



## THE VOICE OF THE MILITANT WORKER

\$1.00 a Year, 50 cents 6 Months.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., APRIL 20, 1912.

WHOLE NO. 51.

### WOMEN BEATEN AT ABERDEEN

The Grays Harbor strike has been on a month. At first the workers were allowed to walk the streets unmolested; but week after week the authorities became more vicious until this week even women were not spared.

It has become too common to see men beaten and slugged on the streets of Aberdeen, that our good legal sandbaggers had to do an extra stunt in order to satisfy the millowners. So the women get it now.

Following the closing of all halls at the point of the gun, the workers became only more determined to win. Last Monday the strike was supposed to be over, according to the capitalist press here which gets all its news from the millowners; yet so strong did the workers hang together that the mills were losing scabs instead of gaining. Workingmen in the vicinity of the mills could not stop on the sidewalk without being clubbed.

The women began to help picket the mills. This sudden move on part of the women practically tied up all the mills which opened Monday, and put the Slade mill in such bad shape that slabs had to be hauled from the outside to keep the fires going.

Tuesday the thugs began their dirty work against the brave women. At the Slade mill the fire hose was turned on the women. Some had no place to leave their children and had them near by; even these got a wetting. One of the women had her baby in the baby carriage near by; the child was nearly washed out of the buggy. The millowners' press only made fun of the incident and lyingly told the public that the women had no children along and if they had, they were only dummies.

The same day at the Donovan mill one woman was clubbed about the face and head because she protested when her husband was being beaten. Affidavits of both these cases have been published in our "Strike Bulletin."

In the meantime the millowners have been trying to fill the mills with scabs. These are not usually gotten through the employment offices, which are watched, but through advertisements inserted in the prominent papers all over the country, calling for mill hands. All the scabs coming here are brought in this way. Their baggage is taken from them and if the unfortunate refuses to scab he does not get his clothes. Then these persons become an extra burden on the strikers. One of these ads in a Portland paper instructs the applicants to call upon J. W. Thomas, Grand Central Hotel. It is a wonder that such ads are not watched more closely by the workers on the outside. Scabs are being sent from the Atlantic Coast as well as from near by. They are told that there is no strike here.

Wednesday several women were arrested on the streets. One woman was knocked down, kicked and dragged about by the specials. She is under a doctor's care with a wrenched back and many bruises.

The Chief of Police, Templeton, stated to a newspaper reporter that he "would break the strike or break the heads of the strikers."

The struggle continues with the employers stooping to the dirtiest methods in order to break the strike.

The secretary has been threatened with hanging unless he leaves town. All this in the name of "law and order."

Get busy, all you on the outside. Don't forget the relief fund.

J. S. BISCAY.

P. S.—All relief money should be sent to F. H. Allison, 211 Occidental (rear), Seattle.

### UNEMPLOYED OF AMERICA: MARCH ON SAN DIEGO.

Join the army marching from San Francisco; join the March of the Hungry. Go to San Diego. Demand your right of Free Speech; demand bread; demand freedom. You are not wanted where you are and San Diego needs you. Fall in line. BE MEN.

(Signed)

CALIFORNIA FREE SPEECH LEAGUE.

## Political Action vs. Academic Hair Splitting

At the beginning of the Lawrence strike Lena Morrow Lewis had an article in the Milwaukee Social-Democratic Herald headed, "The Hoodlumism of Haywoodism." In this screed she tried to convince the workers that the fight with master-class was not in the field of industry, but in the hall of propaganda; that propaganda circulars and speakers were the real thing with which to overcome the master-class. The word INTELLIGENCE occurred so often in the article that one got the impression that the writer was bent on bowing to our so-called educated classes. The worker must be educated before anything can come his way. The destruction of capitalist property and the ignoring of capitalist laws were signs of terrible ignorance on the part of the worker, so recorded Lena in Milwaukee.

Right after that, in the capitalist papers, came Lincoln Steffens, and he showed that the capitalists themselves ignore their own laws, when it suits their convenience; that they have no regard for any law when it does not serve their purpose.

The question is, shall the workers have more regard for the laws made against them by their masters, than the masters themselves have? Back of every law in operation must stand a power to carry it into effect. When that power vanishes so does the law. The workers have the right to violate every law they are powerful enough to violate in their own interest. That is good political action. We are in an actual fight with an enemy for our daily bread to protect our life, and not merely in a discussion. Every move we take that shows our power is an intelligent move; every move we take that shows weakness and cowardice is a stupid move. And the least intelligent action we can take is to bow with deference to capitalistic institutions with their ethics. What are our Socialists coming to now?

Now, let us shift the scene to Oakland. The I. W. W. over there in their fight for free speech gave the Socialists there a good reason for starting a recall of the capitalist politicians in certain offices. Yet, here we find that Tuck and Osborne are both with all their feeble might trying to swat the organization that gave them the political handle to act as a political organization. Tuck being editor of the "World" can use that paper to show that the I. W. W.'s are anarchists, and Osborne being an intimate friend of Tuck's can also air his political narrow mindedness. The last learnedly writes a letter, a copy of which appears in the World; to a Los Angeles friend, to show him how superior in political wisdom he is to those that believe in Industrial Unionism or Trade Unionism in connection with the Socialist party.

Tuck argues that the I. W. W. is a reactionary anarchistic body because it repudiates political action. As a matter of fact the I. W. W. is the Industrial organization, whose motto is, "An injury to one is the concern of all!" Its aim is to form the workers into one big union. Why is that anarchism? It is anarchism to the middle-headed or peanut politician in our party. To call the I. W. W.'s "anarchists" is just as logical as it was for the capitalists a few years ago to call the Socialists anarchists. One would think that our Socialists who get off such ridiculous lingo are as deficient in principle and ordinary regard for truth as the capitalist lickspittles a few years ago showed they were. These lickspittles have changed their tune because the Socialist party grew into a power and shall we say respectability. As soon as the I. W. W.'s get powerful, which they will at the present rate of growth, we shall find our peanut politicians falling all over themselves to praise them.

Everyone knows that the I. W. W.'s are not anti-political. On the contrary they realize that the workers can not stir upon the industrial field without causing political action in proportion to that power. And contrary to Osborne's stupid claim that the I. W. W.'s have never done anything but theorize and mutter, we have the proof of the Lawrence strike, one of the first revolutionary strikes in America, which has caused more political action in America than all the votes put together. Our dear comrades should realize that there are more ways than one of skinning a cat. The I. W. W. as an organization must necessarily steer clear of politics. To form an industrial organization upon a set of theoretical political dogmas or platforms and programs would be foolish. Such

an organization could never do anything but discuss and split hairs.

The American Federation of Labor in its present form has had its day. Great change in its organization is already going on. And half of its members are in sympathy with the I. W. W. Let any one throw a slur on the I. W. W. among the A. F. of L. and trouble starts. Now, then, the I. W. W. is undoubtedly the coming labor organization. It stands for the overthrow of the wage system. It stands for Socialism. It's therefore very bad politics for our Socialist peanut politician to howl—'anarchism'—at the industrialists. They will in fact be swept aside like so many straws in the wind, or they will as they have done before claim that they are not guilty of such brainless performances. The Socialist party ought to have passed beyond the stage of academic hair splitting with its creeds and get to work and thank the power that gives them an opportunity to do something instead of turning around and making faces at it because that clown acts gives temporary respectability.

CAROLINE NELSON.

### AGENTS OF CZAR HOUNDED GORKY.

One of the most shameful things the United States ever did was its treatment some years ago of Maxim Gorky, the great Russian author. Arriving in this country with his wife and their adopted son, they were practically hounded from the country by trumped up stories that his wife was merely a prostitute traveling with him. All the foul hypocrites in New York suddenly turned their virtuous backs, and the hotels, in response to the clamor of the whitened sepulchres of the town, turned the Gorkys away. This was America's reception of one of the greatest literary men of the age!

Now it develops that the attacks on Gorky were engineered by the agents of the Czar, and the chief of the Russian spies at that time, Col. V. Nicolaeff, has confessed the whole plot and the confession, translated, has been given space in the various metropolitan papers. Says the ex-spy:

"It would startle the average American to learn that various noted Russian refugees, particularly Maxim Gorky, failed to find the open door in New York and Washington, and in society, entirely because of the machinations of the system for which I worked.

"The Gorky scandal, I confess with shame, was partly of my instigation. Trepoff, who succeeded Plehve, after the latter's assassination by Sosonoff, wrote me from St. Petersburg that he had heard that Gorky, who was then in Helsingfors, intended to tour Europe and America, and make a personal appeal for the revolutionary cause. He, therefore, directed me to do all I could to discredit him."

He then tells how Gorky plans were ascertained and how the game was started. Among other functions they learned that a dinner was to be given Gorky at No. 3, Fifth avenue, with such guests as Mark Twain, William Dean Howells, Arthur Brisbane and many others.

"The dinner to Gorky at number 3 Fifth avenue took place," says the spy. "There were present a large number of literary people, many reporters, and last, but not least, several spies. The latter were not idle. Furthermore, I have reason to suppose that other Russian agents in Europe had arranged for the sending to a New York paper of a cable from London, full of discrediting gossip. The fuse was lighted, and there followed the explosion. The story I had prepared in Berlin appeared, and the result was that Gorky and Andrieva were turned out of their hotel, and were glad to get a room in the apartments of a friend. Here they remained until they secretly moved over to the home of a Mr. Martin, in Staten Island. These are the details of the great Gorky scandal, which not only humiliated Gorky personally, but which also changed the attitude of European literary circles toward the New World. It was thus that American conventionality became a weapon for the Russian department of espionage."

The National Secretary of the Socialist party reported that a total of \$2,646.34 had been sent by the National Office to the strikers at Lawrence, Mass. Inasmuch as many locals send their contributions direct, the committee adopted a motion requesting that in all such cases the funds be sent through the National Office. Otherwise, the party does not get credit for it. It was also voted to contribute \$100 to the defense of Joseph J. Ettor and Aruro Giovannitti; and to issue a call for contributions, through the Socialist press.

### TWO HISTORICAL LETTERS.

San Francisco, Cal., March 11, 1912.

Dear Comrade:

The Speakers' Committee of Local San Francisco desires to place your name on a list of speakers for the use of the different branches and of locals in the surrounding towns.

You will be expected to represent the Socialist Party, and defend its principles, taking especial care to avoid conflicting with those clauses in our State and National platforms that emphasize our neutrality in religious matters, our friendship for all labor organizations, our approval of municipal ownership and our adherence to the basic principles of political action and the class struggle.

If available for this work please let Secretary John Keller know the dates when you can speak. And the subject of your addresses.

The branches or locals will be liable for your expenses only. Fraternally.

E. BACKUS,  
LILLIAN BISHOP,  
W. H. CONNELLY,  
Speakers' Committee.

2020 Howard St., San Francisco, Cal.

March 23 1912.

Speakers' Committee, Local San Francisco, Socialist party,

Dear Comrades:—

Yours of the 11th inst., informing me that I may be permitted to speak for the party in this city providing I will "emphasize... our approval of municipal ownership;" etc., received. I am not opposed to municipal ownership, any more than I am opposed to the rainy season. It is inevitable, and the business interests are working earnestly to bring it about. However, I cannot see my way clear to "emphasizing our approval" of it. The fact that municipalization of public utilities is almost complete in Japan, and has progressed to an advanced stage in other countries where the condition of labor is such that the Socialist party in this State has seen fit to urge the exclusion of their workers, would seem to offer sufficient excuse for refraining from "emphasizing our approval" until it can be shown, specifically in a given case, that the municipalization of a particular utility will be of benefit to the workers. Wherefore, I prefer to leave the emphasizing in this respect to others, and allow "our approval," so far as I am concerned, to be inferred, while I talk of the political and economic organization of the working class and its possibilities.

I also am asked to "emphasize" our friendship for "all labor organizations." Before I avail myself of the kindly privilege of talking on Socialism under the auspices of Local San Francisco I would like a little more information on this point. There is a "labor organization" in Los Angeles county, with some organized groups in other counties, of which H. G. Otis is the head. It provides for the settlement of all disagreements between employer and employed by the latter telling his troubles to the former and awaiting results.

There is another "labor organization" in Michigan, founded by one C. W. Post (and "there's a reason"), with branches in other States. Its avowed purpose is to promote "the common interests of employer and employed."

There also are group organizations, affiliated with a federation of labor, which have acted and may act hereafter as direct strike-breakers against some other organization.

Now, I'm a friendly sort of person, as all my acquaintances know, but there are limits to my friendliness.

Please let me know, precisely, what is expected of me in return for the great privilege which you tentatively offer me.

Hoping you will not feel in duty bound to prevent me from availing myself of the privilege of free speech, in defense of which I have sacrificed some "good" jobs and spent some days in jail, I am,

Yours for the Revolution,  
CLODESLEY JOHNS.

There can be no question that the avenues of personal development in the United States are fast becoming closed and that henceforth the American working man will have to rely more upon his efforts as a member of his class than upon his own personal efforts for his individual success. Henceforth his lot in life becomes to an ever increasing degree dependent upon the conditions of others like himself. He cannot rise out of the working class. He is inevitably and irremediably confined to the class to which he belongs and his economic position becomes more and more determined by the economic position of the class. Hence his whole salvation depends upon class action.—From "The Militant Proletariat," by Austin Lewis.

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#### FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST BUREAU.

Dear Comrades:

Underneath we are transmitting to you a copy of a report of Comrade Lenin and we beg you to communicate it to your press.

Fraternally yours,  
CAM HUYSHANS,  
Secretary.

#### Conference of Delegates of the Organization of the Social-Democratic Labor Party of Russia.

The last few years have been for the Social-Democratic Labor party of Russia, years of confusion and disorganization. For three years the party has not been able to convene either a congress or a conference, and for two long years its Central Committee has not been working at all. The party still continues to exist, but in the form of scattered groups, leading an isolated life (through the absence of a Central Committee) in all the towns of a certain importance.

For some time, under the influence of the awakening of the Russian proletariat, the party has begun to reform itself and quite recently, we have been able to convene a conference of the party (which has not been possible since 1908) at which all the organizations of the two capitals, the districts of the northwest and of the south, of the Caucasus and of the industrial region of the center were represented—twenty organizations in all,—acting in solidarity with the Commission of Organization which had convened this conference; that is to say, nearly all the organizations, mencheviks, or bolschewiks, existing in Russia at present.

In twenty-three meetings, the conference, which took upon itself the duties of leading organ of the party, examined and discussed all the questions entered in the agenda, some of which are of vital importance. Thus it gave a thorough and complete appreciation, entirely in agreement with the agendas of the conference of 1908 and of the plenary meeting of the Central Committee of 1910. It gave particular attention to the legislative elections for the Duma, which are to take place in a few months, and drew up, on this subject, an agenda in three parts, providing very thoroughly and completely for the many complications of our electoral agreements with other parties, and examined, in all its bearings the attitude and the action of the party during the next electoral campaign. Questions of famine, labor insurance, trade unions and strikes, etc., were also discussed and solved.

The conference also examined the question of "liquidators." This current denies the illegal party, declares that it is already liquidated and that its reconstruction is only a reactionary Utopia and states that the party can only be reformed as a legal party; nevertheless this current which has broken with the illegal party has up to now not been able to constitute a legal party. The conference noted that the party has been fighting this current for four years, that the conference of 1908 and the plenary meeting of the Central Committee of 1910 pronounced against the liquidators, that in spite of all the efforts made, they continue to work along and to attack the party in the legal press. The conference declared therefore that by their whole action, the liquidators grouped round the organs "Nachazaria" "Dielo Jizni" (in which we must now add "Ivov. Dielo") have placed themselves outside the Social-Democratic Labor party of Russia.

Lastly, a central committee and the editorship of the central organ of the Social-Democrats were elected. Moreover, as abroad we have many groups which are more or less Socialist and which in many cases are entirely isolated from the Russian proletariat and its Socialist action and consequently not at all responsible, the conference has declared that these groups can in no way represent the Social-Democratic Labor party of Russia, that the party is neither responsible nor guaranteed for those groups, that all communications with the Social-Democratic Labor party of Russia must be made through the intermediary of the Central Committee, of which the following is the address:

Mr. Vladimir Oulianoff, 4 Rue Marie Rose, Paris XIV.  
(For the Central Committee.)

It has been asserted by charlatans that capital creates value as well as labor—the test can easily be made. The worshiper of capital may sweep together in a heap his capital, he may gather all the capital of the earth, and after the space of a year there would not have grown a penny more of value from it, but indeed the worth of the idle mass would be considerably decreased. Capital is not merely the child of labor; it cannot grow and continue without it. Capital has in relation to labor no rights, while labor in relation to capital has the right of ownership. From "Socialism: What It Is," by Wilhelm Liebknecht.

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#### AN OPEN LETTER TO ROBERT HUNTER.

In Response to His "Corruption and Dual Unionism."

Comrade:

Knowing what a great influence you possess in molding thought, and believing your article was inspired by a sincere desire to do good, to assist in uniting the workers into stronger unions, I submit this, hoping you will have patience to seek for additional information, broadness of mind to treat the subject from more than one viewpoint, and courage to correct your mistake if you conclude you were in error, and your error will do harm where you intended good.

Your desire to bring about unification at all cost evidently makes you overlook some facts, and the conclusion you arrive at is wrong for the reason that the causes for secession, or rebellion, are in most cases different from those which you quote.

There are secession movements that are not only justifiable, but absolutely necessary, and strictly honorable, and should have the support of every honest man. By discrediting or placing a false construction upon the causes that lead to secession, you serve and co-operate with the most dangerous forces in the labor movement, and assist in frustrating the efforts of the workers to use the unions as the means to work-out their own emancipation.

The fact that the A. F. of L. and the Socialist party are both secession movements, and that the I. W. W. has used more efforts to organize the so-called unskilled workers, or such as other unions would not organize, than bring about secession, may or may not be worth considering in connection with this.

But here is an illustration I submit: there exists to-day affiliated with the A. F. of L. at least one union which, as a labor organization is the rankest imposition, a bunco game, pure and simple. It was cleverly schemed and launched upon the unsuspecting workers, and when they realized the true nature of the organization they belong to and tried to gain control of the same, they found the controlling power had been manipulated by the promoters of the scheme, and who, closely affiliated, or in conspiracy with the manufacturers, used their power to reduce wages, enslave the workers and, in the name of unionism, destroy all the ideals and principles for which the workers thought unionism stood. They were forbidden to read a certain newspaper that supported their cause; they were forbidden to criticize the abuse of power by the officials, the locals prevented from exchanging communications or using their treasuries but for certain purposes. Any violation of this would mean fines, expulsion and blacklist to the individual, the revocation of charter and commission rule for the local.

With your conception of government, you know what happens when constitutional government is destroyed, when free press and free speech is taken away; when the safety valve of democracy is shut. Rebellion takes place, and rightly so, and fortunately so. And the workers in the industry controlled by the institution I speak of have rebelled wheresoever they had strength to do so. Some local rebellions were crushed with the manufacturers' aid, but, as a whole, the revolution has been successful.

The workers have an organization once more, and have bettered their wages and conditions immensely, and that in spite of the fact that the promoters of the bunco scheme have fought them every inch, in every conceivable way, and have put strike-breakers in their places in their battles for better conditions.

Officials of other unions of the A. F. of L. will say: "Yes, it is so, we are sorry for you; the institution is rotten, but we cannot interfere; the laws of the A. F. of L. forbid an investigation or interference in the affairs of an organization after once it has been given jurisdiction over an industry." And so it exists, and so it is allowed to continue its bunco game through the prestige and support it derives from that affiliation and the support from the labor and Socialist press, sometimes bought just as the capitalist press is bought, then again through smooth deception, or intimidation.

And Socialist writers will be interviewed by smooth individuals carrying S. P. membership cards in their pockets, and will be convinced that secessions are always caused by

fanatics, or "disappointed office-seekers," and as a result we will read learned essays against secession, listen to well-intentioned advice, to remedy from within, where there is just as much chance to remedy from within, as the Chinese had to get constitutional government on the same route.

It seems to me the "free, unuzzled Socialist press," and writers are not bound by any laws not to investigate. It seems to me that, in interest and justice to the movement they represent, they should investigate whether they supported a labor union, or were made partners in a bunco game.

The Sam Parks type is not the worst type in the labor movement, no more so than is the thug most to be feared of criminals. It is the suave, polished swindler, with his card of introduction, elaborate suite of offices, his proofs of "financial stability" that will dupe the wise man and get away with it.

If you are interested I will prove this story is true, show how the game is worked and is being worked. It will be an interesting study; it might open up a new avenue of thought and conception. Fraternally,

ARVID G. ERLANDO,  
General Organizer, United Shoe Workers of America.

#### AND TORQUEMADA, JR., IMPORES THAT "BILL" STOP KICKING HIS DAWG AROUND.

The official trombone of the S. L. P., true to its notions that the way to aid in the work of "organizing" the workers for their emancipation is to "fight" in the same manner and with the same weapons that the backward Chinese used—stink pots.

Read the following from its issue of April 13th:

"Im-a-Bums Kiss 'Old Glory'—Poor 'Old Glory'."

"San Diego, Cal., April 5.—Nearly 100 members of the Im-a-Bummery, all of whom admitted that they were anarchists, knelt on the ground and kissed the folds of an American flag at early dawn yesterday near the Orange County boundary line.

"The ceremony, which was unwillingly performed, was witnessed by forty-five deputy constables and a large body of armed citizens of San Diego. The men, who were thus forced to do this homage composed the party that left Santa Ana on a freight train the night before and whose coming was awaited by the deputies and armed citizens.

"After the flag kissing the Bummeryites were divided into squads of five and placed in command of deputies. Then the march to the line began and the procession moved to the tune of 'The Star Spangled Banner.'"

Some years ago Torquemada's privately edited sheet learned the ennobling art of "editing" capitalist news items and making them appear as if they were sent direct. In the famous Free Speech fight, in Spokane, this quackish art was overworked.

When a so-called Socialist paper will endorse the acts of "vigilance committees" and favor the "civilized plane" in the same breath—Good God! Good God!

#### MAY DAY IS COMING.

The class conscious workers of San Francisco on May Day unite under the banner of the International May Day Federation. This year the Federation will celebrate on LABOR DAY with a parade of militant workers through the city's streets.

In the evening the hosts of labor will gather at the Auditorium, Page and Fillmore streets. Then, after listening to Austin Lewis, the brilliant Socialist orator and scholar, dancing and other festivities will be indulged in.

Any worker that neglects to celebrate with us neglects a duty that he owes to himself and his class.

In the International May Day Federation you will find all the revolutionary forces of San Francisco, the Socialist party, the Industrial Workers of the World, the Socialist Labor party, the Industrial Socialist League, all of the fighting craft unions and the splendid groups of German, Finnish, Russian, Jewish, and all other Socialist bodies of a different tongue. MAY DAY IS LABOR'S INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAY. Celebrate with us! Rejoice in labor's splendid victories of the past year and glory in the coming Social Revolution.

Join in the parade!  
Be at the Auditorium!  
REVOLT will do its share. Our special MAY DAY edition will contain THE STORY OF LABOR. Order a bundle for distribution.

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# PARADE

— OF —

# Militant Workers

**MAY 1, 1912**  
STARTS AT GRANT AVENUE AND MARKET STREET,  
7:00 P. M.

**All Who Believe in the Class Solidarity of Labor,  
Fall in Line**

**Parade Ends at the AUDITORIUM,  
Page and Fillmore Streets**  
where AUSTIN LEWIS, the noted Socialist Orator, will speak

**Mass Gathering, Entertainment and Ball**  
Held under auspices of International  
Labor Day Federation

**WOMEN WELCOME in the Ranks of Marchers**

## ONE BIG UNION DANCE

GIVEN BY REVOLT  
THE VOICE OF THE MILITANT WORKER  
**MISSION TURN VEREIN HALL**  
18th near Valencia Street  
**SATURDAY NIGHT, MAY 18TH**  
Grand celebration of REVOLT'S Birthday  
Admission 25c

Open Evenings Open Evenings

## \$1.00 A WEEK WILL DRESS YOU

Best up-to-date clothes for men and women on easy terms.  
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