

Address to Wage Workers

BY THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD

This leaflet we address to those wage-earners who are awake to the fact that the present situation of the working class is a desperate one. We address those who can look about and see for themselves that to-day the working class, notwithstanding all the hardships it has suffered during its strikes, boycotts and lockouts, is losing ground.

In this address we explain why the old form of unionism; that is to say, pure and simple craft or trade unionism, is inefficient, and we also indicate something of the power there is in Industrial Unionism.

In a sentence or two we cannot define, so you may understand, the differences between Industrial Unionism and pure and simple craft unionism; those differences are too many and too deep-rooted; they involve differences of principle, differences in the construction of our respective organizations, differences in our aims, and differences in the methods that shall be employed in the pursuit of our ends.

SPECIMENS OF CRAFT UNIONS.

An example of what we call craft or trade unionism is best seen in the American Federation of Labor style of organization. Labor organized in that manner could, in the early stages of capitalist development, operate against the employer with greater or less success; but craft unionism, always defective, with the development of capitalism has deteriorated, until, from the point of view of the working class, it is now a practically worthless thing.

STRIKERS VICTORIOUS IN EARLY DAYS.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago, a good many strikes took place against small business men, owners of comparatively small shops, stores, etc. At that time it was unnecessary to paralyze the entire industry of the community in order to bring pressure to bear upon the employer.

EMPLOYERS' SYSTEM OF DEALING WITH LABOR DEVELOPED.

The capitalist system has developed. The little shop has become the great factory. The small dry goods and grocery stores have become the great systemized department stores. So in all branches of industry, in all lines of production and transportation, the development has been from the small concern to the great institution.

LABOR CHANGES ITS METHODS TO SUIT CHANGED CONDITIONS.

So you see, the position and the defenses of the enemy of labor have entirely changed, but the pure and simple craft union is soundly asleep to the change that has taken place. They continue to organize on the same old plan, and fight in the same old way. But for the industrial unionist, on the other hand, these years of experience have not been passed in vain.

TRICK OF THE EMPLOYERS—HOW IT WORKED.

In dealing with their employees for the last twenty or thirty years, the capitalists have learned many wily ways: For instance, they have frequently refused to recognize the union or have any dealings with it, on the ground that labor unions are irresponsible, and the men will break the contracts entered into by the officers, etc.

SEPARATE CONTRACTS WITH INDEPENDENT UNIONS.

According to the plan of construction of pure and simple craft unionism, as exemplified by the American Federation of Labor and the old Railroad Brotherhoods, each craft is organized by itself. Take a railroad, for example. The engineers are organized in a union by themselves; so with the firemen, conductors, trainmen, switchmen, telegraphers, clerks, etc.

LOCAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

(Continued from 2nd page)
structured to forward the charter and necessary outfit.

Letter was read from Organizer Forberg, enclosing charter application for metal workers of Wichita, Kan., 20 names. Fellow Worker Forberg gave a very encouraging account regarding their work in Wichita.

The General Secretary was instructed to forward the necessary charter and outfit. Fellow Worker Forberg stated that she would forward application for a charter for brickmakers during the coming week.

Organizer Bohling stated in his letter that a number of others were asked to join, but their admission had been postponed until they had a fuller chance to study up the question of industrial unionism, and there was no doubt that at the next meeting they would present themselves for membership.

He stated that some Italian literature could be used very effectively, and he asked that he be assigned an assistant Italian organizer, and in any way he believed a local could be organized in every camp in Colorado and Wyoming. His plan was to form a local in every camp, giving them plenty of literature for distribution, and by means of every camp to be organized.

The General Secretary was instructed to write to Fellow Worker Bohling, telling him that the Advisory Board had already decided to place Joseph Etor, of San Francisco, in the field, as Italian organizer, as soon as the fight in Portland was over and it was the intention to send Fellow Worker Etor amongst the coal miners, as he speaks three languages fluently, and is well versed in I. W. W. principles.

He was instructed to inform Fellow Worker Bohling that as soon as Etor's services were available for the coal field, such supply of goods as he may have had on hand would also be engaged to work in connection with Fellow Worker Etor in the field suggested.

Letter was read from Organizer Fischer, enclosing two charter applications of Italian workers, one for Branch to B. T. U. of New York, No. 95, and the second for branch charter for Italian Barbers' Branch of the B. T. U. of New York.

The General Secretary was instructed to forward the necessary charters and outfits. Organizer Fischer stated that there was a possibility of organizing another branch amongst the barbers at an early date. Organizer Fischer enclosed in his letter \$1.00 for the organizing fund from local 130, Hotel and Restaurant Workers, with the request that a standing call should always appear in the Bulletin with the names of the donors, and amounts donated, under the heading "Voluntary Organizers' Fund."

Letter was read from Fellow Worker Haggood, of Skowhegan, Me., stating that the strike remained about the same, with everything favorable to the strikers. In the nine weeks' progress of the strike there had only been four detentions.

William Wright, President of the local, had been on a trip to Plymouth, Lawrence and Lowell, Mass., and found great interest being taken throughout that State in the Skowhegan strike. Fellow Worker Haggood advised that Wright should be commissioned as voluntary organizer, so that when occasion arose he would be able to organize locals without the expense of having to send an organizer.

The General Secretary was instructed to forward voluntary organizers' credentials to Fellow Worker Wright.

Letter was read from Organizer Helewood and Etor regarding the progress of the strike in Portland. The editor of the Industrial Bulletin was instructed to publish the information in these letters complete.

March 30th, 1907.
Mr. J. C. Johnson,
457 E. Main St.,
Bridgeport, Conn.

Fellow Worker:
Received yours of March 25th. While the name of Stewart Reid is sufficient to create serious doubts as to the character of the strike movement inaugurated through him, as he will be the first to run the working class spirit into the ground and betray the interest of the working class at any opportunity where he can secure personal advantages, as proven by his record and his scabberding tactics used especially in the conflicts that I. W. W. unions and members had with the employing class, yet all this notwithstanding, no I. W. W. member can consistently remain at work when a strike of workers in any industrial plant is declared.

No I. W. W. member should act as strikebreaker against any other part of the working class, on the contrary, they should be the first to demonstrate that the workers must stand and fight together against the only enemy, the capitalist class. Of course, if support is needed because of your support of a strike declared by the American Federation of Labor you will have the right to lay the matter before all local unions of the I. W. W. in an appeal, and there will be no objection to their doing so, and fault with the course pursued by you when the interests of the working class are involved in the issue.

A strike of your fellow workers of other organizations should afford the best opportunity to advocate industrial unionism among them, and show them the necessity of solidarity as a class, and to bring home to them the dire results of division on craft union lines.

We have three big strikes to handle now, in every instance the so long subdued spirit of working class unity has manifested itself wonderfully, and labor has been sent for the world of labor in this land which will show its results in the near future. Will write you more on this subject as soon as the local advisory has taken action on this matter.

(Signed) W. E. TRAUTMANN,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

On motion of Payment, seconded by Stone, the action of the General Secretary was approved, and his letter endorsed.

Letter was read from Fellow Worker Challerton, secretary of Newburg Industrial Union No. 98, Wakefield, Cal., asking for information regarding the last convention and the decision of the master in chancery, as a number in their local were still in doubt in regard to their action they should take.

The action of the General Secretary was approved.

Letter was read from Organizer Fox, saying that he was back in Cincinnati a few days to complete some work that had been thrown aside in a hurry. He had left matters in good shape at Columbus, and intended returning there early the following week for a month's campaign. Things looked very favorably in Columbus and prospects were good for organizing a few industries. The boys were becoming aroused and interested. He intended taking the train to Columbus, and distributed a large quantity of literature.

The General Secretary was instructed to write to Organizer Fox that the Advisory Board had confidence in his judgment in regard to the situation, and instructed him to take the necessary action in Columbus.

Letter was read from Organizer Walsh, enclosing report and stating that he would finish his work in Tonopah in a few days and proceed southward to Los Angeles, then north towards Seattle. He also gave detailed information regarding the situation in Goldfield, fuller report of which is published in the Bulletin.

The following letter was read from R. Mackenzie, Financial Secretary of Local Union No. 1235, Milton, Mass., dated March 24, 1907.

W. E. Trautmann,
Gen. Sec'y-Treas. I. W. W.
Dear Comrade:
At the regular meeting of Local No. 123, I. W. W., held on March 20, the following motion was carried, and I was instructed to forward same to general headquarters.

"That this local does not recommend R. T. Sims in any official capacity, as voluntary organizer or any other office, as from past experience this local cannot place the slightest confidence in him; therefore we don't recommend him."
R. T. Sims failed to attend meeting mentioned.
Yours Fraternally,
(Signed) R. MACKENZIE,
Fin. Secy. Local Union 123, I. W. W.

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been done. Owing to the chaotic state of affairs following the strike, and the dropping out for a time of members from the organization, they found they had about one thousand due stamps still on hand, but nevertheless the organization had unanimously agreed to pay the assessment which had been asked for.
Letter was read from Organizer Thompson, Jamestown, N. Y., stating that he had arrived there on Saturday, March 23, and had made arrangements for a number of meetings. Jamestown is a city of some thirty thousand population, and nearly all the workers were unorganized.
Correspondence was read from Fellow Worker Tullar from LaPorte, Ind., regarding meeting to be held in Elkhart. The General Secretary was instructed to inform Fellow Worker Tullar to go ahead with holding the meeting, and that the organization would defray any expense that might be incurred over and above the collection.
Letter was read from Executive Board Member Cole, urging the necessity at the present time of doing something towards organizing amongst the railway workers, with stating that an organizer who is absolutely reliable, and the details of railroad work should be placed in the field, naming as a suitable man Fellow Worker Pinkerton. The General Secretary was instructed to immediately communicate with Fellow Worker Pinkerton in regard to the possibility of obtaining his services, and also to inform Fellow Worker Cole that the Advisory Board was unanimous in the opinion that it was absolutely necessary that something should be done at the earliest moment in the way of spreading industrial unionism amongst the railroad workers.
Letter was read from Secretary A. Banco, of coal miners' local of Blue Mound, Ill., stating that the organization there, endeavoring because of the market conditions to enforce an increase in wages, had been set upon by the mine owners with Mitchell's assistance, and the mine had been closed, driving them out of employment, and that practically all the members of the local had decided to leave that mine and seek employment elsewhere. In doing so they asked in regard to what disposition they could make of their charters, and remitted the money that there was in the treasury to headquarters, and announced the intention of each individual remaining as a member of the I. W. W., no matter where located.
Communication was read from Local No. 38, protesting against the Industrial Union Bulletin publishing any advertisements other than those advertising I. W. W. literature and meetings held by the I. W. W., believing that any other course was not in accordance with the spirit of the preamble.
On motion of Payment, seconded by Stone, it was decided that the advertisements to appear in the Industrial Union Bulletin should be those relating to I. W. W. literature and I. W. W. meetings, and that a standing column should be kept open announcing those papers that are in favor of industrial unionism.

Industrial Union HANDBOOK

Gives an outline of the Structure of Industrial Unionism and Analyzes of the Preamble. Very useful in arriving at an understanding of the form of organization of the Industrial Workers of the World.
Price, postpaid, 10 cts.
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I. W. W. Leaflets

Table listing various leaflets and their prices: Leaflets in English, per 1000 \$1.75; Address to Wage Workers \$1.75; The Textile Industry \$1.75; Food Staff Industry \$1.75; Metal and Machinery Industry \$1.75; Mining Industry \$1.75; Textile Industry (French) \$3.00; Leaflets in Italian \$3.00; Leaflets in Swedish \$3.00; Leaflets in Polish \$3.00; Leaflets in Spanish \$5.00; Leaflets in Finnish \$4.00; Leaflets in Slavonian \$2.00; Leaflets in Croatian-Dalmatian, per 1000 \$4.00.

NOTE:—The requisite amount of cash must accompany each order. All supplies sent by the General Office have the postage or express charges paid in advance.
W. E. TRAUTMANN
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CHICAGO ILLINOIS