

COAL OPERATORS BEGIN PREPARING FOR LABOR WAR

Storage Yards Filled—Manufacturers Putting in Reserve Supply.

(N. Y. Tribune)
Scranton, Penn., Dec. 17.—In less than four months the contract between the anthracite miners and operators will expire, and already signs are plentiful through the district that April 1 will see the beginning of a finish fight over the demands of the union. These demands are:

- A 10 per cent increase in wages.
 - The eight-hour day.
 - The "check-off."
- It is on the "check-off," which means the collection of union dues by the operators, that the break will come. So far as the 10 per cent increase in wages is concerned, in the last analysis that will be passed on to the public. The eight-hour day demand is considered pretty much of a joke, for no miner works eight hours a day, on an average.

But the "check-off" under the operation of which the companies by deducting the amount of dues owed the union from each pay check, keep the union at all times holding every man in the district on its books and with full treasures there would be no end to the demands made up on them.

Leaders in the operators' organizations declare that their observations in the soft coal fields, where the "check-off" is in force, leads them to be more wary of it than in the past.

"The operators who have it would be mighty glad to be rid of it," one official said. "It is working badly from their standpoint. We can not and will not have it here, and that is all there is to it."

STORAGE YARDS FILLED
Just what preparation the operators are making is a secret. However, even now the storage yards are filled to capacity. How many millions of tons are thus ready above ground the operators will not tell, and no one else can say with certainty.

The operators for some time have been making tentative contracts for guards to protect their property in the event that a suspension or strike is declared. Agents supplying this class of help have been busy in the

COUNTRY WIDE RAILROAD STRIKE NEAR—PERHAPS

Chicago, Dec. 10.—Leaders of organized labor unions of the railroads are here today preparatory to holding a secret confederation. They will consider whether a general strike on all the railroads of the country shall be called next Spring unless the transportation lines grant increases in wages for overtime and an eight-hour day.

Timothy Shea said today: "This time there will be no arbitration. The principle of arbitration is excellent, but it has been abused. There is no secret about what we are after. We will flatly demand an eight-hour day and time and a half for overtime. We may decide to add other demands."

"If we do not get what we ask we will walk out and every railroad in the country, involving more than 250,000 men, will be affected."

AN ATTEMPT AT HOLD-UP THAT FAILED

I. W. W. Man's Experience With a Grafting Hotel Keeper in North Dakota.

Stanton, N. D., is a small town. It is the county seat of Mercer county. Situated on the sandy banks of the Missouri River, church spire and the spire of the courthouse can be seen for many miles. In fact, one would think that in Stanton a stranger would at least escape the insults and frame-ups common in other towns.

The writer arrived in Stanton Dec. 2. The weather was stormy. To sleep in a straw pile or a box car was out of the question. I went to the hotel owned by Henry Loy. He is a big man. A fat man. His record as a workman is not as good even as the Creator of this universe who it is claimed worked six days and has been resting ever since. Mr. Loy gets tired, of course, but it is from talking. He has few friends in the city. Perhaps it is because he has fired them all out talking. He charges 75 cents a night for a room creeping with vermin of all sorts.

The following morning after staying in this crumb joint, I went to a restaurant for breakfast. Mr. Loy came over and asked me to come over to his hotel after I had eaten. I did so not knowing what he wanted to see me about. On entering, I was informed that I got his bed lousy and I would have to pay him \$5 damage. I told him that it was a mistake. He said that if I did not pay the \$5 he would sue me. I did not want to pay a course in hotel law before I left the city. I told him that I was looking for information and for this reason, if for no other, I would refuse to pay the bill. Mr. Loy being a "Justice of the Peace" got out a warrant for my arrest. Julius Krecklow, deputy sheriff served the paper. He led me up before the judge for trial. The judge being Mr. Loy, who was also the plaintiff in the case. I was told by the judge that if I came at the proper time that I could get it, but it was too late now. After he read a half hour or so from the complaint, and I had told him three or four times that I was not guilty he told me that the LAW required him to read the complaint. I roared him about his court and the brand of justice that he handed when the prosecuting attorney told him that I was entitled to a change of venue. Thereupon, he drew a long blank from his desk, filled it out and passed it over for me to sign. I signed the damn thing twice and asked if that was enough. He told me to pay him 50 cents or he would not sign. I refused to come across with the change, not caring a damn whether he signed it or not. They were hung up. The prosecuting attorney beat it and I was taken off to jail. The jail was full of beer and whiskey. It looked like a supply station for bootleggers.

I was searched by the law and in accordance with the law. They found 11 cents in money on me. After dinner I was again taken before the (Continued On Page Four)

Organize and put power behind your kick. As long as you are weak—unorganized—you will be robbed. They treat you like dogs or worse. They are not scared of you individually, but they fear the I. W. W. They know the power of organization.

Solidarity declines to publish long-winded walls about the impossibility of organizing some job or another. If you think the job of lining 'em up too big for you individually, holler for help to the secretary of the A. W. O. or whoever is in touch with the organizer. Don't try to discuss or argue others with hard luck stories before you have done this. The A. W. O. conquers all things in its line.

TO THE TIMBER WORKERS OF NORTHERN MINNESOTA

FELLOW WORKERS:

You are the men who make homes for others a possibility and have none of your own. Most of you have not even a check after years of labor in the great logging industry. The result of your labor can be summed up in the statement that you made the bosses rich and lived on the verge of hunger or beyond most of the time. On the streets of Duluth, Bemidji, International Falls and other cities of the timber empire which you have made possible, the empire you have built for others you meet old men, their efficiency as money makers for the boss departed. They are hobos, vagrants, bums. The boss has thrown them one side to starve as they may, to die as they can. These worn-out, timber beasts are the picture of your future.

You see many of your bosses who are healthy men at 55 and 60. How many lumber jacks do you find who are healthy at that age? The boss murders the Timber Beast young. They steal from you the most of the product of your labor. You have built them homes and cities, and they deny you a crust of bread in the cities you yourselves have built with your brain and muscle. Still they may fatten on your poverty. Running an employment office is easier than swinging an axe. But you have to swing the axe that these vultures may fatten off your labor. It is easier for them to work you than to go to work themselves.

Does the employment shark help you in any way? They have made it impossible for you to get a job without a ticket. They are useful to the boss in cutting your wages but not when you pay to have your own wages cut. You don't like it, but what can one man do—nothing!

LAW FOR YOU—YOU MUST OBEY!
They tell you there is law in this country. There sure is. There are all kinds of laws to protect the boss, to jail you. Any one who wants protection in stealing from you can get all the laws in his favor. Every time you meet law it is wearing a club to hit you on the head. On an average the boss does not care how much he promises you, as he can pay you anything he wishes. He hires you at \$25 to \$30 a month, a starvation wage surely. When you are quitting he decides what he is going to pay you. In a few cases coming under my personal observation the boss, not alone refused to pay the workers, but also kept their clothing to help pay for board. This is the way in which the loyalty of the lumber jack is repaid by the boss.

NO LAWS THE BOSS MUST OBEY.
You know that there is not in the entire lumber territory of Northern Minnesota one camp that has conform to the provisions of the law in regard to camp conditions. There are bunkies one on top of another, bedding so dirty that even the lice have moved to cleaner surroundings, no dry rooms and general conditions that would be a disgrace in a well kept stable or pig pen. You know that there is not even in the South a wage scale so low considering the hours of labor, and the value of the labor you perform.

YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED.
It would be an insult to your manhood to say that you are satisfied. You are not. You may have despaired of ever getting better conditions, but you are certainly not satisfied. The struggle with hunger ever as a background with the working class fighting one another may have partially destroyed your ambition but with a chance to win you are willing to get in the fight for better conditions. I know your thoughts because I have lived your life.

YOU NEED POWER. ORGANIZATION IS POWER.
The main cause of your present conditions is the fact that you are unorganized in a world where all power is organized. The boss does not respect you because you are not powerful; you are not powerful because you are unorganized. Modern Society respects nothing but power, because power can command respect. With five thousand men organized in the Lumber Industry, with five thousand fighting for themselves instead of the boss we could put the Employment Offices on the Burn, we could demand higher wages, better camps and shorter hours. We could make these demands effective by our power as producers of a commodity the world must have in order to exist. Here is the cause of your misery. **THE WORLD COULD NOT EXIST FOR SIX MONTHS** (Continued on Page 3. Cols. 4 and 5.)

There is nothing more sublime than a true blue rebel. Change the conditions of human life and you change the motives of human action. Under a system which places a premium on dishonesty fools expect honesty.

Work for a master is not so much an object as good wages. The more honesty a man has the less money he accumulates. Prepare the working class for possession and operation of the industries independently of the capitalists by organizing them compactly in the Industrial Workers of the World. Join the Five Dollar League, and boost the press and organizing fund of the I. W. W. up to \$5,000 before next spring.

Europe is recruiting millions to die for their country. The I. W. W. is recruiting thousands to live and fight for themselves. Which army are you joining? Are you willing to organize to die or to begin to truly live?

Armies, navies and police organizations are simply to protect the parasites from one another and against the useful workers. Abolish the parasites by making them do something useful and the army, navy and police would not be necessary.

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Some More "Militarism And The I. W. W."

Editor Solidarity: In your November 27th number, I read: "An I W W man may be a militarist or an anti-militarist, because he believes, and in fact knows, that no military force can conquer labor, if it is industrially organized."

It may be true, that labor will win at the end, whatever failures will be made, although failures always will mean delay and more victims; but to say, that an I W W man can be a militarist, simply means to suppose, that he is allowed to be a faithful servant to capitalism.

And as to militarism in its relation to foreign countries, we have to see clearly, that under the present conditions, militarism means aggression of all big capitalist states to control a larger part of the world for their own profits.

Militarism does not mean any longer the fighting of capitalist nations for national independence. The capitalist robbers in the leading countries are on equal footing.

Who are the most active fighters against labor and the I W W? It is financial capital and this at the same time is leading in militarism all over the world, and not simply because of the big war profits.

This may be accomplished by a series of industrial conflicts, conflicts that will grow so as to become of general importance. But to overthrow capitalism it is necessary that the workers clearly acknowledge that their fight is anti-capitalistic, which means under present conditions anti-imperialistic and anti-militaristic.

(We think a word or two necessary on this fellow worker's statement, for the sake of clearness. The sentence quoted from Solidarity was written by a correspondent, and was supposed to be an inference from an editorial in a previous issue. We did not consider the inference hardly fair, but refrained from calling attention to the fact at the time of its appearance.

But Wilshire's statement, quoted by our friend Rutgers, is misleading. It needs qualification. Perhaps the better way to put it would be: "An I W W man thoroughly grounded in the principles of the organization, logically recognizes in militarism one of the principal props of capitalism. Therefore he cannot well be otherwise than hostile towards this form of ruling class coercion."

But this brings up the question of tactics, or the most effective methods of fighting militarism. Experience has shown, we think, quite conclusively, that to single out any one of the props of capitalism for attack, will only lead to disaster for the attackers. That is, it would be a colossal blunder for the I W W just now, to pay exclusive attention to anti-militarist propaganda, and neglect the only thing that can hope to successfully grapple with capitalism and its militarist prop.

society that most logically be put in the place of capitalism. Here is another aspect of the problem: It so happens that militarism, no more than religion or politics, originated with capitalism. Military instincts, or habits, like political and religious instincts or habits, are deeply rooted in social human nature. But they are not as primary as economic instincts or habits, albeit they are related to the latter. The economic instinct—the urge for "food, clothing and shelter"—is at the bottom of all the other instincts.

The Mobilization of Labor

President Wilson's plea for the mobilization of industry, should not pass unnoticed by labor, as it is fully of great meaning to the working class. The realization of this program means a great rebirth of concentration and trustification, with their war of the classes and, more particularly, their strenuous oppression of labor.

LABOR SHOULD EXTEND AND DEVELOP ITS PROTECTIVE AND EMANCIPATORY ORGANIZATIONS EVERMORE. Especially should it organize according to industry, and thus achieve its own mobilization in order to preserve and improve on its present status and prospects. To fail to endeavor to do this, is to fail to recognize and combat a most oppressive tendency.

Action along these lines is imperative now, and will grow more imperative every day. The I. W. W. is the only organization of labor that is alive to this necessity, or that shows any appreciation of the significance of recent great changes on the welfare of the working class, and that seeks to organize in conformity with them. All those who favor the mobilization of labor should, therefore, rally around the I. W. W. and thus increase its funds, circulate its press and literature, push its organization into new fields.

Inter-Relation of Theory And Theory

Peculiar as it may seem, the "impossible" has at last been accomplished, that of welding together the homeless and apparently unamalgamable slave. The well known and too often heard cry of (They won't stick together) has been successfully contradicted by the recent actions of the Delegates of the Agricultural Workers Organization.

As the Bible says, "Let us be thankful." Yes, but thankful to whom? To some insignificant Myth, certainly not, let us be thankful to the fact that the I. W. W. members are not contented with "merely" theorizing, but as has been proved, by putting into action the results of their "philosophizing."

Of course it must be understood that no amount of theories are of any avail, if not applicable and it must also be impressed that no amount of action is worth a snap, if it cannot be reduced to some theoretical plan, here is where we have an apparently difficult problem to solve that of showing the inseparable qualities of theories, and actions.

Let us use as an example the mighty armies of Nations. First, for months, yes, and even years before the opposite armies meet men have set their desks with charts, figuring, planning, and scheming, on which would be the most beneficial action to pursue, giving the results of their investigations to the officers who transfer them to the soldiers, whence they are then translated into action.

The lesson to be learned from this, is for the benefit of "US" who, in the past, have been soaring so high in the land of Abstract with pretty plans, and palavarized philosophies, that we may descend a, quite a little, and apply these aforesaid plans, but beware lest the ever awaiting bug of reaction smiles you with his contagious sting, which means that the inevitable result will be a higher development of the physical only and neglect of the mentality which has placed men in the highest limbs of the ancestral tree.

One thing is certain that we have sufficient plans laid to keep us busy for a while, let us test them first before going any further, which means, for Christ's sake at present let us act. HERBERT R. COLLIE

What Do You Say?

Would you like to see a sixteen-page magazine for Solidarity—double its present size—beginning April 17? Are you willing to do your part to see that this is no "April Fool" proposition? We are about to install folders and other necessary machinery to enable us to handle the mechanical end of this proposed change. You ask, "What can I do?" Get a Green Book and go after sub, for one thing. Send \$1. to Hayward and enroll as a member. Get a Green Dollar League, for another. Get others to do both of these things, also. Talk and agitate for a bigger Solidarity among I. W. W. supporters and elsewhere. In other words, boost, and help us boost for the 16-page Solidarity by April 17. Are you?

Studies in Modern Industrial Tendencies

New York's Boot And Shoe Industry.

The little old shoemaker, with his bench and awl, who used to tan his own leather and make boots and shoes complete by hand, has long departed from our midst. His place has been taken by big tanneries, large manufacturing corporations, and shoe machinery trusts. They own and control factories that house perfected machinery and hundreds of men and women who work co-operatively in them. It used to be said, in a spirit of fun, that it takes nine men to make a tailor. But such is the co-operation and division of labor in the boot and shoe industry that it takes about 40 different operations to make a boot or shoe.

Even the modern shoe cobbler is an essentially different workman than was his predecessor, the little old shoemaker. He works no longer on a bench, but at a machine, one electrically-driven at that. And his cobbling shop is an entirely different institution from that of the old time shoemakers approaching nearer the modern type of factory than was ever possible with the latter. It therefore involves an outlay of capital and a limit to branches impossible without him. Despite all this, however, there are some who are so venturesome as to scout the idea of progression in the boot and shoe industry, to assert that the tendency is to return to the individual shoemaker of long ago. It is to smile!

New York state does not figure so prominently in the shoe-making state, Massachusetts, where the industry began, and where the homes of the chain shoe stores are located, leads in this respect. Nevertheless, it has a growing shoe industry that reflects modern industrial tendencies in general, and is, therefore, worthy of some study and attention. According to the Statistical Bureau of the Industrial Directory for 1913, the latest issued, New York has approximately 32,000 boot and shoe workers. They are employed in 322 factories, most of which employ 10 or more persons. These factories are distributed as follows: Lestershire 1, Endicott 2, Binghamton 6, Brockport 1, Albany 1, Bronx 1, Auburn 2, Jamestown 1, Corvallis 1, Syracuse 3, Rochester 50, Brooklyn 115, New York city 122. The employees of these factories number as follows: Brooklyn 7,996, Rochester 7,181, Binghamton and environs (Lestershire and Endicott) 6,774, New York city 3444, Syracuse 1,061, Auburn 1,031, Buffalo 683, Brockport 337, Albany 120, Albany 130, Corvallis 14, Endicott-Corvallis 12.

From the foregoing it will be seen that New York's boot and shoe industry is practically concentrated in three localities, viz. Greater New York (New York city, Brooklyn and Bronx), with a grand total of 11,486; Rochester 7,181, and Binghamton and suburbs 6,774. These three centers employ 20,341 out of the 32,000 boot and shoe workers employed in the whole Empire state. This concentration will be found all the greater when the number of employees in the largest factories is considered. One firm, the Endicott-Johnson Co. of the Binghamton district, employs 5,276 men and women. This is one-sixth of the total number of employees for the entire state, is also almost as large as the entire number of employees in New York city, Syracuse and Auburn combined. Ten firms, including the Endicott-Johnson Co. employ 12,800 men and women. This is more than one-half of the employees at work in New York's three great boot and shoemaking centers. These firms are the Endicott-Johnson Co. Binghamton district 5,276; Dunn & McCarthy, Binghamton & Auburn, 2,395; Hannan & Co., Brooklyn, 1,431; Sherwood Shoe Co., Rochester, 1,015; and Dunn Co., Rochester, 765; E. P. Reed & Co., Rochester, 665; Armstrong & Co., Rochester, 627; Wichter & Gardner, Brooklyn, 578; Thomas & Co., Brooklyn, 566; and J. & F. Cousins, Brooklyn, 509—a total of 12,800 for ten firms.

If one takes each center separately he will see that the Endicott-Johnson and Dunn & McCarthy firms dominate the boot and shoe workers of the Binghamton district; Sherwood Shoe Co., Utz & Dunn, E. P. Reed & Co. and the Armstrong Co. those of the Rochester district; while Hannan & Co., Wichter & Gardner, Thomas & Co., and J. & F. Cousins rule supreme in the Brooklyn district. In the Binghamton district there are only two factories outside of the Endicott-Johnson and Dunn & McCarthy plants. They are the Truitt Bros., inc., with 28 employees, and the Truitt Schaub Co., inc., with 12 employees—40 employees in both factories. In the Rochester district, the Sherwood Co., Utz and Dunn, Reed Co. and Armstrong Co. employ 3,072, while 46 other factories employ the remaining 4,009 persons. In the Brooklyn district, Hannan & Co., Wichter & Gardner, Thomas & Co., and J. & F. Cousins employ 2,784, while 112 factories employ the remaining 5,211 persons. That is, in the Binghamton district two firms practically control all the boot and shoe workers; in the Rochester district 4 firms employ two-sevenths, while the Brooklyn district has firms employ about one-third of the entire number. All of Buffalo's 20 factories employ only 683 boot and shoe workers, or 82 less than the 765 employed by one Rochester firm, namely, Utz & Dunn Co.

Other statistics also show the concentration of the boot and shoe workers in the New York's boot and shoe industry. Rochester, for instance, has six firms employing 100 persons or over each, or 100, 132, 136, 114, 194 and 188 respectively, a total of 145 employees. Of these six firms employing 200 persons or over each, 238, 296, 287, 295 and 266 respectively employ 100 persons or over each, or 159, 150, 121, 191, 162, 143, and 141 respectively, a total of 1,633 employees. It also has 142 firms employing 50 persons or over each, or 284, 254, 214, 213 and 243, respectively, a total of 12,778 employees. In the Rochester district there are 345 and 383 persons each, respectively, a total of 762 employees. That is, 18 firms employ 481 persons each, and 18 firms employ 201 persons each, and women. If we add to these the 754 persons employed by Hannan, Utz & Dunn, Wichter & Gardner and Cousins, we have 22 firms controlling 6,800 employees out of a total of 7,181. Some of the "small factories" in the boot and shoe industry, as defined in the Statistical Directory for 1913, the latest issued, New York has approximately 32,000 boot and shoe workers. They are employed in 322 factories, most of which employ 10 or more persons. These factories are distributed as follows: Lestershire 1, Endicott 2, Binghamton 6, Brockport 1, Albany 1, Bronx 1, Auburn 2, Jamestown 1, Corvallis 1, Syracuse 3, Rochester 50, Brooklyn 115, New York city 122. The employees of these factories number as follows: Brooklyn 7,996, Rochester 7,181, Binghamton and environs (Lestershire and Endicott) 6,774, New York city 3444, Syracuse 1,061, Auburn 1,031, Buffalo 683, Brockport 337, Albany 120, Albany 130, Corvallis 14, Endicott-Corvallis 12.

New York's boot and shoe industry, in the present time of industrial activity; but so far as can be learned at this writing, it is not interstated. They employ a total of 461 persons each in Brooklyn there are 66 "small factories" with 383 employees, or about 6 persons each. In the Rochester district there are 91 "small factories" with 591, or about 6 employees each, too. This is an average of about 20 persons per factory. Some of the factories that are lumped together in the New York State Industrial Directory are, for instance, in such cities as Clean, Jamestown, Tonkers and Schenectady, where it is about 40 persons each. So that in even the average "small" boot and shoe factory, in both Rochester and Brooklyn, as well as New York city, the decentralization and local support of his theory than elsewhere. New York's boot and shoe industry, in the present time of industrial activity; but so far as can be learned at this writing, it is not interstated. They employ a total of 461 persons each in Brooklyn there are 66 "small factories" with 383 employees, or about 6 persons each. In the Rochester district there are 91 "small factories" with 591, or about 6 employees each, too. This is an average of about 20 persons per factory. Some of the factories that are lumped together in the New York State Industrial Directory are, for instance, in such cities as Clean, Jamestown, Tonkers and Schenectady, where it is about 40 persons each. So that in even the average "small" boot and shoe factory, in both Rochester and Brooklyn, as well as New York city, the decentralization and local support of his theory than elsewhere. The New York Labor Bulletin for September, 1915, on "Statistics of Trade Unions in 1914," gives the following figures for the end of September, 1914, on boot and shoe unionism in the Empire state: Auburn 29 Buffalo 44 Hornell 1,752 New York, Brooklyn 1,752 Rochester 1,211 Syracuse 1,201 Total 3,917 This is about 75 percent of the entire number of workers employed.

