

In no other city in the country would the fight be so easy for the publishers, for Chicago is the only city where all of the big dailies are banded together in a union of their own. They have their city press association, which serves only members of the publishers' union. They own the news stands, and they control the police force, and have influence with the courts and even the state administration.

Through their control of the sheriff's office, every man employed in the business department of the Hearst papers has been sworn in as a deputy sheriff and wears a deputy's badge and carries a big revolver.

How complete their control of the city government is can be seen when the police are ordered to arrest little newsboys who cry out for sale a paper that doesn't belong to the trust. Also, when innocent citizens are slugged by hired newspaper sluggers, the citizens who are assaulted are the ones arrested while the newspaper thugs go free.

The present trouble did not spring up suddenly. The publishers were ready for it. They have been preparing for it for months. Last year they did things that created a reasonable presumption that they were trying to force the pressmen to strike. But the pressmen held on until their contract with the Hearst papers expired. And then when they demanded a square deal, they were thrown out of the Hearst building by policemen Hearst's hired man had there for that purpose.

Everything has been done so far to make the public believe that the pressmen are rowdies and ruffians; that they are slugging newsboys and all that. Yet for years these publishers have been keeping sluggers on their pay-rolls whose duty it was to reduce newsboys and news stand keepers to subjection.

Had it not been for organized labor the local publishers' trust would have been able to absolutely control publicity in Chicago, and the people would have got through the papers only such information as these publishers wanted them to have. Any citizen ought to see the danger of such a condition of affairs.

The publishers are so strong now that they can absolutely dictate what information concerning the present lockout shall go out to the people of the world over the wires of the Associated Press. For the members of the Chicago Publishers' Association are also members of the Associated Press, and Chicago is the only city in the country where none of the big dailies receives the United Press report; and the United Press is the only free news gathering agency in the country that isn't subject to the influence of Big Business.

The Daily Socialist and its morning edition, The Daily World, are the only newspapers not in the trust that are selling papers on