

RAILROAD STRIKE

(Continued From Last Week)

(By Our Special Correspondent.)

Paris, France, Oct. 16.

During the past few days the situation has cleared itself somewhat, and one is able to judge the extent of the strike. It seems that the railroads most affected are the North and the West-State. These two are almost completely tied up. The balance of the roads don't seem to be much affected, although here and there the workers have quit. No official figures of the number of workers on strike are published, though it will probably reach a total of between 50,000 and 75,000.

In Paris the Federation of Building Trades have voted a general strike and the great majority of the workers have answered the strike order by quitting work.

On Thursday evening the Electricians went on strike and threw a severe jolt into the smoothly running order of things. Just after it had gotten nicely dark, all of a sudden half of the electric lights of Paris went out and the trolley cars came to a standstill. The electricians had quit work and were busy sabotaging the machinery. Half the town was left in darkness, even Briand's light went out. Proprietors of hotels, cafes, theatres, etc., hurriedly procured candles or lamps or closed their places. Curses on it; Pataud, the secretary of the electricians, or "the king of the electricians," as the papers dub him, was at his tricks again!

This strike, coming so soon after the general strike on the railroads, threw Paris into intense excitement. Soldiers and police seemed to spring out of the ground, and heavy guards were thrown around the public buildings and power houses. Then, the following day, Briand, the "socialist man on horseback," the French Farley, got busy. He filled the places of the striking electricians with soldiers, and these booziers under surveillance of a few scab electricians, managed to relieve somewhat the pressing demand for power, and incidentally forged their own fetters a little tighter. It is pleasant to note, however, that several of these enlisted scabs have been seriously injured while patriotically endeavoring to steal the bread from their fellow workers' mouths.

Typical French Army Recruits.

Certainly these soldiers are heroic figures, something to grow patriotic over. They are the result of a governmental fine comb search of the scissorbill communities of France for lunkheads with which to garrison the cities. The city workers who have some education and an inkling of working class principles are sent to country posts or to Africa, where they will be out of harm's way in case of labor troubles. Like all working class patriots, the former are in a state of satisfied ignorance, which is so gratifying to the government that a couple of days ago a workman was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for talking anti-militarism to one. He was debauching the virgin purity of the scissorbill's mind, which at present in Paris is almost so serious an offense as to interfere with the sacred right to work—the workers.

These enlisted slaves scabbing on scabs by taking strikers' places without even getting paid for it are properly despised by their masters. They are herded like cattle without being given as much consideration. A couple of nights ago a bunch were stationed outside a building where a strike meeting was being held, and because of some one "accidentally" forgetting them they had to stand all night in the chilly weather.

The army is not alone in its scabbing

at the historic institution of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Knowing, therefore, that such an organization is absolutely necessary for our emancipation we unite under the following constitution.

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propensities. According to Briand, the navy is some class also. Briand offers to furnish the railroads 1,500 navy engineers and firemen if the situation seems to demand it.

Briand has discovered a plot. He says through his mouthpieces that the campaign of sabotage was planned beforehand; that the central committee of the saboteurs is in Paris, and had it not been that the government had taken such prompt action and placed guards about the vulnerable spots in the railroad system, that France would have experienced a reign of anarchy such as Europe has never known. This will serve as a good excuse to jail many militants of the C. G. T. if the strike is a failure. Gustave Herve, who was already in jail, has been placed in solitary confinement, and not permitted to see even his attorney. This punishment for his activities while in jail. Two assistant editors of "La Guerre Sociale" have been arrested, and the copy intended for the paper destroyed. Only one French paper protested against this outrage, and that is a royalist paper. Hundreds of other revolutionists, or live spirits, are being either arrested, if on strike, or discharged if still at work.

Briand's famous mobilization order has failed to force the striking railroad workers back to work. These are to be given three days' grace, and if at the end of that time

they still refuse to scab on themselves they are liable to arrest and punishment as military deserters.

The scabs on the striking roads and the men on the roads not yet on strike are wearing the mobilization badge, a canvas band worn about the arm, and bearing the number of company or section to which the slave belongs. Surely it is a disgusting sight to see workers shamelessly wearing these badges of their slavery.

In spite of the thousands of troops and police scattered about the railroad property the sabotage goes on in an ever-increasing volume, while "La Guerre Sociale" howls in glee and urges the strikers to throw a real scare into the railroad companies and the government.

Wires have been clipped in hundreds of places, signals destroyed, etc. Several accidents were narrowly averted at points where the rebels had removed rails. Many scabs have been "beat up." A bunch of strikers in one place got hold of a scab fireman and forced him to eat a meal of the coal the engine he was firing. He was made to wash down his gritty meal with a cool draught of engine oil.

Many are criticizing Tomp, the president of the Federation of Engineers and Firemen, for having declared the general strike without first having ascertained by referendum the sentiments of workers on

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TO ALL WAGE WORKERS

The mission of the I. W. W. is to organize all common labor of every race, creed and nationality into one big Union, to the end that we present a united solid front to capitalistic oppression, and force from our exploiters shorter work days, less work and higher wages.

The I. W. W. is the only bona fide labor organization adapted for that purpose, which a careful study of all other existing labor organizations will show.

We got our charter in October of 1909, and from that date until last April we were not allowed to speak on industrial unionism on the streets. On about April 1st the authorities granted us permission to speak on the streets, because they thought the I. W. W. would never amount to anything anyway. But during that short time from April 1 to about May 25 we used the streets with such success that we were in a fair way of building up a powerful labor union in Fresno county.

It was at this stage that the larger employers became alarmed and invoked the aid of the police department to keep us off the streets.

Hearing their Masters' Voice, the authorities responded last May by revoking permission to speak on the streets.

The chief of police told the contractors: "Take the name of every man who refuses a job and I will put him in jail."

Fellow worker Cabezut then told the Mexican laborers that they didn't have to accept work as long as they had money to support themselves, and for saying this he was arrested, but was released soon after, as no case could be made against him.

A day or two after that the police broke up a meeting at the Court House Park, the Chief tearing up the United States Constitution, which one of our members was reading to another.

We have been falsely accused of every crime from vagrancy to arson, yet not one of us was found guilty of any crime. In fact the only crime we were ever guilty of was to organize the common laborers for their own protection. We have it from a city detective that our activity was costing the Santa Fe thousands of dollars.

On the 24th of last August four of our members were arrested for carrying on a private conversation on the sidewalk. Three of them were released, but the fourth one, F. H. Little, an active worker for our principles, was convicted of disturbing the peace by a packed jury on perjured evidence furnished by stool pigeons of the police. He had to serve a 25-day sentence by bread and water in a dark cell. He was put in a dark cell for refusing on principle to work out his sentence in the park.

The Constitution of the United States guarantees the right of free speech and peaceable assembly, as long as no indecent language is used, or individuals or corporations are libelled, or traffic is blocked. If any one is guilty of any of the offenses mentioned he can be arrested, but the organization cannot for that reason be deprived of the use of the streets.

Fellow workmen and women! The right of Free Speech, the right to strike and picket is being infringed upon and prohibited all over California.

What are you going to do about it?

Are you going to stand idly by and see your last rights as men and women taken away?

Talk to your shop mate and neighbor about it, and see what we are going to do about it, and help us, at the same time helping yourself.

Yours for Industrial Freedom,
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD.

Local Union NO. 66, Fresno, Cal.

FRENCH RAILROAD STRIKE.

(Continued From Page Three.)

the other roads. Below is the strike order:

"The National Syndicat of France and the Colonies informs the workers on all the roads that the tie-up is complete on the North Railroad. It also informs them that since the time of the dismissal of Comrade Toffin, president of the Federation of Engineers and Firemen, that the government has been giving articles to the press which constitute arbitrary and illegal menaces against the railroad workers who are claiming their rights. In the presence of this situation, the National Syndicat has decided to appeal to the workers on all the railroads to declare a general strike. In consequence all are asked to put into execution with the least possible delay after receiving this communication the measures

that are indispensable to the success of the movement.

ALBERT LEMOINE, Sec.
TOFFIN, President.
Federation of Engineers and Firemen."

When the strike had been declared and the workers showed an inclination to answer it in force, the Parisian newspapers simply worked themselves up to a frenzy. One would almost think from their howls that the end of society had arrived. Now when there seems to be at least a temporary lull in the matter, these worthy "opinion moulders" have recovered their equanimity, and have entered upon a thoroughly organized campaign of scientific lying in order to not only prejudice the public against the workers who are on strike, but to prevent other workers from joining them. The hand of Briand is seen in this also, as the campaign of lying began simultaneously by all the papers. These papers control the news situation, and it is impossible to learn just how extensive the strike is. It must be a serious one though, from the frantic efforts of the government to break it.

The papers now take the stand that the strike is over, and are holding up revolutionary tactics as horrible examples of a labor movement gone wrong. They are encouraging a wholesale desertion of the C. G. T., and a return to the beautifully yellow unionism of a few years ago.

The situation is one of such a nature that it is difficult to analyze it, or to prophesy as to its possible outcome. However, the French working class, through the recent great increase of the cost of living, are literally being driven into a corner. And this railroad strike may yet cause an industrial war beside which the present one will sink into insignificance.

W. Z. FOSTER.

WORLD OF LABOR

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amount of equipment at their own shops and now the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western has ordered 500 steel underframe box cars of 60,000 pounds capacity and 500 all-steel hopper cars of 80,000 pounds capacity. The order for these cars went to the American Car & Foundry and the Pressed Steel Car companies. The expenditure of the Lackawanna will reach \$1,000,000.

The Hawley lines are out with requests for bids on 4,250 cars, of which 3,000 are all steel hopper of 100,000 pounds capacity, 250 steel underframe furniture, 250 automobile and 750 box cars.

Other railway corporations have been soliciting specifications, and the outlook for the equipment industry is brighter than for months.

ON THE RAILROADS

Two thousand railroad workmen were thrown out of employment at Omaha on Nov. 1st., when the Union Pacific, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy and Chicago & Northwestern roads ceased building for the season and went on a winter schedule of work.

According to the Interstate Commerce Commission, the railroads of the United States, during the year ending June 30 last, killed 3,804 persons and injured 82,574. This is an increase of 1,013 in the number killed and 18,454 injured. In the last three months the total killed or injured was 20,650.

FRESNO FIGHT.

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have sent more, but since it was Halloween night, we kept a good guard at camp. We succeeded in having our papers distributed without losing a man.

Advices have been received from several locals about getting the men into jail on arrival, and the proper use of the funds. We will say that all funds sent here will go their proper work, that is, provide for the needs of all free speech fighters going in and coming out of jail. No camp followers here. All men arriving here get a day's rest and feed and then hike off for jail. The greatest difficulty to date has been to hold the men back. Have had most trouble getting permanent cook for our camp. Present cook is under the supervision of I. W. W. guards to keep him from breaking into jail. Committee in irons. Never mind about getting the men into jail, just send us the men.

Our men are being systematically arrested at all jerk water towns along the line, and held back. Of a bunch of six sent a week ago from San Diego only one