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EDITORIALS

THE UNION VS. THE STATE.

By COVINGTON HALL.

The following article was published in "The Industrial Worker" about a year ago. All that has since occurred, in my belief, only strengthens the argument then made. The silence in regard to the great strikes and struggles of the workers has been broken, but only to be succeeded by a campaign of lying, vilification and violence seldom seen. All of which is an indication that the Old Order is in its death throes—that the Union is pushing the State to wall. The article follows:

The union and the state have nothing in common. The union is of the working class; the state is of the capitalist class. The union is based on *man*; the state on *property*. The union is a brotherhood; the state is a plunderbund.

From the very moment when the first union sprang into existence the state began the relentless war that can only end in the destruction of union or state, for in these two social organizations are bound up the life and death, the hopes and ambitions, the welfare and the ideals of the democracy and the despotism, of the working class and the capitalist class, one of which must rule the world, for rulership cannot be divided. It was because the I. W. W. saw this enmity, the enmity between the union and state, so clearly, and because it so boldly proclaimed it, and itself the form of the future society, that it has met with such vicious opposition from the state and its creators and hangers-on. The masters know as well as do the workers, and better, it seems, where the *power* of the workers lies—where all power lies to-day—in industrial solidarity, in union, and that a *union* of the working class means a new order of society, which means the *elimination* of classes from the world, which means the *destruction* of the state, wherefore the masters encourage all things that tend to obscure the main issue, that tend to blind the workers to the destiny of the union, which is to overthrow and succeed the state.

Already, by sheer force of economic evolution, the shell of the state is cracking in all directions and they who resist the attempt of the class-conscious workers to build up the I. W. W. are resisting that which alone can save the world from "anarchy" such as the capitalist never dreamed of in his most frightened definition of that word.

That the ruling class recognizes that a social crisis is near at hand is borne witness to by a thousand facts, as witness the silence of their press in regard to all the recent great strikes and struggles of the workers, their attempts to revive the dying spirit of patriotism; their "philanthropic" and "religious" activity; their battle call to racial hatred; their wild, despairing and desperate effort to create "a man on horseback" out of the sawdust hero, Theodore Roosevelt, the hypocritical pleader for "the family" and "the home," beautiful things that cannot exist for the workers as long as he and his kind are allowed to dominate the destiny of the race.

And the crisis that is on us is not a "political" crisis; it is not an industrial crisis—it is a *social crisis*.

We are near the topmost crest of an age of evolution—we are on a battlefield of destiny—the armies of Democracy and Despotism, no matter whether the living-dead who cumber the earth like it or not, are closing in on each other for a finish-fight, the prize of which will be the control of the labor-power of the human race by the victor.

It is because the *true*, the *revolutionary* union seeks to control the labor-power of the workers for the workers, and subordinates everything else to that end, that it awakens the hatred of the property-guarding state, which cannot help but see in this latest child of evolution, the *revolutionary* industrial union, an enemy that means its ruin if it cannot be crushed.

As to which is to be crushed, the property-guarding state, or the man-protecting union, the working class, and the working class alone, can say.

But every day and hour this truth is more clearly and sharply seen—the union and the state have *NOTHING* in common, and, as the union grows, the state must wane, for the new is born by a *revolution OUT of the old and not by an evolution of the old INTO the new*—"the expropriators are expropriated." Industrial democracy means, if words mean anything, the *seizure* of the natural resources and the machinery of production by the working class, which must mean the socialization of industry, which must mean the end of the reign of property over man, which must mean the fall of the state and the reorganization of society on a social basis, around the union.

The I. W. W. IS the embryo of the new society.

VIVID ACCOUNT OF HOP FIELD HORRORS.

By "MURPHY."

On Sunday evening, August 3d, a tragedy was enacted near the town of Wheatland, California. Four lives were lost any many persons were wounded owing to the rapacious greed of those who care not for human lives when their profits are threatened.

The Durst Brothers of Wheatland, California, own large hop ranches adjoining that town, and every season employ from 2000 to 2500 pickers to harvest the hops on their ranches. Men, women and children are engaged as pickers.

The conditions existing this season as in former years were intolerable, the water was not fit to drink, and the Durst Brothers refused to deliver water of any kind to the pickers in the field who were engaged in gathering the hops sweltering under the scorching rays of a torrid sun, toiling long and weary hours for a paltry pittance.

The system of payment as well as the rate of wages was most unfair to the pickers.

Men, women and children were compelled to use the same lavatory and on account of lack of sufficient toilet accommodations men, women and children were forced to stand in line awaiting their turn to use the same toilet.

It would be a hard task to try and describe the loathsome plague-spots that the Durst Brothers have the contemptuous nerve to insult the pickers by calling them toilets.

What is called a toilet in a hop-camp, is nothing but a short trench with a few upright pieces of lumber covered with burlap or else some old boards, and having no sewerage connection the human excrement is allowed to accumulate throughout the hop-picking season. The stench arising from such abominably filthy places is sufficient to cause some persons to become faint and sick while using them.

Why does the Board of Health permit such atrocious conditions to prevail, endangering the health and lives of thousands of men, women and children of the working class?

Well, we know the reason why. It would cause a slight decrease in the masters' profit.

Ranting Reformers and politically-polluted-Progressives rave and shout about what they call "morality" and yet they permit such damnable conditions to exist, and don't even pretend to attempt to compel such employers as Durst Brothers to obey the laws of common decency in reference to the sexes, by forcing them to have separate toilets for men and women. And such despicable creatures are eulogized as being eminently respectable and God-loving people (save the mark).

On the day mentioned, the wage-slaves working at the Durst Brothers ranch revolted against the degrading and pauperizing system of Durst Brothers. 2500 men, women and children insisted upon a redress of their just grievances. All the pickers were united, several nationalities were represented, even Japanese and Greeks. Certain demands were presented to Ralph Durst, one of the owners. This was a severe jolt to Durst. His slaves had revolted. How dare you rebel! How can they ask for more wages and better conditions! Well he, Mr. Ralph Durst would show them something. He would get the Peace (?) officers.

The Peace (?) officers came to the ranch at Ralph Durst bidding. What followed is now a matter of history. And it is only another bloody chapter in the record of Labor's struggle for emancipation from the galling cursed yoke of wage-slavery.

The Peace (?) officers came to Durst Brothers' ranch and pursued the same death-dealing tactics their kind the world over use when the master-class call on them to try and prevent awakening class-conscious wage-slaves who dare to assert themselves and use their economic power to gain the wealth their labor-power has produced, but which the exploiting master-class has stolen from them.

As a result of the visit of the Sheriff and his posse and their bloody and brutal acts two workingmen, one a white man, the other a colored man were slaughtered. The District Attorney of Yuba County and a deputy sheriff also got killed.

Those who were engaged on the "Law (?) and Order" (?) side have several different versions of how the bloody affair started.

According to the Los Angeles "Times", a particularly rabid anti-labor paper the Peace (?) officers started the shooting for Ralph Durst is quoted as saying in a carefully prepared statement that the sheriff "he fired his revolver into the air as emphasis" because for sooth the strikers would not disperse immediately and stop holding a peaceful meeting when his "Nibs" the sheriff ordered them. What authority has a sheriff on any other Peace (?) officer to disperse a peaceful meeting?

Previous to the above episode, Constable Anderson tried to arrest a man who was walking along peacefully, without a warrant, and when the man objected the Constable hurried to town and secured a warrant, his acts proving that he was acting illegally in attempting the arrest without a warrant.

Another of the many versions by the "authorities" is given by Henry Daken, of Marysville, Calif. This fellow Daken is a game warden. In the Stockton Daily Independent of August 6th, under the caption "New Version of cause of Riot by Game Warden," appears this self-accusing statement:

"HENRY DAKEN SAYS HE FIRED FIRST SHOT THAT PRECIPITATED THE MELEE."

Then the Independent states "Daken said he fired into the air and he discharged the shot to intimidate the workmen" (marks the word intimidate). What right had Daken to intimidate workingmen when they are having a peaceful meeting, except it was to cause trouble and perhaps shed the blood of workers, if necessary, in the interests of Durst Brothers?

After trying to justify his cowardly act Daken is quoted as follows: Daken said he then fired point blank at the negro and killed him. It was *after* this, he said that Voss was beaten and Reardan was killed.

So HENRY DAKEN, according to the Independent ADMITS that AFTER he killed the negro that trouble started which resulted in more lives being lost. But Daken is not even arrested and tried for his cowardly killing of a workingman—WHY? Answer the question yourself, you ought to know the answer.

Here are a few excerpts from an editorial in the Pasadena "Daily News" of August 4th, commenting on the Wheatland tragedy:

"The indiscreet and even brutal conduct of the sheriff who was wounded in the fracas seems to have precipitated the shooting.

"Instead of using argument and pacificatory methods the peace officer attempted to ride rough-shod over the crowd with disastrous results. Following the action of the Constable who sought ineffectually to arrest the I. W. W. organizer, without a warrant, the sheriff and his posse appeared and interrupted a meeting by pulling the speaker from a stand, employing violent language in so doing.

"Of course, all is quite nows. The damage has been done and the presence of the militia patrolling the disaffected district assures tranquility. But what about the culpability of the ranch owners whose picayune policy in ignoring the welfare of the workers led to the strike and to the subsequent rioting? What about the absence of drinking water in the fields, the scarcity of toilet accommodations, the single lavatory for both sexes? Wholly aside from the demand for better pay these are factors calculated to arouse the animosity of the hop pickers and for gross neglect of their comfort the ranch owners must be held strictly accountable. It is a costly lesson to other employers of similar itinerant labor but, perhaps a much needed one. Let the state heed it well and enact laws compelling employers to observe the decencies, at least, in making arrangements for the congestion of labor which the hop picking or fruit gathering entails."

An inquest was held, and notwithstanding the varied acknowledgments of guilt from the authorities and their allies the coroner's jury found that the disturbance was a result of I. W. W. agitation and recommended that special efforts be made to apprehend some one they call Blackie Ford and any others that may be guilty. While the same jury exonerated the slayer of the negro workingman because such action was, the jury said, in the line of his duty. (Of course).

The sheriff and his gunmen are lauded for their bloody work, and the workers who try to defend themselves from the murderous assaults of those in power are condemned.

The workers' struggle for economic freedom has been along a gresome path and many ghastly tragedies have occurred to maintain the supremacy of the robbing, ruling class, so that they may continue to fatten and live in riotous extravagance on the wealth produced by the blood and sweat of the toilers.

Men and women of the working class, how long are you going to permit the master class to continue their awful carnage!

How long, you toilers, will you permit your fellow-workers to be murdered to give profit to your masters?

How long, will you, the producers of all wealth, permit the capitalist human vultures and their carrion hirelings to gloat like buzzards when men and women, aye, and even little children of the working class are ruthlessly slaughtered to maintain profits for the master class?

The masters have some workers arrested in Wheatland, California and possibly will try to railroad them to the penitentiary, while the Durst Brothers, Sheriff Voss and Game Warden Henry Daken are allowed their liberty.

Working men and women, there is a way whereby we can stop the murdering of our brothers and sisters. That way is to enlist in the ranks of the I. W. W., form ONE BIG UNION of the workers of every race, use your economic power and take control of the world and its wealth.

The class war is on, and will only be terminated by Labor being triumphant, and abolishing wage-slavery.

In the struggle the class conscious wage-slaves may once in a while get a temporary set back, but they will come back better organized and stronger and more determined than before.

"For Freedom's battle once begun

Bequeathed from bleeding sire to son,

Through baffled oft, is ever won."

Wage workers do your duty! Join the union of your class, the I. W. W.

If you want Industrial Freedom you must get it yourselves.

The day of saviors is passed!

You must break your chains yourselves if you want freedom from capitalistic tyranny!

To win you must organize! The only real working class organization is the I. W. W.

Get in the ranks! Join the I. W. W.

Then we will stop the Boss and his hirelings from murdering our brothers and sisters, we will get what our labor-power produces. Poverty, prostitution and all other social ills caused by wage-slavery will be abolished when the workers are united in the I. W. W.

ETA EST.

Luther Burbank has produced a spineless Cactus. Capitalism has produced millions of spineless men.

Jails are again becoming what they have always been in great revolutionary eposes—temples of liberty and halls of fame.

The survival of the fittest is the scientific song that regulates the universe and pushes things along; and in the world's class struggle there isn't any doubt but the idle, useless class will some day peter out; this means that only useful folks will finally survive, because no other class is fit to feed and keep alive.