

THE LUMBERJACK

Education
Organization
Emancipation



Freedom in
Industrial
Democracy

Published Weekly by National Industrial Union of Forest and Lumber Workers, Southern District.
Office of Publication:
335 Carondelet Street, New Orleans, La.
COVINGTON HALL, Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:	
Yearly, United States	\$1.00
Six Months, United States	.50
Foreign, Yearly	1.50
Bundle Orders, Per Copy (in Canada)	.02 1/2
Bundle Orders, Per Copy (in United States)	.02
Bundles, Orders of 500 or more (Spot Cash) Per Copy	.01 1/2
Single Copies	.05

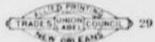
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NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL UNION OF FOREST AND LUMBER WORKERS—SOUTHERN DISTRICT.
District Headquarters 1194 Gould Avenue, Alexandria, Louisiana
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EXECUTIVE BOARD—SOUTHERN DISTRICT.
Ed. Lehman, E. E. Shaw, E. L. Ashworth, P. M. Collins, D. R. Gordon.

Entered as Second-Class Mail Matter, January 9th, 1913, at the Post Office at Alexandria, La., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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EDITORIALS

IN MEMORIAN.

On the 11th day of June, 1913 there fell on the wharves of the city of New Orleans the first two men to be martyred in this Southern city for the great cause of Industrial Democracy. They were Fellow-workers Robert Newman of the Marine Transport Workers and Carl Paulus of the Sailors. Both were young, in the first full life of manhood. Both died smiling, sending cheering messages back to their brothers on the battle-line. Both were fully conscious of the mighty work their class is set to do by destiny and, so, its folds deepened to a purer red by their heroic blood, over both the Crimson Banner proudly waves to-night. And it seems that I can hear their spirits singing:

Let us rise and march, my Comrades, to the song that Freedom sings,
Let us hurl a *Man's* defiance in the ashen face of Kings;
Let us rise as one and gather 'round our war flags, flaming red,
'Till the whole world shakes and trembles to the thunder of our tread!
Onward! Onward! Onward!
'Till the toilers all are free!
Forward! Forward! Forward!
Death! Death! Death or Liberty!
To the dead, peace. To the living, on with the fight!

LABOR'S DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE.

By COVINGTON HALL.

When in the Course of events it becomes necessary for one class to dissolve the bonds which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of earth, the supreme station to which the Laws of Nature entitle them, a decent respect for the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are entitled to economic equality, that they are endowed by Nature with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever and Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute a new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them may seem most likely to effect their Safety, and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of the Workers, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present Ruling Class is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over the Workers. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world. The Ruling Class has refused its assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. It has forbidden its Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till its assent be obtained, and when so suspended, it has utterly neglected to attend to them. It has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large numbers of people, unless those people would relinquish the Right of Representation in Industry, a right inestimable to them and formidable to

tyrants only. It has obstructed the Administration of Justice. It has made Judges dependent on its Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries. It has erected a multitude of Useless Offices, and sent out swarms of Parasites to harass the Workers and eat out their substance. It has kept among us, in times of peace, vast hordes of Gompersites to the great Injury of our Interests. It has effected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power. It has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving its assent to their Acts of pretended Order: For quartering large bodies of armed thugs among us; for protecting them, by a mock Trial, from punishment from any murders which they should commit on the Workers; for cutting off our right to enter and use the machinery of Production and Distribution, upon which right our lives and the lives of our loved ones depend; for imposing burdens on us without our Consent; for depriving us in many cases of the benefits of Trial by Jury; for transporting us thousands of miles from home to be tried for pretended offenses; for denying us the Fruits of our Toil; for abolishing the free System of Laws and establishing in its stead a System which makes Justice a Thing subject to barter and sale; for taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Unions; for imprisoning our Delegates and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever; it has abdicated Government here by declaring us Vagrants, after making it impossible for us to Labor, and waging War against us; it has plundered us on the Seas, ravaged us on the Coasts, robbed us in the Valleys, outraged us in the Mountains, and destroyed the Lives of our people; it is at this time maintaining large Armies of Mercenaries to complete the work of enslavement, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty and perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a Civilized nation; it has constrained our fellow-workers taken Captives on the high Seas of Hunger to bear Arms against their Class, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or fall themselves by its Hands; it has excited Craft, Race and Religious wars amongst us, and has employed against our Organization, the merciless Defective Savages, whose known rule of warfare is an undistinguished and un-pitying persecution of all ages, sexes and conditions. In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms. Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Class, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfitted for civilization, and civilization or it must perish.

Nor have we been wanting in attention to our Capitalist rulers. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their Labor Lieutenants to extend unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have appealed to whatever shadow of justice and magnanimity may still remain with them, and have conjured them by the ties of human kinship to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They have been deaf to the voice of justice and mercy. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces their Systems, proclaims its overthrow and compels the establishment of the Industrial Democracy. We, therefore, the Representatives of the Industrial Workers of the World, in General Convention Assembled, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the World's Workers, solemnly publish and declare, That the Working Class, is, and of Right ought to be, free and interdependent; that it is Absolved from all Allegiance and Service to the Capitalist Class, and that all connection between it and the Ruling Class, is and ought to be totally dissolved; that since the Workers alone produce all wealth, they alone are entitled to own and enjoy all wealth; and that, as Free and Independent human beings cannot exist in a Class-Divided Society, the abolition of Classes is and ought to be decreed. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the justice of our Cause, we, the Workers, on Farm and Ship and Railroad, in Mine and Shop and Forest, mutually pledge each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

THE REAL GOVERNMENT TO-DAY.

By B. E. NILSSON.

The building up of corporations and trusts, and combinations of trusts, marks the beginning of a new economic organization of capitalism, a new government, in which neither the working class nor the greater part of the capitalist class can take any important part. This new government—which for convenience, may be called the Industrial Plutocracy—may at times make use of the political government; but in proportion as it develops it becomes more competent to settle the economic questions of the capitalist class, and the political government loses in the same proportion its character as an economic organization.

To-day the Industrial Plutocracy is the real power, and the state is little more than a tool or a dummy which could be discarded if it were not that the people would resent the abolition of what they are pleased to call "their government." The state has lost the greater part of the economic power it once had, and another economic organization has grown up which is far more powerful than the state ever was. While the political government was a real economic power, it was immensely important for any class in society to have political representation; but when the political government has lost its power, such representation can be of no real value to any class.

There was a time when the state could levy tribute on all groups of capitalists for the maintenance of civil institutions and military force, and could, if need be, compel submission from any and all groups of capitalists. Now, the stronger groups of capitalists can force the smaller capitalists to pay the tax for them; and the state can use neither civil nor military power against them. The Industrial Plutocracy controls the state—and, through it the military power.

There was a time when laws were really made in Congress and Legislature; but the laws are now written by corporation lawyers, and legislators vote to pass them under economic pressure applied by the Industrial Plutocracy.

There was a time when political officials were really elected by the people because the people could pay what was then considered good salaries; now the real election takes place at a convention where the people have no voice, and the Industrial Plutocracy can pay larger salaries and can therefore command better service.

There was a time when bribery and other political treason was considered a crime, now it is regarded as a respectable and profitable business.

The courts have always favored those who had economic power, but it is only recently that such favoritism has become so open that no one can avoid seeing it.

The idea that vital economic questions could be settled by means of politics was developed in the long ago when it was really true; this idea is quite put out of date now. And it is doubtful if any one except a political Socialist ever did contend that a revolution can be accomplished by political methods alone.

History gives no indication that any such thing is, or ever was, possible.

REGARDING "PETITIONS."

Alexandria, La., June 23, 1913.

Mr.

Carlisle, Texas:

Fellow-worker—Yours of the 24th at hand and contents of same carefully noted. I note the plans you have submitted for my consideration, and in reply will say that I have had all the experience I care to have in making appeals to any set of political representatives. I have no objection to any man taking such steps if he chooses to do so, but for myself I have no time to lose in asking a man in Washington to give me something that he does not possess. Now you may think at first that I am foreign to my subject, but upon close investigation you will find that I am correct and in line with the whole I. W. W. theory. Now while Emerson and 63 other fellow-workers were incarcerated in the Lake Charles jail, I appealed to the local authorities, to the State authorities and to the United States authorities for some action to be taken in our behalf; appeals from all over the United States went to the Governor and to the President of the United States, they could or would do nothing, and why? All the officials of any State, or the United States are only acting as guards to property. Private property is the only thing that will function with the State. The minute you touch property you touch the State, then you will see the State authorities take up your case at once and give you or any other working man the limit.

New, we, the I. W. W. know that the workers have no grievance at Washington, at Austin, or any other place except the job where we work; therefore, we appeal to no other power except the labor power employed on the job. The job on which every man works is the place where his trouble begins, and that is the *only* place for the workingman to make his start to change his working conditions. The job is where the wages are paid, the job is where the labor is performed, the job is where profits begin and there, on the job, is where the robbing of the workers begins; therefore, the job is the only place where a workingman can show his power, and that by organizing all the workers into ONE BIG COMPACT UNION so that all labor power can be stopped at a moment's warning. Then you will see the Kings of Industry get busy. Why? Because they know you have hit the key note; they know that you have found out where you are robbed; they know that unless they can get liars to mislead the workers and split them up and divide them on the job they (the workers) will win their demands. The only thing the capitalist class use the State for is to mislead the workers into the belief that they have on equal show before the law. Law, Hell! What is law, but the will of the governing class, imposed upon the class that is governed?

When you understand the great economic question, you will see that the I. W. W. has the only structure upon which the co-operative commonwealth can ever be founded. The capitalists have outgrown the State; they never recognize State lines in their race for profits; they go as far as Industry goes; therefore, the I. W. W. organizes the workers along the same lines; the I. W. W. recognizes the fact that all workers in all industries must be organized into ONE BIG UNION, so that the workers can control all the labor power in the Industry, thereby they (the workers) will be able to dictate to the employers how long they will work and how much wages must be paid. This kind of organization can find no place for the State; like the railroads, we go as far as the workers go into industry. We know that when we ask for investigations to be made in our behalf, that the bosses are tickled to death to see us looking at the shadow, not the real thing, but when we take direct action, right on the job, then we begin to touch the bosses' pocket book, and that is the only place where he lives. When we get all the workers organized so that we get all we produce, then we will care nothing about the State, as there would be no place for the State in a world-wide Industrial Democracy.

The declaration of principles and purposes of the I. W. W. is given in their Preamble in colors that will never fade from the memory of the capitalist class, and as long as the I. W. W. remains a revolutionary organization the capitalist class will fight it with every power at their command; nevertheless, the I. W. W. is leading the world's workers into the knowledge that will in the near future open the gates of the industrial hell in the free land of the future for all the workers.

Yours for Industrial Democracy,

JAY SMITH,
Secretary Southern District.

ITA EST.

Exitus acta probat—"The event justifies the deed." Motto of George Washington, "The Father of our (?) Country."

"Oh, Lord God, surely Thou hast greatly deceived this people, saying 'ye shall have peace,' whereas the word reacheth unto the soul." (Jer. 4:10.)

"Sabotage is not a form of action brought forth from French conditions. It dates back to the earliest days of human exploitation. It is born of class struggles—of man's inhumanity to man."

"In Union there is strength." Therefore, the working class organized into ONE BIG UNION represents the acme, the sum total of labor's power.—"The Traitor."

"Speaking of politics. Governments are kept up by the masters to keep the workers down. What would you think of a jassack that insisted on helping to make his own harness."—"The Gadfly."

"Behold that which I have seen: It is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of *all* his labour that he taketh (maketh) under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: For it is his portion." (Ecclesiastes 5:18.)

"Bruders en Sisters," said Uncle Liga, "I see er lawerbidin' man but er hole shot thru Sheriff's pocketbook er'll kill de biggest blood-hound whatebey libed, en dem niggers at Merryville am sho' gwine ter wake up ter de fac' dat de row ob de seab am de longes' an hardes' in de field." *Dey sho' am.*