

EXPLAINS WHY THE MICHIGAN STRIKERS DID NOT TRY TO "PAY BACK" FOR ATROCITIES IN WARFARE

BY JANE WHITAKER

"The only reason there was not a civil war between the mine owners, their gunmen and their pawn, the militia, and the strikers in Calumet on Christmas Day after the holocaust in which women and children went to their death was that the thing was so quickly done that no one could tell just where to place the responsibility, though there wasn't a doubt in the minds of the strikers that it was murder."

The voice of Miss Emma Steghagen, secretary of the Women's Trade Union League of Chicago, trembled slightly, but her eyes flashed ominously as she made this reply to my question as to why the Michigan strikers had not attempted to pay back, as the Colorado strikers are now doing, the murder of their loved ones.

"The capitalists have grown mad with the taste of power," Miss Steghagen continued. "They have found it so easy to oppress the worker that they believe there is no limit to their power. If they cannot starve him into submission then they will teach him to submit by shooting to death his wife and children.

"But the very hatred they show toward the worker is rebounding upon themselves. There is a deep undercurrent of class hatred that is smouldering just now that may burst into flame at any moment, and when once it bursts into flame the capitalists will find it is a fire that cannot be checked.

"I have seen so much of the tactics the employers use toward the workers in strikes. Why, a class of men make their living and are dependent for their living upon their very brutality. They vie with each other to see which can be the most brutal and the most brutal set of gunmen get the most 'business' when it comes to an industrial war.

"In the strike of the button workers in Muscatine, Iowa, gunmen in autos would ride around the town, and if they saw a button worker whom they recognized, even though the man might not be picketing, but merely walking quietly along the street, the auto would stop, the gunmen would jump out and they would beat that man over the head until the blood poured down his face.

"Their whole aim was intimidation, and if they succeeded in intimidating the strikers so that they gave up the fight and went back to work it meant that that particular gang of gunmen would get the job elsewhere on their record for brutality in this strike.

"You do not have to go further than Chicago for that sort of hired brutality, paid for out of the pockets of the 'bosses.'

"Take the Heurici strike as an evidence: Girls were brutally handled until the women of the city arose against it, and when we appealed to the ministers to advocate the cause of the girl who asked \$8 a week and six days' work in seven the ministers wrote to us that they did sympathize with us, but they could not countenance any violence on our part.

"Yet they did and do countenance violence on the part of 'bosses' and their hired tools.

"In Muscatine, as in Calumet, the citizens, whose minds were poisoned by the advertising the 'bosses' were able to give to their own story of the strike, organized into a Citizens' Alliance.

"One afternoon we learned that they were going to hold a meeting that night to drive Emmett Flood, another organizer, and myself out of town.

"And we learned that their plan included taking Emmett Flood to the bridge over the Mississippi river and