

# THE SYNDICALIST

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CHICAGO, ILL., APRIL 15, 1913.

WHOLE No. 56

## The Passing Show

### MORGAN DEAD, THE SYSTEM LIVES.

Comrade Morgan died and went to heaven, and the world wept its loss. "Say nothing disrespectful of the dead," is an old motto invented by the denizens of the graveyard to prevent exposure of their crookedness after they had departed with the goods.

Morgan got away with more of the world's goods than any other man that ever died. He was "a master of finance"—a highly respectable name that covers more crime than any other combination of words in the language. He was monarch in the kingdom of money. He was one of the old school of pirates. He was no reformer or charity man. He didn't try to cover up his tracks nor deceive the world regarding his motives. There was none of the Carnegie hypocrisy in him. He was a plain, blunt robber who made no pretence of giving back any of the stolen goods. If you want it back, do as he did—TAKE IT.

Have you noticed that capitalism has not been disturbed in the least by Morgan's death? The house of Morgan still stands and will continue to rob and rule the masses in the same old way. The Daily Liars mourned the loss of the "great man," but the price of stocks kept steady and the cost of food kept going up.

By and by John D. will die, and Carnegie, and Frick—with the same result. It is the system, old and strong, that exploits us. While it is true that men are the makers of systems, still a system, once made, will continue to fulfill its function until by men it is torn down; and the men to do the tearing are the men whom the system exploits—never those who are benefited by its continuation.

The present system is so ingeniously constructed that it works automatically. Men of the Morgan type are no longer necessary to its success. Whether there are millionaires or billionaires makes no material difference to the workers. They are exploited by the system, and the making of billionaires is only the working out of the struggle of the beneficiaries of the system for a division of the spoils.

Morgan was great—not because he could get more work than the other capitalists out of a slave, but because he was able to "put it over" the other capitalists in Wall street.

We raise the corn and throw it into the Wall street crib, where the hogs scramble for it. Naturally the largest hogs get the most. But we are not interested, except academically, in that scramble. Our interest is in the question of how long we are going to continue throwing the feed into them.

It is plain the life of the system depends upon our feeding of these hogs, and not upon the death of an occasional hog. Our attack, then, is on the system, and our weapon is the general strike against dividing up with the Wall street hogs.

The aim of Syndicalism is to systematically prepare the toilers for that general strike.

### THE MENACE OF ARBITRATION.

You, who favor arbitration between capital and labor, look to your dream, and see how it works out in practice. Take no agitator's word. Open your eyes and look around.

The Chicago street car men got through the arbitration of their dispute practically only what the company offered them at the start. The men are disgusted with the "award," but they are bound to abide by it for three years.

The workers are finding out for themselves there is no indirect road to relief from the tyranny of capitalism; and the Utopians who dream of fairy paths to freedom are becoming discredited among the rank and file.

There is a large element among the friends of labor who have honestly advocated arbitration, even compulsory arbitration, as a substitute for strikes. From the experience with compulsory arbitration in New Zealand and Canada the capitalists are coming to the conclusion it is a good thing. And the railroads of this country are distributing, free, copies of the Canadian law, with a speech by McKinzie, former labor commissioner of Canada, explaining its "great benefits" to labor. The railroad companies are of course deeply interested in the success of labor, and they want to educate the American public in the beauties of compulsory arbitration.

If we had no other reason than that the railroads are favoring it, that in itself would be sufficient cause for us to fight it.

Whatever may be said against the American Federation of Labor, it has always opposed compulsory arbitration.

Strikes are always a menace to the capitalists, whether they are lost or won. They develop the resisting power of labor, advance solidarity, quicken the intellect, and are the greatest educational force the workers have.

### WOMAN AND THE SOCIAL REVOLUTION.

The sending of Mrs. Pankhurst to prison for three years on the charge of inciting crime has put new life into the English suffragettes.

Never since the time of the Chartist agitation, excepting the short period of the two recent big strikes, has the English bourgeoisie been in such a state of terror.

No one knows man better than does woman. The English women know the Englishman's great love for property, so they strike him in a vulnerable spot when they use the torch promiscuously, when they smash his plate-glass windows, when they pour vitriol in his mail boxes, when they bombard him with "votes for women," when they disturb his meetings and in a thousand ways make his narrow life miserable.

Will John Bull persist in being a bullhead and refuse to get out of the way of the chariot of progress because a woman is driving it? In a sense it is well he is proving himself such a lobster. His persistence is bringing out the fighting spirit of the women, and making them show the kind of clay they are made from. And they have already proved that as real fighters they far outclass the men of the pres-

ent day. Not only are they showing themselves to be better fighters than men, they are proving how utterly dependent is society upon the harmonious relations of its individual entities.

The militant women of England are proving that harmony in society does not depend upon government, but that, on the contrary, government depends upon social harmony. The knowledge is very important at this stage of the game and it will help immensely in the fight for the principle that society and its numerous industries have arrived at a stage of progress where they move automatically, and that in the new order there will be no need for government, as in the new philosophy of evolution there is no need of God.

The women of England are proving more clearly than has ever been done the power of the militant minority. Never in the history of society was the value of this knowledge so great as it is today, when the question of minority is up for discussion and trial as a prime factor in the social revolution.

The women of England have started a new era in the fight for the emancipation of their sex. From this militant fight will date the beginning of the struggle, not only for "votes for women," but for absolute liberty of women both economically and otherwise. From this fight will date woman's entrance into the fight for the social revolution.

The contagion of example is the most potent force in society. A million will imitate where one will initiate.

These women are fighting for the ballot. By the time they get it they will have something else far more useful. They will have a militant army of direct-action fighters, battle-scarred veterans ready to take up the fight for something real.

### ANOTHER REBEL CHAINED.

Nothing helps more to round up the workers than the clapping of their leaders into chains. Bocchini, a leader in the Little Falls strike, has been given a year for his activity. He could do nothing better for the cause he espouses. His fate will attract the attention of the workers to the cruel, heartless injustice practiced by the master class on the slaves who toil. No man or woman ever yet spent an hour in vain behind prison bars, who was put there for fighting the cause of the people. Persecution is a culture in which the germ of liberty flourishes. You may imprison the man, but the idea goes floating on.

Bocchini is a prisoner of war, a soldier of the social revolution gathered in by the enemy.

### A DUTCH TRICK.

A firm of textile manufacturers in Holland has adopted a radical method to keep its workers from joining the union. It promises to pay all non-union employes a sick benefit equal to one-third of their wages, while the union employes are to get nothing.

Anything to keep the workers divided while the bosses form compact organizations. Will the toilers bite on the bait?

# THE SYNDICALIST

FORMERLY THE AGITATOR

Issued twice a month, on the first and fifteenth, by The Syndicalist Publishing Association (Not Inc.), 1000 S. Paulina Street, Chicago, Ill.

JAY FOX, Editor. W. Z. FOSTER, Manager.

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built won't pan out. It will learn that a conserva-  
**What art thou, Freedom? Oh! could slaves  
Answer from their living graves  
This demand, tyrants would flee  
Like a dream's dull imagery!**

—Shelley.

## A GOOD PLAN OF ACTION.

I want to call your especial attention to the plan for the federation of strike committees printed in the St. Louis column. It is a practical working plan that can be put into operation at once in any community. The advantages of such a federation would be many. The main advantage, looking at it from the standpoint of tomorrow, is that it would help bring the workers into closer touch with one another at a time when they need each other most, thus developing, quickly, the spirit of solidarity without which no important victory will ever be won.

As a means for fighting the strikes of today the plan has no equal.

## SOCIALIST PARTY AND SABOTAGE.

The Socialist party of Pittsburgh has expelled Fred Merrick, editor of Justice, a militant advocate of direct action. He violated the party law against sabotage.

I respectfully submit that the Socialist party is the first institution in America to make the advocacy of sabotage a crime. It beats the capitalist government and the Catholic Church all hollow. A person can still advocate sabotage and keep outside the jail and inside the Roman church. But you have got to be mighty careful who you train with and what you think, if you want to hold a red card in the yellow S. P.

## WHAT ONE MAN THINKS OF IT.

Editor The Syndicalist:

The enclosed \$5 is a token of what I think of THE SYNDICALIST—not by any means all I think of it, but all I can spare just now.

Each number of the paper gets better. I was proud of the last number—and it came just in time to be freely distributed in the state Socialist convention. It would do your heart good to see those delegates show the paper to one another during one of the warmest debates on the floor; get up and rush for the door and ask for the paper; sit on the floor, listening to the parliamentarians squabbling over the Haywood resolution and reading the one paper in America that could tell them what fools they were. But even those who were so anxious to get the paper did not seem to think about paying for it, and I was too anxious to get it into their hands to worry about the money. You ought to hear from a few of them with subscriptions.

S. T. HAMMERSMARK.

## FOR CHICAGO.

In the Open Forum, Masonic Temple, every Sunday night, Jay Fox precedes the regular lecturer with caustic comment on the passing show.

On April 27 he will be the lecturer. Subject, "Sabotage."

## CAUGHT IN THE LEGAL NET.

For the last few weeks we of Regeneracion, the organ of the Mexican Liberal party, have been publishing a series of affidavits, according to which leading witnesses against the members of the junta, now imprisoned in McNeil Island, confess they committed perjury. In our issue of April 5 we produce a second and much fuller affidavit by Captain Smith, in which he relates how the government authorities coerced and bribed him into playing the part which he, and probably he alone, could adequately play; how they sent him, at a handsome salary, throughout the country to scare up witnesses; how the state rewarded those who swore they had been enlisted by the Magons, when in reality they never set eyes on them until taken to the jail and coached by the prosecution behind the shelter of a screen.

The affidavit is replete with details and forms a closely knit story—almost impossible to manufacture. I may add that, personally, I am convinced of its sincerity, and that it is a condensation of a much longer narrative taken down by me verbatim. Nevertheless, while pointing out that in the absence of the evidence so obtained the conviction of the junta would have been impossible, it is not mainly for the purpose of championing their cause that I write. Their record is that of men who always have been ready to suffer for the education of the disinherited; it is the opportunity for propaganda that I embrace.

When the cry of "Stop, thief!" rings out, a crowd immediately takes up the hunt. When some poor wretch, driven to despair and taking his life into his hands, strikes back at his oppressors, the most shamelessly oppressed are usually the first to turn on him. When striking workers summon up the pluck to retaliate in kind on masters who themselves rely on force and use it mercilessly, the workingman reads with delight how the police have used their clubs. This is always the method of the unthinking class, and necessarily so, because the unthinking accept the world as they find it and ask no questions. Our one and most arduous task is to make them think.

The administration of the criminal law is so obviously foul and palpably degraded that it offers the easiest attack. There are few places so nauseating as jails and police courts; few methods of gaining a livelihood so evidently debased as the hounding of innocent men to jail, that fees and exorbitant mileage may be pocketed; few illustrations of social inequality so striking as those given daily in our law courts. It is far easier to bring the law into contempt on its criminal than on its civil side, for the former supplies lessons plain to the dullest, whereas the latter involves abstruse economic problems on which the wisest differ. Now the one object is to bring the law into contempt, for the law is the representative of the past we are seeking to abolish; the active principle that sustains the barbarisms we have to kill; the button that sets in motion all the oppressive machinery of government, from the commander-in-chief to the pettiest village constable. It is the great social force which can at any moment seize the individual as the cat pounces on the mouse, torturing him for sport or killing him at a blow. All society, all the blind powers of mass-supported authority are behind it. The millionaire never lived who could afford to set it at defiance, and before it the ordinary citizen is as powerless as a straw in the clutches of a cyclone.

The law is the great enemy with which all movements to shake off the burden of the past must reckon. Their relative strength must be measured by the boldness and success with which they attack that foe; and whoever can weaken it, or rob it of that prestige on which it thrives is doing yeoman's work. On the other hand, those who throw their influence to its support, as Socialists nowadays generally do, help to bolster up a barbarism which, in reality, is tottering to its grave. There is no getting out of this position.

In long interviews with Captain Smith my own mind was perpetually haunted by the picture of these idealists; strangers in a country whose language they scarcely understand; without a penny in their pockets, hounded from ocean to ocean by detectives living in luxury on funds wrung by government from labor; sold out by those who would have stayed their friends had not government turned on the thumbscrews; the prey of every stool-pigeon looking for "easy" money; thrown

headlong into foul prisons and finally rounded up in court for the sport of degenerates who gloat over victims slain in the arena that legal gladiators may win a reputation.

These men are naturally strong personalities, capable of great humanitarian work and eager to accomplish it. Government keeps them for years behind the bars, loads them with indignities and reduces them to helplessness.

Such pictures show society at its worst; and we need to see it at its worst, that we may understand the destructive work ahead of us. They beget stern thought, and stern thoughts are wanted, to beget stern action.

WILLIAM C. OWEN.

## SOCIALIST PATERNALISM.

A California Socialist, elected to the state Legislature, has introduced a bill to make a minimum wage for labor. The measure has called forth considerable discussion throughout the state, and it is pleasant to note the attitude the organized workers of San Francisco have taken in the matter. They have unqualifiedly condemned it as a dangerous piece of paternalism.

The Coast Seamen's Journal says:

"The 'mission of labor organization' is to establish conditions favorable to labor. The labor organization fixes its own minimum wage. In so doing it 'plays its own game.' To surrender that function to the Legislature or other law-making body is to play the other fellow's game, to play into the hands of those who assume to know, better than the workers themselves, what is 'good for labor.' The labor movement puts no hope in the proposition of fixing and maintaining wages by legislation."

In a letter to the San Francisco Labor Council, Samuel Gompers says:

"Speaking fundamentally, a minimum wage should be established and maintained by the organization of labor. If a minimum wage law for workingmen is established by law, by the same token it is more than probable that it may finally transpire that another law will be enacted, compelling workingmen to work for such a minimum as a maximum. When this time comes, when by statutory enactment wages are set, it will only be another step to force workingmen to work at the behest of their employers, or at the behest of the state, which will be equivalent to, and will be, slavery."

"We want a minimum wage established, but we want it established by the solidarity of the workingmen themselves through the economic forces of their trade unions, rather than by any legal enactment."

He gives the Socialists a well-deserved rap in the following:

"Many partisan and side-issue political movements are indulged in, with the deliberate calculation to attract working people so that they may be diverted from the substantial accomplishments of the trade unions."

"We must not, we can not, depend upon legislative enactments to set wage standards. When once we encourage such a system, it is equivalent to admitting our incompetency for self-government and our inability to seek better conditions."

The American labor movement has many failings, but it has always been right on the question of state interference in labor matters. But if the Socialists ever get the upper hand in the unions the law-making Socialists will get their fine work in and the unions will be handed over to the state. Workers, beware of your well-meaning, but utterly dangerous, state Socialist friends.

EDWIN RENARD.

## PROTECTING STRIKERS.

"The claim is made that Socialist politics is necessary to protect striking workingmen from the brutalities of the military power. If strikers are clubbed by the police we are told that this would not have happened if we had had a Socialist mayor. If the clubbing is done by the militia, it is a Socialist governor we need; and if the regular army is serving as slugging committee we are just as much in need of a Socialist president. Leaving aside the rather doubtful question whether a Socialist mayor, or governor, or president could prevent the use of the military power in case of a strike, I will merely point out that it is a president we need in all these cases. The governor can order the militia to act whenever a mayor refuses to use the police; and the president can order out the regular army if a governor fails to repress a strike with the militia. We should therefore always elect a Socialist president before we declare a strike."—From "Political Socialism," by B. E. Nilsson, 10 cents; a pamphlet that exposes the fallacies of politics.

## LEAGUE No. 1, NELSON, B. C.

One of the worst forms of centralization in a working class organization is the autocratic control of its official journal. The rank and file of its readers, being an unorganized mass, are completely out of touch with one another; they are incapable of concerted action. Thus they cannot readily force the editor to represent their ideas, and as a consequence are compelled to accept whatever he cares to print.

The result is that the powerful weapon of the press is left in the hands of a few executives, to use as they see fit. And in all organizations they generally use it to their own ends, and to perpetuate themselves in power. By a press censorship they strangle all ideas contrary to their interests. Thus the fertile field of the rank and file is refused expression, often to the distinct detriment of the organization. This phase of labor organization is too well known to need further illustration.

The remedy for the above condition lies in the decentralization of the control of the paper. That is, the paper must be taken out of the hands of the few and placed in the hands of the many, thereby making it a true expression of the movement. If THE SYNDICALIST is to voice the sentiment of the Syndicalist movement throughout the country, this decentralized form of control must be perfected. This was one of the principal ideas the publishers had in mind when they inaugurated the system of each league editing and financing its own column.

Through this method the ideas expressed in each column will voice the sentiment of the local subscribers, and will be a powerful weapon in the hands of the local leagues to frustrate any attempt to build up a machine around the paper. Instead of individual kicking as to what should or should not be advocated, if each league had their own column they would be in direct control, and would direct and dictate to their editor what policy the paper should pursue. In case of arbitrariness on the part of the editor, one or more leagues by combining together and withdrawing their support would compel the editor to fully realize just who controlled the paper.

The leagues should get busy, take a column in the paper, see that it contains live labor news of vital importance to their locality or particular industry that they are working on.

The Shingle Weavers have extended their jurisdiction to all workers in the lumber industry; they are now called the "International Union of Shingle Weavers, Sawmill Workers and Woodsmen." They increased their membership 2,500 during the month of March. It is up to the jacks in British Columbia to get into this rebel organization.

Say, you lumber jacks, why not write for particulars to William H. Reid, secretary-treasurer of the I. U. of S. W. S. & W.? His address is 306 Maynard Building, Seattle, Wash.

The City Council recently passed a resolution stating that all men employed by the city must be union men, and all work given to contractors must be done by union labor. They voted for this in their union halls. J. W. JOHNSTONE.

As we go to press we received the following telegram:

Nelson, B. C., April 8.  
Syndicalist, 1000 Paulina Street, Chicago.

General strike in building trade unions, also machinists in iron works. Solidarity will win; not one union refused to quit. Out since April 1. Settlement expected tomorrow. Will write particulars.

ALBERT S. ELLIOTT.

## THE MADNESS OF WAR.

A faint indication of the terrible meaning of war comes to us through letters received by an electrical engineer in this city, from Bulgaria, appealing for help to feed the women and children left at home, while the husbands and fathers are gone to kill the Turks.

"I have a number of letters from Bulgaria," said Mr. Vladimiroff, "in which are appeals for financial help. The letters are from ministers and private individuals. They all make the same appeal—'Send us help if you can.'"

"The whole civilized world has read with astonishment of the tremendous achievement of a nation twice as big in population as that of the city of Chicago, with not one-tenth of its wealth.

"No one seems to have even given a thought of

what it must all mean. It has meant this: It was not an army going to war, but a whole nation. All its food, its clothing, and men are at the front.

"There are no great riches accumulated in Bulgaria, because its people are mostly farmers, shepherds, small tradesmen, or artisans. When these men went to the front, when all their surplus food and clothing was requisitioned for the support of the army in the field, the women, children and the infirm were left at home to shift for themselves as best they could."

Everything to the front—food, clothing and men; and women and children, the aged and infirm, left at home to starve! Is not that the act of madmen? Surely no one with an ounce of reason would commit such madness. Maddened by patriotism and religion, the Bulgarian workers are easily induced to forsake everything and go to "the front" for the glory of the king and the benefit of the capitalist.

Nearly a hundred thousand men have already perished in the Balkan war. Dr. Peebles tells us, in a pamphlet just off the press, that 14,000,000 men were killed in war in the nineteenth century, as follows:

Napoleonic wars.....	8,000,000
German wars .....	800,000
Russo-Turkish wars .....	200,000
South American wars.....	500,000
Italian war .....	500,000
United States (civil war).....	500,000
Different colonial wars.....	3,000,000

The same authority tells us that "War equipages in Europe absorb one-half of the wealth created by productive labor," and that, "Military expenditures in the United States during the last eight years have absorbed \$1,500,000,000."

We learn, further, that all the arsenals of the United States "are working day and night to rush work on 100,000 of the most destructive guns ever handled."

Is this government preparing to plunge into a war with Mexico, and are these new guns intended for use in the invasion of that unfortunate people?

In 1910 this peaceful, non-military country spent \$262,000,000 on its army and navy—an expenditure so large that it was only surpassed by that of Great Britain and Russia.

The Syndicalists in France are carrying on a vigorous campaign against the passage of a bill to increase the time of compulsory military service to three years, while a capitalist paper has boldly stated that "any deputy who will not vote for the bill should be shot." Thus the mouthpieces of the master class openly advocate the murder of the politicians who will not do its bidding.

Will war never cease and men become civilized? Not while capitalism lasts. For capitalism is commercial conquest carried on by military methods.

The Bulgarian peasant and mechanic are caught in the trap of war either by the frenzy of superstition of the force of conscription; and in this respect are no different than we Americans would be if our capitalist masters ordered a war tomorrow.

Not until the workers of the world refuse, not only to go to war, but to make implements of war, or to furnish food and transportation for soldiery—not until then will war cease—not until the toilers refuse longer to be tools. JAY FOX.

## THE BELGIAN STRIKE.

The Belgian Socialists, under the leadership of Vandervelde, are going to pull off a general strike on April 14. This strike is for universal suffrage. They have been "preparing" for more than a year. What the poor slaves have to prepare is quite beyond my comprehension. The masters can make use of the time to organize scabs and gather supplies, so they won't be hungry, and can have a vacation while the slaves are striking.

This is especially significant in view of what Vandervelde has written on the question and quoted by Hunter:

"The general strike has attained whole or partial success only," says Vandervelde, "when it has taken the government by surprise. This was the case, for example, with the first Belgian strike in April, 1893, and the first Russian general strike in October, 1904. On the other hand, the Dutch general strike (1903), the second Belgian strike (1902), the second and third Russian general strikes, which did not take the government by surprise, have ended in checks which have exercised, long after the defeat, a depressing influence on the proletariat."

Did Van. write that because he believed it, or just to belittle the constructive work of the Direct Actionists? If he believed it, he is betraying the Belgian

Socialists into the jaws of defeat. If he is acting honestly now, he was a liar and falsifier when he wrote the interview for Hunter.

## THE SOCIAL WAR

Is a ripping revolutionary weekly, published at 229 West street, New York City. It is uncompromising in its attitude, clear and direct in its attack on the system. It is a pleasure to see a straight-out direct action paper—there are so many straddlers. We welcome The Social War as a worthy fellow-fighter in the war to end the social war.

## SYNDICALIST LEAGUE OF ST. LOUIS AND VICINITY

Headquarters, 1214 Franklin Ave.; Open 7 to 11 p. m. Week Days; also Sunday Afternoons and Evenings.

Business Meeting Every Saturday at 8 p. m.

## FEDERATION OF STRIKE COMMITTEES.

A co-operation of strike committees in each community of all the groups on strike for the purpose of creating solidarity and united action, and concentrating their efforts on any point that is stubbornly resisted for a long time by the boss.

## Statement.

\* The present method of striking is for many groups of strikers to wage their war independently of each other and unconscious of each other's success or failures. In every industrial center are to be found, every day of the year, from half a dozen to twenty-five or more strikes, each with its strike committee and each independent of the other.

The Federation of Strike Committees would immediately transfer the situation from many little strikes into one big strike, thereby creating solidarity and enthusiasm that seldom is found in the many little strikes. The bosses would be in constant danger of a general strike, because all the strikes united would make such a big showing that the bosses would have to grant demands or the strike fever would spread to other shops, rapidly increasing the ranks of the strikers until the general strike would be reached.

## Formation of the Federation of Strike Committees.

The central labor body shall select a secretary whose duty shall be to perform the secretarial work of the Federation of Strike Committees and report to the central labor body. He shall have no autocratic power whatsoever.

The Federation of Strike Committees shall be composed of the regular strike committees of each group on strike, and as soon as a strike is settled the committee representing that strike shall be withdrawn from the Federation of Strike Committees; and as soon as a strike is declared, that strike committee shall be eligible to seats in the Federation of Strike Committees. Representation to the Federation of Strike Committees shall be purely voluntary on the part of the strikers and may be withdrawn at any time.

## Powers of Federation of Strike Committees.

The Federation of Strike Committees shall have no autocratic power whatsoever. It shall not decide terms of settlement of strikes except with the consent of the strikers directly involved. The Federation of Strike Committees shall not be empowered to order men out or back to work; this is left to the men directly concerned for decision.

The Federation of Strike Committees shall not interfere with strikers who do not desire to affiliate.

## Duties of the Federation of Strike Committees.

The duties of the Federation of Strike Committees shall be to promote solidarity in every way possible. The Federation of Strike Committees shall call a mass-meeting of all the strikers in the community at least once every two weeks, and call on all sympathizers to join in the demonstration. In this way the old trouble of "picketing" will be more than overcome.

The Federation of Strike Committees shall meet every day in order to meet all emergencies.

## Advantages Gained by the Federation of Strike Committees.

1. An immense solidarity would be produced.
2. The expense of advertising boycotts and getting out literature would be greatly reduced and the amount of work done tremendously increased.
3. The Federation of Strike Committees could throw big masses of pickets at any one point on short notice.
4. The Federation of Strike Committees would play an invaluable part in case of a general strike.

5. The Federation of Strike Committees would practically be free of "machines" because it would be constantly getting "new blood," since members would only hold their seats during the progress of their strike. Committees would be coming and going as strikes are declared on and off.

6. Imagine how little enthusiasm can be aroused in a number of small, isolated strikes. Also imagine what a power these would be when all combined together. Also the bringing together in mass-meeting of all the strikers and sympathizers at stated periods would create an immense enthusiasm. Such meetings would soon eradicate all craft prejudice and pave the way for organization along industrial lines.

7. Furthermore, it would be extremely difficult for the strikers to be "sold" out, because it would have to be done under the gaze of all the workers on strike.

The Federation of Strike Committees—the fighting body of the labor movement—would concern itself with the conduct of strikes only; all legislative matters to be left to the organizations composing it.

The Syndicalist League of St. Louis and Vicinity submits the above proposition to the militants of the Syndicalist League of North America, for their consideration.

SECRETARY.

### THE REVOLT OF LABOR.

At the present time the English trade unions, numbering about 2,000,000, are voting on the proposition of a nation-wide movement to establish a universal eight-hour day in Great Britain. The proposed plan is for all the workers to demand an eight-hour day on a certain date, and in case of refusal to go to work as usual, but to quit at the expiration of eight hours. This is to be kept up until the eight-hour day is recognized or a general strike or lockout precipitated. Already several of the largest unions in England have voted in favor of this revolutionary method of getting shorter hours, and from all indications the plan will soon be tried on a gigantic scale.

This plan, borrowed from the French Syndicalists, is only one of the many evidences of the renaissance now taking place in the English labor movement. One significant feature of this "re-birth" is that it dates from the demise of the English Industrial Workers of the World. As long as the rebels herded together in little bunches outside the trade unions and spent their time "baying the moon" about the impossibility of reviving the trade unions, these organizations remained inert and apparently devoid of life. But when the rebels gave up their useless howling and set themselves about constructive work, their accomplishments immediately became evident. The present great upheaval in the English labor movement, which is without parallel in labor history, is largely due to their efforts. American direct actionists who are still in the "baying the moon" stage might profitably study the English labor movement.

The I. W. W. strike of rubber workers at Akron, Ohio, has been declared off. The workers have been advised to go back to work and reorganize. Considering that the I. W. W. has always such harsh condemnation (and bushels of fancy tactics to advise) for A. F. of L. workers who similarly calmly stay on strike and watch themselves being starved into submission, we may be permitted to ask why the I. W. W. didn't take some of its own advice in this strike? Why wasn't the much-advertised intermittent or irritation strike used? The answer is easy: The present ignorance and lack of solidarity of the workers simply prohibit such tactics being used. And the I. W. W., when it comes face to face with more realities, will find that numerous others of the theories upon which it is built won't pan out. It will learn that a conservative working class is not going to suddenly accept a completely new set of tactics overnight, but that it is going to revolutionize its methods only gradually. When the I. W. W. learns the difference between theory and practice possibly it won't be so condemnatory of every union that fails to measure up to its arbitrary ideals.

London taxicab chauffeurs have won a notable victory, after an eight weeks' strike that cost their employers \$3,500,000. The strike was waged chiefly to force down the price of gasoline, which the chauffeurs must buy from their employers. A maximum of 16 cents a gallon was set. With gasoline

now costing the employers 28 cents a gallon, just what this means becomes clear. As the employers are being forced to sell their gasoline for 12 cents per gallon less than they pay for it, it looks as though finally a way has been found to put a real crimp in the masters' pocketbook. All that is needed is an extension of the principle and capitalism will be at an end.

The French government is proposing to lengthen the term of compulsory military service from two to three years. The C. G. T. has launched a great campaign against the project. If the government adopts the measure in spite of the working-class protest, France will undoubtedly be treated to one of the greatest shake-ups in its history.

Disgruntled Italian sailors have discovered a way to strike and not run afoul of the severe maritime laws against striking. Recently in several Italian ports they all quit work, stating that they were too sick to work. A squad of doctors were hastily summoned, but to no avail; the shipping was brought to a standstill.

The bricklayers and carpenters have just joined the Chicago Building Trades Council, making it the strongest in the country, with 100,000 members. The plasterers, the only independent building trades union, are also expected to affiliate shortly.

Ten months ago the street car men, surface and elevated, of Chicago were on the verge of a general strike to better their wages and working conditions. As public sentiment was with them, the strike would have surely been a success. After much parleying the union officials secured a tentative agreement from the companies which gave many concessions to the workers. The latter refused to accept it, however, voting it down by a 10-to-1 vote. Then the controversy went to an arbitration committee. After deliberating eight months this prejudiced committee has finally brought in its award, which gives the workers fewer concessions than did the tentative agreement they so overwhelmingly voted down months before. However, the street car men will accept it. There is nothing else for them to do. The magnificent strike movement they had on foot has been demoralized. By permitting the matter to go to arbitration, and agreeing to abide by the decision, they practically surrendered their ability to strike. And they have very properly been stung for so doing. Great is arbitration!

Ten days ago 4,700 Chicago painters went on strike for an increase of wages and the right to at all times have access to the building specifications—this latter somewhat revolutionary demand being to prevent the contractors from "skimping" or sabotaging their work, and thus taking work from the painters. Surprising as it may seem to those who believe the dogma that "the A. F. of L. has not won a strike in ten years," this strike is practically won, almost all the contractors having come to terms. The victory is in no small measure due to the stand taken by the other building trades unions. They one and all refuse to work with scabs, consequently the boss painters, not wishing a general building trades strike, have not dared to try to break the strike by replacing the strikers with scabs. If the Chicago building trades unions have not yet developed to the point of always making their demands concertedly, and always striking together, they have at least learned the valuable lesson that to work with scabs is fatal. At the rate they are now progressing the general strike will soon be a popular weapon among them.

The street car system of Buffalo is completely paralyzed by a general strike; no cars whatever are moving. Several thousand troops are already on the scene and 10,000 more have been asked for. The local Central Trades and Labor Council has notified the street car magnates that if the strike is not settled shortly a general strike of the 42,000 union men in Buffalo will be called.

WM. Z. FOSTER.

### SOCIETY NOTES.

These society notes are sabotged.

\* \* \*

The saboter is between me and the printer.

\* \* \*

[I am just trying the dope on the doctor.—J. F.]

We, us, the Chicago painters, are on strike against the bosses. \* \* \*

In tinting ceilings don't cut out the cracks; just face the wide ones.

\* \* \*

A little washing soda in the paste, and then just watch the wallpaper turn yellow in spots. Watch that boss get yellower.

\* \* \*

A good painter can join the post-impressionist school of art. Just make many swipes with that stippling brush on the last coat of paint. That scab boss will likely holler louder than the old-school artists.

\* \* \*

A fink boss can be educated some with a very artistic job of wall finishing. Mix the glue size extra heavy. Apply after first coat of paint; lay on thick and smooth, so as not to be noticeable to the eye.

\* \* \*

Where a scab job is already finished, blow out, or better yet, suck a few fresh eggs. Load with chloride of potassium; stop the holes; use as missiles. They leave their mark, providing you don't miss your mark.

J. A. JONES.

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Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of April, 1913.

SAMUEL ALPORT,

(Seal.)

Notary Public.

My commission expires October 12, 1915.

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