

MIGHT IS RIGHT

Organization  Is Power

TRUTH CONQUERS ALL THINGS

THE LUMBERJACK

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL"

VOLUME I.

ALEXANDRIA, LA., THURSDAY, JAN. 9, 1913.

NUMBER 1.

THE STRIKE AT MERRYVILLE

The strike at Merryville is still on. It has been on sixty days now. The boys still have the plant closed down tight. Nothing but starvation can whip them, and this is the game the Association is trying to play.

TO ARMS, YOU REBELS!

This strike at Merryville is a battle to maintain rights older than organized society itself. In forcing it the Lumber Kings have challenged civilization itself, for the strike was brought on by the order of the American Lumber Company discharging every man who was in any way, *even as a witness*, connected with the defense in the Grabow trial. For this order the Union-hating Santa Fe Railroad is responsible.

It is backing the Southern Lumber Operators Association in its savage war to destroy all labor organizations, regardless of affiliation, in the South. Therefore, we contend that the fight being made by our Union at Merryville has become the concern of every Labor Union on earth, of every working man, woman and child, of every lover of human liberty in the world.

ARISE!

Don't let these splendid fighters at Merryville be starved back into submission. Don't let the Union-haters and liberty-crucifiers re-establish the old race-destroying peon system in Western Louisiana. Help these fighting lumberjacks to

win the fight for liberty through all the South. Hear and heed their call for help for, mingled with it is the cry of the child peons in the cotton mills and canning factories, the sob of the baby convicts of the cruel Southern Oligarchy! Brothers and sisters of our Mother Labor, we appeal to you to *act*, and *act at once!* Rush funds and provisions into Merryville *today*. Do not put it off until *tomorrow*, for tomorrow may never come! **DO IT NOW!** Send all funds and provisions to Lee Lovejoy, Financial Secretary, Merryville, La.

Register all letters containing funds, else they may never reach destination, for the law-abiding Lumber Kings are sabotaging our mail.

Get Busy! United we stand—divided we fall!

PEONAGE AT MERRYVILLE

We understand that certain imaginary officials of the imaginary State of Louisiana have denied that anything even savoring of peonage exists at Merryville, so we submit to the people of the world the following affidavits, which need no comment to prove our contention:

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
Parish of Calcasieu.

Before me, James C. Meadows, a Notary Public in and for the Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana, on this day personally came and appeared Joe Jones, who, upon his oath deposes and says: That he was approached by a colored man on Orleans Street, Beaumont, who told him that they wanted hands at Merryville, La., for a new job; he was told that he would receive his pay every Monday night, but Monday night is passed and no pay.

That when he came to Merryville, La., he was put to work in a mill that was inclosed in a plank wall about eight feet high; that he and others worked under an armed guard; said guards kept watch on them everywhere they went, and at night; that he was sick and wanted to come in town to get some medicine; that one of the guards at the gate told him he could not get back without a pass, and they (the guards) would not let him come out till he worked a while and until they found out he was sick. After getting out he would not go back. He said they certainly made them work hard for the price of \$1.75 per day, and that they charged them \$4.00 per week board.

He said that you could not get out of the inclosure unless you had a pass.

Attest:
J. A. MARTIN,
H. T. PENSON.
His
JOE X JONES.
Mark

Sworn to and subscribed before me in the presence of J. A. Martin and H. T. Penson, lawful witnesses, this 18th day of Dec., 1912. JAMES C. MEADOWS,
Notary Public.

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
Parish of Calcasieu.

Before me, James C. Meadows, a Notary Public in and for the Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana, personally came and appeared R. L. Aycock, who upon his oath deposes and says that he was helping to fire at night at saw mill "B." That he was working between the 17th and 16th day of November, 1912, after the strike at Merryville, when during a conversation with one of the guards, he (the guard) said "he would be glad if some of them g—d d—n B. of T. W. would start something; he would like to kill some of them, to set an

example, like they did at Grabow." He says to me, "you see George Gardiner or Jim Estes and be sworn in and help us kill them." George Gardiner would get us out of it.

R. L. AYCOCK.
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of Dec., A. D., 1912. JAS. C. MEADOWS.
(Seal)

Statement of N. T. Smiley and Wm. Marsh Under Oath.
STATE OF LOUISIANA,
Parish of Calcasieu.

A Mr. Smith came to me (N. T. Smiley) and my friend (Wm. Marsh) and asked us if we wanted to work at Merryville, and we said yes, we would work. And then we asked about the conditions at Merryville and he (Smith) said there was no strike and no trouble at all and also said there was no stockade to put us in after we got there. In order to verify his (Smith's) statement he taken us before Gus. Martin (deputy sheriff) and had him tell us that everything Smith said was true. They then taken us on a train at DeRidder to come to Merryville, and then the train stopped at a cut some place between Neal and Merryville and he (Smith) told us to get off; so we got off and were met by some strikers who told us the strike was on, and after Smith strapped a big long six-shooter on him, we told him he told us a lie, and he said nothing, so we went on to town and found the conditions just the opposite of what Smith told us.

And a man who said he was a deputy sheriff and had charge of a gate to the stockade, said no man could go in or out without a pass issued by one James L. Estes for the Am. Lbr. Co.

NATHAN THOMAS SMILEY,
WILLIAM MARSH.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10th day of Dec., 1912. JAMES C. MEADOWS,
Notary Public.

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
Parish of Calcasieu.

Before me, James C. Meadows, Notary Public, in and for the Parish of Calcasieu, State of Louisiana, on this day personally came and appeared E. B. Sanford, who upon his oath deposes, and says: That he came to Merryville about 10 days ago and that he got a job with the American Lumber Co.; that he received a pass from said company entitling him to pass at any point in the work day or night. That they told him that the wages paid was two dollars per day and up, but that they paid him \$1.75 and down to \$1.50 per day. That

they had guards all over the works; if you wasn't busy at work, you would have to show your pass to every guard you met. That they did not fail to work a man for his money.

E. B. SANFORD.
Sworn to and subscribed before me, James C. Meadows, at Merryville, La., this 31 day of Dec., A. D., 1912.

JAMES C. MEADOWS,
Notary Public.

Merryville, La., 12|12|12.
Before me, James C. Meadows, a Notary Public in and for the Parish of Calcasieu and State of Louisiana, on this day personally came and appeared Dec Sampson, who upon his oath, deposes, and says: That he was approached by one Williams, on Orleans Street, Beaumont, Texas, who asked him if he did not want to go to Merryville, to saw mill, that he would receive \$1.75 or \$2.00 per day, and that if he was a good man he would receive a raise. That he in company with others got aboard at Beaumont and came through to Merryville. That about two miles from Merryville a man came through the train and fastened down the windows and locked the doors. The conductor asked this man why he locked the doors; he answered, to keep any one from coming into the coach and talking with them; then the conductor told him that if he wanted his men he would have to guard them. This man then unlocked the doors. When the train was pulled beyond the station or between stations, when he with others was taken off the train and guarded with guns into the stockade with guns.

Hsi
DEE X SIMPSON.
Mark

Attest:
ED. LEHMAN,
C. T. BELT,
J. C. FRUZIA.

At the same time and place Louis Olande, who upon his oath says that the above statements are true and correct, and that in addition to above, says, J. L. Estes told them not to be afraid; that before any harm could come to them there would be some shooting done, and when they were placed inside the stockade, he told them they were safe.

That during the time he was in the stockade he saw the guards whip two colored fellows because they wanted to get out.

Attest:
ED. LEHMAN,
C. T. BELT,
J. C. FRUZIA.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 12th day of Dec., A. D., 1912. JAMES C. MEADOWS,
Notary Public.

STAND PAT, BOYS!

Chicago, Ill., January 4th, 1913.

Mr. Covington Hall,
Alexandria, La.

Fellow Worker:

Your wire of the 3rd inst. at hand and contents of the same carefully noted. In reply will state that a special appeal has been sent to all locals to make an extra effort to send funds into Merryville local. All Haywood Meetings West, are to be used to collect funds. With best wishes, I am

Yours for Industrial Freedom,

VINCENT ST. JOHN,
Gen. Sec'y-Treas., I. W. W.

A New Year's Call

To All Members of Forest and Lumber Workers.

Fellow Workers: For weeks and weeks the brave Lumberjacks have been on strike at Merryville, La. They have stood together as one man against Peonage and the Black-list of the American Lumber Co. The strikers aim to win and they will win the Merryville strike if only you will answer their call for help to feed their hungry wives and babies. They do not beg you, they Appeal to you for funds to keep them from actual starvation and they will carry this strike on to victory. Call a meeting of the members of your local, call on all workers who are not members, give them all a chance to contribute to the strikers. Form committees on every job for the purpose of raising funds and sending the same to the fighting Lumberjacks at Merryville. Remem-

ber, an injury to one is a concern of all; every struggle won by workers is one step nearer industrial freedom. Send donations to Lee Lovejoy, Secretary Strike Committee, Merryville, La.

JAY SMITH,
Sec'y Southern Dis't.

Trees don't care who fell them. They make just as good lumber when felled by the hands of a negro, a Hindoo, or any other race, as when coming from the hands of a white American citizen. In hiring men, employers pick according to muscle and skill, not nationality. The interests of all who work in the woods and mills are the same.—The Industrial Worker.

Boost "The Lumberjack." Subscribe today.