





THE WOODMEN'S STRIKE

ONE MORE COUNT IN THE MOVEMENT AGAINST THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR.

Cal., June 4.—Again, we of the 2nd Workers of the World, with feelings of joy and sorrow, are again to record an incident in the class struggle, that adds to the indictment against those who are engineering the American Federation of Labor in its own interest and as a bulwark of the employing class of America. With things of sorrow that the rank and file have long been and still remain like...

The incident to be recorded is a strike, called May 1, 1907, in Humboldt County, California, by the International Brotherhood of Woodmen and Sawmill Workers, an A. F. of L. organization. To make the incident clearer to the outside reader, a short sketch of the above named organization is necessary.

The I. B. of W. & S. M. W. was chartered under the A. F. of L. in the spring of 1905. Its most active promoters were Chas. Grambarth, a cigarmaker, and a member of the I. C. M. U., Geo. Keeling, of the International Typographical Union; Joseph Roberts, a retail clerk, and Win. Owens, a member of the Pacific Coast Federation of Loggers.

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In the spring of 1905 the I. B. of W. & S. M. W. commenced recruiting its forces, and by the following spring had established some eight-ten local organizations and as well workers in Humboldt County, with an estimated membership of 15000.

Commenting on the above demands the Labor News, the official organ of the A. F. of L. of Humboldt County, gives utterance to the following gem in its issue of April 27:

Carthys and other notorious leaders of the metropolis. Zant in his methods of organizing adopted the usual tactics of the labor fakir, which consist of false claims of the efficacy of pure and simple unionism and misrepresentation of the aims and objects of the I. W. W. In spite of such tactics, however, little or no success was achieved in restoring the lost membership of the I. B. of W. & S. M. W. until the promise was made...

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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF WOODSMEN AND SAWMILL WORKERS.

(Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.) Ernest G. Pape, Sec. and Treas. 1600 Fifth Street, Eureka.

"Wage Scale and Working Conditions for the Woodmen and Sawmill Workers Millmen's Division. 1. The minimum wage shall be \$20 and board per month.

1. The board system in vogue at present is to be abolished and board to be free as in 1904. 2. Breakfast at 4 a. m. and supper at 6 p. m. Saturdays breakfast at 6 a. m. and supper at 5 p. m.

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In framing their demands last February the millmen and woodmen were unusually considerate of their employers and there are few even outside of the unions who are not willing to admit that what the men are asking is nothing more than reasonable and just.

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD. Industrial Union No. 430. (Address of Secretary, O. Wickman, 380 E Street.) Eureka, Cal., April 21, 1907.

conflict may take place at any time in the near future between the woodmen and millowners. Local 330, I. W. W., requests the Executive Board of the Brotherhood to meet a committee from this local, at such a time and place as may be most convenient for you, for the purpose of securing harmony and unity of action in case trouble should occur, which we earnestly hope will not be the case. If you decide to have a joint meeting, our position shall be fully explained to you.

By order of Local 330, O. Wickman, Sec'y. P. S. Please answer immediately.

Eight days later a reply came as follows: INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF WOODSMEN AND SAWMILL WORKERS.

(Affiliated with the American Federation of Labor.) Ernest G. Pape, Sec. and Treas. 1600 Fifth Street, Eureka.

Dear Sir: Laid your letter before the executive board, and as our time was very much occupied, you must excuse delay. We concluded and expected in all our plans and deliberations that your organization would approve and your membership take part in the conflict (if necessary) on the side of us wage earners against our employers.

So far as in regard to a conference, our executive board is of the opinion, as we are two separate bodies, working for the same purpose, the betterment of our conditions, and having full confidence in the members of your organization, we therefore deem it unnecessary at the present state of affairs.

May 1st, the demands having been previously presented to the companies, and ignored by them, the men working for the Hammond Lumber Co., Pacific Lumber Co., El River Valley Lumber Co., Little River Lumber Co., and one or two others, about 2,500 men altogether, went out on strike.

Apparently, the leaders of the A. F. of L. (as secretary Pape himself admitted in I. W. W. headquarters, in the presence of half a dozen witnesses, May 22) as well as the officials of the lumber companies, expected the I. W. W. men to remain at work. But in this they were disappointed.

Nevertheless, the refusal of the A. F. of L. leaders to meet the I. W. W. in joint conference left the impression among the lumber owners that the workers were divided and therefore unable to put up the resistance they could have done by the two organizations coming together.

Another fact must be noted: All the lumber companies were not affected by the strike, though none of them were meeting the conditions demanded by the union. For example: the men working for Dober & Carson were allowed to remain at work, although that company was only paying a minimum of \$50 per month for common swamper (the union scale calling for \$60), and did not grant the woodmen's hours until three days after the strike was on.

Two days after the strike was called, when his services should have been most required, Organizer T. E. Zant left the scene of action, and for several days no one could find out where he had gone. Later it developed that he had gone to San Francisco on some mission connected with the strike.

he made known the nature of that mission. In a public meeting of the I. B. of W. & S. M. W. he said he was in San Francisco for the purpose of finding a market for the lumber of the smaller companies (non-union) and securing a boycott through the Building Trades Council of San Francisco against the lumber of the larger companies.

The I. W. W. protested against such a policy, and insisted that the strike was for enforcing the demands against all companies. About this time, that is, May 14, the I. W. W. made a second attempt to obtain manifested action, and the following letter was addressed to Secretary Pape:

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF WOODSMEN AND SAWMILL WORKERS. Mr. Ernest Pape, Sec'y, Strike Comm., I. B. of W. & S. M. W.

Dear Sir:— At a meeting of the I. W. W. strike committee this afternoon I was instructed to communicate with you as secretary of the executive committee in charge of the present strike, and to ask for joint meetings henceforth of the A. F. of L. and I. W. W. strike committees.

Waiting a reply immediately, I am, Yours for the I. W. W. Strike Committee. B. H. Williams, Sec'y. Pape replied as follows: INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF WOODSMEN AND SAWMILL WORKERS.

Eureka, Cal., May 16, 1907. Mr. B. H. Williams, Sec'y.

Dear Sir:— Your from May the 14th instant on hand, and laid your letter before our executive board. It is beyond our power to meet with your committee jointly in conducting the strike.

THE NEWBERG INCIDENT. The week following this second refusal of the A. F. of L. leaders to bring about united action, an incident occurred that marked the turning point in the strike.

Knowing that the I. W. W. men had gone to work at Newberg, and fearing that they did not understand the "deal" between Shillington and Supt. Saffens (none of our men heed as choppers or common swamper), the I. W. W. strike committee immediately sent three men to Newberg.

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When the I. W. W. learned of this situation, we immediately called a special meeting of Local 330, discussed the situation in detail, and sent a committee to Newberg to find out about it. Our committee returned next day and reported that all demands were promised by the woodmen.

cussed, and by a practically unanimous vote we decided that inasmuch as our men struck simply to enforce the wage scale demanded by the A. F. of L. union, and that scale had been offered at Newberg, our men should go to work there, and not cause the I. W. W. to commit suicide by holding out for recognition of the A. F. of L. executive board.

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"The Concentration of Wealth"

By HENRY LAURENS CALL. Read before the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Columbia College, New York, December 27, 1906.

In this noted contribution to economic science, Mr. Call has shown not only the startling degree and growth of wealth concentration in the United States, but also the means by which this wealth concentration has been brought about. He has further demonstrated the justice as well as the necessity of society reclaiming all the instruments of production precisely as are "confiscated" the burglar's loot, the counterfeit's coin, or the pirate's ship.

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In this pamphlet Mr. Call has, in short, laid bare the whole industrial, financial and political situation. In the words of the New York World (applied to a former work of Mr. Call's) it is "a scientific, cold-blooded, mathematical analysis of modern industrial society, in which the tangled web of economic fallacies, inconsistencies and anomalies is shown with the clearness of demonstration of a professor of anatomy."

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