

## THE REVOLT OF LABOR

The garment workers' strike in New York has been officially declared off. Many thousands of the workers, however, refused to accept the Civic Federation agreement made and are continuing the strike. They claim Rickert, president of the United Garment Workers, betrayed them by making the agreement and giving them no chance to pass upon it.

Many employers, seeing the determined attitude of the strikers, have deserted the employers' associations and acceded to the union's demands. The chances of the remaining strikers making a complete victory are very good.

In spite of its doubtful conclusion this great strike must be registered as an important victory, as one of the very few great strikes won by American Federation of Labor unions in recent years. The workers, besides winning important concessions for themselves and increasing their union's membership 100,000 have just about destroyed the many New York associations of clothing manufacturers. Two new and very important factors in the winning of this strike were the solidarity shown by the garment workers in outlying cities, and the wholesome fear the bosses had of forcing the garment slaves into the I. W. W. by crushing their A. F. of L. unions. The days are almost past in this country when the workers in one city or trade will scab on those in another. The same is true of such Civic Federation arguments as that of Rickert. The workers will not much longer submit to them.

The structural iron workers in their convention re-elected Ryan president of the union. They are also going to levy an assessment on the general membership of \$100,000 to defend the convicted officials if new trials are granted them. These two facts alone are conclusive proof that the old trade unions are not so devoid of spirit as many would have us believe. It would have been very easy to find some excuse to forsake Ryan and the rest. It takes courage to provoke and face the chorus of capitalist howls that will be raised over the audacity of this union electing "convicted criminals" as officials. Had the structural iron workers "flunked" in this crisis there would have arisen a clamor from the many-tongued critics of the A. F. of L. However, seeing that the right thing has been done, these same critics, always proceeding on the theory that the A. F. of L. can do no right, will have nothing to say. Let us therefore at least record the praiseworthy stand taken by the iron workers.

The Hodcarriers' International Union recently had its jurisdiction extended to all kinds of laborers engaged in construction work, such as sewer diggers, railroad construction workers, etc. This is an important move, and if followed up by a vigorous campaign of organization will be of immense benefit. A great deal has been said about the inability of the A. F. of L. to organize the floating workers of the West because of the necessity of these workers to carry several union cards or to pay a new initiation fee each time they changed from one industry to another. But recent events show that this objection is falling to the ground. Provided present A. F. of L. plans are carried out, the bulk of the floating workers will be eligible to membership in two organizations—the hodcarriers' and the woodworkers. Once these unions have a considerable membership, what more natural than that they establish a free transfer system between them. Thus the many union disadvantages would cease at once.

One of the most important questions now agitating the French labor movement is that of Catholic labor unions. The leaders of the Catholic Church, encouraged by their successes in Belgium and Germany, are endeavoring to found a Catholic labor movement in France. So far they have been altogether unsuccessful except among the railroaders, of whom they have been able to organize some 40,000. One reason for the priest labor leaders securing a foothold among the railroaders is the bitter internecine struggle between the Socialists and Syndicalists. While they have been fighting each other, the priests, aided by the employers, have had practically a clear field. However, the French militants are now fully aroused and will soon drive out the Catholic unions.

A committee of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, now in negotiation with the railroad managers in Chicago regarding local conditions, discovered a dictagraph in their committee room. For a couple of days, without molesting it, they concocted all kinds of horrible plots for the benefit of the listeners. Tiring of this sport, they made a raid on an adjoining room and there found a couple of Burns detectives taking down a stenographic report of what was being said. The committee is now seriously considering the advisability of studying the mute language.

The United States government is bestirring itself to encourage the production of wireless telegraph operators. It is at present taking a census to learn just how many the various schools could furnish in a pinch. The reason is plain. The wireless telegraphers as a rule receive ridiculously low wages, and as all over the world they are rapidly organizing into the Commercial Telegraphers' International Union, a strike may be looked for at any moment.

The machinists and electricians have agreed to henceforth make joint contracts. Instead of each singly making contracts with individual companies, as at present, it is proposed that both unions meet in joint conference and draw up a wage scale, etc., for all the electric supply companies throughout the United States and Canada. Thus the "unlearnable" craft unions are learning.

The Illinois miners in convention, amid the wild-enthusiasm, voted to assess themselves \$100,000 for the benefit of the West Virginia strikers. They also voted to give them the remaining \$800,000 in their treasury if it becomes necessary. This incident clearly proves that the miners' union is "an adjunct of the capitalist class."

The big I. W. W. strike of rubber workers at Akron, Ohio, has produced a new wrinkle in the war between the A. F. of L. and the I. W. W. The A. F. of L. proposes to give the strikers \$35,000 per week and thus lay the foundation for a union that will take in all the 75,000 workers in the rubber industry.

The structural iron workers have declared off their eight-year strike against the American Bridge Company. They believe this will net them at least 5,000 members.

Up to date, sixteen of the convicted "dynamiters" have been released on bond from Leavenworth penitentiary.

For several hours Pittsburgh steel workers succeeded in keeping scabs from entering mills by coupling hose to the fire plugs and liberally dousing the "finks."

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### SOCIETY NOTES.

A parcel post package broke. It contained pepper. Everyone moved out of the postoffice.

Judicial distribution of just plain snuff broke up an English suffragette meeting.

A small piece of brown soap dissolved in the blacksmith's tub will stop the tempering of tools. Tools dipped in this solution become coated, which prevents the quick transfer of heat to the water.

A "fink" on the Illinois Central Railroad took three days putting cylinder packing rings in a locomotive. First half-day he broke seventeen at \$1 each. The Illinois Central passed its last dividend.

A rush order car of cotton landed on a side track with seven hot boxes. On examination it was found minus seven brasses. How they fell (?) out is a mystery. The company was sued for non-fulfillment of contract.

Tubes containing phosphorus were placed in English mailboxes. These tubes broke when the boxes were emptied into mailbags. Vast quantities of mail matter was destroyed. During strikes of telegraphers the mails are one of the strike-breaking agencies.