place for him in the I. W. W. Against that day the industrial union has a place prepared for him where his former field slaves will greet him. With the proletarianization of the farmer the producers of wealth have reached a common level. In one grand compact they the united hosts of labor move on to the conquest of emancipation. (Signed) "workers of the world, unite!" But not with employers of high or low degree. On the observance of this commitment depends the industrial salvation of the proletariat. "You have nothing to lose but your chains." The farmer still has his land. Don't forget that, and put the rest of the chain-ming farmer. They have the same psychology and the same interests. **THE RAMBLER.**

FRENCH SYNDICALISM

By LEON JOUHAUX, Sec'y C. G. T. of France.

(Address delivered at the People's Hall, Brussels, Belgium, Dec. 6, 1911. Translated for Solidarity by Herbert Spang, Painesville, Ohio.)

(Continued From No. 169.)

Tactics of the C. G. T.
The C. G. T. recognizes the employment of all methods of action. It especially recommends to the workers to act independently, for they alone know exactly their needs and therefore ought to know how to defend them or accomplish them. All these methods of action are classed under the general term of "direct action."

The goal of the direct action of the State, or the direct right of the employment class; that is the meaning of direct action—action directly exerted by the workers against their employers or against the State, according as their demands are of local or general nature.

At the bottom of all these methods is found THE STRIKE, which occurs even where there is no syndicalist organized. It is the specific weapon of labor; failing or succeeding it always leaves the soil fertilized.

Some pretend that the strike is "the weapon of the laborer," that is a mistake, for, besides being the specifically syndicalist action, there is hardly a case of capitalists taking kindly to being despoiled of part of their incomes or of their authority. From each strike the employing class emerges weakened; some of its power is gone, while at the same time the boldness of labor increases. To undermine the prestige of the ruling class, is that not an achievement for a laborer and a revolutionary one at that? What is more, the proletarian in these conflicts comes in contact with difficulties and finds out how to overcome them—a necessary and indispensable gymnastic exercise for forming fighters and awakening individual initiative.

The Fox-Hunt—In order to succeed, strikes should come unexpectedly without warning to the capitalists. They should last as short a time as possible; so it is necessary that all the workers for whom they occur should take part in them. Yet frequently some of the workers, betraying their own cause, aid the employers' interests by staying at work. The strikers then have the duty of recalling them to the sentiment of labor solidarity; that is what they call the fox-hunt. To the "reverence for individual liberty" to which these helots lay claim, we reply by affirming the right of the collectivity, of which they themselves will be beneficiaries and which requires their co-operation.

This action is violent or peaceful according to circumstances.

The fox-hunt is nothing else than the English PICKETING. If we had the undisciplined right to speak to the workers; if in our "three democratic" regime we had the right to induce them to make common cause with us, perhaps things would pass off peacefully; but a mere gesture, a word, may win for us months and years in prison.

Under these circumstances hatred grows and regrettable incidents occur. We are more humanitarian than the bourgeois and would rather see the workers' lists be felt by those who betray the cause; but it is our fault if the police, the gendarmes, and the army are on the side of the exploiters, and if, to make it worse, some of the workers come and reinforce this repressive action so inimical to our purpose.

From our standpoint, when a strike is called it is the duty of the workers to do everything in their power to win.

The BOYCOTT is another form of working class action, as yet little used in France, but which spreads daily. During the agitation over the "high cost of living" housewives and workers boycotted commodities whose price was too high.

Without considering it a method of the highest value, the boycott can render eminent services for the labor cause. The use of the "Confederate Label" is an example.

SABOTAGE is also used by the French syndicalists. It is the most effective weapon, but one which requires intelligence in its operation; blindly employed, sabotage turns against the worker.

It should always correspond to the actual situation.

Since it hits the capitalist's heart, his strong box, it is especially dreaded by him. One of the most significant examples of its efficacy is the use made of it by the Hairdressers for gaining the weekly rest and for the earlier closing of hairdressing parlors. Whitewashing the shop fronts of the hairdresser employers made short

work of the resistance offered by them to the demands of their employer.

Before the army intervenes in the shops and factories in the interest of the exploiters, it is not the workers' duty, without breaking the stock in pieces, to compel the factory they are despoiled to stand idle until satisfaction is given them? Sabotage is not, as our politicians would have it, a barbarous method to be employed by men of the stone age, but unworthy of civilized men. It is the weapon which in times of strikes equalizes the balance of the contending forces. In the presence of an alliance of coercive forces, labor has the right to take advantage of the method which will assure it the victory.

Moreover, SABOTAGE, like VIOLENCE, is only an incident of our struggles, determined by the conditions under which the struggle arises or unfolds itself.

CONCILIATION should also be simply an incident and not a method of action. Whenever the worker sees that in this way it can gain some advantage he should avail himself of it. But at no time should we get to late our heads that this is the constant form of the labor struggle.

The General Strike
Finally, above all these methods of action, we see the use of the general strike. It seems to us, the French syndicalists, to be the only means of realizing the social transformation.

The general strike is the refusal of the proletariat to continue to submit to capitalist exploitation.

It is the complete rupture between the working class and the capitalist class.

It must of necessity take on an aspect of violence.

By education and by the employment of strikes general to districts or to trades, the workers are going through the apprenticeship for this pre-revolutionary revolutionary action.

But, objects someone, by the general stoppage of production are you going to introduce famine into the country and no, is that way to gain the end desired? No, for the stoppage will only be temporary and will signify that the people are no longer willing to continue production according to the capitalist system. It will be accompanied by the workers taking possession of the instruments of production.

By stopping the means of transport and communication we shall isolate the capitalist resistance and facilitate our victory.

The general strike will create the revolutionary situation from which will emerge our emancipation. Immediately factories and shops will take up their work and, thanks to mechanical progress, will secure a less laborious work and a new social life.

One last word on this question: We must not confuse general protest strikes against the repression of authority with the general strike of expropriation, the former being only stoppages of work of pre-arranged duration.

Results Obtained
Whatever its detractors or adversaries may say, the C. G. T. has gained some acknowledgment, as well in the moral as in the material realm. The general elevation is the moral tone of labor, in habits of dignity, and in the lessening of the degree of alcoholism are its doing.

From 1901 to 1904 there were 2,628 strikes with 718,800 workers participating. The results were as follows: 644 strikes succeeded, or 24 per cent; 993 ended with compromise, a proportion of 38 per cent; 999, or 37 per cent, ended in failure.

In 1906, of 830 strikes, 546 ended in complete or partial success.

The following are the percentages of successful strikes according to official statistics:

From 1890 to 1900 56 per cent; from 1901 to 1904 28 per cent; in 1905 65 per cent; in 1906 66 per cent. For 1907, 1908 and 1910 the percentage would show a tendency rather to increase.

In general, thanks to the energy spent in the struggles and to the mounting force of the syndicalist movement, there has been a notable diminution of the length of the workday and an increase in wages.

A few examples will make you better appreciate these results.

Thanks to the syndical organization of the timber workers of Cher and of Central France, their wages have increased from 40 to 50 per cent and their hours of work

decreased from 12 and 16 hours to 10 and 11 hours.

The match workers, of whom I was one, raised their wages from 5 francs to 7 francs for the man and from 3 1/2 francs to 5 francs for the woman; the workday has been brought down to 9 hours.

The hairdressers have realized decreases in the hours of labor, increase in wages, and gained the weekly rest.

Commercial employees who have joined the syndicates enjoy the same situation.

Agricultural workers of the south of France have raised their wages from 2 francs to 2 1/2 and 3 francs for the ordinary periods and 5 francs for the time of harvest. With them the average length of the workday is 8 hours.

In the building trades the wages for Paris have been raised up to 1 franc per hour, and the fight is still on for the nine hour day. And I might multiply examples.

May Day, 1906, gave birth to a number of movements demanding the lowering of the hours of work. This is unquestionably the important movement which marks a date in the annals of the working class, and which has brought forth this general tendency for the decrease of the work time.

The syndicalist organization continues its activity on the plane of material and moral achievement. The best general movement, undertaken against the enforcement of the law of Workmen's Pensions, which ended with a blow to this law, is a demonstration of the influence exerted by our movement upon the world of labor and of the ceaselessly growing power of our C. G. T.

The Future
In spite of obstacles and repression, the Confederation Generale du Travail pursues its march toward the future by its propaganda, its action and its education bringing more welfare and more liberty among the producers.

Being the individual to a more exact consciousness of his work, it is creating the man of tomorrow.

To be sure, many defects still exist in our organization; I do not present it as a perfect thing. It has changed and will probably continue to change. But what will never change is its foundation stones and its moving principles.

Composed of the labor army on the march towards its liberation, it will never stop until the goal is attained.

Syndicalism is a fact, it exists; whoever ventures to deny it is either mad or blind.

By bringing up the younger generation in the search for more happiness and by stamping out from their brains the prejudices of patriotism and militarism, it is forming those future battalions which will mount to the assault of this ancient capitalist society and which on its ruins will build the society of love, of beauty and of harmonious labor. The workers shall be free!

THE BATTLE AT MERRYVILLE

(Special to Solidarity.)
Merryville, La., Feb. 11.

The strike at Merryville is still on, and the strikers are gaining on the boss every jump. As in Lawrence, Little Falls, McKees Rocks, etc., the boss is learning that suckers, pimps, scabs, gunmen and blaster do not cut lumber.

The strike is three months old today, and the boss of Jim Bates that he would starve the workers in two weeks has been filled, and James is on his way to New Orleans to be initiated in the Annals club, also Southern Lumber Operators' Association.

After three months of blaster, the mills were closed down again today, and the scabs are standing around in bunches, carrying nothing for themselves or the bosses, while their board bill keeps growing, and the words of the poet,

"When they have worked (?) a week They owe the boss for all the work (?) they have done."

Ge, how some suckers lose the boss. The scabs here, are the cheapest bunch ofunks that ever were gathered together out of the swamps. They are working cheaper than the men who came out, although other jobs are paying better money and are having no trouble.

Workmen before the strike were averaging \$4 per day, but the scabs are lucky to make \$2, and this is the case in other parts of the plant—cheap scabs, cheap wages and, in the case of 75 per cent of the negroes, no wages at all.

Train loads of rice and sugar cane negroes were shipped here and promised high wages, but if any of them saw the color of money it would turn them white.

I. W. W. PUBLISHING BUREAU

Complete list of Publications in Stock

- "THE FARM LABORER AND THE CITY WORKER" By Edward McDonald
16 Page Pamphlet; 4 cents a copy; by Local Unions, 2 1/2 cents.
- "Why Strikes Are Laid How to Win" By W. E. Tompkins
24 page Pamphlet; 5 cents a copy; by Local Unions, 5 cents.
- "The I. W. W.; Its History, Structure and Methods" By Vincent St. John
24 page Pamphlet; 10 cents a copy; by Local Unions, 5 cents.
- "Patriotism and the Worker" By Gustave Herve
32 page Pamphlet; 10 cents a copy; by Local Unions 5 cents.
- "Eleven Blind Leaders" By B. H. Williams
88 Page Pamphlet; 10 cents a copy; by Local Unions 5 cents a copy.
- "Is the I. W. W. Anti-Political?" By Justin Ebert
Four page leaflet; 15 cents a hundred; \$1.25 per thousand.
- "Political Parties and the I. W. W." By Vincent St. John
Four page leaflet; 15 cents a hundred; \$1.25 per thousand.
- "Getting Recognition" By A. M. Striton
Four-page Leaflet, 15 cents a hundred; \$1.25 per thousand.
- "Two Kinds of Unionism" By Edward Hammond
Four page Leaflet; 15 cents a hundred; \$1.25 per thousand.
- "Appeal to Wage Workers, Men and Women" By R. S. Nelson
Four page Leaflet; 15 cents a hundred; \$1.25 per thousand.
- "Union Scabs and Others" By Oscar Ameringer
Four page Leaflet; 15 cents a hundred; \$1.25 per thousand.
- "War and the Worker" By Walker C. Smith
Four page leaflet; 15 cents a hundred; \$1.25 per thousand.

ADDRESS

I. W. W. PUBLISHING BUREAU
Box 622 NEW CASTLE, PA.

Industrial Worker

Western Organ of the I. W. W.

Published Weekly, Thursday Revolutionary
Weekly for the Western Region

Subscription same as Solidarity
in Combination, Both Papers \$2.00 per Year

Address

INDUSTRIAL WORKER,
Box 2129, Spokane, Wash.

Send for some Three
Months Sub Cards to Solidarity,
Commission, 25c.
on the Dollar.
Order literature as above
advertised. Do it now!

Double railroad fares have been charged against them; also subsistence on route which they never got, but in all probability the boss fears that any employer who believes in identity of interests will have an objection to paying for imaginary meals or double railroad fares, the boss must have return on his investment.

It never rains but what it pours! and trouble always comes to bankers, are two old proverbs that are being fulfilled here for the poor boss.

Even the elements are practicing sabotage; the heavy rain of the last two days washed out the tracks and flooded the woods and no doubt an "injunction" will be applied for against the heavenly water works. As one of the negro strikers remarks: "God almighty sure is on the job, because several nights ago he fell up his old saw and cut him a tree, and when the boss spectral passed he used the tree as a club and busted the scab joints and put it out of business," wherever a protracted thanksgiving meeting was held in the negro quarters, but they did not forget the daily strike meetings.

Several mysterious accidents have occurred inside the fence, and the report is out that spinal meningitis has broken out among the scabs. Negroes are leaving every day, all having important business elsewhere.

Today (Feb. 11) was an unusually good day for the strikers. The mill had just been turning over for several days, until today, when it closed down for good to a. m. The report was immediately given out by the boss that the rain had stopped them, but the strikers' brains have been dusted off and oiled up, and they could not remember any time when the works stopped before on account of an insignificant little rain of two or three days' duration.

A wonderful fight has been made by the rebels here, considering the obstacles. For years they have been denied any rights; wages have been the lowest; they have been robbed right and left by fees of imaginary doctors, hospitals, etc., (although the loss of the money has been very real) and above all they have been

I. W. W. PREAMBLE

The workers organized the organizing class here in the United States and what we do is to help in the struggle for the working class, but all the while we are not forgetting the struggle for the working class in the rest of the world. We are not only a class struggle, but a struggle for the liberation of the working class from the clutches of the capitalist class. We are not only a class struggle, but a struggle for the liberation of the working class from the clutches of the capitalist class. We are not only a class struggle, but a struggle for the liberation of the working class from the clutches of the capitalist class.

"An ignorant slave is the best kind" has been the motto of the stock, well fed, church-going, main-staying values who have made this part of the world a hell hole, and it has been a hard fight. But the lumber jack of Dixie, like his brother of the North and West, is waking up, and has determined to emancipate himself, hence the mad efforts of the boss to gag him and kill off his union.

This fight is well begun and will be carried to the finish. "No compromise short of abolition of the wage system" is the motto of the rebels here, and when this skirmish is over the forces will be aligned for the next battle, until, by the united force and power of labor, that damnable system of robbery—"capitalism"—shall have been overthrown and industrial democracy established. Only a little while and this battle will be over. Help us now. Send in your contributions now. We need your help, all you rebels of the north, east and west. Come to our aid and move to the master class, as you did elsewhere, that back of the lumber jacks of Dixie is an organization that never lost a battle, the fighting union of the working class, the Industrial Workers of the World. Send all money to Charles Clive, Sec. Local 212, Merryville, La., and be sure to register it, as the law abiders (?) are watching our mail.

I. W. W. STRIKE COMMITTEE

IF IT'S IN SOLIDARITY IT'S SO

The recent little item in SOLIDARITY, "The I. T. U. Signs on Israel" meets with the approval of the Jewish Newspaper Writers in New York. They say it is only too true; that they have been betrayed and deserted by their own fellow members. They were told that "the I. T. U. men never lost a strike" and now they find themselves, many of them intellectual men of the best quality, without employment, blacklisted and defeated. They are watching SOLIDARITY for more news of interest to themselves. They appreciate their true situation and are pleased to know that at least one labor paper is courageous enough to publish the truth about it.

RUBBER BIG ARKON

Telegram to Akron... Strikers rank up... light. Great picket... bunch of I. W. W. n... 'Swamp'."

By James P. ... (Special to ...)

With twenty thousand... now on strike, and... except the Goodrich... are making a bluff at... fourth of their force... up its forces for a... complete tie-up Monday... Every hall in the ci... master was meeting... women strikers. The... broken and the strike...

thing in Akron. The... was the largest and... the revolt began... marched behind the... 18 pieces through the... out past the rubber... end of town to let... strikers rubber mag... Marching four abreast... the parade was an inap... score or more of ban... carried. The sign car... vision had this inform... tion, "WE ARE THE... a banner with the emb... "ONE BIG UNION" b... Scattered out throug... signs such as "Less Bo... More Bread for the Wor...

PHILADELPHIA

Listen to Mattia Bab... pool in Behalf of Little... Philadelphia... In a manner that char... Mattia Babowitz for... drove home fact after... doubt in the minds of... damnable conspiracy has... by the textile bosses of... corrupt, scurrilous... railroad to the penitenti... gear, Vaughan and oth... more awaiting trial in He... Their only "crime" is th... striking 'ignomin' fact... of Little Falls is a... brutal, slave driving text... their mad race for profit... ditions of their slave s... they were forced to rev... Owing to a mistake... proprietor of the hall i... tion, a meeting of ge... scheduled for the same... suited in a small auditor... This, however, has... the spirit or order of the...

SPECIAL STEEL EDITION

All I. W. W. locals and supporters in the vicinity of Iron and tinplate mills in the Pittsburgh district and elsewhere are hereby notified that No. 168 of Solidarity, date of March 15, will be a special STEEL WORKERS' ISSUE. We hope to make this a hummer, as far as quality of propaganda material is concerned. AND WE WANT YOU TO SEE THAT IT GETS A BIG CIRCULATION. The bundle rate is ONE AND ONE-HALF CENTS per copy. Appropriate money from your treasury, or take up a collection among members and sympathizers, to order a big bundle. Send in the orders right away, so we can figure on the number to print. Don't neglect this opportunity to spread the educational propaganda of this One Big Union among the employees of the steel trust and the independent bosses. We already have in preparation a number of special articles for this issue, but want more from local workers, schools—short, pointed articles dealing with conditions and prospects for organization in the steel industry. Write them up and send in with your orders.

Let us make this the biggest and most effective issue of Solidarity yet published.

NEWSPAPER WORKERS, ATTENTION

In the first of March issue Solidarity will print an eye opening article on the recent strikes in newspaper industry, in Chicago and New York, especially, Linotype operators, compositors, pressmen, stereotypes, newspaper writers, mailers, deliverymen, and news carriers. We shall get hundreds of Solidarity and circulate this article. It will prove a hummer. Bundle orders are filled at 1 1/2 a copy. Send in your orders now to Solidarity, Box 622, New Castle, Pa.

SPANISH PRESS FUND

Los Angeles, Calif., Feb. 28. Editor Solidarity: You will kindly notify your readers that all contributions for the Spanish press in the future will be received by W. B. Cook, secretary-treasurer of the central executive committee of the Los Angeles locals.

Owing to Fellow Worker Velarde being out of the city so much of his time this change became necessary. Now, fellow workers, we only need \$890 to complete that fund for the Spanish press. At this rate we will be sure to have the paper established in time to make our bow to the Industrial Republic. Come on, fellows, get a gut on. Show some speed. You can do it if you will. This matter of organizing the Latin worker is no joke. He comprises a large part of the migratory workers in the west and southwest. We must be a him. Help us get him. You will note that the A. F. of L. is playing for the migratory and unskilled worker. What? Not that they care a tinker's damn for him, but simply to keep him out of a revolutionary organization like the I. W. W. Are you going to assist them in their work by indifference? We do not believe it. SPEED UP! The Central Executive Committee, Clark, Cook, Ojeda, Cabaret, Velarde.

LITTLE FALLS DEFENSE MOVEMENT BOOMING

New York, Feb. 16. Interest in the Little Falls Defense movement is increasing in the greater city. The New York branch of the United Lithographic Workers' vote 85 to 35 to defend at its meeting last Friday evening. Local Kings County, Socialist Party, has decided to revive the defense conference in behalf of our imprisoned fellow workers. Private individuals have received subscription lists and are now busy circulating them, with beneficial results. A movement is also on foot to secure general publicity for the defense in the press of the city. Public meetings have already been held.

A. F. of L. Organizer Cal Wyatt's claim that the A. F. of L. wins strikes by its alleged big treasury is pure bun. The A. F. of L. has not a cent of money. It is the skillful workers in its history. It lost the Bethlehem steel workers' strike of 10,000 in 1910; the Baldwin locomotive workers' strike in 1911; the Rankin, Pa. steel workers' strike in 1915. Where did the "big treasury" come in during these affairs? On the other hand, the I. W. W. not only won the Great Lawrence strike, but fed and cared for 20,000 strikers during ten weeks; ditto Little Falls with 1,500 on strike; ditto McKees Rocks in 1900, with 1,000 on strike. At the same time, the tinplate workers' strike under the A. F. of L. in New Castle and other places spent thousands of dollars in organizing, and lost. The A. F. of L.'s "big treasury" and ended in complete defeat for the strikers. Reason—Unity and fighting spirit in I. W. W. strikers; division and disorganization in the A. F. of L. strike.

Every I. W. W. man who is working the steel strike at least one day's wages to the Akron strikers. DO IT NOW!

SOLIDARITY

whether they would join the militia or not. The employer was impressed with his economic interest in paying wages to militiamen even on duty. The result of the census disclosed the fact that only 3 per cent of the employees approached favored joining the militia under any circumstances.

This militia movement on the part of New York's leading body of capitalists is under the guidance of the Morgan interests. It appeals strongly to the large manufacturing and corporation interests forward its ends. It is believed to be a part of a national movement. What its real significance is does not appear on the face of it; whether it is actuated by national considerations, such as the Mexican revolution, or national ones, like the frequent violent strike outbreaks, as in West Virginia, is not known. It has been intimated that there are prospects of financial disturbances, with the consequent out-of-work and other agitation that may need to be suppressed before the close of the year. However all this may be, it is apparent that the capitalists need a larger repressive force than they possess at present to advance their interests either at home or a'road.

ROCHESTER STRIKE

(Special to Solidarity.) Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 16.

Three of the independent clothing manufacturers are said to have reached an agreement with their striking employees. The big manufacturers in the Clothing Exchange appear to have accepted the offer to fight and the outcome is problematic.

The influence of the local socialists who are in the strike is strengthening to surrender now with a determination to strike a blow on election day. Two socialists on the strike committee who are very prominent in the party councils have incurred the distrust of their associates to such an extent that a motion was submitted and only narrowly defeated to drop them from the strike committee. These are incidents that regret to record. They do not necessarily impeach the honesty or the sincerity of these two men or others who think with them that the battles of the workers must be fought at the hustings. These developments do, however, proclaim loudly that those who are obsessed by the political idea are so out of touch with the proletariat as to render them liable to suspicion and to disqualify them for successful participation in the economic struggles of the workers. The garment workers have something to do now that cannot be done with their eyes fixed on Albany and Washington. They have something to do for themselves that neither Salzer nor Berger can do for them. With the manner of conducting this strike that has prevailed out of their willingness to depend on others than themselves, they are being robbed out of the fruits of the experience that would otherwise be theirs and redound to their benefit. This strike is suffering from root rot. Efforts to those who come here with the best intentions have succeeded only in confounding confusion and unconsciously doing the work of the manufacturers.

George R. Lunn, mayor of Schenectady, was here on Tuesday night and addressed a huge meeting in Convention Hall. Now George R. Lunn was sincere in his desire to be of assistance to the garment slaves of Rochester; yet he did not leave an impression that would inspire the strikers with hope and the spirit to fight on. What one felt after having listened to Lunn for his hour and a half was that a socialist mayor had brought to a successful close two forlorn industrial situations, by arming the Schenectady police force on the side of the striking locomotive workers, and the employes of the General Electric. There was never a minute of the whole time that a socialist administration was not held up as the important factor. The garment strikers are not to be blamed that they were discouraged by the outlook in trying to win a strike without the assistance of a Mayor Lunn. Some of us were forced to recall that Lawrence, Mass., and McKees Rocks, Pa., were not administered by socialists. Little Falls was spoken of and Mayor Lunn very modestly claimed the entire credit of making the strike. That attitude of garment strikers were entitled to an honest statement of what transpired in Little Falls and with which George R. Lunn was familiar. He realized that this is a critical period for the Rochester garment workers, that why they were not told about A. F. of L. treachery in Little Falls? Why this reservation? Is it because A. F. of L. resentment might have a bearing on future elections in Schenectady? Do the strikers have a right to know the

strike." Western locals should see that the fact of the big strike in Akron is made known to everybody. You know how to do it.

THE BATTLE OF LITTLE FALLS

(Special to Solidarity.) Little Falls, N. Y.

You have probably read the appeal from the workers in the Herkimer jail. Perhaps you thoughtlessly came to the conclusion that they were afraid of the penitentiary, to which the mill owners are bending every effort to railroad them. If such was your idea, you would quickly change it once you met and talked with the bunch. It is not the pen which they fear, but being deprived of the opportunity to struggle, as they struggled in Little Falls. They appealed to you to get busy, not from personal motives, but because they wish to be with you in the future personal struggles of the working class. They want to struggle again and again until the working class is either economically free or each of us is dumped into the ground. What else is there to live for, but to struggle like men and women against the oppression and misery heaped upon us by the master class? We struggle because it's the only way we can ever win.

If by the sacrifice of a few workers would free the rest, if such a sacrifice meant penitentiary or death in the chair, we would need to only announce the fact and get thousands of volunteers. You know this as well as I.

In this instance it is not a sacrifice. Nothing can be gained, and much can be lost, by forgetting that it is our business to finish the battle of Little Falls and make the victory complete. If these fellow workers can be railroaded, we have been defeated; we have suffered a setback which will require much hard fighting to regain.

The latest move of the mill owners is to attempt to "fix" the jury by planting individuals who will be chosen to sit in judgment on our fellow workers. How do I know this? Never mind now—you will know later on. You know what it means to us if through the negligence of the rest any worker can be railroaded. You can understand that once a trick can be put over on us the second will be easier. Think of the trial coming up March 3, and how many have not even awakened to the danger that threaten the prisoners. So little time to prepare and no chance whatever to gain more time. That means QUICK ACTION is necessary and that EVERY WORKER MUST ACT. It is no time to argue; no time for sympathy. It is time for every one to show what stuff he or she is made of.

Our greatest need is money. I know that the working class has little to give. I know that many are living miserably. But how can YOU ever gain anything without sacrifice? How can you even struggle if the enemy finds this a good way to deplete our ranks? THE FIGHT IS ON, the battle nearing its close. The wind-up is the hardest for us; yet we must see it to the end. We must not only defend, we must attack at the same time and see if we can not put stripes on some of the tools instead of our own.

DON'T LAY DOWN until these work-camps have been set free, every one of them. We need them on the outside. YOUR ACTIONS alone will release them. YOU alone will decide whether they will be handed over to the bloodthirsty enemy to satisfy the vengeance of the master or whether you will have them in the struggles of the future.

Therefore let us all bombard the enemy from all over the world and make it so hot that they'll melt and be glad to let go. You showed YOUR POWER and ability in freeing EYER, Gioranawit and Casuso; now you MUST show the capitalists that it was no accident, but that they are always STANDING TOGETHER, defending your own and attacking the enemy. The battle is yours. You have to fight. Only a coward loses down now.

Funds should be sent to Little Falls Defense Committee, Box 428, Little Falls, N. Y.

GET BUSY! DO IT NOW! J. S. BISCAY.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

It has leaked out that the Chamber of Commerce in New York City recently held a meeting to consider the question of the militia. Ways and means were considered for recruiting the latter. A canvass was made last December to ascertain the attitude of both employer and employe there-to. The first was solicited to tell how he would act with regard to wage payments while his militiamen are on duty. Also to sound his employe as to

HOW THE REVOLT STARTED

The United Press correspondent thus describes the beginning of the great rubber workers' strike in Akron:

Why They Walked Out

Here's how the Akron rubber strike started:

Three hundred timid, unorganized finishers walked out of the Firestone Rubber Co.'s plant last Tuesday, when they found out that under the enforced piece-work system they could make only \$2.55 working harder and faster than they had for \$2.50 under 10-hour day work.

Walking out meant little to them. The spark of discontent might have been smothered while it was yet a spark had the company granted the finishers the audience they asked for the committee.

But the company coldly ignored their request. They had no idea what they were going to do. They know the race for a living wage under the new system was killing, and that the system imposed meant more than their jobs.

Few Had Joined. I. W. W.

The I. W. W. for six months had been attempting to organize the rubber workers. They had gone about quietly, passing out literature and enrolling men they could get. At that time there were no more than 150 rubber workers on their books.

The 300 men who quit had heard about organization, but few of them knew what it meant. Most of them didn't know there was such a body as the I. W. W.

But it just happened that among the 150 men on the I. W. W. roll, 12 worked at the Firestone. While the 300 finishers were standing outside wondering what to do next, somebody threw a hat in the air and yelled, "Hurrah! We're out!"

It was one of the 12 industrial workers. The finishers wondered why they were yelling about it. Then the dozen suggested they go up to the hall. The finishers didn't know what else to do, and saw no reason why they shouldn't do that, so they went.

Then Came a Woman

It was the psychological person at the psychological moment.

Again an accidental fact. Mrs. Marguerite Frevey, an organizer for the Socialist Party, happened to live in Akron. She had helped in all previous efforts to organize the rubber industry. One of the dozen hurried out to bring Mrs. Frevey, who has had 10 years' experience in speaking to laboring men, while the finishers sat about Socialist hall, where it was warm, wondering what they would do next.

Mrs. Frevey came. She made a speech. In 15 minutes history as a woman tell them how to proceed, the finishers learned more about organization and striking than they ever had dreamed.

She Knew Her Theme

All of them liked Mrs. Frevey. She seemed to know what she was talking about. She told them to stick together. She warned against any sort of violence, but at the same time insisted that they must show their colors.

Then she explained how they should go about it. They should march to the plant and go on picket duty, quietly and orderly. They started for the plant. One of the 12 I. W. W. workers suggested they walk in the street. But the finishers were too timid. They had never seen anything like that.

Their March Grew Bolder

They kept to the sidewalks until somebody shouted: "We're free American citizens, let's march in the street." Then they filed out to the street and marched to the plant, surprised at every step that the police didn't interfere.

This night there were 800 men on strike. Walter Glover, I. W. W. leader, was called from Cleveland, and George Speed, national organizer, from Pittsburgh. They jumped into the opening and found the men in all the plants responsive. By Saturday night there were 3,000 men and 500 girls on strike.

WESTERN LOCALS, NOTE

The Cleveland "Plain Dealer," of Feb. 18, states: Rubber factories of Akron have advertisements which read: "5,000 men wanted," posted as far away as Portland, Ore., and Atlanta, Ga. These are PERMANENT advertisements by which young men have been recruited to the rubber factories for several years. These advertisements bring in men daily to take the places of those who are worn out or fazed out by the speeding-up system in the factories. It is on this natural flow of new workers, rather than by an importation of strikebreakers in large numbers, that the factory owners hope to break the