

One Union: One Label

One Enemy



Industrial Worker

AN INJURY TO ONE IS AN INJURY TO ALL

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SCHOOL CHILDREN AT WALSBERG SCHOOL CHILDREN AT WALSBERG SCHOOL CHILDREN AT WALSBERG

"FLAMING MILKA" AND EMBREE ON TOUR OF NEW ENGLAND AND NORTH EAST FOR COLORADO STRIKE FUNDS

All New York Having Heard the Story of the Colorado Strikers, The Message Will Now be Carried to Other Districts; Embree Tells of Cheating Process Practiced by Operators On Mine Tipples.

L. W. W. Hall, Brooklyn, N. Y., Jan. 8.—Last night fellow workers Mike Sablich and A. S. Embree, of the Colorado miners, together with Carillo of the latest labor frame-up trial, gave the Italian fellow workers at their annual dinner a thrill when they appeared (after invitation) to partake of nourishment at the party.

All three fellow workers spoke at the small gathering of faithful supporters of the staff and officials of IL PROLETARIO and member ship in general. Twenty families took part in making the evening lively.

A collection was taken up after "Mike" and Embree had made speeches; Carillo spoke after the collection. Mike and Embree left for Bridgeport after their tour short stay. Photographs were taken by camera men and it is announced that Mangano will have several copies for sale to fellow workers wishing one of these Mike and Embree and Carillo as souvenirs. They can be had by writing to the Editor of IL PROLETARIO, 158 Carroll Street, Brooklyn.

The collection was turned over to Fellow Worker Embree immediately. Milka Sablich was presented with a large picture of the Colorado miner's "idol." Impressive is the word to be used in describing her. She is a fine type of western womanhood—and a Wobbly. She sure is a drawing card for meetings and donations.

NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.

NEW YORK.—Assuring friends that the Colorado coal strike would be won, A. Stuart Embree and "Flaming" Milka Sablich, two of the strikers' representatives, left New York for a 30-stop tour of eastern cities between New York and Chicago. Their two-week state tour, which brought in thousands of dollars in relief, sent to Colorado strikers through the various relief organizations in Colorado.

Embree, the first organizer for the Industrial Workers of the World to enter the Colorado coal fields, is a veteran of the western radical movement. Nearly twenty years ago he edited the daily newspaper organ of the coal miners in Nome, Alaska. More recently he spent several years in Boise penitentiary under the Idaho syndicalism law. March, two years ago, he began quietly organizing in Colorado.

In an interview with the Federated Press, Embree told of conditions as he observed them in the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, the Rockefeller institution that dominates the coal industry of the state. "I found very little interest in the Rockefeller 'plan', or company union," said Embree. "Its meetings were very poorly attended. Three to ten men from a mine would be present ordinarily. The company used the 'plan' to raise the rent of company houses while it was in Colorado."

C. F. & I. foremen and superintendents are just a little rougher than coal bosses elsewhere. Embree failed to discover the tactful Rockefeller labor policy that is so often noted. The harshness of local company officials had much to do with work will bring the revolt, he said.

Gunman rule prevails in the C. F. & I. camps and the Colorado coal fields are not safe. The law providing for checkweighman is a dead letter, as hearings before the Colorado state industrial commission are now bringing out. When the commission is called to order, representatives leaders elected to the office that represent the scales that weighed the coal for which they were paid by the ton, they were driven away by gunmen unless they winked their eyes to fraud.

"The Big Four mine last September the loaders get tired of short weight," Embree said, "and they held a meeting to elect a checkweighman. The superintendent invited them into the 'Y' to hold the election. The men chose Joe, a Greek, and an independent fellow worker. The deputy mine inspector inspected the scales and found them to be correct. The superintendent jumped 500 to 1,000 pounds and the men's pay rose accordingly. Next day Joe saw the chief clerk fusing with the scales and made him leave. He is taking no chances of tampering."

The third day the superintendent accused him of giving overweight, and threatened him. The fourth day the camp marshal and two gunmen drove him away and a strike began in that mine for his reinstatement.

Similar incidents occurred at other mines. Unrest was spreading. Then came the strike of 4,000 miners for Sacco and Vanzetti. The Rockefeller demonstration that forced the industrial commission to enter the situation. The men fight their power, and soon after the big strike broke out.

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School Children Strike; Form Junior Wobbly Union

LAFAYETTE, Jan. 14.—The school children won their strike, and the expelled ones have been re-instated; nor are they required to sit by seats.

LAFAYETTE, Colo., Jan. 9.—Two school children, objecting to sitting next to the children of scab coal miners at Frederick, Colorado, were expelled by the school superintendent today. Immediately their fellow workers took up their cause and two hundred students walked out. The striking school children marched through the streets of Frederick carrying the American flag and singing "Solidarity," "Hold the Fort," and other working class songs learned from the little red Wobbly song book.

A contributing factor to this unusual burst of Solidarity was the forming of the Junior Wobbly Union, a Union composed of school children who look forward to the day when they will enter the coal mines of Colorado or replace those wonderful women, who today are making history in the coal fields of Colorado.

Immediately placing pickets around the school building, these earnest unionists proceeded two miles down the highway to the Firestone school, where a demonstration was indulged. Just as they had seen their parents do on many occasions during the present strike, they "pulled the Firestone clean." Every child within took heed and joined the ranks of the strikers. This situation may be more fully understood when one realizes that with a population of approximately two thousand persons only seven schools are apologized for.

Five locals of "The Junior Wobblies" union has been formed in the Northern Colorado coal field, the work of organizing is just commencing in the Southern district. The school principal called on the nearby militia, who drove away the pickets and remained stationed about the school until nightfall.

Colorado Miners Heavily Fined; Injunction Restrains Opponents

Twenty of the fifty striking miners who were arrested in a raid on the I. W. W. hall at Trinidad, Colorado, on December 28, were fined \$100 each on January 2 by Police Magistrate G. B. McCarthy, according to information received from the American Liberty Union, which is being represented in the strike area by Attorney Guy D. Duncan of Denver. The men were charged with violating a city health ordinance by sleeping in the meeting hall amidst allegedly unsanitary conditions.

The men were arrested by a mob of Trinidad merchants, Klansmen and other enemies of the workers. Twenty-one other defendants were found not guilty. All of those convicted announced through their attorney, R. W. Henderson, that they will appeal.

Sixty-four persons arrested at the hall on Christmas Eve, when local police entered it late at night and took them to jail after a fight, are still in jail, or else have been kidnapped and deported. Eleven of them are charged with assault to kill. State police entered the hall later that night and completely wrecked it. Six hundred dollars belonging to an aged woman living in the rear of the building was taken. Fifty-three more prisoners, arrested in other raids on the hall, will be turned over to the city for prosecution and fines on whatever charges the city attorney deems most feasible, it is reported.

On January 2, District Judge A. C. Chesney granted a permanent injunction restraining officials from further interference with the use of the building as a meeting place.

Irrespective of whether or not the I. W. W. hall was a nuisance, Judge Chesney ruled, the state and city officers who closed it acted in a manner "irregular and contrary to law." The plaintiffs, he said, were "denied their day in court."

Temporarily balked in Trinidad, the state police under Scherf have shifted their activities to Walsenburg, in Huertano county, just north of Trinidad, according to a message received by the Civil Liberties Union from Mr. Henderson.

One hundred and twenty-five persons were arrested there for picketing on January 4, according to Mr. Henderson. Charges had not been filed against them at the time of the report. Many of them had disappeared from the jail since then.

On January 5, the City Council of Walsenburg, declared the mayor dictator of Walsenburg and ruled that no public meetings should be held without his permission. The strikers stand on their constitutional rights of free speech and free assembly and plan to continue their meetings despite this order, it is understood, and further arrests are to be expected.

Guy D. Duncan, attorney for the Civil Liberties Union, is cooperating with Mr. Henderson in the defense of the Trinidad and Walsenburg miners.

On Saturday night, January 28, a carnival and dance will be held at the Woodmen of the World hall, 1040 South Grand avenue, Los Angeles, Calif., the entire proceeds to go to the Colorado striking miners and their families. There will be games and prizes of many varieties, and dancing to an union negro jazz orchestra. Come and have a good time and help a good cause. Admission 25 cents. Auspices Colorado miners strike Relief Committee of Los Angeles.

On the evening of January 21, fellow worker Byron Kitto will speak in Los Angeles at 837 1/2 South Hill street at the Protestant forum. Kitto is speaking for the Colorado miners; he has been through the mill down there and has an interesting story to tell of first hand experiences.

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LOUIS SCHERF'S MURDERERS KILL TWO MORE AT WALSBERG; MACHINE GUN FIRES STRAIGHT THROUGH HALL

Miner Shot to Death on Highway at Lafayette by Militiaman; Hundreds of Prisoners Kidnapped from Jails and Deported, But Still the Strike Goes On With More Determination Than Ever—Such is the Spirit of the I. W. W.

WALSBERG, Jan. 12.—Miners parading in protest of illegal arrest, deportations, intimidations and beating of their fellow workers were met with a hail of lead from state police just as they were assembling in parade formation. A machine-gun was already in the back yard of the I. W. W. Hall unknown to the paraders or membership; this precisely proves that the intentions of the state police was a pre-arranged affair. Before the marchers got started one fired a shot for the signal and the hall in the rear of the hall opened up. Machine-gun fire tore through the hall killing Fellow Worker Clemente Chaves (whose brains were blown out) and the bullet lodged in the arm of Fellow Worker Pete Verlich.

Twenty-one bullet holes were counted in the front window of the hall, one bullet hit a young boy who lived across from the hall wounding him seriously; he was taken to a local hospital and refused admission, he died shortly after.

This is the latest outrage engineered by the C. F. & I., as the Industrial Commission just had opened its first session, and the question of deporting witnesses that were to appear before the Commission, by state police was being debated when the shooting started.

Every effort has been made to stop accumulation of evidence that would expose the rotten conditions existing in the Rockefeller owned mines.

After the shooting started C. F. & I. gunmen appeared on the scene and with the state police surrounded the block where the hall is situated. This is the hatched plot that came out of the Mayor's office after they couldn't succeed in intimidating the Polish Lodge to vacate its from the building.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE.

A man and a boy dead; a young girl seriously hurt, and several others wounded, is the latest toll of the blood-bath of the coal mine operators in Colorado.

Walsenburg, January 12, 1928, takes its place on Labor's martyr scroll with Columbine, November 21, 1927, and Ludlow, April 20, 1914.

The story of the wanton slaughter of peaceful miners by Louis Scherf and his "state police" in an attack on a peaceful parade in Walsenburg, January 12, is graphically told in the following telegram.

Walsenburg, Colo., 11.15 a. m. Jan. 13.—Clemente Chaves, father of three children dead, Celino Martinez, fourteen year old boy-by-stander dead, Pete Verlich, father of three, was dead. Girl of fourteen seriously wounded. A number of miners and by-standers wounded. Houses and buildings along the road outside of Lafayette, Missouri meeting held in I. W. W. hall last night; hearing proceeding; everything in hand.

TOM CONNORS.

And so the tale of murder and bloodshed and other outrages committed in the name of "law and order" in "Colorado Sleazebag" goes on. Added to the record are the following:

Denver, Jan. 10.—A striking miner was killed yesterday morning at Lafayette by a militiaman that was "guarding the public highway." This fellow worker was walking along the road outside of Lafayette, and was killed in cold blood. Machine guns are mounted on the outskirts of Lafayette, on the public highway. This is freedom in America, or so-called. Not one act of violence can be traced to the striking miners. They have always been headed in all of their decisions, more power to them. They are standing as solid as ever. The best press are selling as the ranks of the strikers are breaking and that the miners are sick of the actions of the I. W. W., also that the striking miners are drawing away from the I. W. W., all of which of course are lies. Even the school children are organizing into a Junior League of the I. W. W. There are a few scabs, but even the scabs do not like to work with them. A four-legged mule at the State Mine kicked a scab in the head and killed him. So the mules protest also. Maybe they have a union. Anyway they have more sense than the two-legged mules that are now scabbing.

Trinidad.—Twenty-five strikers kidnapped from the Las Animas county jail on the night of January 5th, carried by automobile across the corner of the state of New Mexico, and dumped on the icy prairie at Polson, Texas. Some of these men were to be witnesses at the hearing to take place before the state industrial commission. All were among the group of union men taken at the time their union hall was

raided on December 27. The servants of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company composed the mob that indulged in both infamous acts. Our fellow workers or some of them at least are being brought back to Colorado; all of them have not been located, and perhaps never will be.

Walsburg.—About two score of our fellow workers were taken from the Walsenburg jail at midnight and dumped at the state line of New Mexico. They were ostensibly charged with picketing, but the only "crime" is that they revolted against the inhuman conditions under which the miners of Southern Colorado must labor if their absentee overlords have their way. These also will be representative of our fellow workers who are doing. We are fighting King John in his own realm, and we will win. Our witnesses will unfold a terrible drama. In spite of raid, rapine, kidnapping and murder we are prepared. Some of our witnesses, in fact quite a number of them, have disappeared, but those we have will suffice to indict the exploiters of Southern Colorado. Our testimony will press that in those dark, dusty, gaseous and hot hell holes we must deal collectively if we are to adequately protect life and health; that in each mine job we need what the striking coal miners of Colorado need, we need forever hold their heads in shame for having allowed their great opportunity to slip by—the Pit Committee.

Lafayette, Colo.—Striking miners in the following towns have pledged themselves to remain on strike until the strike is settled in favor of the striking miners of Colorado. The testimony will press that Lafayette, Erie, Frederick, Louisville, Fort Lupton, Superior, Colorado Springs and Canyon City also voted yes. Southern fields are solidly yes.

Who Rules Colorado? Walsburg, Colo.—There never was any doubt in my mind about the C. F. & I. because the ruler of the state of Colorado, Governor H. H. Rowley, in the year XIV of France in his day. The "Grand Monarch" was a tyrant but brutally frank about it. He dealt with his tools-direct and paid them according to their worth and usefulness. He made no apologies or excuses, nor gave any explanations for his public sins or crimes. "My will be done" was the rule.

The C. F. & I. in the person of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., has disclaimed all responsibility for Ludlow of bloody memory, where eleven women and children were murdered by Colombine No. 10. When asked if he approved of the use of machine guns and paid gunmen to break the strike, even though scores of people were murdered, he replied: "My conscience acquits me."

(Continued on page 2)

MACHINERY TAKES PLACE OF CLERKS

CALGARY, Alberta, Canada.—A headline in one of the bosses papers reads: "Machinery Takes Place of Clerks; Automatic appliances eliminate all but the postman."

Well, that is no news to the workers, but the news of Calgary has all over the world where capitalism exists.

The article goes on to show what a wonderful saving of labor is accomplished by this machine. "It device weighs a letter, determines its office and places it in the envelope, and its use in conjunction with older machines which write the address, salutation, fac-simile signature and even a portion of the letter itself, and then folds the letter and places it in the envelope, leaves only the postman to do his stuff by hand." But not a word of what becomes of these ousted clerks.

In Calgary today there is a meeting of some hundreds of destitute men who have been thrown on the streets, unemployed, hungry and hopeless by machines. What is the remedy? The machine drives us out of work on the job, and drives us out of town. It is the machine that destroys our lives. Why not organize and control the machine? Then we could do away with this rotten system of overproduction and underconsumption. This is the opportu-

ny by the One Big Union of the I. W. W. is offering the workers of the world.

AM. SHIFF.

UPTON SINCLAIR SUES ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

On August 28, 1927, the Rocky Mountain News of Denver, Colorado, published a full page article, purporting to be a review of the biography of Upton Sinclair by Floyd Dell. The article was a violent personal attack upon Sinclair, and contained two flat misstatements as to the contents of "The Brass Check." Sinclair wrote a letter of protest and the Rocky Mountain News published this letter, but reiterated the charges, and put in quotation marks an alleged phrase from "The Brass Check," which does not appear in "The Brass Check." Sinclair thereupon filed suit against the News, demanding \$100,000 actual damages, and \$100,000 exemplary damages. A jury trial will take place in February, 1928.

One newspaper in Denver mentioned briefly the filing of the suit. No other newspaper in the country has published anything about it, and no press agency has handled the story.

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CARNIVAL AND DANCE FOR MINER'S RELIEF

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