

"AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL!"

ORGANIZE RIGHT

ORGANIZE YOUR MIGHT



Industrial Worker

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AGITATE—EDUCATE—ORGANIZE—FIGHT FOR THE EIGHT HOUR DAY

A MODERN HELL HOLE

SLAVERY IN BELLINGHAM.

Men Work Fourteen Hours a Day, While Others Starve—Preachers Are Silent. Boss Puts Money on Plate—Lots of Work for No. 337.

Undoubtedly the Bellingham Bay Improvement Company will seek to make the people of this city believe that it is an act of charity on their part to give the employes in their big mill an opportunity to earn from 37 1/2c to 43c more per day, by having them labor from 6:55 in the morning until 9 o'clock in the evening, with an intermission of an hour for lunch and of thirty minutes for their supper in the evening.

Undoubtedly the people will be told that the company is behind with its orders and must get them right away, or would be compelled to pay forfeit of some kind. This will be made the excuse for compelling the employes to labor in this cold mill, and out in the weather from 6:55 a. m. until 9 o'clock p. m., with a rest period during this time, totaling one and one-half hours, and being compelled to sustain life by eating two cold meals a day.

If the Bellingham Bay Improvement Company's mill is behind in its orders, we ask why in the name of common sense does the company not run a night shift, instead of compelling one set of men to labor for 14 hours.

We wonder how many men in Bellingham, outside of those who labor in the lumber mills, appreciate just what 10 hours of grueling labor in one of these concerns does to a man, physically. When he works 10 hours a day, he must rise by at least 6 o'clock in the morning, get his breakfast and be down to the mill to go to work at 6:55. Most of the employes have to rise long before 6 because many of them live far out in the suburbs, where rent is cheap. And of course they must have their breakfast in time to catch a car and get to their work in plenty of time.

By going to work at 6:55 in the morning he is enabled to complete his 10 hours by 6:15 in the evening. Then he must make his way home and this he can rarely reach before half past six or a quarter to seven. Much time that a man working 10 hours a day has to devote to his wife and family?

And if this be bad enough, what think you it must mean when to this be added three more hours, or until 9 o'clock in the evening? The mill employes do not work in warm, comfortable quarters. Mills are not enclosed in steam heated buildings. Men who work in the mills, in part, have a shed over them, while many do not have even this, but are compelled to work out in the open with the attendant rains and winds heating upon them.

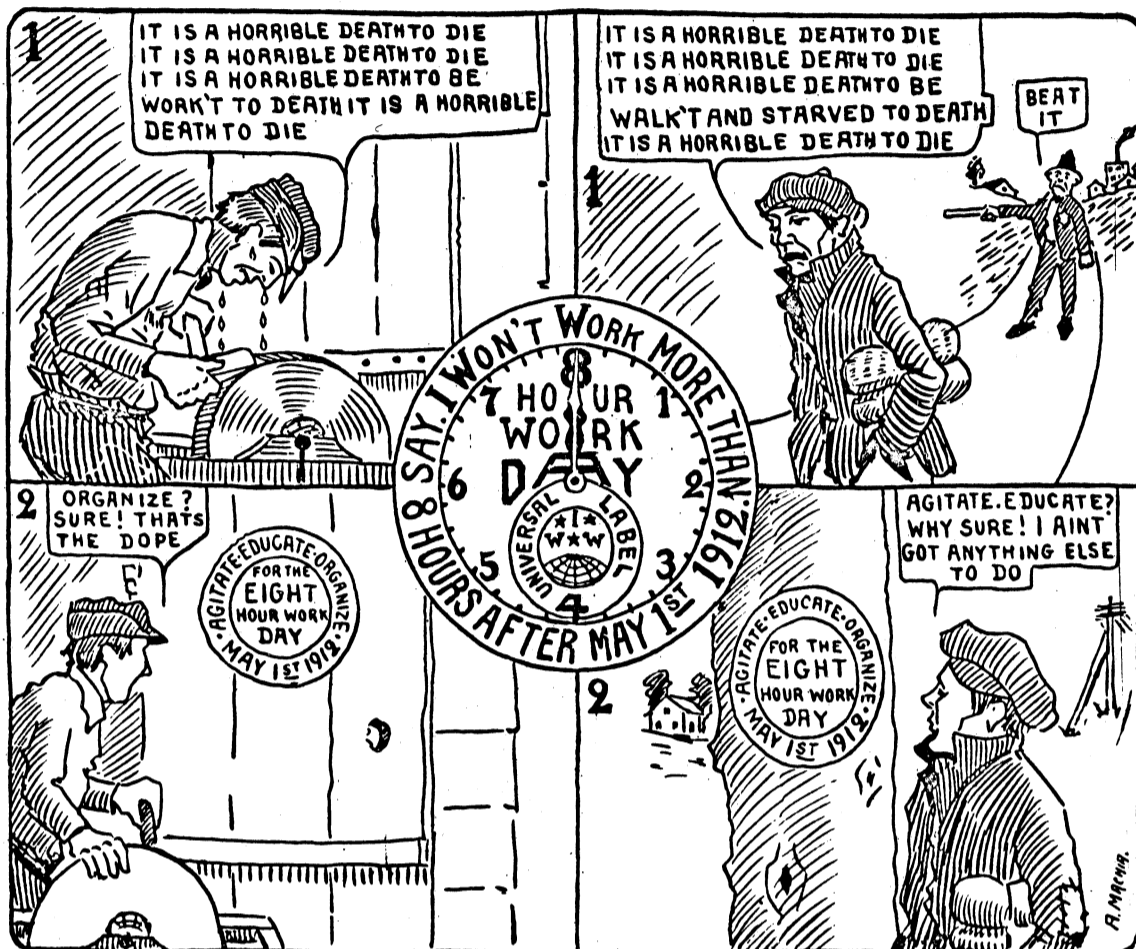
What must be the physical condition of a man when he reaches home who has labored in the wind and weather from 6:55 in the morning until 9 o'clock in the evening, and eaten two cold meals?

We throw up our hands in horror at conditions like these that we read about in Russia.

Moral Uplift. Recently, a number of reverend gentlemen and others, have been very much concerned in closing up the saloons of this city for the city's moral uplift. We suggest to these gentlemen that they might not have been so interested in this if they had known how the men could have been prevented by the Bellingham Bay Improvement Company from frequenting these saloons. We guarantee to them that no man who works from 6:55 o'clock in the morning until 9 o'clock in the evening, will have any time to put in at the saloons, or any other places of amusement.

However, they have abolished the saloons and we now suggest to them that there is another real work of reform to which they can turn their attention. Undoubtedly, many of the men, who are forced to labor from 6:55 a. m. until 9 p. m. are members of the various church congregations in the city. Surely, if the souls of these men require so much attention, certainly their bodies require some also.—Bellingham "American."

If this is not slavery let us know what it is. What is life to a man that works 14 hours a day in a sawmill? He is better dead and resting in the grave. A thousand times better off. Life means nothing but one continual drudgery, with aching limbs and an aching heart trying to make two ends meet on pay day, while a few parasites revel in the good things on earth. It's only a few weeks ago that four men lost their lives in the vicinity of Bellingham over the robbery of some shoes. While some work 14 hours a



THE EMPLOYED
This will give me rest and longer life

THE UNEMPLOYED
This means a chance for me to live

day others take guns and fight for a pair of shoes to cover their cold and aching feet. If there is not room for lots of agitating in Bellingham, then where is the place that needs it more. Surely, the eight-hour agitation will hit a tender spot in the breasts of the men who have to toil two shifts while others tramp, steal or starve. Will you yet say that you have interests in common with the boss? Will you yet, sir, dare to defend a patrol system and at the same time suffer the pangs of hunger or the aching limbs and brain of an overworked slave? Why should

it take years to pound this logic into your heads? Can you not see that the shorter work day is to your interest? Why do you wish to live and be a slave for a master 14 hours a day? If you won't organize industrially and stop it, then be a good coward and shake off your miserable existence by jumping off the bridge and be sure and don't come back. Don't wait for some LAW. Make your own LAW in the union hall, with all the rest of the workers, and refuse to work longer than eight hours a day. Those who call themselves union men and won't help you to get it are dirty SCABS of the lowest type. It's life or death with you. It's a living death or living a happier life. Which will it be? Don't wait for politicians or preachers to assist you. Be a man. Organize today and stop this living death in the shops of the master class, whose interests are to work you till you drop and then hire more like you. This is no time for quibblers or cowards. Men will fight. Cowards should commit suicide.

WORKERS GAINING GROUND IN FRESNO, CALIFORNIA

FREED BY A JURY IN FOUR MINUTES.

Men Are in Good Spirits—Stool-Pigeons of the Boss Are Getting Sick of the Fight.

The events of the past week are as follows: On the 21 of February, F. H. Little was acquitted by a jury at Selma of a charge of vagrancy. Trial was transferred to that place on account of local prejudice of the fixed jury here. Little conducted his own case and had the best of the argument with the deputy district attorney. It took the jury just four minutes to decide.

During the last week about 30 of our number have been released without trial. More than half of them have taken the box and

have been re-arrested. The rest of the bunch will be out speaking tonight—unless the unforeseen intervenes. Out of the total of 30 not one has left us. Out of a total of 130 or 135 men arrested to date since reopening the fight, November 28, we now stand 91 strong or stronger. Boys feel happy and are greatly encouraged by the attitude the organization is taking.

The rock and stockade are in front of our prison windows, obstructing the view of the street. Our little hammers have not yet arrived, owing doubtless to delay in shipment of a carload from the east.

We held a successful street meeting yesterday at 3 p. m. Had advertised same by means of posters. The crowd was waiting for us when we ar-

rived. Meeting was held near dividing line of restricted district. Deputies and hoodlums tried to start something, but lacked leaders with the necessary courage.

Newspaper reporters tried to be smart, but were frowned down by the audience. The audience was cool at first, but gradually got interested in our talk. A good speech was made, "Workers" and "Solidarity" distributed and solid literature sold. We don't know what is next on the program. It's now up to the authorities. Nuf sed.

I. W. W. COMMITTEE.
Box 209, Fresno, Cal.
Draw all money orders to W. F. Little, P. S.—Some of the men released have been re-arrested under the ordinance.

BETTER THAN PANHANDLING, SAYS SOLDIER

A SOLDIER DEFENDS THE ARMY.

Forced to Be a Soldier or Starve—Better Than Panhandling, He Says.

In my spare time I have had the opportunity to study the reason why socialist publications, especially your own, are so bitter and vitriolic in your agitation for anti-militarism. Though your reference to us, as hired murderers, paid assassins, slugging committees of the capitalist class, etc., are to some extent correct, you are only putting the average soldier and patriotic citizen into an antagonistic frame of mind and attitude, thereby placing him out of a receptive mood and losing the effects of your agitation. Are not the Pinkertons, police, scabs and others of this country doing the same work EVERY DAY in the struggle between labor and capital? Still

there is a universal attack, pamphlets, leaflets, books, whole editions of a paper, against the army; why not try your energies on the others. When men are out of work, won't panhandle and are afraid to steal, and the employed won't make room for him in the fields, mines, mills and factories, they are not going to starve to death. The army and navy offer him a reprieve for three years or more, so he hires out to be a soldier. The environment of such a life is better than most workers have, and the fear of losing a job is not so great—and it is as useful an occupation as lawyers, real estate agents, landlords, employment agents and others too numerous to mention.

We are fed, clothed, sheltered, given medical treatment and wages from \$17 a month up, which compares favorably with the average wage of the unskilled wage worker; and furthermore, any working man who is outside of this organization (the army) and stands for defending the flag and country and is not receiving the same remuneration as we are DELIBERATELY SCABBING on the army and navy.

J. P. B.
THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR.
Orator—Now, what is the question of the hour with the working man?
A Voice—Generally speaking, it's "Is it dinner time yet, mate?"—"Wyoming Labor Journal."

The ultimate result of shielding men from folly is to fill the world with fools.—Herbert Spencer.

THEY DIDN'T WANT THE A. F. OF L.

FAKIRS ARE NAILED WITH THEIR OWN LETTERS.

A. F. of L. Leader in Chicago Says W. F. of M. Are a Bunch of Scabs—A Joyful Tribe of Liars in Denver—They Never Gave It a Thought.

When McMullen, Mahoney and Moyer were scheming to get the Western Federation of Miners out of the I. W. W. it was pointed out on different occasions by the supporters of the I. W. W. that whenever they were successful in getting W. F. of M. out of the I. W. W. their next step would be to lead the Western Federation into the camp of the Civic Federation via the American Federation of Labor.

Any mention of this development caused the schemers to emphatically deny that they would or had any notion of going into the A. F. of L.

In the light of recent developments the following two letters from Ernest Mills, secretary-treasurer of the W. F. of M., to Greenwood Miners' Union No. 22 are interesting reading.

Denver, Colo., March 9, 1908.
Mr. R. A. Matheison,
Greenwood, B. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:
I hope you have taken into serious consideration the communications which I have forwarded to you, and also that of President Moyer in regard to the I. W. W. situation. I hope you will realize the seriousness of taking definite action in regard to the Trautman faction and their tactics, as I think it would be a great deal better for the W. F. of M. to remain independent of either faction of the I. W. W. These side organizations have cost the W. F. of M. thousands upon thousands of dollars, for which they have received no returns excepting abuse, and I believe the W. F. of M. will be far stronger if they were strictly independent of either the A. F. of L. or the I. W. W.

With best wishes, I remain,
Fraternally yours,
ERNEST MILLS,
Secretary-Treasurer W. F. of M.

Denver, Colo., February 24, 1908.

Mr. R. A. Matheison,
Greenwood, B. C.

Dear Sir and Brother:
I am somewhat surprised in your communication of the 19th inst. that you should be of the opinion that there was an attempt on any part of the organization of the W. F. of M. or its officers to in any way affiliate with the A. F. of L., but I think your information is a sample of the base insinuations being thrown out by Vincent St John and others of the Trautmann faction of the I. W. W., who make the most villainous attack upon the executive board of the W. F. of M. at every opportunity that presents itself.

The rumors that are afloat about the W. F. of M. likely to affiliate with the A. F. of L. are false and none of the officials of the organization of the W. F. of M. have ever given such matter a thought.

Fraternally yours,
ERNEST MILLS,
Secretary-Treasurer W. F. of M.

It might not be amiss for the membership of the W. F. of M. who are opposed to paying \$2,300 per year towards maintaining an organization that is hand in glove with the ruling class, and whose officials are noted only as faithful servants of union busting employers to ask the officials of the W. F. of M. "When they changed their mind and WHY?"

John Fitzpatrick, President of the Chicago Federation of Labor (A. F. of L.), expressed what is the view of the A. F. of L. leaders towards the W. F. of M. He said: "The W. F. of M. never was any good. They never won a strike, and they are a bunch of scabs. They are proving that they are no good when they come crawling back begging to get into the A. F. of L."

VINCENT ST. JOHN.

ICE CUTTERS ON A STRIKE.

A telegram was received today by Andrew Benson, secretary of the I. W. W., from T. H. Dixon, now with a crew of men at Lake Cocolalla, Idaho, that 80 ice cutters at that place struck last week for higher wages. The ice company, which is owned in Spokane, was paying 22 1/2 cents per hour, while the men want 30 cents per hour.—Spokane "Press," February 8.

