



Industrial Worker

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

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WORKERS OF THE WORLD! DEMAND THE RELEASE OF ETTOR AND GIOVANNITTI!

MURDERED FOR PROFIT

SWIFT CURRENT SWEEPS MEN TO DEATH CONTRACTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE—FRASER CANYON A DEATH TRAP.

We herewith present in full a petition issued by the Brotherhood of Timber Workers to "Injunction Bill" Taft, the fat office boy of the plutocracy. We know too well the class character of the State to have even the remotest idea that "Cincinnati Fatty" or any other politician for that matter, would intervene in the interests of workers and against the interests of the thieves who own the Lumber Trust. It is for the reason that the petition contains many illuminating facts that it is reproduced in these columns.

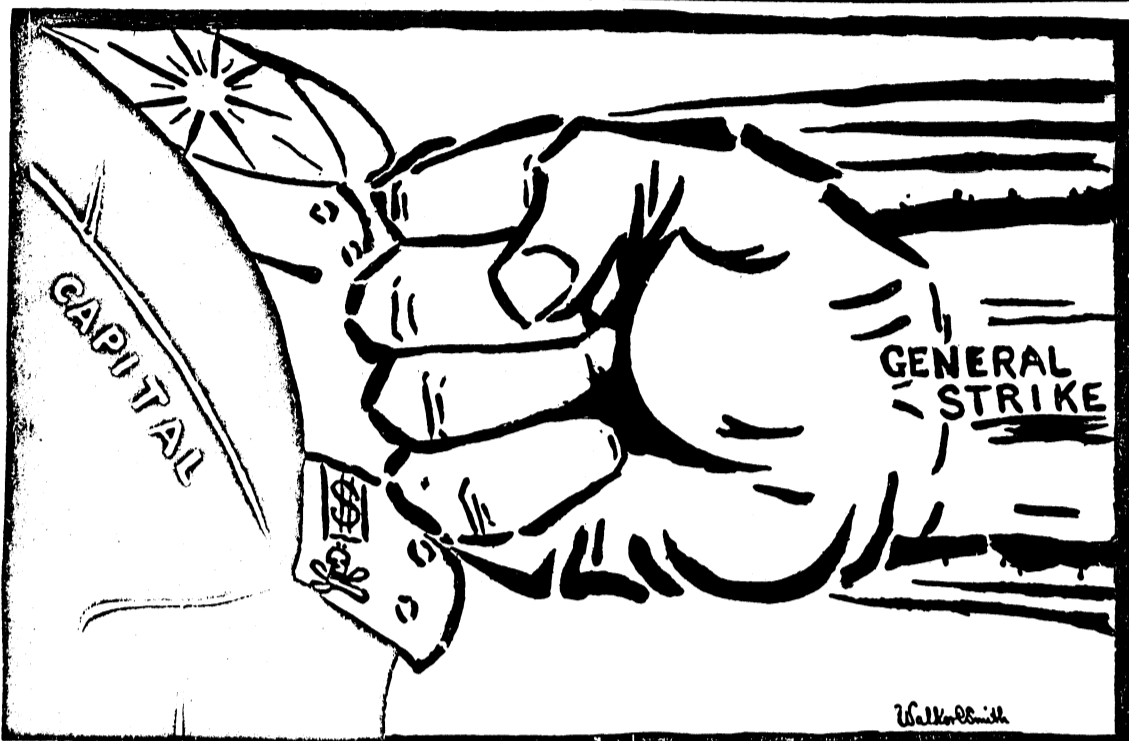
A PETITION FOR INTERVENTION IN LOUISIANA

Honorable Wm. H. Taft, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.
Your Excellency: The daily papers of even date, September 9th, 1912, report that you are seriously considering the calling of Congress in special session for the purpose of authorizing intervention in Mexico, on the ground that there American Citizens have been "robbed, assaulted and even murdered." Should you issue this call, we petition Your Excellency to at the same time ask Congress for authority to intervene in the State of Louisiana, for here a Republican form of Government no longer exists, all the guarantees of the Federal and State constitution having been overturned by a combine of corporations known as the Southern Lumber Operators Association.

As ground for this petition, we set forth the following illegal acts and inhuman deeds: The Association, operating over several Southern States, has established a "clearing house for labor" and no man, today, can secure employment in the Southern Lumber Industry, unless he takes an anti-union oath and signs an employment application blank releasing everyone, except himself, from legal liability; it has, through this "clearing house," blacklisted and bounded from State to State more than One Thousand men, thereby causing them, their friends and families untold suffering; it holds thousands of other workers, especially the colored people, under conditions that are nothing short of peonage; it has fenced in whole towns, even including the United States Post Office; it forces us, the Post Offices in the Timber Belt being nearly always in a Company commissary, or under the Company's control, to register a large amount of our mail or it never reaches destination, the Association thereby committing against us what it cries from the housetops we are intending to do, sabotage in one of its worst forms; it has imported into the States of Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Mississippi an army of gunmen of the worst and lowest type and these thugs, have been commissioned as deputy sheriffs by the local authorities and turned loose to carry on their trade of promoting lawlessness and murder. A few specific cases will prove to Your Excellency that we have not overdrawn the picture of conditions existing in the Southern Timber Belt, especially in Louisiana, though its State government is now in the hands of "Progressive" Democrats and Republicans.

Several months ago President A. I. Emerson of the Brotherhood was assaulted in Lake Charles, La., by general manager Sheffield Bridgewater of the Industrial Lumber Company, knocked down, and nothing was ever done to Bridgewater; at Zwolle, La., organizer Wiggins was only saved from being lynched by the thugs of the Sabine Lumber Co., by the timely arrival of Union men and sympathizers, and not one of these thugs was even so much as arrested; at Oakdale, La., on July 6th, '12, a thug of the Industrial Lumber Co., fired two shots from a rifle at H. G. Creel and, when Creel attempted to make an affidavit against his would-be assassin, he was told he "could not do so, as he was not a resident of Louisiana," and, when he finally made the affidavit, the thug was immediately released on bail; on July 7th while the Brotherhood and its allies were holding a meeting on the public road at Grabow, La., they were fired upon by gunmen concealed in several different places on the plant of the Galloway Lumber Co., three men were killed outright, two Unionists and one gunman, and forty or more wounded, one of whom has since died, a Unionist, making a total of four deaths on account of the Grabow "riot."

Though women and children were in our assembly, the meeting was fired upon by fifteen to twenty gunmen, using pump guns and rifles loaded with buckshot and soft-nosed, (Continued on page 2.)



A BODY BLOW! RIGHT IN THE BREAD BASKET!

WILL "FATTY" INTERVENE

BROTHERHOOD OF TIMBER WORKERS PETITION THE PRESIDENT—FACTS OF BITTER TIMBER WAR RECITED—REIGN OF TERROR EXISTS.

FOLEY, WELCH & STEWART, MURDERERS—in the way to write the names of the contractors on the Grand Trunk Pacific Construction work, for these contractors are as guilty of the death of scores of laborers who have been drowned in the Fraser river as though their hands, had actually plunged a knife into the quivering bodies of the toilers. From the Edmonton Daily Capital is taken the following editorial in full:

The Terrible Tragedies of the Fraser Canyon. Evidence continues to pile up that the Fraser River canyon, between the head of steel and Fort George, has been the scene of a most shocking and callous sacrifice of human life. If there is one-tenth truth in the stories which come down from rail-head there is necessity for a most searching investigation and reason for someone somewhere in the big trap set for labor in that country to suffer a severe penalty.

The story told is so shocking as to be almost incredible in a civilized country. Men by the hundreds are taken into the Fraser valley to work on construction. Arrived there, they discover that there is no money in it for them, that the charge for fare, the cost of clothing and supplies, the deductions on one count and another and the lost time makes it impossible for them to lay up any savings worthy of the name for the season's work. They look around for a way to get out. Up the river are the construction company boats on which they must pay 15 cents a mile, if they have that much money. Without the money they cannot ride. Beyond are the construction company's trains and camps at which they know they will not be fed, money or no money. Down the river lies the rapids. It is the only way, and they take the chance.

The number drowned in the Fraser Canyon this year has been variously estimated at from twenty-five to fifty. Men who have no interest in exaggerating, state definitely and without reservation that at least twenty-five bodies have been found, and men who have been in Edmonton claim that they have actually witnessed tragedies upon the river.

Down in Montreal, Collingwood Schrieber is still talking about the shortage of labor hampering the work of construction.

Surely there is something monstrously wrong here which needs attention by whatever authority such matters should come under.

Even from a purely mercenary point of view, Edmonton cannot afford to have this thing continue. So long as men know that if they go to the Fraser they may be sent down the river to their death there will be the shortage of labor which Collingwood Schrieber talks about, and the day when this city will be connected up with the Pacific Coast will be just that much delayed.

But this mercenary consideration is secondary. The commonest sentiments of humanitarianism demand that this terrible tragedy be brought to an end.

This is borne out by the statements of Mr. J. E. Haight, a partner in the firm of Haight, Lodge and Mangnall of Fort George. Mr. Haight is a mining engineer, thoroughly conversant with conditions in the camps, and his statements come from personal knowledge:

"Only men of long experience on the Fraser can afford to take the risk of going down the rapids by raft, and even to them the voyage is a race with death. But the laborers become reckless of consequences. Determined to leave the camps, unable to afford the charges of from 10 to 15 cents a mile on the steamboats of Foley, Welch and Stewart, and the cost of food on the voyage at 75 cents a meal, they seek to make their way down stream to Fort George and thence to the Pacific coast. These men don't understand anything about the different waters, about the whirlpools and the treachery of the rapids. Some of them attempt to go down the river by night. They make their rafts, get out, and frequently never are heard of again. Sometimes they get stuck on the rocks, and once in that position it is almost impossible for them to get off again. The strength of the current is too strong for them to push off. If a man is once in the water, it is all over."

The men on the G. T. P. are on strike. Most of them are members of the I. W. W. All of them are standing solidly together to gain better conditions. They are seeking higher wages, good food, and more reasonable charges for the materials they are forced to purchase from the pluck-me company stores. They seek also to lessen the death toll of the deadly Fraser River rapids. Their aim is to take the power from the contractors whereby the latter coin the deaths of the workers into profits for themselves. These strikers ask that they be aided in their strike to the extent of a contribution from each worker who reads this. They are feeding several thousand strikers and the company is under bonds to finish the line before the completion of the Panama canal. Send financial assistance to the strike secretary, A. O. Morse, Box 917, Prince Rupert, B. C.

Many Thousands Strike to Free Ettor

CHICAGO, ILL., SEPT. 30. INDUSTRIAL WORKER: FOUR MILLS ARE TIED UP, INCLUDING THE WOOLEN TRUST. OVER TWELVE THOUSAND WORKERS ARE OUT IN LAWRENCE. THE WORKERS IN OTHER SECTIONS OF MASSACHUSETTS ARE AWAITING CALL TO STRIKE. INDICATIONS POINT TO A MASS REVOLT ON BEHALF OF ETTOR AND GIOVANNITTI. WORKERS IN EASTERN SECTION ARE DETERMINED THAT THEY MUST BE FREE.

ST. JOHN. Lawrence, Mass., Sept. 29.—Police stupidity caused a small riot on Essex street this morning. Gorden of police blocked the parade and attacked the visiting delegations from Lowell, Haverhill and Boston, who had come to take part in demonstration in memory of Annie Lapizzo.

Two policemen, but no paraders, were hurt. No arrests were made, but arrest of Carl Tresca, marshal, is said to be impending.

The parade was orderly and the assault was entirely uncalled for. It is the belief here that it was provoked to discredit the

general strike and the Ettor-Giovannitti case.

It is condemned by witnesses and paraders.

The Annie Lapizzo memorial demonstration in the afternoon was most impressive. There was a big turnout, despite the police assault and a downpour of rain. The visiting delegations brought wreaths. Memorial speeches were made in which the working class was urged to build up ONE BIG UNION in order to put an end to the system responsible for the shooting of Annie Lapizzo.

Lawrence, Mass., Sept. 28.—A spontaneous general strike began in the Washington mills here on Thursday afternoon. It spread to the Wood, Ayer, Everett, Arlington and Lower Pacific mills on Friday. Shutdown of all the Woolen Trust mills followed. Over 12,000 operatives affected. Strike is a protest strike. It was inaugurated by the rank and file despite the advice of Ettor and Giovannitti to the contrary. Ettor wrote from the jail: "Such a course would tend to prejudice public opinion, which would fail to understand your noble spirit of sacrifice and interpret as a threat."

Giovannitti wrote: "We know the power of your folded arms, when you cease to

toil you cut off the base of the world's supply, and undermine the political state. But the price you pay is too great; you cut off even the miserly dollars that you now get, and the little children cry for food and the mothers weep because they cannot answer. You must not do it now."

Giovannitti urged more organization and a more complete general strike throughout the country, when the trial shall have demonstrated the real nature of the infamy of the capitalist class.

The thousands of strikers are orderly; only three arrests for minor offenses are recorded. Groups marched about the city singing the "Internationale." A big meeting of all nationalities was held this afternoon, when it was decided to go on a "general protest strike" until Thursday morning.

The general committee No. 20 advised action in accordance with wishes of Ettor and Giovannitti, but have stood by the strikers. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn addressing the latter, prior to their action, said: "The matter of a general strike was only to be postponed until a big general strike that would include all the big cities of the country could be arranged. While the central committee would not urge a local (Continued on page four.)

New Bedford Strike Situation

The strike in New Bedford, Mass., and the subsequent lockout, has been called off and the workers have returned to their tasks without gaining the demands made of the mill owners. The experience gained is of tremendous value and the I. W. W. emerges from the fight with more members than when the strike was called.

The walkout occurred on July 15, being called at a mass meeting, in order to aid the members of the Weavers' Union, who were already out on strike against a corrupt fining system. Eleven mills were involved.

Before making specific demands the I. W. W. issued a letter to all New Bedford craft unions of the textile industry asking for concerted action. Not only was this offer flatly refused, but certain officials of the A. F. of L. tried to secure a settlement with the employers which would leave the I. W. W. entirely outside the mills.

Notwithstanding this treachery the I. W. W. continued to do picket duty and otherwise carry on the strike. One-half of the mills were in operation, however, and this craft scabbery aided the employers. Under such conditions there was little chance of victory.

The craft union labor fakirs could not make terms with the employers that suited them, as

the employers saw that the crafts were disunited and therefore powerless. Those members of the craft unions who wanted to see something done to win the strike were discouraged by their officials and as a result the men began to desert in droves.

During the entire time of the strike the I. W. W. members pointed out the faults of the craft form of organization and the other reasons for the failure of the strike, not neglecting, however, to aid the striking craftsmen in all ways possible, so that no charges of treachery could be placed against them. The talks and the solidarity displayed won many of the craft union members over to the ONE BIG UNION. When the mills reopened the majority of the textile workers were thoroughly disgusted with craft unionism and with their former misleaders.

Although the strikers did not receive the outside aid that would have been forthcoming had not so many other conflicts been on at the same time, still they were able to maintain their relief stations during the strike and for the first week after the return to work.

Following the first pay day there were numerous applications for membership and over three hundred members were initiated. A

steady stream has come in since then, mainly former craft union members, and each member arms himself with a bunch of application blanks and gets on the warpath.

The strike has shown the failure of craft unionism and demonstrated the need for labor solidarity. The lesson of craft defeat through enforced scabbery is not lost upon the workers of New Bedford, and at this time the I. W. W. is the center of attention.

The mill owners are threatening a cut of wages when the cold weather sets in, but with the craft unions practically out of the way and the I. W. W. daily growing in power it is doubtful if such a move will be made. Should such a battle be forced upon the fighting union it will be another means by which the organization can demonstrate that militant methods and proper structure can accomplish wonders for the workers.

The New Bedford members are laying great stress upon the need for education along revolutionary lines and the local organization is spreading literature among all the workers in the city. By thus combining education with organization the day of emancipation will be hastened. New Bedford is an example of what can be done elsewhere. On to battle, fellow workers!

