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# Railroad Men!

## Act Against the Traitors to Labor

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The shopmen's strike has lasted 4 weeks and still the rank and file of the other unions engaged in the railroad industry of the country are working. Although not directly scabbing against the shopmen, still they are playing the role of scabs by assisting the railroad magnates in their efforts to keep the trains moving.

Every day of the strike has seen the equipment of the roads falling into a worse state of chaos. Wrecks are so common that the capitalist press no longer mentions them, for fear the rank and file of the Big Four Brotherhoods will refuse to risk their lives in order to maintain a semblance of service. As time passes and the strike continues, more and more trains will be taken off the roads, until the other railway employees will only be working half or one-third of the time.

Since you are compelled to lose many weeks in actual time, why not quit in a body for a week or two; close down the whole system of rail transport, and force the railroad magnates to their knees? One week of a complete tie-up will turn the trick.

The Maintenance Way Men, who have been ruthlessly betrayed by their President, Grable, and his Grand Lodge supporters, should strike over the heads of these vile servants of capitalism who wormed their way into control of an organization through playing every filthy trick known to labor-skate politicians. These officials should be repudiated. Any man or set of men who stand in the way of unity of action on the part of the working class should be ruthlessly eliminated by the rank and file, and the mass of the workers on the roads should take matters into its own hands.

**Shopmen! You, who are on strike!** Do not condemn the rank and file of the Maintenance Men, but appeal to them to resist the treachery of their traitorous officials and call a strike over their heads. The

Maintenance of Way Men must strike in order to preserve their union. Their officials, in refusing to sanction the strike they have overwhelmingly voted for are playing the contemptible role of union wreckers. A union of scabs, organized by the companies, would not be any more contemptible than the officers of the Maintenance Men under the arch-traitor, Grable.

The Brotherhoods should also be appealed to in order to stop every wheel that turns on a rail in the nation. If they do not strike now, they will be reduced later and compelled to fight ALONE as the shopmen are today fighting alone. The rank and file of all the railroad unions, with the exception of here and there a fossilized conductor or engineer, is anxious to get into the fight and to teach the railroad barons that they cannot crush labor. Among the Brotherhoods, again, we witness the same curse of reactionary officialdom. Only recently the new head of the Firemen and Enginemen, Robertson, declared that he would not advise violation of contracts and condemned those who advocated a general strike on the railroads in order to save the railroad unions from complete destruction at the hands of the master class. This reptile and mountebank fakir of the Firemen declared that those who advocate militant action on the part of all the workers on railroads were trying to destroy the unions. **He lied and knew he lied.**

The reason the labor fakirs at the head of the unions accuse the militant unionists of desiring to destroy organized labor is because they know that when the membership wakes up; when the rank and file really take matters into their own hands, they will discover the double-faced game of treachery that has been played by the Grand Lodge officials and will kick them all out of their \$10,000 and \$20,000 a year jobs and

put in their places intelligent working men, from the ranks of labor, who understand labor's problems and who will serve labor for the same scale of wages the rest of the men receive.

Unless the rank and file of labor ACTS today, their unions will be destroyed tomorrow! There is no time to lose.

The officers are greatly concerned about some uncertain agreements that they claim to have with the employers; but the employers never recognize agreements with the men. Every day there are a thousand opportunities for the leadership of labor to do away with agreements on the grounds that they have been violated by the employers; as they are violated every day.

As a mast for their treachery to the rank and file they plead that agreements that are sacred exist between the unions and the railroads.

Do they ever stop to think of agreements that should exist between the organizations of labor? Is it not far better to tell the employers to go to hell (as they tell us so many times) and to violate agreements with them when we are faced with a crisis that threatens the very life of our unions, than to deliberately betray organized labor.

Which is the greater crime?

We, the rank and file, must act and act decisively to bring all the workers on the railroads under the strike banner in order to once and for all teach the arrogant exploiters and robbers that we will not accept any conditions they desire to impose upon us.

The strike must be broadened; the picket line must be extended to stop every wheel that turns on the railroads of the United States.

Even the shopmen's strike alone is crippling the transportation system. If a small part of the railway employees can strike successfully, what could ALL of them do?

The employers and the labor skates alike feel that it is to their interest to keep the workers divided; the workers are beginning to understand that it is to their interest to unite against both the employers and the reactionary officials.

The inroads that are already being made by the shopmen can be turned into complete paralysis of the railroad system if the rank and file will act in spite of their officers and over the heads of the officers.

The workers must unite against the united front of the capitalist class and deliver blow for blow until they are beaten into submission and victory crowns the struggle on the part of labor.

If labor will present a United Front against the ruling class we will hear no more of the open shop, no more from Harding and his half-witted cabinet of so-called "best minds," no more about the abolition of seniority rights or any of the other dire threats of the railroad owners and their flunkies on the daily newspapers.

Down with the inhuman conspiracy against labor unions!

Crush the enemy from within and without the unions!

Smash the machines of the labor fakirs!

Incite the rank and file to strike over the heads of their traitorous leaders!

Defend the labor unions from destruction!

Make the strike general!

*Edited by Tim Davenport.*

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