

FAN FLAMES OF DISCONTENT IS ORDER'S SLOGAN

Industrial Workers of World In-vade California in the War Against Wage System

Plan to Change Social Scheme by Fight to Finish With-out Compromise

of discontent which the industrial workers of the world frankly preach. They are "floaters." Originally the order was recruited almost entirely from wanderers. Now it gets many home dwellers and it makes wanderers of a large number of these.

This wandering tendency on the part of laborers is a thing which few men realize and few understand. Industry nowadays has a tendency to demand homeless toilers. In many of the trades, men are needed in one locality today, and tomorrow they are needed somewhere else. The structural iron-worker, the lineman, the lumberman, and so on down the list of hard toilers, all are subject to this fluctuating demand. Also those unskilled laborers who gather the crops.

FOLLOW CALL OF INDUSTRY

As a consequence our railroads are at seasons swarmed by skilled train beaters, who sleep behind tie piles, beside the tracks or in "jungles" by river banks; and who ride on the trackbeams, the rods or the wind swept car tops. There are thousands of them—more than that—tens of thousands of them right here in California. I have seen well groomed businessmen, looking out from the observation car at them, and have heard these employers speak of them as hoboes or tramps. As a matter of fact they are neither. They work, many of them at skilled trades, and as regularly as they can. They follow the call of industry.

Another thing has helped to make these wanderers. Industrial disturbances—strikes, lockouts, blacklisting and all the other hard attendants of present progress and unrest, have sent thousands out on the road. And there is also that spirit which the Germans call "Die Wanderlust" and sends them forth. It helps to supply industry's demand for those who will hurry here and there for toil.

WAR ON WAGE SYSTEM

And the consequence? Less home dwellers, more of the homeless class. The saloon becomes a club for thousands of men who have no longer any family ties. They lose the old sense of satisfaction and responsibility; they become at once more restless and more discontented.

And that is the class of men who make the bulk of the I. W. W. In many places—especially in the east—the membership includes those who live with their wives and families. But the nature of the movement itself and the nature of the tenets of the order, make wanderers of many of these men. They go away from their homes to join "invasions" and to take part in demonstrations; and rarely indeed do they go back again.

The order itself is different from any labor union, and different from any other sociological body. It is a combination of both. It is universal organization, meant to include all races. Its creed is abolition of the wage system. The worker is to get more wages, and in the end to get a share—a large share, say the orators—of the profits of the production in which they take part.

ORIGIN OF MOVEMENT

Before 1904 this organization was small. You will remember the Cripple Creek strike; the western federation of miners; the long and bitter struggle, the dynamiting, the deportation. That was the history of the affair. After General Sherman Bell and his militia had escorted the cattle cars, laden to the guards with human freight, to Colorado's state line, and after they had seen these miners depart, a new impetus came to the gospel of discontent. The army of wandering toilers in the west was augmented by hundreds of men who were blacklisted in every western camp.

In that year the international workers of the world got its backbone, and that backbone came from the radical faction of the western federation of miners.

To these men, who had tried the union method of collective bargaining and had not liked it, the scheme of this new organization appealed. To abolish the wage system, to form a huge, international body, to gather the toilers of the world, to get them from rice swamps, from mines, from factories, from ships and from wherever men were sweating—and to marshal them in a fight for abolition of wages—that was the idea.

FIGHT FOR INDUSTRIAL CHANGE

The method by which to accomplish this was to be militant. No more collective bargaining. The idea now was to fight. To force the employer to give what these men demanded. No compromise, no treating, no agreements, save on minor issues. To change the scheme of things industrial and to bring about this new one. To give the workmen a large share of the production.

It appealed. It appealed to all these radical members of the old federation, and also it appealed to some thousands who had sympathized with them. As a consequence the gospel of discontent was preached more loudly and was spread more widely.

That year there were more camp fires, behind tie piles than there had been before; and there were more men steal-

Walter McSwain, Who Is Sheriff of County of Fresno



ing rides on trains than there had been before; and in the willows by every railroad trestle there were more hobo camps where workmen, on their way to jobs, rested during their journeys. And in every one of these places, where men had talked of Cripple Creek and had cursed while they were talking, organizers spread that idea of a great worldwide body which should abolish the wage system.

ORATORY AND AGITATION

Then came the day of soapbox oratory and silent agitation. The silent agitation, have always gone hand in hand among these organizers. One of them goes to a town, he gets a job, he starts to work, and he makes acquaintances with those who are working beside him. He tells these men this gospel of discontent; he outlines the scheme for the abolition of wages; he speaks persuasively, and draws utopian pictures.

And—mark you—in many cases he does not paint these pictures as being possible in this generation, he says that they will come many years from now; that the workmen's sons will enjoy these fruits of progress. And the toiler, listening, himself dissatisfied and eager for better things, becomes a convert; a convert who is willing to sacrifice himself for what he thinks will bring about a happier day after he is dead. That is like fanaticism.

Of course there is plenty of promise of more immediate improvement; assurance that the I. W. W. will bring about better wages and will secure shorter hours. But always the main thing is kept in mind—the day to come when a future generation will be sharers in profits and not wage earners.

The converts come; they join the order. And they begin to work at once. First, says the organizer, "limit the production, restrict your output, work as little as you can." He spreads this idea; he puts it as a matter of principle. And there is trouble on the works.

Meantime the organizer—in this new town and on this new job—keeps busy during his hours off shift. He spends his evenings "soap boxing." That is what they call it. On some box, or other little eminence, or when this is not practicable, on the curb, he stops and begins to make a speech. The street is crowded with men who are at leisure; the district is one frequented by the wage earning class. These listen to the orator. And usually the orator has a rough and a vivid power which holds men's interest.

In fervid language and with a loud voice, he inveighs against the present wage system; he calls the employing class hard names. He goes further; he says that all those who acquiesce in the ways of capital belong to the capitalistic class. And then he goes on to speak of wells or mentions instances of hardship or suffering which were the result of labor troubles. After this he describes the utopian conditions which the future will bring.

MEN HAPPY WHEN ARRESTED

That is ordinarily the gist of the speech. But it varies when there is to be a demonstration, as in Fresno. When the industrial workers of the world came here they came with a purpose. They had picked the San Joaquin valley because it was so rich and so productive. They had chosen it as the scene of a demonstration—a free speech fight, they call it now. But that free speech idea is simply a battle cry, and not the issue itself. These men came to Fresno and they talked from their soap boxes. There was no trouble.

You have read of the suffragettes in England, how they wanted to be arrested for the sake of making a demonstration? Apply the same motive here. Those early speeches brought no trouble. The speakers came from the Mexican and Chinese quarters, where they had been holding forth, and sought the main streets. Then they talked more violently. They said things about the American flag; they spoke of the red banner and the red flag they knew; they talked of robbery as being, on occasion, justifiable. And then they got what they wanted. The police arrested them. They were happy; men were taking them seriously.

That was the beginning of the Fresno trouble. Since that time many things have happened. There has been some bad business in the streets. And, through it all, the international workers of the world have kept on trying to speak.

And, when they try to speak now, these I. W. W. men do not make any incendiary remarks at all. They talk decently and with some temperance. Arrested, they protest. And so they gain sympathy.

In other words, certain organizers very skillfully started a fight in which at present the law abiding element of the community, being much angered—has been doing and is doing things that look bad. Hence the ease with which the organization gets recruits to flock toward Fresno.

The newcomers are traveling from as far as New York. Many of them have come from homes; many others were wanderers for years. As they come, they preach. They preach when they beg food; they preach when they are with tramps. They disseminate this one idea—discontent. In order to arouse men to dissatisfaction they need some concrete example of the wrong which they say is a part of the present conditions of society. This example is Fresno.

BRAINS AIDED BY ANARCHISTS

That is the idea. The movement is headed by men of brains and old labor organizers. It gets sympathy from Emma Goldman's anarchistic center in Chicago—it even is said to get financial aid from them. I get that statement from I. W. W. men in Fresno. These leaders, who have brains and keen ideas, started the Fresno fight, and now these hundreds who are marching over America—incited by the literature that has been sent out from headquarters—offer Fresno as an example of present conditions. They say, the businessmen commit mob violence; the police are unfair in law enforcement; the law is acting against the workmen. And the consequence is more dissatisfaction among the workmen. It is frequently

Soap-box Orators Secure Concessions

more than that; it often amounts to a hatred of the law. This is a militant movement. In such movements you need not look for gentleness of method, nor need you look for fairness. Who is fair can not fight. The two things don't go together. It is a movement which depends upon its movers being taken seriously. Just as soon as crowds get angry and police arrest, these preachers of discontent see that they have accomplished something. Martyrdom is what they want. And by that they gain converts.

It is, therefore, a peculiarly hard problem which people in Fresno face. For when a man wants to go to jail it is difficult to keep him out. It becomes harder when that man is being paid wages for staying behind the bars. In Fresno several of the imprisoned I. W. W. leaders are drawing \$3 a day while serving out their sentences. This money comes to them from the organization's Chicago headquarters.

The significant part of the I. W. W. movement seems to me to rest in the fact that it has recently become so widespread and so well organized. It exists all over America today. It is carrying on strikes in New York and New England at this time. It owns six newspapers, printed in four different tongues. It has much money, and its members include large property owners of veritable zealots. It is a possibility, and it may accomplish many things—for ultimate evil or good, for harm or benefit, for peace or violence, as the case may be. It is something to be reckoned with.

TROUBLE ENDED BY COMPROMISE

Fresno Trustees Agree to Release Prisoners to Stop Invasion

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

FRESNO, March 1.—At a special meeting of the board of trustees, held late this afternoon, a peaceable settlement was effected with the I. W. W. organization in the form of a compromise. The members of the I. W. W. in jail submitted their proposition, following a conference with the citizens' committee. It provides that they be allowed to speak in two designated places in the city, and that all prisoners be paroled.

The proposition was unanimously accepted by the trustees and the release of the prisoners will begin tomorrow morning. They will be given their freedom in groups of three and four by Sheriff McSwain.

The requests made by the I. W. W. prisoners through their special committee were as follows: We, the undersigned committee, acting under authority of all the members of the industrial workers of the world now in the county jail of Fresno county, propose the following:—The parole of all the prisoners under conviction and the release of all prisoners not yet convicted as the result of the speech controversy.

Second—The granting of a permit to speak in K street, between Mariposa and Fresno streets, as designated by the board of supervisors, and Tulare street between F and G streets in Chinatown.

Third—In consideration of the above we agree to notify the general headquarters and all the locals of the organization to stop sending men to Fresno and we also agree to use our best efforts to stop men who are already on the way to Fresno. The same is to be published in all six of our weekly publications and official organs.

C. L. FLIGINO, ED COLLINS, J. B. PHELPS, F. H. LITTLE.

A mass meeting of prominent businessmen was held at the chamber of commerce this morning, when the report of the citizens' committee which received the I. W. W. proposal, was made public.

An effort was made to get the industrialists to make a written agreement to leave the city, but this was opposed by the committee, whose members asserted that while the industrialists had verbally agreed to send all

their agitators away, they would not make an agreement in writing.

The advice of the committee regarding an agreement on the part of the industrialists to leave the city was taken and the original proposition accepted.

It was stated today that the trouble was started by Santa Fe company officials, who urged the chief of police to stop the I. W. W. organization because it was organizing the peons.

The special citizens' committee has been in session almost two weeks, during which time a mass of evidence has been secured. Much of this will not now be made public, however.

The compromise was effected only after several long conferences. The members of the committee are: M. B. Harris, Sig Wormser, W. O. Miles, A. V. Sisenby and E. E. Manheim.

Band Stops at Redding

REDDING, March 1.—Seventy industrial workers of the world, bound for Fresno, arrived here last night, and will remain until tomorrow. They are being well treated, a local hotel furnishing them meals free, while bed and temporary quarters being given them by citizens.

PLAYGROUND DIRECTORS TO ENTERTAIN CHILDREN

Social Experiment to Be Tried for Youth

OAKLAND, March 1.—The playground directors have invited 40 children in the neighborhood of the Washington school to attend a social to be given under the auspices of the playground commission Friday night, March 3. In the hall of the Washington school, Sixtieth street and Shattuck avenue. Members of the playground commission and the directors of the playground in Bushrod park will assist in receiving the guests. Among those in the receiving party will be: Mrs. Cora Jones, Dr. and Mrs. Erigo Majors, C. E. Hudspeth, Johann Johnson and Elbert Vail. The youngsters will be accompanied by their parents and a program will be given. The event is

Gray hair restored to natural color by Alfredum's Egyptian Henna. A harmless dye—covert, quick, sure. All druggists.

RUEF REVERSAL AFFECTS REDDING DAMAGE SUIT

Thomas Brown of Orland Loser by Decision

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

REDDING, March 1.—The decision of the supreme court in the Ruef case yesterday that an order can not be made by the court unless the judges signing the order are within jurisdiction at the time has caused a reversal of the order for a rehearing in the case of Thomas Brown of Orland, Glenn county, against the Northern California power company of Redding for \$3,000 damages. Brown lost his suit, but secured a rehearing order in the supreme court. Justice Henshaw signing the order.

BANK FILES ANSWER IN MCKINNON CONTEST

Administrator Claims Cash on Deposit at Death

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

JACKSON, March 1.—The answer of the Savings Union-bank of San Francisco in the suit of the administrator of the estate of Malcolm C. McKinnon has been filed here. The bank is acting in behalf of McKinnon's son, who seeks to secure the \$3,000 deposited with the bank when McKinnon died at Pine Grove last August.

HORSES CRUSH DRIVER 'TWTIX WAGON AND BARN

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

WOODLAND, March 1.—Luther J. Spencer, employed on the ranch of Fred Ulrich, was crushed to death late yesterday afternoon in a peculiar manner. He was hauling grain and had just alighted from the wagon at the barn. The horses stopped and he slapped them to urge them on. As they started he was pinioned between the wagon

and the side of the barn and his life crushed out.

POSTOFFICE ORDERS RURAL MAIL ROUTES

[Special Dispatch to The Call]

WASHINGTON, March 1.—Rural mail route No. 1 will be established at Calxico, Imperial county, May 1, and route No. 1 at Glenn, Glenn county, May 1. The following postmasters have been appointed: Pope Valley, Napa county, Mrs. Little Schaefer, vice Jacob Rath; resigned; Brownell, Slackyou county, William L. Luckett, vice Mary H. Reed, resigned.

ROBERT EMMET'S NATAL DAY WILL BE OBSERVED

Knights of Red Branch to Honor Memory of Patriot

The one hundred and thirty-third anniversary of the birth of Robert Emmet will be celebrated at the hall of the Knights of the Red Branch, 1133 Mission street, on Saturday night, by the members of the order and their friends. The program arranged for the evening is one of the best that has ever been offered in connection with the Emmet celebration, which takes place annually.

The Irish volunteers will attend the celebration in full uniform and, as usual, several squads will be detailed to act as ushers. A record breaking crowd is anticipated, as nearly a thousand tickets have been disposed of to date.

Mayor P. H. McCarthy will deliver the opening address, Samuel M. Shortridge will deliver the oration on Emmet, and Peter J. McCormick will recite Emmet's immortal speech delivered from the dock. A musical program will be rendered after the speeches. The following committee has charge of the arrangements: P. J. Reilly, chairman; Thomas Monihan, secretary; P. J. Kelleher, John B. Walsh, J. O'Sullivan, P. J. O'Shea and John Condon.

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