







ENGLISH SECTION

Emancipation of the Seamen

A certain awakening has been apparent for some years past amongst the seamen of both hemispheres. The maritime organizations, themselves strengthened through the inception of many new members, have started new unions, spurred on by the enthusiasm reigning in every country to make a freeman of the worker on the sea.

In Europe the maritime laborer's fight has become intensified and some results of it were seen last summer in England, Holland, Belgium, and other countries, where the shipping companies were forced to yield concessions before the energetic solidarity of the men.

In South America, the Argentine maritime societies last year obtained some advantages. In the United States the Unions on the Pacific have in the space of a few years brought about great improvements in the seamen's status; the unions on the Atlantic recently gained a signal victory, the men on the Mexican Gulf sharing the raise in salaries secured.

The outlook for seamen the world over is promising, provided they continue to strengthen their organizations and make strenuous efforts to direct the struggle into the economic field, by using the powerful weapon of the strike in an embryonic state, for although some battles have been fought and some triumphs won, it cannot be claimed that the fight has been basic and far-reaching, resting on fundamental principles which would lead to absolute and permanent emancipation.

Speaking now of the maritime movement in North America, with which we are in closer touch, we find a certain skill in their war tactics but little foundation on principles in some organizations. For the benefit of my fellow-workers and out of the sympathy I feel for their cause, I am going to express my own personal opinions, so that in case these be found just and reasonable, they will lend a helping hand towards rectifying past mistakes and remedying the evil conditions that exist.

The minds of some leaders and of many union men in this country seem to be possessed with the idea of the efficacy of the law. That is, for instance, they believe in legislation as a cure-all for the ills which the seaman complains, many dreaming that the liberation of the sea laborer will come about through magnanimous acts on the part of senators or representatives at Washington.

They therefore set about employing all their energies to enlist the efforts of certain congressmen, and after writing lengthy appeals in the press to secure the support of public opinion, they sit down to wait the promised day when the Government, by deed and grace of historical justice, will declare the man on sea to be independent and free.

In this matter of protective legislation for workmen some of us, however, have witnessed the saddening results of experience in Spain, France, Germany, and other countries. There the laws have turned out to be merely a legislative farce; for, in view of the fact that the capitalist class through its political influence has always set itself against their enforcement, not one iota of the parliamentary decisions have been complied with; and among the organized laborers we later find nothing but disappointment, disillusionment, and time lost.

Besides the fact that an existing government can hardly dare to favor the workingman with protective laws, inasmuch as it has been raised to power by the capitalist class, and must consequently do its bidding, labor unions oppose the action of the very bodies that have been built when they wait upon Congress to afford them relief. Indeed, it would be more logical for one who believes in the efficacy of legislation to affiliate himself with a political party, and endeavor to obtain the desired protective laws through the aid of his representative in Congress, instead of remaining a member of a trade union.

But from the instant that organized trades union men, federations or internationals affirm as a fundamental principle that the strike is the only practical and effective instrument with which to obtain better conditions and then deliberately attempt to bring these about through the enactment of laws, relegating the strike to secondary use, they contradict themselves.

The recent fight waged by the Atlantic seamen furnishes a good example in support of the above contention. Years had been spent in trying to throw off the shippers' yoke; laws were made to put an end to the abuses, absolutely prohibiting the collection from sailors of one cent by agents for find them places on board ship. But in practice the petty graft continued and the merchants went on exploiting the seamen, meeting money from them by indirect methods and mocking the laws enacted by the Government. Then the seamen began to organize and to undertake actual war upon the shipping companies; and in less than a week's time the merchant robbers beat a retreat, leaving the workers freed from their yoke.

What does this prove? Simply that the strike—instinctive revolt on the part of the seamen—is, in point of effectiveness, greater by far than all the speeches and protective laws that were made during a number of years in the House of Representatives and the Senate at Washington.

The emancipation of the suffering laborers on sea will be brought about through their brotherly organization by forming a strong federation which shall reach out its strong arm over every country, brandishing the powerful weapon of the strike and fighting upon broad, radical, basic principles, forcing the sea tyrants to let go of their usurped privileges; by doing this without calling upon the State to meddle in the fight between Labor and Capital, for the State rests upon the principle of privilege and exploitation itself.

A young lady was inquiring of her old nurse, the widow of a pensioner, how she got on. "Badly enough, darlint, only the Government intends to do something for us." "And what is Government, Nora?" "It is jokin' ye are, Miss? Sure, ivery child knows what's the Government! It is a half a dozen gentlemen an' the folks, maybe, that meets an' thinks what's best for themselves an' thin says that's the best for us, an' that's the Government!—Modern Eloquence.

Lecture of Emma Goldman

Last Sunday evening the Women's Trade Union League, 43 East 22nd St., was packed with a cosmopolitan audience, men standing on chairs and in doorways to hear Emma Goldman's lecture on "The Failure of Christianity." Two of Uncle Sam's man-of-war's men were present.

Miss Goldman always creates interesting discussions at the close of her lectures, inasmuch as she takes a stand diametrically opposed to that of the conservative. While several Protestants stood up for Christ, one ex-Jesuit stood up for the speaker, averring that his body was a living document of the lacerations with which the man of God must purify the flesh.

"The laborer must be aggressive, not meek," said Emma Goldman.

"The Christian religion and morality extol the glory of the hereafter, and therefore remains indifferent to the horrors of the earth. Indeed, the idea of self-denial and all that makes for pain and sorrow is a test of human worth—a passport for the entry into Heaven. The poor are to own Heaven and the rich will go to Hell. That may account for the despatch efforts of the rich to make hay while the sun shines, to get as much out of the earth as they can, to revel in wealth and superfluity, to increase their iron hold on the blessed slaves, to rob them of their birthright, to degrade and outrage them every minute in the day. Who can blame the rich for revenging themselves on the poor? No is their opportunity.

"And the poor they cling to the promise of the Christian Heaven as a home for old and infirm, a sanitarium for crippled bodies and weak minds; they endure and submit, they suffer and wait until every bit of self-respect is knocked out of them, until their bodies become emaciated and their spirits have been broken from the endless weary wait for the Christian Heaven."

Next Sunday lecture will be on "Art and Revolution."

OFFICIAL

MARINE FIREMEN, OILERS AND WATER-TENDERS UNION OF THE ATLANTIC AND GULF.

Headquarters: 17 South St., New York, Nov. 4, 1911.

Meeting was called to order on Nov. 1st at 8 P. M. and Comrade Genaro Pazos elected Chairman; 150 members were present and given seats. Minutes of previous meeting read and accepted. Weekly Financial Report read and referred to the Auditing Committee, on which were elected to serve José Galán, José Villarín, and José Bravo.

Secretary spoke of the general situation on the Atlantic coast, expressing the hope that the members would keep intelligently quiet during the winter and prepare for aggressive action next spring. Report accepted. The Agent and Delegates made their verbal reports, accepted. Secretary read communications from Branches and affiliated Unions, filed. The Auditing Committee reported that the books, vouchers, and bills were found correct and was discharged with thanks. No unfinished business.

New business: A discussion took place about the blankets and board of ships, it being decided that any member who asks for the blankets from the Company must give a guarantee for their cost, but if some members wish to buy the blankets themselves, they may do so, but under no circumstances will the Organization mix in this affair, in order to avoid trouble this winter.

The Secretary introduced to the members the new Editor of the Paper, Pedro Esteve, who made a very interesting address, saying that the Paper would denounce all kinds of slavery on sea as well as the abuses committed on shore. He said the Paper could publish an English page to keep to Anglo-Saxon members posted on the Labor movement.

Good and Welfare: The Secretary read a letter from seaman Juan Bautista, who asked for help to go to Spain, as he was very sick and unable to work. A collection of \$23.37 and two pesetas (50c) was taken up among the members.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 P. M. GENARO PAZOS, Chairman. JAMES VIDAL, Secretary.

MOBILE BRANCH.

Nov. 1st, 1911. Held no meeting at this Branch, as here is no men on shore; shipping and business good; prospects fair, cannot fill orders for men.

Have moved new quarters: Agents take notice and forward all mail to 104 South Commerce Street.

A demonstration occurred on the Frigate "Harry T. Inge," this morning; the men heard that she was to go to a northern port and all wanted to quit. As we had no men on shore to take their places, we made arrangements with the Captain whereby the crew is to be retained for one trip out of a northern port under Mobile wages, and they were signed to that effect before council.

Fraternally Yours, WM. LINDEN, Agent.

BALTIMORE BRANCH.

Nov. 4, 1911. This Branch held no meeting this week, not enough men ashore to get a quorum. Shipping for this week has been fair and the men are getting together fine, doing good work in the Merchants & Miners Line, nearly all Greeks and Spanish Firemen in this line are carrying a Union book. We are doing more shipping in this port for steamers than was ever done before.

Fraternally Yours, J. ANDERSON, Org.

NORFOLK BRANCH.

Nov. 1st, 1911. This Branch progress every week, joining new members, especially the Greeks, which are willing to stick together with the firemen from other races. Our Hall is visited with all the members, holding the meetings every afternoon in the evening. We have a Library and are trying to educate ourselves in order

to be prepared for the future Labor battles. Fraternally Yours, J. FILGUEIRA, Agent.

NEW YORK.

South Street Branch.

Oct. 31, 1911. Regular meeting called to order to day at 8 p. m. 28 members present. Comrade Herman John elected Chairman. Reading of previous meeting and accepted. Agent and Delegates reported shipping, business and prospects for coming week good. Report accepted.

Good and Welfare was discussed for some time in regards of closing the Newport News Branch, as the Branch don't pay. A resolution was passed that the Sec'y send a letter to the Atlantic Seamen's Union Headquarters asking if they are willing to pay half of the expenses and if they will accept, then the Newport News Branch will be open again.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 p. m. 42 members present at close of the meeting. Herman John, Chairman.

Wm. Creelman, Agent.

BOSTON BRANCH.

November 2, 1911.

Regular weekly meeting came to order at 7 p. m. Comrade K. McLaughlin elected Chairman. 57 members present. Minutes of

previous meeting read and filed. Agent made his report to the members; present shipping and business as during the past week has been very fair, considering the time of the year.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p. m. 36 members present at finish. Respectfully submitted, A. MORGAN, Agent.

PHILADELPHIA BRANCH.

October 31, 1911. Hold no meeting this week; only a few men on shore at present, as the shipping has been good here the past week.

The Delegate resigned here last week and Comrade J. Fresno took his place. OSCAR CARLSON, Agent.

NEW ORLEANS BRANCH.

Nov. 1, 1911.

Regular weekly meeting came to order at 7 p. m. on Oct. 31, with 14 members present. Comrade Th. Walsh elected Chairman. Agent reported shipping and business fair last week, but so far shipping has been slow this week.

After some discussion on different questions, the meeting adjourned at 8:55, p. m. 22 members present at close of the meeting. Fraternally Yours, TH. WALSH, Chairman. PETER JENSEN, Agent.

Weekly News Letter

Contributed by American Federation of Labor

THE FESTIVE STRIKE-BREAKER.

Washington, Nov. 4.—During the progress of the garment workers' strike in Cleveland, Ohio, a squad of professional strike breakers were employed to make believe that they went to work as garment workers, in order, of course, to discourage the strikers. Later on, this same squad was taken to El Paso, Tex., and employed as machinists and boiler-makers. This is the usual routine of the life of a strike breaker, and is a phase of the strike which is extremely ludicrous. As a matter of fact, it very seldom occurs that a strike of any magnitude it is possible for the employers of labor to recruit any considerable number of competent mechanics to take the places of union members who have ceased work for the purpose of enforcing their just demands.

Detective Richard Crispin of Regina, Sask., connected with the Thiel detective agency, has just been sentenced to seven years in the penitentiary for fabrication of evidence and perjury.

PRISON LABOR NEWS.

WASHINGTON, NOV. 4.—The Reliance-Sterling Manufacturing Co., commonly known as the prison labor trust, does not seem to be satisfied with its fourteen prison contracts, extending from Rhode Island to South Dakota, and is reaching out for more. It has submitted to the Prison Commission of Kentucky a bid for the labor of 250 convicts at the state penitentiary at Fankfort. Its offer was \$7.50 a day per man, the state to furnish shop, room, heat, light and power. Another bidder was the Hoge-Montgomery Co., which has manufactured shoes with prison labor in Kentucky for the past 18 years. The controlling stockholder of the Reliance-Sterling Co. is Milton F. Goodman, Secretary of the Associated Jewish Charities. Another director is Judge Ward H. Watson, of the Appellate Court of Indiana. Fred H. Mills, sales agent of the New York Prison Department and treasurer of the American Prison Association, is a director in one of the subsidiary companies of the trust, the Hawkins Shirt Co., which operates the contract at the Baltimore city jail.

CONSUMERS' LEAGUE FORMED.

Washington, Nov. 4.—A branch of the National Consumers' League has been formed in this city. "Sympathetic imagination" was made the slogan of the members of the new league. "Sympathetic imagination" was interpreted as having consideration for working people, and the members of the new branch agreed to keep it constantly before them. It is intended after the league has been perfected to institute what is known as the "white list." This list is to contain the names of the business firms who are known to be considerate to their employees and the league members will be urged to patronize the "white list" firms.

AN UNIQUE PUBLICATION.

Washington, Nov. 4.—There has just been received at headquarters a copy of a book containing the labor legislation enacted by the 47th General Assembly of the State of Illinois, issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Aside from containing a transcript of all the laws passed by the recent Assembly, it also carries in its index a brief abstract of all the labor laws of the state, arranged in chronological order, and giving the nature of the enactment. The compiler of this work, David Ross, is entitled to great praise and other labor bureaus might follow the manner of compilation with profit.

UNREST IN NEW ZEALAND.

Washington, Nov. 4.—Compulsory arbitration in New Zealand is rapidly becoming unpopular, and practically all of the labor unions have lost confidence in the arbitration court, while several of the more important trade unions have cancelled their registration under the act. The seamen, unable to secure redress, ceased work, and there are thirty vessels engaged in the coast trade that are idle for want of crews. If these demands are not

satisfied by the vessel owners it is expected that the difficulty will involve a still larger number of shore.

CANADIAN MAIL CARRIERS STRIKE.

Regina, Sask., Nov. 4.—The clerks and mail carriers of this city are on strike, although those men attached to no organization of labor or otherwise. The strike came as a result of oppressive conditions. The men are overworked, each man doing the work of two, and wages are extremely low, opportunities for advancement having been carefully eliminated by the officials. It is reported that there is an unrest almost reaching rebellion among all the Canadian post-office employees.

CRITICAL RAILROAD SITUATION.

Chicago, Nov. 4.—It is stated that the shop employes on the Rock Island Railroad are voting overwhelmingly in favor of the strike. The point at issue is an increase in wages. The management of the Rock Island has recognized the System Federation and has granted working rules that are satisfactory to all the unions, but has refused to grant any advance in wages, the demand being for 10 per cent increase.

EQUAL PAY BILL SIGNED.

Albany, N. Y., Nov. 4.—The New York City "choo" Terhugh Equal Pay Bill has been signed by Governor Dix. This bill was enacted, backed by the labor organizations, and provides that in the schedules of salaries heretofore adopted there shall exist no discrimination by reason of sex. This bill sets a good example and it is trusted that other states will emulate the action taken by the State of New York.

SHOVEL WORKERS WIN STRIKE.

Charleroi, Pa., Nov. 4.—An amicable adjustment has been reached in the trouble at the Hussy-Biess Shovel plant, which resulted in the factory being almost entirely closed down for a few days. The trouble has been adjusted by T. E. Flynn, General Organizer for the American Federation of Labor, J. P. McGingly and John Ferry, and the men have returned to work.

ENGINEERS WANT INCREASE.

Roanoke, Va., Nov. 4.—The general committee of the Locomotive Engineers on the Norfolk & Western have presented a higher wage scale and a new code of rules. Other organizations have gained higher wages, but the engineers waited until all the other adjustments had been made, but now ask that their wages be increased.

The Retail Clerks' Union in Wheeling, West Virginia, recently organized, has reduced the working hours of its members 1 per week.

NURSES EMPHATIC.

Chicago, Nov. 4.—The nurses of Mercy Hospital have made it plain to the management of that institution that they will not assist in preparing baths for strike breakers of the Illinois Central Railroad, and will not treat them as they would other patients. The trouble between the nurses, who sympathize with the Illinois Central strikers, and the management of the hospital was brought to an issue when a strike breaker in the 27th street shop was taken to the hospital. At first the nurses demurred at doing anything for him at all, and when requested to prepare his bath issued an ultimatum that that was something they would not do. The management capitulated and the strike breaker was admitted bathless to ward A. The other patients in this ward objected to his being put in among them and demurred in such strong terms that the strike breaker was transferred to another ward.

TRAINMEN IN STRIKE MOOD.

Galveston, Nov. 4.—The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, and the Order of Rail-

road Conductors on the Harriman lines in Texas have voted to go on strike with the shop men. Notice has been served on the railroad officials. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen and the Order of Railroad Telegraphers are now voting on the same proposition, and it is reported that all of these organizations will join with the shop men unless the demands are met by the Company. It is rumored that the Brotherhoods contemplate a federation similar to the shop crafts and are prepared to ask the Company to recognize the Trainmen's Federation in making new agreements to replace those which expire shortly. Should this combination be put in effect it would mean the complete unanimity of both shop and operating forces.

DENVER SITUATION CLARIFIED.

Denver, Nov. 4.—The Amalgamated Carpenters have joined the Brotherhood Carpenters under the conditions offered by the Brotherhood. The agreement is that the original seven Amalgamated Carpenters will be given cards from the Carpenters' District Council. It is further agreed that the Amalgamated men who came here to take the places of the Brotherhood Carpenters, when the two organizations were contending for jurisdiction, shall be received into the brotherhood with full benefits from the time they affiliate and will be given traveling cards when they desire, all being entitled to the privileges and benefits of the organization. This ends one of the bitter contests in the history of this city.

FOR BOOKBINDERS' TRADE SCHOOLS.

Washington, Nov. 4.—At the Cedar Rapids' Convention of the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders a resolution was adopted that a committee be appointed to inquire into the question of the establishment of a trade school to be owned and operated by the International Brotherhood of Bookbinders, the committee to report to the next convention. In pursuance of this resolution a committee has been appointed to carry out what the resolution directed.

OPEN-AIR SCHOOL IN ENGLAND.

London, Nov. 4.—The first open-air school in Birmingham was opened in September. The children were carefully selected by the medical inspector of the Birmingham Education Committee from the elementary schools of the city, and the children are from confinement, or perhaps hereditarily, too weak to derive any real educational advantage from attendance at the ordinary elementary schools of the city. No expense has been spared to produce the nearest approach to perfection in this school. The buildings have been substantially constructed and are open on three sides and are provided with folding glass shutters in order to furnish protection should it be needed in unusually bad weather. It is the intention, however, to give all instruction in the open air when possible, and to use the class rooms only in inclement weather.

WEAVERS FAVORED IN RULING.

Fall River, Nov. 4.—Attorney General James M. Swift has rendered an opinion that the system of grading practice in many of the textile mills of Massachusetts is in reality but another form of filing and that as such it is prohibited by Chapter 584 of the Acts of the present year. This decision is far reaching and it is of great importance to every weaver in the state, as it will stand until such time as it is overruled by the Supreme Court, which is not likely. It is of further importance in the fact that the decision puts on the manufacturers the burden of proof. The weavers are highly elated over the ruling.

A GREAT DEMONSTRATION.

Seattle, Nov. 4.—One of the largest demonstrations ever held in this city occurred recently on the occasion of the mammoth McNamara protest meeting. The audience crowded Dreamland Pavilion, one of the largest structures in the city, preceded by a huge parade with over 10,000 men in line. The parade was conspicuous by the fact that there was displayed one of the largest banners ever constructed, being over 30 feet long and 15 feet high, supported by some 20 men, on which was inscribed "We Believe in the Innocence of the McNamaras." Officials of the State Federation and other organizations of the State and city delivered appropriate addresses.

PUBLICITY OF RIGHT SORT.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 4.—The Atlanta Georgian and News is printing a series of articles relative to the American Federation of Labor, owing, probably, to the fact that Labor's great convention will convene in that city on Monday Nov. 13. These articles are of a news and historical character and cling closely to fact.

LABOR WINS FIRST ROUND.

Columbus, Ohio.—The Women's 9-hour law, in order that it might be tested as to its constitutionality of the new Compensation Law. It is stated that the manufacturers desire to know positively whether the law will be upheld by the courts before they contribute to the state fund provided.

MOTHER EARTH FALL GATHERING.

CONCERT AND BALL will take place Saturday, November 18th, 1911, 8 p. m., AT THE RACE LYCEUM, 108 East Broadway. Admission, 25 cts. Hat-Check 10c.