

Graft Still Going On

Organized Labor in Deer Lodge Strikes and Compels State Official to Obey the Laws

The carpenters of Deer Lodge recently went on strike against Convict Labor and won a victory.

Convicts were used to do the work of teamsters in hauling the building material to the building under construction.

The Carpenters Union held a meeting and decided to declare a strike on the building unless the convicts were pulled off the job.

The Montana News is ready now and at any time to prove that convict labor was being performed in violation of the law.

POVERTY MAKES BOOZE FIGHTERS

"It is not drink that makes poverty. It is poverty that makes drunks.

In these words Walter Huggins summarized a reply to W. H. Brubaker, who discussed prohibition before a socialist meeting at the Y. P. S. L. hall in Chicago.

The existence of liquor, he declared, is due to a series of causes that should be removed to destroy the traffic.

"Profit is the chief cause for the existence of the traffic," he said. "Remove the profits and you have removed the greatest cause for the existence of the evil."

Nasty Business. "The saloon is a nasty business. The saloon keeper does not like it. They hate to see men become debauched.

"Why do they stay in the business? Because they can make money. They want to have the necessities of life and the pleasures that money can secure.

Mr. Huggins then pointed out that all over the world the saloons exist most thickly where the environments are the worst.

Why is this the condition in every civilized community? he continued. Why does the saloon flourish most in settlements where the people are

HOLD BIG FESTIVAL IN ST. LOUIS

St. Louis, Mo.—The Socialist party of St. Louis held its annual March festival and commune celebration at the New Club hall in this city last Saturday.

The principal speaker of the celebration was A. M. Simon, editor of the Chicago Daily Socialist. He had chosen for his subject, "The Opportunities of Labor in the United States," chosen for his subject, "The vast field of socialist endeavor that is day by day opening up before

th onslaught of propaganda aroused the enthusiasm of the audience.

The proceeds of the festival go to the St. Louis Labor and the Arbeiter Zeitung to pay off the liabilities before the papers are transferred to the Labor Publishing Co.

Pennsylvania Labor Party

Truly Representative of Working-Class Interest Must Necessarily Duplicate Principles and Form of Organization of the Socialist Party

It was inevitable that the revolt of the Pennsylvania workers should take on a political form. The power of the police and the constabulary and the influence of the city government has been the main support of the street car company in the fight.

There are few states in which the alliance of great industry and the state is more direct and flagrant than in Pennsylvania.

It has been the stronghold of capitalism nationally. Its politics, have been but the performance of puppets moved by wires held in the hands of a few powerful capitalists.

During all these years the Socialists of Pennsylvania have been preaching the necessity of political action by labor. Over and over again, from street corner and platform and through the printed page they have told the workers that they had in their own hands the power to end the tyranny under which they suffered.

Now the lesson has been partially learned. The demand is rising for an independent labor party that shall be controlled by the trades unions.

This is a step in advance. It is a long step compared with the previous subservency to the democratic and republican parties. It indicates great progress when contrasted with the "corrupt and contented" attitude of previous years.

It will be unfortunate if this step is accompanied by a blunder that will entail suffering and invite reaction.

There is already a "labor party" in Pennsylvania. It is a party of no mean strength. It polled more than thirty thousand votes in the last presidential election. It has its machinery of organization in every important industrial center.

Any labor party that could be formed, that would be truly representative of working-class interest, would necessarily duplicate its principles and form of organization. That party is the Socialist Party.

If the outraged and revolting workers of Pennsylvania wish to make their protest effective, they will be compelled sooner or later to act through that party. It was the Socialists who taught them the need of independent political action.

Coal Miners Walk Out

Demand for Increase in Wages Refused by Operators 300,000 Miners Lay Down Tools

Cincinnati, O.—The joint meeting between the delegates from the United Mine Workers of America and the coal operators broke without reaching any agreement. A strike of over 200,000 miners on April 1 now seems certain unless the operators show a decided change of front.

Capital's Power Too Strong.

Mother Jones is here, and wherever she goes before a gathering in which miners take part she gets only one sort of a reception, the gathering is hers. She has been working in Milwaukee trying to organize the girls in the Milwaukee breweries.

The joint conference represents the members of the United Mine Workers all over the United States and mine owners from a like area.

The union cannot make political affiliation a test of membership. It cannot, in the face of recent decisions, use its funds for the maintenance of a political party.

This made the gathering useless. It was then adjourned. The Illinois miners sent Duncan, McDonald, Groce Lawrence, Frank J. Hayes and others

as a committee to Chicago to meet the Illinois operators.

The operators in Chicago delayed matters and prevented an agreement. A complete convention of the joint forces, miners and mine operators was called to meet in this city.

Suspension of Work.

Indianapolis, Ind., March 31—Three hundred thousand organized miners of the bituminous coal fields of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas quit work at midnight pending settlement of a new wage scale.

Officers of the United Mine Workers of North America declared the walk out was not a strike but merely a suspension of work because no wage scale had been made to replace the old scale which expired with March.

While the miners predict the suspension will be shortened by a prompt signing of wage scales, some of the operators maintain the mines may be kept closed for a month or longer.

Some Operators Grant Increase. The first settlement came in an announcement from Brazil, Ind., the center of the Indiana block coal field, where the demand for a five-cent increase was granted.

Hope for Settlement. Indianapolis—Leaders of the United Mine Workers and the operators association in the bituminous coal fields were busy Friday preparing for conferences in which, it is hoped, agreements on new wage contracts will be reached.

GREATER ASSISTANCE AT WORK

Philadelphia, Pa.—Assured that the Philadelphia Rapid Transit company cannot hold much longer, the striking car men have voted not to return to work until the company had agreed to give the men back their old runs, thereby preserving their rights of seniority.

C. O. Pratt, national organizer, in a statement to the car men, told them not to worry about the sympathetic strikers who were returning to work in such large numbers.

Many of the labor organizations have voted to stay out until the street car strike is settled, among them being the Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners and the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters & Joiners with six thousand members.

Even in England, the labor party is wholly apart from the miners, with its own organs, officers and methods of activity.

It would be foolish to disregard the lesson that experience has so plainly taught. To do so is to invite disaster. It will be most unfortunate if the Pennsylvania workers, after having achieved so much, after having gone so far along the road that leads to victory, should, at the last moment, take a step so certain to end in failure.

of the scabs from the ranks of the strikebreakers, there being 52 desertions in one day. The committee of ten has issued a proclamation to the public asking them not to use the cars until the strike is settled.

No Attempt to Raise Funds so far. The committee says furthermore in its report:

"The strike has now been on five weeks. The Rapid Transit company has had the united support of the city and state governments, with all the power that capitalistic friends can place behind it. Yet with all of this it has been able to operate only some 800 cars, and that only during a portion of the time during the day, out of 2,200 cars that would be in operation were the strikers at work.

"The only thing for us to do is to sustain and uphold the strikers. There has been no attempt to raise funds. We did not believe it possible to finance the general sympathetic strike. Now, that we are going to sustain only the car men, we feel that if an appeal is made to the state and every worker within the city will do his duty, we can soon raise a sufficient fund to protect and uphold the hands of these men indefinitely, and we would recommend that such appeals be at once outlined and forwarded to the committee."





