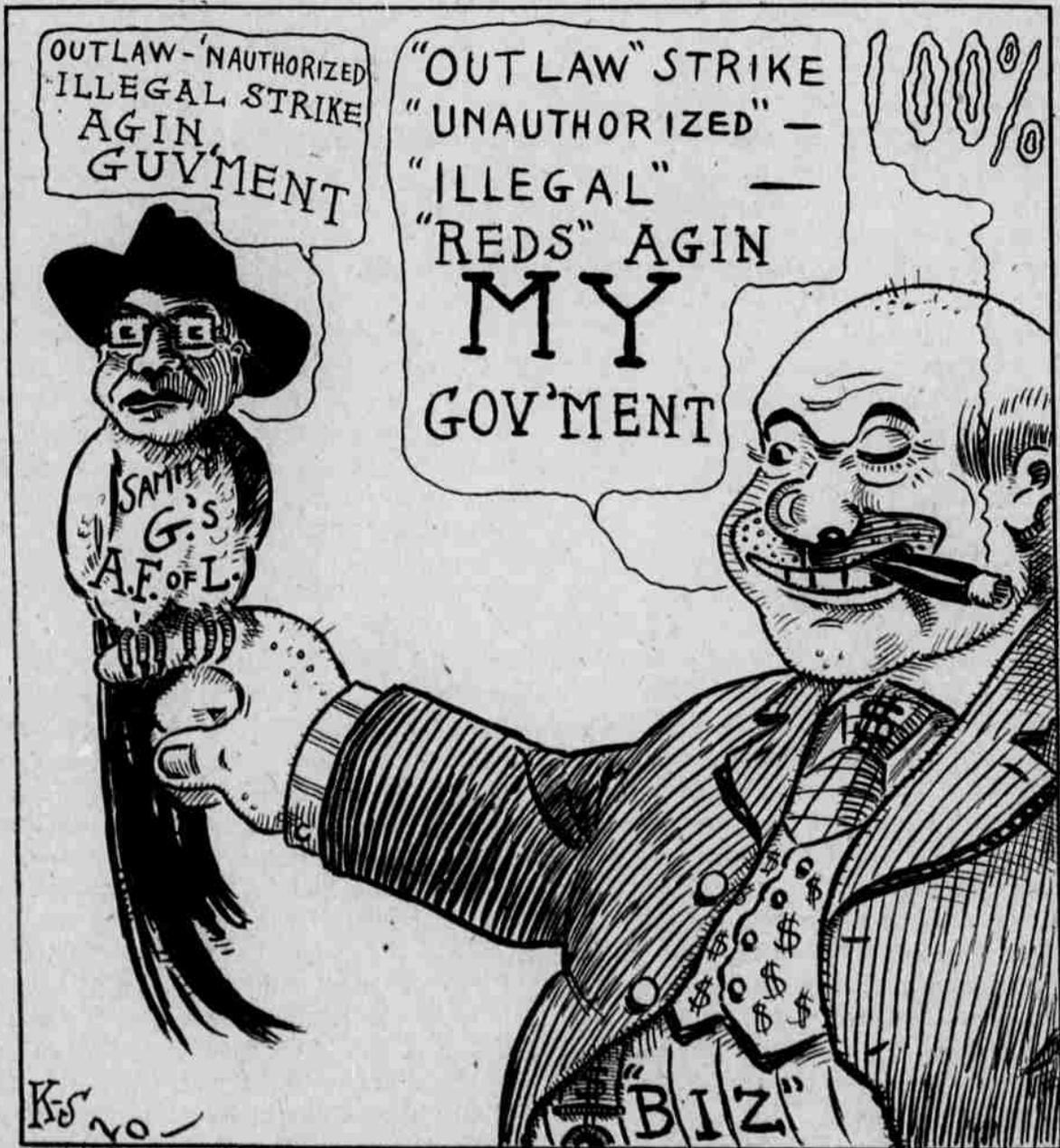


# The TOILER

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WELL TRAINED!

# The Street Car Strike in Denver

By Joe Bronson.

The men on the street car system of Denver voted overwhelmingly for the strike and on a Sunday morning the entire street car system of Denver was paralyzed. This was done in violation of a court order which, be it said to the credit of the strikers, they ignored ontirely and for which their entire executive committee has since been sent to jail by one of the tools of the capitalist class.

The trouble started when the Denver Tramway Co. began importing thugs and professional strikebreakers under the jurisdiction of the notorious "Black-jack Jerome", a professional strike breaker from Frisco. They began operating a few cars screened with heavy wire and guarded by thugs with long- range rifles which they pointed towards the crowds which would gather naturally under such circumstances.

Before the riots the Denver Trades Assembly marched to the City Hall in a body and called the attention of the mayor to the danger of such procedure and requested him to remove the armed thugs. Of course he refused.

### "Capitalist Justice"

One example of "capitalist justice" can be plainly seen by all the strikers. The members of executive committee of the union received a ninety-day sentence on one day and were taken to jail the next day, all appeal denied. "Black-jack Jerome", who was arrested for beating up one of his own men, who secured the warrant for his arrest, was immediately released on bond.

After the riots, as usual, the troops were called in and the Tramway Co. is operating (they claim) many cars under their protection. Many workers refuse to ride on the cars and the union is furnishing free buses for such to ride on. The awakening of class solidarity can be easily noted when one sees that the cars running in the residential sections of the well-to-do are crowded, while those running in working class districts are usually empty or only partly filled.

### Talk of a General Strike.

It can be said to the credit of the railroad shopmen that they are ready to walk out in sympathy at a moment's notice. There has been much talk of a general strike, but nothing has come of it yet. The conservatives, as usual, raised

the same old objections. The international officials would not consent; their "sacred contracts" must be fulfilled; "public sentiment" would be against them, etc. All the old familiar bunc which paralyzes the workers when they ought to be aggressive and united for action.

Of course they are willing to raise money, and many of the strikers with whom the writer has talked are actually deluded with the idea that they can win this strike with money. They forget that "big business", which is supporting the Tramway Co. as a solid body, can raise a thousand times as much money for the purpose of defeating the strike as the men can raise to win it.

All admit that this is the beginning of the great fight of the employers for the open shop and the destruction of labor organization of all kinds. And at the very start of the struggle the employers are solidly bound together, showing an undivided front to the workers. The workers, on the other hand are hampered by the separate organization of antiquated craft unions, "sacred contracts" not to strike until a certain date when the boss is fully prepared and, worst of all, they are demoralized by the insane idea that in some way or another, through the "sympathy" of the public, the fair-mindedness of some of the employers or the fair words of capitalist politicians they can get what they want without fighting for it.

### Fighting Spirit of Strikers.

Still, the situation is more hopeful than it has ever been here in Denver. The street car strikers are showing a fighting spirit that is bound to inspire all other workers in time. The courage of their executive committee in going to jail rather than obey the injunction of a capitalist court is something new for craft union officials. And that great spontaneous act of mobbing the office of the Denver Post, the paper that has fought the strikers so viciously and lied about them so shamelessly, is an indication that the workers are awakening to the fact that capitalist newspapers are the deadly enemies of the workers. The logical consequence of this knowledge should be an effort to build up and support the working class press.

## A New Labor Alignment

By Paul Hanna

A rival to the American Federation of Labor is on the way to be born. The place and date of its deliverance are not disclosed, for 'Herod' is angry and his orders have gone out that every infant rival of the A. F. of L. shall be slain in the cradle.

Through the wilderness of coal strikes, steel strikes and railroad strikes that have failed, John the Baptist, in numerous guises, has walked up and down proclaiming the near advent of a new labor alignment which would know how to bring deliverance to those who are weary of defeat and heavy-laden with under-paid toil.

The messiah has not yet appeared, but the 'out-law' strikes continue, and those who believe in ultimate salvation by new methods of organization are more numerous than ever. And word has reached Washington that the aim of the discontented will very soon reveal itself in a national convention of the rebellious groups.

Coal miners, railroad men, textile workers, machinists and clothing makers are mentioned among the groups of wage earners who will figure prominently in the proposed convention.

To form an industrial union, in which the welfare of any one trade will be the active concern of all, is given as the purpose of the restless element. It will be an effort to caalesce and "Americanize" the millions of workers who believe in organization but who have lost faith in the tactics of the the American Federation of Labor.

Preliminary to the convention referred to, an effort is under way to summon a conference of municipal central labor bodies. Its purpose would be to discuss the recent anti-labor challenge put forth by the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Backers of this movement declare it would be fatal to organized labor to permit the organized employers of the country to take the offensive as the Chamber of Commerce has done, without making a formal, responsible and determined reply to the threat of destruction.

No such retort to the employers has been made or can be expected, they say, by the A. F. of L. cabinet, whose members have always opposed both the theory and practice of solidarity among the workers like that which is always displayed by employers.

It is deemed significant that here in Washington, where the A. F. of L. influence is strongest, there is a strong sentiment in fevor of the special congress of central labor bodies to return the challenge of the Chamber of Commerce.

Supporting the agitation for a convention definitely to break with the American Federation of Labor and launch a rival founded on the industrial principle are many men now prominent in the A. F. of L. who do not intend to participate in the first step toward secession.

These men are heartily in sympathy with the movement and will do all in their power to have it succeed, but their idea is to have the initiative taken by those large groups of miners, railwaymen and others who in all but the technical sense have already broken with or been expelled from the parent body.

It is argued there are so many and such bitter quarrels within the A. F. of L. that the organization would fly asunder if there were any haven for the rebels to resort to. The function of the more determined elements named will be to make the first step and form the rival federation, to which the disgruntled but less enterprising groups may turn as their particular grievance with the parent body reaches the breaking point.

High officers of the miners and railwaymen are fully informed of the trend within their unions and are making every effort possible to compromise their troubles before the rival organization shall become an accomplished fact.

Engineers of the new line-up declare the time for compromise has passed. They are close to the rank and file and find it tired of trying to make bricks without straw, and ready to join in the exodus from economic bondage.

## Seamen Unite To Prevent War

(Appeal of Federated Seamen's Union of Australia to Seamen's Unions throughout the world.)

During the recent sessions in Melbourne, Australia, of the Executive Council of the Federated Seamen's Union of Australia, we were instructed to write to the Seamen's Unions throughout the world, with the object of suggesting that a Conference of Seamen's Representatives should be held in some central city in Europe, to formulate a common policy, which could be acted upon by seamen all over the world, in the event of another war being forced on mankind in our time.

It is considered by the Federated Seamen's Union of Australasia, that either the American, or one of the European Seamen's Unions, would be the proper body to call such a Conference, and with this in view, we send this letter.

Upon us, who go down to the sea in ships and follow our calling over the oceans of the world, the future of civilization, indeed, the very existence of hundreds of millions of our fellow-creatures depends.

But for us, the richest and most prosperous and populous cities would be desolate; and empires, supported tho they be with colossal wealth and innumerable military forces, would crumble into ruins.

From the youngest child that eats of the bread we bring in the ships, from the humblest operatives in the shops we supply, to the greatest king who rules to-day, to the mightiest statesmen that ever swayed the destinies of nations, the seamen, in the crowded forecables, sweating in the sweltering heat of stoke-hole and engine-room, braving the dangers of the sea and storm, nourish them all and hold them in their places.

It seems to us that the time has come for the world's seamen to meet to consider their position and formulate an International policy to guide them in the future.

### The Bosses' Combine

Vast shipping combines, with ramified interests everywhere in the world, have accumulated enormous fortunes out of the ships we work, but the seamen still toil under the foul conditions imposed on us by the greed of all the shipowners,

and sanctioned by the laws of every country. We toil for low wages with little or no protection from disease and accidents, worked almost to death for the profit of shipowners, and then cast aside like old scrap iron.

Deprived of the pleasures of home and family life by the conditions of our calling, we seamen are almost complete strangers to our children, mere callers at our homes, and our wives must suffer the intolerable strain of separation from husband and bread winner.

### International Action.

Is it not time that we seamen made an effort to secure for ourselves and our families a fitting share of the vast wealth we create? Comrades, this can only be achieved by international action, for at present, when one body of seamen is struggling against the shipowners to improve their conditions, their efforts are, too often, frustrated by arrangements made to use the ships of other countries to take the place of those put out of use by seamen on strike.

In fact, the interests of the shipowners being international, they are ever ready to fly to the assistance of their brother shipowners in every Country; they are class-conscious and ready to help in the defense of their common interests the world over.

As Seamen, can we not say that our country is on the oceans of the world, and that our manifest duty towards each other is to stand fast and fight together wherever seamen are struggling for some advance?

We must uphold the seamen everywhere, for we are one all over the world and should not allow the international capitalists to keep us divided by geographical lines. Besides the question of wages, working hours, and conditions generally, there are other vital issues to be considered; the welfare of mankind depends so much on us and on our labor.

### The Hell of Modern War.

It is out of the accumulation of wealth produced by the labor of the workers, and appro-

priated by the capitalists, that wars are fought and paid for. It is plain that when the task of reconstruction in war ridden Europe is over, and industry is resumed on a greatly accelerated scale, new accumulations of wealth will take place; more armaments, and more devilish than ever, will be stored up; more men will be drilled, and the fierce passions of the capitalists will flame up, and a fresh struggle for markets, for raw materials, for cheap labor, for territories, and for people to exploit will begin.

When as we say, this unholy and ungovernable desire for profits forces war again on the world, the seamen will have to be prepared to take their stand either for Capitalism or Humanity.

In this war which is so rapidly developing about the control of the Pacific and the far east, the seamen will be, if they permit it, the agents and the victims of the warring powers.

The ships they man will carry munitions to bring suffering and death to countless men and boys, and sorrow, suffering and desolation to countless mothers, wives, and little children.

Where good men would gladly carry wheat, and wool and meat to build up strong men and women out of happy children, they will be forced by the Capitalist's Governments of the world and their country's to carry death dealing machines. The seamen, too, will be compelled to use the deadliest of all war weapons—The starvation blockade—which reduces men to subjection by striking at helpless women, at innocent children, at aged people, at the sick and suffering every where within its operations.

Moreover, as in the war just finished, the submarine and the mine will do their deadly work, and you, comrades, will brave the seas when their natural fury is intensified by the devilish ingenuity of inhuman men.

#### Seamen Have The Power.

Comrades, we seamen could make it impossible for international capitalist to again deluge this world with blood. By united action in all countries we could forbid the capitalists to engineer war. By refusing to man their ships we could stop their depredation and save the world from war, and insure that for the future, the

ships, the seamen and their labor shall be used in the interests of the working class.

We should come together and discuss what we can do, as an international body, if it should happen that war has already been decided upon; and our meeting place must be at some central City, where all the representatives of the the seamen can gather, so that we shall be prepared when the Capitalists again throw the brand which is to set the world in flames.

Today the helpless and the miserable, in millions, through out war-ridden and famine-stricken Europe, are gazing with wistful eyes on our ships as they rise above the horizon and approach their shores; their eager hands are raised in supplication. Shall we not resolve, then, that we shall bring them the food they crave, the food that means life, and not the cruel weapons that mean despair and death?

#### The Time is Ripe for Action.

Comrades, as men we cannot evade our responsibilities towards the world and towards humanity. Without our consent and without our cooperation the calamity of war cannot again fall upon the world.

We call upon you, the seamen of the world, to organize a conference some where in Europe where we can meet, with out regard to country, race or creed.

For the sake of our common humanity shall we answer this call?

The welfare of millions of human being is in our keeping? how will this great trust be honored?

The time is ripe for the seamen to come together. The hour strikes, humanity calls, and must not call to the seamen in vain.

For what ever happens in the future we shall have to account. Then let us unite and act in the interests of humanity.

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THE recent state convention of the machinists of Ohio adopted a resolution to instruct their delegates to the coming national convention to support a plan to reorganize the A. F. of L. on an industrial union basis. A number of other lodges of the I. A. of M. have endorsed the plan.

## Industrial Unionism in the Soviet State

By A. Lozovsky.

The first all-Russian Congress of Trade Unions, laying down the general line of revolutionary policy and the necessity for the closest co-operation and inseparable connection with the Soviets of Workers Deputies, came up against one of the most difficult questions in the theory and practice of the Trade Union movement, i. e., the rôle of Trade Unions in the period of proletarian dictatorship. What is the dictatorship of the proletariat? It is a definite labor system of government, having for its object to destroy the bourgeois Capitalist relations and the state machinery created by them, to crush the resistance of the exploiters and to prepare the conditions and foundations for Socialist construction. Between Capitalism and Socialism there is a distinct historical period during which the oppressed class, taking advantage of the new government machinery which it has created, forcibly establishes new social industrial relations, and, to the extent that these new relations are strengthened, the State power of the transition period gradually dies out; for Socialist society is a non-class society, and where there no classes there is no State. Consequently, to the extent that we depart from Capitalism and approach to Socialism the state as such will disappear, and, as Engels wrote, it will be placed in the museum of history. The state will remain a mere apparatus for the registration of distribution and production, serving the economic needs of Socialist society.

The Soviet is an organ of proletarian dictatorship, and as a definite form of state will disappear with the complete victory of Socialism.

But what will be the fate of the Trade Unions? The Trade Unions have become converted from fighting organizations against Capital into organs of Socialist construction, and to the extent that we advance from Capitalism to Communism the centre of gravity of the work of the union will be transferred to the sphere of organization and administration. The main task of organizing labor and production lies upon the Trade Unions, and the more the Trade Unions are able to cope with this task the more it will become merged in national economy and become part and parcel

of it. In a completely developed Socialist society the Trade Unions as fighting organizations in the class war will disappear, and their place will be taken by an apparatus for registration, distribution, and public production.

But where will this apparatus for registering, distributing, and producing in Socialist society come from? What organization will create it? Evidently it will be created in the transitional period by the Trade Unions and the Soviets. And its importance will grow in proportion to the victory of the social revolution and the strengthening of the new industrial relations. Thus, the Soviets of workers' deputies and the Trade Unions jointly create in the transitional period an organ for managing production (Councils of National Economy and the chief committees for the management of nationalized undertakings). These organs, however, lose their specific character as fast as we advance to Socialism; the whole work of the Soviets and the Trade Unions becomes concentrated upon the organization of labor and production, but their industrial functions disappear. The Trade Unions and the Soviet economic organs merge into one another; a single economic machinery grows out of it, swallowing both unions and Soviets, thus being the synthesis of all the organisations created by the proletariat. Socialism emerges in its perfect form of organisation. This perspective of the development and the rebirth of the existing proletarian organizations gives rise to the idea of "nationalizing" the Trade Unions, and many comrades regarded this possibility as meaning the immediate subordination of the Trade Unions to the Soviet Government. The first all-Russian congress of Trade Unions which advocated the closest co-operation and unseverable connection between the Trade Unions and the Soviet of workers' deputies declared in its fundamental resolution that "in the process of development which has been outlined the Trade Unions will inevitably be converted into organs of Socialist Government, participation in which will be obligatory for all persons engaged in any given in-

dustry." This resolution was taken by some comrades to mean immediate subordination of the unions to the State, and the second all-Russian Congress of Trade Unions held in January, 1919, on the question of the character of the relations between the Soviet organs and the Trade Unions and their gradual merging declared:—

"The task of socializing all means of production and the organization of society on a new Socialist basis demands stubborn, prolonged work on the reconstruction of the whole government machine, the creation of new organs of control and regulation of production and consumption resting upon the organized initiative of the masses of the workers themselves.

This compels the Trade Unions to take a more active and energetic part in the work of the Soviets, by direct participation in all the State organs, by organizing mass proletarian control over their activities, by carrying out separate tasks which might confront the Soviet Government through their organizations, by cooperating in the reconstruction of various State departments, and by the gradual substitution of them by their own organizations by means of using the organs of the union with those of the State.

It would be a mistake, however, in the present stage of development of Trade Unions with the as yet imperfect state organization immediately to convert the unions into State organs, and to merge the former into the latter or for the unions to arbitrarily usurp the functions of the State. The whole process of complete fusions of the Trade Unions with the State organs (the process which we call statification of Trade Unions) must take place as the inevitable result of their joint close and harmonious working, and the preparation by the Trade Unions of the broad masses of the workers for the task of managing the State machine and all the administrative organs."

The perspective outlined by the Second Congress was subjected to a new test. A year and three months of stern civil war passed, and whatever the trials of the Trade Unions, with the exception of an insignificant minority, they fought shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet Government against the Russian and world counter-revolution. It was this organic connection with the Soviets." The second important resolution lays

Congress advanced in the first instance. "The Trade Unions in Soviet Russia—says the first resolution—practically became an inseparable part of the Soviet system, a necessary supplement and support of the proletarian dictatorship of the Soviets." The second important resolution lays it down that "the Trade Unions are the fundamental basis of the proletarian state, the sole organizers of labor in the process of production and the chief tool in economic construction." These two definitions give an exhaustive description of the Trade Unions in the period of transition from Capitalism to Socialism. The Trade Unions are the foundation and support of the Soviet State—a necessary supplement to the organs of proletarian dictatorship—the Soviets, the chief tool of economic construction and the only organizer of labor in the process of production. These are the functions and the place of the Trade Unions in the proletarian State based on thirty months' experience of joint work and struggle, and this experience was fixed by the resolutions of the third all-Russian Congress.

### FORCING DOWN WAGES.

By Nate L. Welch.

Unemployment with attending privations is the growing fear of industrial workers here in Detroit. In spite of reassurances by the Board of Commerce fear is gnawing at the vitals of the workers lest they lose their jobs in the drive of the opulent wealthy to reduce wages and labor standards.

It is estimated that 50,000 are out of work here and many are leaving the city. The most striking sign of unemployment is the number of dwellings available for workers at reduced rates. Until very recently rooms were so scarce that thousands of families were compelled to live in tents on the outskirts and rents were screwed up to the highest point.

From reliable authority it is learned that the General Motors laid off about 30 per cent of its office force and 20 per cent of its shop employees. The Timken-Axle Company is reported to have laid off 20 per cent of its office force and 20 per cent of its shop men. The Packard concern is reported to have laid off 30 per cent of its office force and about 25 per cent of its mechanics. The Morgan Wright Tire Company laid off about 2,000 men.

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## Prepare for Action

It is plainly to be seen that if the international brigands have their way the world is again going to be plunged into war and the workers of America will be driven into the shambles for the defence of world capitalism. The murder-plotters are proceeding more cautiously this time than they did in 1914 because it is more difficult to conceal their real purposes, but they are getting ready, slowly but surely.

The existence of the working class government in Russia is a standing challenge and menace to capitalist rule in every country and there can be no doubt whatever that the Allied governments, who have instigated and supported a dozen different unsuccessful counter-revolutionary and interventionist enterprises, are fully determined to declare open war as a last resort.

They are restrained only by the fear that they will be unable to make good; by the fear that the workers of their own countries will not respond. British labor has indeed made a magnificent show of determined opposition, but it must

be remembered that many of the labor leaders who led the British workers into the last great slaughter are still at the helm and they are not to be trusted. Leopards do not change their spots and traitors do not change their ways.

It may well be that the issue will be finally decided by the workers here in America. And that circumstances puts upon every one of us a tremendous responsibility. The task of mobilizing the workers for decisive action is no easy one. Barriers loom up on every side, but they can all be overcome by energy and courage.

The local unions are the starting point. We must go to them and put them on record against war. We must carry on a vigorous and aggressive agitation in the unions, in the shops— wherever workers are gathered together—to awaken them to the danger that threatens.

Here is work to be done. Let us get at it without delay.

## Bertrand Russell

Bertrand Russell, a renowned English scholar and humanitarian, has recently returned from a trip to Russia and he is very sad about the state of affairs he found there. The bolsheviks, he says, are ruling Russia with an iron hand. They are very rough and ruthless in their methods of suppressing the former capitalists who want to come back into power and the various parties who want to help them. The personal liberties of rival parties are more or less curtailed, jails are still used to house those who are especially active in their opposition to the soviets and free speech, even, is not absolute.

Mr. Russell's "revelations" were printed in The Nation, a "liberal" paper—that is, neutral in the class war—and they seem to think we will all be greatly shocked, as they are, to find that the bolsheviks are not as nice as they might be.

There are two ways of looking at the class struggle—one as a spectator, the other as a participant, and it is not to be expected that the workers who are engaged in the actual struggle, suffering from many wounds received in it, should feel the same way about it as the man in the box seat watching the struggle.

Fair-play and kindness and tolerance, which Mr. Russell regards as of first importance, are not despised by the intelligent workers, the bolsheviks, but they refuse to let such considerations in-

terfere with the real task in hand. And what is that task? It is nothing less than the overthrow of capitalism! The horror and misery of the wage-worker's life does not come primarily from the a lack of these pleasant virtues, but from the fact that he has to slave out his life for the benefit of others, that he is denied the opportunity for proper development of the mind and body, that his children are condemned at birth to the same barren and bitter life.

This condition prevails because the land and the machinery of production are in the control of a few who use this control for their own profit and the enslavement and degradation of the masses of working people. To increase their profits and to strengthen their grip at the throat of the world the capitalists do not hesitate to drive the workers into the holocaust of war, to slaughter them by the millions to serve their own selfish purposes.

War, poverty, misery and injustice—all this is the normal lot of the workers under capitalism. Is not plain, then, that the one task that presses upon us for immediate accomplishment, the one all-important duty that will not be delayed nor be delayed nor denied, is the overthrow of capitalism? The Russian bolsheviks think so, and when they refuse to allow anything to divert them from this stern undertaking, they gain, not the condemnation, but the enthusiastic approval of intelligent workers everywhere.

What interests us as revolutionary workers is the fact that the factories and workshops have been taken away from the capitalists and that they are now under the control of the workers' committees; that the great landlords have been driven away from the vast estates and their right to collect rent abolished; that as rapidly as the workers' government is able to overcome civil war at home and the invasions engineered by the Allied capitalist governments, they are proceeding to the establishment of a social order without any parasitic class in it.

When Bertrand Russel tells us that bolsheviks are making use of the services of business and technical experts without allowing them to get rich in the process, he answers the one question about Russia that is uppermost in the minds of the struggling workers in all lands. For we know that if this is true they have really laid the axe to the root of the tree of capitalism and that it can never bear again its poison fruit.

## The Picket Line

300,000 workers in Scotland took part in a one-day strike last week as a protest against higher rents and passed resolutions refusing to pay the increases. Some day we will have a strike against paying any rent whatever to private landlords.

A New York architect has received a prize of \$1,000 for his plans for remodelling a typical tenement house block to make it "a decent place to live in." We have never yet seen such a tenement house, but we live in hopes.

YOU haven't heard much lately about the Kansas anti-strike law. The supreme court has not yet passed on its constitutionality, but it has already been vetoed by the miners. They have had more strikes in that state since this law was enacted than ever before in a similar length of time.

WE Learn from a press report that the government of the late Czar owed French bankers \$100,000,000 and that the present Polish government is indebted in the same amount to American capitalists. Let's see—that makes a total loss of two hundred million dollars.

THE Congress of the Third International took place in the Throne Room of the late Czar, in the Kremlin. God Save the Czars!

THERE could be no better proof that the American workers are getting to be a little wiser that they used to be than the steadily growing tendency on the part of the rank and file to refuse to accept as final and binding the decisions of conference boards, government commissions and similar bodies who assume the authority to decide questions of vital importance to the workers. The latest example has been set by the miners in Belleville, Illinois and Terre Haute, Indiana who again went on strike on August 19 as a protest against the result of the wage award conference in Cleveland. When it becomes clearly understood by all parties concerned that "settlements" only hold good as long as they are satisfactory to the workers, they will be more apt to be satisfactory.

## Another Wedge

By Maurice Cohen.

What promises to be another wedge in the break up of the A. F. of L. was driven on Sunday, August 15 when the Chicago Federation of Labor in their semi-weekly meeting, passed unanimously a resolution endorsing a general strike to prevent military mobilization in case of war with Soviet Russia. The resolution, submitted by Lodge 113 of the Machinists Union was sponsored by G. T. Franckel, president of District 8. A copy has been forwarded to all the central bodies in the United States.

Sammy Gompers will now do some tall explaining that the resolution does not voice the sentiment of organized labor in this country. But the damage is done and it is confidently expected that the action of the Chicago body will be followed by similar steps taken by the other "rebel" organizations throughout the country.

The Machinists' convention which will be held in Rochester N. Y. in September, will now

be watched with renewed interest. Not only will the Russian resolution come up for action, but other fire-works are on the schedule. Delegates from every rebel organization in the International Association are expected to make a determined stand for dis-affiliation with the American Federation of Labor. All the railroad lodges will stand firmly in back of this movement and will be joined by the lodges in the west and middle-west and a great many of the radical eastern locals.

The reactionaries in the organization will have only one alternative, that of using steam-roller methods to prevent the bolt from achieving success. Such tactics would be rather more than likely to result in the entire disruption of the Association and it is extremely doubtful that the conservative forces will be willing to take the chance.

In the mean time Gompers is explaining.

## The Spirit of Unity Grows

By J. Macaulay (Ontario).

The master class is in a very hysterical condition these days. Events in Europe are not panning out at all to their liking, and what looks like a serious split in the ranks of the "Allies" is developing over the Polish question. Let them split. It is to laugh.

On the other hand, the workers of Great Britain are showing more evidence than ever of solidarity. The "Council of Action" has come into being and a deputation has been despatched to France for the purpose of considering joint action with the French workers on the Russo-Polish situation. The Prussian workers are side-tracking French munition trains bound for Poland.

Everywhere the desire to defend the Workers' Republic of Russia is showing itself, the spirit of unity amongst the workers grows.

And what is more logical than that the workers of this country and the U. S. should catch the "disease" and line up in the One Big Union?

We are far removed from the "disturbed areas," but we are under the same Iron Heel. Here in Northern Ontario, the masters, acting through their Mine Managers Associations, etc.,

are up in the air because of the O. B. U. One section of them fires O. B. U. men. and another condemns that action, and hires the fired.

The chaos which the ruling class have howled about as existing in Russia, has them in its grip. For a careful analysis of this "chaos" the enquiring worker should read Goode's book "Bolshevism at work."

Comrades, the hour is close upon us when we, as a class, will be forced to take upon ourselves the management of affairs, if the race is to be upon ourselves the management of affairs, if the saved from their a slavery more despotic than any that has existed, or a reversion to savagery in interminable wars.

The O. B. U., a CLASS union, is the formation needed for the present crisis. The day of craft unionism is done. Even the industrial union, pure and simple, has the disadvantages of isolated fights and absence of class solidarity.

The old battle cry of Marx' was never more urgent, never rang so true as now.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE.

## Rank and File Control

Shop Rules Adopted by Paterson N. J., Branch Textile Workers Industrial Union No. 1000 of the I. W. W.

### I. SHOP ORGANIZATION

1. Each shop should select one of the workers to act as Shop Chairman. The election should take place in regular maner at a shop meeting. Wherever possible, a new chairman should be chosen every three months or oftener. It is the duty of the chairman to preside at shop meetings and to serve as a member of the Shop Committee.

2. The shop should also choose a Shop Committee of two or more members, in addition to the Shop Chairman. The Shop Committee should be changed regularly, at least one new member being elected every month. As far as possible, every worker in the shop should be required to take his or her turn on the Shop Committee.

3. The shop should select a recording secretary to keep the minutes of shop meetings, also two delegates to represent the shop at Shop Delegates Meetings.

4. It shall be the duty of the Shop Chairman to see that all union books are paid up regularly. Every worker shall show his book to the Chairman on demand.

5. New workers coming into the shop shall be approached by the Chairman or by a member of the Shop Committee and required to show their union books or sign an application to join the Union. In special cases, the Shop Committee may allow a new member to pay the initiation fee in installments, but the entire sum must be paid not later than the first payday after entering the shop.

Note:—When the weavers in any shop are organized 100 per cent in the I. W. W., a new weaver shall be required to join the I. W. W. In shops where the I. W. W. has only a majority, a new weaver shall join the I. W. W. unless he has been a good standing member of another union for at least three months. When a shop first organizes, no one who is already a good standing member of a union shall be required to change his book.

### II. SHOP MEETINGS

1. Each shop should hold a regular meeting at least once a month and special meetings whenever necessary.

2. A special shop meeting may be called by the Shop Committee at any time, and MUST be called by them when 25 per cent of the workers demand it.

3. Special shop meetings should not be called for unimportant matters that could wait until the next regular meeting.

4. Meetings should not be held in the shop unless absolutely necessary. Whenever possible, they should be held at union headquarters.

5. Shop meetings should not be called during working hours, except when a special emergency requires prompt action.

6. All voting at shop meetings shall be done openly. A secret ballot shall not be allowed under any circumstances.

7. Notice of a regular shop meeting should be given at least one day in advance. Notice of a special meeting should be given as early as possible.

8. A shop shall have the right to impose a fine of a reasonable amount on workers who absent themselves from a shop meeting without good excuse, provided this has been voted in regular manner at a previous shop meeting and notice of the fine was given in the call for the meeting. A worker who refuses to pay the fine shall be required to leave the shop.

9. When two or more shops are owned by the same boss, a joint meeting shall be held, whenever possible, before a strike is declared or any action is taken that is likely to affect more than one shop.

Note:—The union should always be notified in advance when a shop is going to hold a regular or special meeting.

### III. GRIEVANCES

1. When a worker has any trouble which he cannot settle satisfactory with the boss, he should

report it to the Shop Chairman or to a member of the Shop Committee. The Shop Committee shall then take the matter up and try to settle the difficulty. If they are unable to do so, they shall lay the matter before the shop at a regular or special meeting.

2. If the worker is not satisfied with the action of the Shop Committee, he shall have the right to appeal to the shop, and, if not satisfied with the decision of the shop, he may appeal to the Executive Board or to the membership of the branch.

3. If the boss wants to discharge a worker, the worker shall remain on his job until the Shop Committee has investigated and decided whether the discharge is justified. Any worker habitually making bad work or otherwise causing unnecessary trouble shall not be entitled to protection.

4. When the question of the discharge of a worker has not yet been finally settled (see rule 2 above) any worker who takes his job shall be notified by the Shop Committee that it is a sick job.

5. Neither the Shop Chairman nor a member

of the Shop Committee nor an official of the union shall talk with the boss about any trouble in the shop unless one or more members of the Shop Committee are present as witnesses.

6. If a worker is prevented from coming to work for any reason, he should notify the boss and the Shop Committee as soon as possible. When he returns to work he shall get his old job back if he wants it. Any worker who takes his place while he is away must be informed by the Shop Committee that it is a sick job.

7. The Shop Chairman should keep a list of the weavers in the order in which their warps run out, so that they may get new warps in their proper turn.

Note:—When a worker has trouble with the boss, he should not take his tools and quit, but should give the shop a chance to take action in his behalf.

#### V. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Overtime is SCAB TIME and shall never be allowed.

2. No weaver shall be allowed to run more than two looms under any circumstances.

## The Private Wire

By I. M. Wize

Ring....aling....aling! "Hello! State Department?... This is Morgaryfellerheim, 'Steen Wall St. .... Yes, this is the boss himself. I called you up myself as it's very important. Wish to suggest (aside: 'ha, ha... apt word')... suggest that you have the Navy Department hurry over a couple battleships and a cruiser or two to protect our interests in European waters..... Yes, those damned Bolsheviks must be stopped. There is no telling what will happen if our own workers get wise to the truth of the situation. If they should learn the facts, it's "goodnight" for us!..... Yes, that workers' government in Russia must be squelched... that's final..... Yes, that is all.... Oh say, by the way.... please connect me with the White House..... Thanks!"

Ring.....aling....aling! "Hello, Prexy?..... How are you anyway, Old Top?..... Yes, the same old fox..... Three squares a day and wouldn't be better, haw, haw! Say, old dear, want to compliment you on that "conciliation" dope you handed out to those upstart striking workers of ours the other day. Good work, I'll say! Concilia-

tion! Haw, haw! And then when they're not looking.... slug 'em hard! That's the system. But don't let 'em know before-hand you're gonna do it.... haw, haw!..... Yes, they do fall for it. Think you're impartial.... haw, haw!..... Yeah.... that's just it.... keep the wool over their eyes..... What's that?..... Oh, Yes. I don't know what we would do without the help of Sammy Gompers and his crowd. That "illegal" and "outlaw" dope is great stuff. He sure keeps 'em in leash..... But say! Between you and me, they nearly spilled the beans this time. They were too darn coarse with it. They should be more careful.... yeah, more careful..... That's just it. you see.... the workers have been getting too all-fired wise to that of late. It was a close shave for us. We'll have to get in our good work among "labor's friends" again..... Yeah.... haw!..... Yes, that's all, thanks!.... Oh, Say! Drop in on us next time you're here. We'll open some rare old vintage..... Yeah, boy!..... Goo' bye!" Click....click!

# The Origin of Religion

— By W. H. Adams. —

Primitive people have primitive ideas. They reason directly, concretely and according to their narrow experiences. It is a safe assumption that this was the case in the origin of the idea of God. Primitive man recognized that certain effects followed certain causes. He was forced to the belief that all effects have their due causes. He did certain things and obtained certain results. When he saw natural phenomena he reasoned that unseen persons brought them about, somehow. These unseen persons were men and women very like himself, endowed as he was, with likes and dislikes, with love and hate and passion. Some things they did thru love, others thru hate. Because there were so many occurrences of varying character primitive man held the idea of many persons or gods as causing all these things. Because his own hate or anger could be mellowed by something that pleased him he reasoned the same held true with the gods.

This led him to try to find out what would please the gods and he developed a system of sacrifice the echo of which we still have in church service.

As man became more intelligent his idea of god or gods changed accordingly. Indeed, a person's general intelligence may be somewhat correctly measured by his idea of God. Gradually the number of gods was reduced with greater powers granted to each until one god, allpowerful was, the result Greek and Roman mythology represents the idea of many gods; Hebrew literature the idea of one god. There are many strong resemblances between the two ideas showing their close relationship.

Thinking people are gradually drifting away from the idea of a necessary god. They find that all things are controlled by fixed laws which are an inherent part of the things themselves. The origin of matter and of these laws is a profound mystery and is in no way simplified by the introduction of the idea of one or many gods. It is altogether probable that in a few generations the idea of there

being a god will have well nigh disappeared among enlightened people. Whether or not this will be a benefit to humanity in no way alters the fact about the drift of thought.

Every people, according to natural surroundings and economic life have developed a religion. There are ten

great religions. These all differ according to the influences that have called them into existence. In many respects they agree showing the kinship of human mind. In many other respects they are contradictory showing the working of the Law of Economic Determinism.

## RUMINATIONS OF A REBEL

By Tom Clifford.

George Horace Lorrimer, editor of The Saturday Evening Post, continues his fulminations against those who dare even intimate that the rule of the bourgeoisie should be ended and a real democracy established in its stead. However, we notice some evidence of change in George's opinions of late. He now admits that the capitalist system is anything but perfect in its operations and is subject to correction. But he wants no change that will sweep him and his fellow exploiters of labor out of existence. The fear of that drastic possibility is an ever present cause for anxiety to the ruling class, and to postpone the catastrophe George Horace and his co-conspirators are willing to sacrifice some of their privileges if by so doing they can perpetuate their piracy. George also presents some specious arguments to counteract the growing class-consciousness of the workers, among which is the old familiar rot of co-operation. He knows full well that the dispossessed cannot establish and conduct industries because of the poverty of their resources, and when he says "there is absolutely nothing to prevent Socialists, Syndicalists and Communists from experimenting with their own medicine" he utters a conscious lie. That kind of bunk may possibly find an abiding place in the minds of those who have never given the matter serious thought, but the enlightened worker who has gained an insight into the capitalist state will dismiss it with a jeer. However, George is wasting his time in hurling

vicious criticisms at the radicals and their propaganda. The revolution will not come through the education of the masses, but rather because of imperative necessity. The inexorable law of evolution is at work in society — the same law that in biology eliminates what has become useless. Capitalism has served its purpose as a stage in the evolution of society and is now in its dotage. The chaotic conditions of to-day prove its inability to function, and it is fated to give way to another social order that will better conserve the interests of the people. The plaintive wails of men like Lorrimer are but the expiring protests of a damned and doomed industrialocracy. Already invitations are out for the wake.

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If you don't believe that God takes care of fools and children, how do you account for the fact that ex-mayor Davis, of Cleveland, secured the Republican nomination for Governor? The entire State could be controlled without producing a bigger boob than this same Harry Davis. If there was nothing else to discredit representative government the nomination of Davis would be sufficient. His election, barring a miracle, is assured, for he will be a pliant tool in the hands of plutocracy. On second thought, I am inclined to consider that an explanation of his choice over his competitors. However, it doesn't matter a continental damn to the workers who is the next Governor of Ohio. They will be skinned just the same.

# The Black Sheep.

Chapter XLVI.

## Conclusion.

On his way home from his ramble near the desert, where he had met the party of surveyors, and where he had been offered a job that would take him out of the mining camp, with its distinctly proletarian atmosphere, and place him in a line of work that was, as he believed, more suited to his individual tastes. But now that the way was open, he found that the discussion was not easy. He literally fought a mental battle with himself. He wanted to take up this new work, yet could not forget the fact that he promised Collins to stay in the fight with him, and go down with him if need be, so that, now to desert the job, as soon as he was gone, savored a little of cowardice, or of treason, perhaps of both. But our reason often seeks to justify the gratification of an inherited tendency that perhaps was useful in a by gone age, and crops out in us occasionally in perhaps a distorted form. In Jack's case, it was doubtlessly the nomadic impulses synchronizing with the instinct or faculty of curiosity, that gave him his peculiar mental bent, and caused him to seek a logical and scientific justification for his dominant desire. As men always try to prove the necessity of their particular method of making a living, and resent any imputation that these may not be exactly just; as a rule are wont to blame their victims imprudence for the misery they inflict upon them, so Jack tried to justify his course by looking upon the workers as if they were by nature hopelessly congenital inferiors, whom it was worse than useless to instruct. But against that theory stood Collins, calm, serene, relentless in his opposition to what he termed the Great Beast Capital. Collins was no fool; he recognized that the struggle had to destroy all those who were mentally unfit for the coming order. He wanted to build an organization of the bravest and best in the laboring classes. True he was only one; but then, there were George and Herman, and above all Olive who came to the ideal from out of a non-working class environment, she was drawn entirely by strength of the philosophy's human appeal. True they might all be called "Black Sheep," human oddities as it were, freaks of nature, belonging to neither class—but he was one of them and it seemed at the time as if he were deserting his own, as if he were exiling himself from Collins with whom he had braved danger, with whom he had eaten and slept, and by whose side he had fought

mentally and physically.

Then Olive loved him, because he had bravely borne jail, and preached his ideas from behind bars. What would she think of him? Would not she be disappointed in him. She could not visualize him except as a crusader; as a warrior for pure idealism. What would she think of him, if she knew that he was running about the hills chasing butterflies. The thought made him smile in spite of himself. But to leave the mines and go out with a surveying party, was after all not leaving the proletarian class. He would still be a wage slave. The idea gave him a strange sense of satisfaction. He had simply changed employment, he would simply transfer himself from mine slavery to line slavery, that was all—but not all, for on the line there was a different ideology, and it was that ideology so similar to that of his early training, that really called him in a manner similar to that psychological phenomenon that sends a murderer back to the scene of his crime.

Thus mentally torn between two conflicting emotions, he came to within attention was arrested by the sound of voices from within. He listened, some one in the cabin was reading the Rubyat. He was familiar with the poem, and caught the swing of it,

"Then to the lips of this poor earthen  
Urn,  
I leaned, the secret of my life to learn  
And lip to lip, it murmured while you  
live  
Drink! — for once dead you never  
shall return."

Jack sat down upon a bank of earth where the roadway had cut into the soil. Whoever this intruder might be he was giving voice to a welcome truth. Why should not he, Jack Thurston, drink the draughts he loved, instead of the gall and wormwood that men seemed bent on mixing for him. Why after all, should he drink Collin's brew, and live and work among people who did not appeal to him, and at work which he despised. Why not go out and live at such slavery as was at least tolerable, and where there might be some hope of escape from the bondage of boss and dinner pail. Why not "drink—for once dead we never shall return."

At the first sound of the voice within the cabin he had felt anger rising in his blood, and had prepared to evict the intruder without ceremony. But burglars do not recite poetry at their job and if they do, they are freak burglars, and may be considered as had allayed his anger and now

caused him to sit down and listen thinking of the poem and conflict in his mind. Again he heard the voice:

"Ah, Love could you and I with him  
conspire,  
To grasp the sorry scheme of things  
entire  
Wouldn't we shatter it to bits and  
then  
Remold it nearer to the heart's de-  
sire."

At these words the image of Olive rose before his mind's eye and with her, rose as if in panorama the great world wide class war. How beautiful she was, and how mighty it was! It seemed to be a part of her, and she a part of it. To win her meant to accept his place in the class struggle, to abandon his place in the class struggle, would surely mean to lose her.

Collins had told him that she was a rare jewel—that he was a lucky dog for even having the privilege of corresponding with her. Could he afford to lose her? Was she not more than all other things this world might hold? For a moment it seemed so. Then he closed his eyes and again he saw her, saw her in a little cottage with grape vines trailing over the door, surrounded by children—if he wanted to win her doubtlessly he should be able to give her a home. Could he win that for her and remain in the class struggle. Surely he could not. Yet could he escape that struggle? She was like Collins, drunk with the ideal, but unlike Collins she was a woman, physiologically not strong enough to withstand years of hardship. He decided that if he were to do justice to her he had to work to the top of the class war, or out of it. And why shouldn't he leave it if he could. There were others to carry on the work. One more or less did not alter the course of events. In the march of human progress he, individually, was less than the proverbial drop in the bucket. No, he would leave it and go surveying, until in the fall, and then enter some preparatory school, and in time meet Olive again as a man really worthy of her love.

The voice within the cabin was now quoting from a, to Jack, unknown author:

"Filled with the pulse of an unborn  
race,  
Torn with a world's desire  
The surging flood of my wild young  
blood  
Would quench the judgment fire."

His curiosity now thoroughly aroused, he arose, crossed the road, and opened the cabin door, where to his absolute surprise he almost walked right into the arms of Rudolph, who was standing near the door reading to Bill Kinsey, a miner, who had shown him Jack's cabin, when he had come to town. And as Rudolph had insisted upon making himself at home, Bill had

stayed around to see to it that he didn't abscond with any of Jack's effects.

"I didn't know this bird," he told Jack, "but seeing that he said he were a friend of yours I just showed him in, and as I didn't know him I just kindo' stuck around."

"That was alright Bill. Rudy and I are old time pals, and I am mighty glad to see him, as well as thankful to you for showing him the way to the shack," Jack replied after which Bill took his leave, and Rudolph and the boy were lost in conversation. But when Jack told the other that he intended to quit the mines and go out with a surveying party for the rest of the summer Rudolph was entirely disagreed.

"I always knew that Collins was wrong when he dragged you into the mines," Rudolph argued, "Mining is not your line. I tell you what you want to do —"

"No you don't," Jack interrupted him almost savagely. "From now on I tell myself what to do. When I was a kid my parents and the preacher told me what I 'wanted' to do. When I got away from home the sheriff and the rube, told me what I 'wanted' to do, after that Collins, while I was in the shack and the boss when I was on the job, told me what I 'wanted' to do. From now on Jack Thurston will tell Jack Thurston what he wants to do, as far as that is humanly possible under the rules of the class struggle. This is my declaration of independence. From now on I'll be the captain of my life."

"Got sore at Ed, eh? I thought so," Rudolph grinned. "But let me tell you what you and I are going to do. We're going out to the harvest fields of Kansas. Its a little late, but early enough to get in on the threshing. We will meet Ed. on his way back, and together we will follow the harvest up into Dakota and then back to the shack by the lake for us. What do you say?"

"Ed is mine crazy," Jack protested. "He wants to industrialize the Federation. He is coming back here, or at least such were his plans."

"Not if we stop him in the harvest fields. He is needed there. The mines are organized in a way; they can fight the boss when it becomes really necessary, but the harvest slaves are helpless. They are the victims of every bewhiskered crook that employs them. They need us. Let's go. Eh, Jack?" To this Jack made no reply, and Rudolph went on. "We will stop off in Denver for a few days. Great town Denver. Beats Spokane four ways from nothing. We will meet many of the boys there, and after some good street meetings, we can 'Blow' for the harvest fields."

"No I'm through—for a while at least," Jack quavered. "I want to make something of myself, and I can't do

it humming." Then with a note of hostility in his voice he continued, "I'm done. Let the dead bury the dead. I must live my own life."

They argued until supper time, and then went to the boarding house after which they resumed their discussion and kept at it until far into the night. Rudolph doing his best to persuade the boy to follow him into the harvest fields. But at this he made no headway. At last his patience exhausted he divined that Olive was at the base of Jack's attitude, and this made him angry. "I know what's eating on you," said he sarcastically, "it is that bourgeois skirt that is pulling you away. I could kick Ed all the way from Frisco to New York for putting you in correspondence with that thing. Why kid you are doing good work here. I talked to several of the miners here this afternoon and they all like you. They even say that you beat Ed. as a speaker." Then in a tone of disgust he added, "I always said that women have ruined more radicals than all other influences combined. They are decorations for a home, and the modern proletariat have no business with homes. Homes even if rented stimulate their property instincts. The possession of a wife even does that. It makes them conservative. It makes them worthless in the class struggle."

Jack looked at him steadily, but did not speak, and Rudolph went on, "Ed is to blame. I told him what it would lead to. He ought to have initiated you into the class struggle, instead of entangling you in a skirt. I always thought that he was really class conscious but I was mistaken, that damned skirt—"

"Now stop right here," Jack interrupted, "all that you are saying is pure unadulterated bunk. If it were not for the fact that you are mentally diseased on that subject I would knock you down, but I never attack cripples, especially if their affliction is above the ears. I would have ditched

this whole business months ago and entered some other line of work, had it not been for that girl's devotion to the class war and all that it entails. It is she who holds me to it, or rather held me to it, instead of drawing me away."

"The hell she did," Rudolph exclaimed not a little surprised at this assertion. "And do you know I got sore at Ed. and left you both because he brought that skirt into our friendship."

"Speak of her with a little more respect," Jack commanded, and Rudolph noticed that the boy was developing into a man, ready to resent an insult with a force other than logic—

"Oh, well, I meant no offense," Rudolph explained, "I was only using the vernacular. 'If she is what you say, then she is different from the great majority of her sex and I apologize. I've said nothing.'"

The next day the two spent in argument. In the afternoon Jack received a letter from Olive. She told him that she felt lonesome and heart sick at the stupidity of the people with whom she was surrounded. She expressed a desire to go into a mining camp where the men were on strike and help to care and comfort those who were suffering. She concluded her letter with the remark that Collins had written to her saying that he would possibly come to see her on his way back from the east, and that she wished Jack could be with him at that time.

It was this letter which caused him to change his mind regarding the surveying job, but not concerning the harvest field. He would go east with Rudolph as far as Denver, and then on to Boulder where Olive was waiting for him. After reading his letter over a second time he looked at his companion and said, "Say Rudy, let's get a soap box and go out on the street tonight; we must dispose of this literature before we go east."

(The End.)

LABOR DAY SEPT. 6-th 1920

## 2-nd Annual Picnic and Mass Meeting

GIVEN BY THE I. W. W. at Russik Grove,  
ATT. JAKOB MARGOLIS, from Pittsburgh

and

RALPH CHAPLIN, of the I. W. W.

will be the speakers

— TICKETS 30c. —

Thousands will be there. Will you?

DIRECTIONS: Take W. 25th st. car (through) to end of line then change for State Rd. car to park.

# My Own Shop

## "Putting it Over" on the Rubber Workers

By One of them.

The rubber industry, as you know, is a comparatively new one, having developed within the last twenty years to meet the great demand for rubber tires and other manufactured rubber goods. The rubber barons have also got the most up-to-date and approved methods of putting it over on the workers of any gang of labor skinners I know. I have been up against the game of wage-slavery in many places in my time, but I never saw anything to compare with Akron.

### Prefer American Labor

The rubber barons made the discovery right at the start that the most gullible and most productive kind of labor power obtainable is that which is produced on native soil. So, while they do not bar any nationality, the bulk of their working forces consists of native born Americans, recruited mainly from such states as West Virginia and the Carolinas. These are the boys who fall for all kinds of schemes to get more work of them for less money, and at the same time keep them satisfied, that the "damned foreigner" cannot get through his thick head.

### Piece work and speeding up

Most of the work is on a piece work basis and increased speed is constantly being obtained by various methods. The machine operator in each department who turns out the most work receives a substantial bonus and in addition gets the "honor" of having a sign hung on his machine which states that it is a 100% machine. All the other workers race to catch up and the one who passes the 100% machine gets the bonus and the badge, and so it goes.

Production is also stimulated by getting the workers to buy stock which they pay for on the installment plan. By the time the average one gets fifty or a hundred dollars worth paid for he thinks he is a part of the company and that comfortable thought makes him feel a greater interest in his work.

### Soft Soap

The Goodyear factory issues a factory newspaper three times a week which is given free to employees. It preaches the "one big family" stuff and advises them to save their money and buy stock. It is also used to boost the various welfare schemes which the management springs from time to time for the purpose of soothing the troubled minds of the rubber workers and keeping up their "morale" on the job.

### Goodyear's "Company" Union

I have been reading in the Toiler about the Union and the shop committees and I want to tell you how the Goodyear company is trying to head such things off by fake substitutes. This is what they call the "Industrial Representation Plan". The plant is divided into forty "precincts" and every employee who is an American citizen and who has been at work for six months continuously has a right to vote for candidates for the "Senate" and "House of Representatives". These two bodies have power to pass bills relating to wages, rules, and working conditions. But before any bill can be considered it must first pass both houses. This bars anything of substantial benefit, because the "Senators" and "Representatives" are pretty carefully hand-picked. After a bill passes both houses it goes to the manager who has veto power.

A two-thirds vote of both houses will pass a bill over the veto of the manager, but this is never done because those voting for it are required to record their names and it is well understood that they would be marked men thereafter.

There was a great general strike of the rubber workers here in 1913. It was defeated on account of lack of experience, but it has not been forgotten and the old-timers still talk about it. There is another one coming some day, soon I hope. Then we will kick aside the Goodyear "senate," "house of representatives," "Supreme Court" and all, and register our wishes through our own shop committees and our own industrial union.