

EVOLUTION

and the

I. W. W.

SCIENTISTS tell us that Man has inhabited this planet something like five hundred thousand years. In that time we have come a long way in our march toward Freedom. From Tree-Dwellers, perched high in their arboreal homes, afraid to walk on the ground because of the enemies that lurked in forest and marsh and jungle and plain, to Cave-Dwellers, cowering in the recesses of some rocky hillside; up through the long ages of savagery, through barbarism to civilization. It has been a dreary march, bestrewn with many obstacles, but Man, the indomitable, has trudged on, never halting in his quest for that still elusive goal—FREEDOM.

Step by step we have advanced through the various stages of civilization; from serfdom to feudalism; from feudalism to capitalism; from capitalism to the present stages in civilization—super-capitalism. This, in brief, is the history of Man. It has been a series of struggles. First with the other animals, Man fought and attained supremacy because of his greater intelligence. Then began the conquest of Man by Man, the most sanguinary of all the struggles in which he has engaged. Slavery was established thousands of years ago, and still exists.

Today we have what is known as the wages system. That is: certain groups own the industries and control the finances, and employ others to produce the wealth. Some will say that slavery

was abolished in the United States when Lincoln signed the Emancipation Bill in 1863. This is not true. Slavery simply changed its form. The essence of slavery is that one man owns the means of life and another is compelled to go to him to gain access to them. The wages system is as much slavery as was chattel slavery. So long as the vast majority are compelled to work in industry owned and controlled by a small group, slavery will exist.

It is true that we have advanced far on the road of Progress. The workers of today are no longer compelled to work under the lash of the task-master's whip. They are not chained to the galley, or forbidden to leave the land of the feudal lord. But still they are slaves. They have not yet found the solution to the economic problems. They have not yet thrown off the yoke of bondage. The object of this leaflet is to tell you of the way out of wage slavery and into the Promised Land of Freedom.

In the ever-changing mode of production of wealth, in the change from the competitive mode of production in the early days of capitalism to the trustified form of wealth production—super-capitalism—the masters of bread conceived the idea of combining their forces. They saw if they were to keep pace with the changing form of industry, they must unite. They recognized that there is an ever-present struggle between the two classes in society, and if they were to remain in the saddle they would have to organize against the common enemy. Trusts—**THE ONE BIG UNION OF THE EMPLOYING CLASS**—were formed. The old, wasteful method of production was abolished. The little employers were forced out or bought up and industry was re-organized along present-day lines where eighty per cent of the wealth is in the hands of less than three per cent of the people. **The secret of their power is industrial organization.**

This, then, is the only possible solution to the problems that confront the workers. Industrial organization is the secret of power. Whenever the workers of California and the rest of the United States decide to organize their labor power into **ONE BIG INDUSTRIAL UNION OF ALL THE WORKERS**, right then they will begin

their triumphant march toward FREEDOM, and until they do they cannot hope to be free.

There is no use bewailing our lot and cursing the employers. The masters are acting in their own interest. They have organized together for their own protection. It has helped them. They have secured control of nearly all the wealth of the world and are able to dictate the terms under which we shall work. It is not their fault if we are poor and in wretched circumstances. The fault lies with us.

Let us take a leaf out of their book; let us follow the example of the industrial owners and organize together. We have this advantage over our masters. Industry cannot run without our labor power. If the big masters decide to take a trip to Europe—as many of them did as soon as the war was safely over—industry will go on just the same. No one will be so foolish as to say that the Great Northern Railroad could not run after the death of James J. Hill. His loss was not felt. But supposing that the workers of the Hill system—all the workers—refused to work, what would happen? Well, the wheels would stop, the rails would grow rusty and the railroad would be useless until they returned from their vacation. This is the power of the workers. In their hands is placed the destiny of the nation. Poor, stupid, beinddled slaves! They have not yet learned that they are the ones who produce all wealth. They have not become conscious of their power.

For nearly two decades the Industrial Workers of the World have been telling the rest of the workers of the power of Industrial Unionism. They have showed us that if we but organize industrially we can dictate the terms of our employment to the ones who now own the industries. And how well the industrial owners recognize the potential power of the I. W. W.! That is the reason for the insane persecution of members of this militant organization, composed of wage workers. The masters know, far better than do the workers, that if they, the workers—organize into ONE BIG INDUSTRIAL UNION their power—the masters' power—will be gone. The arrogant master class is strong only because we have not asserted our strength in industry.

In the State of California the Industrial Overlords have gone mad with fear of the I. W. W. They have imprisoned hundreds of workers, charging them with Criminal Syndicalism—a law written and enforced expressly in the interest of Big Business. At the present time there are one hundred and four men in the Twin Hells of California—San Quentin and Folsom—under this barbarous law.

In all the arrests under this inhuman law—over three hundred in all—not a single person has ever been charged with the commission of an overt act. They are simply victims of the insane wrath and fear of the industrial pirates who have stolen the wealth of the Golden State. The men in the State prisons under the Criminal Syndicalism law are men from every branch of industry. They are active members and delegates of the I. W. W. who had a message of Industrial Freedom for the rest of the workers of California. Filled to the lips with their revelation, they went into the industries and told the rest of the workers the good news. For this, and only for this, they were sent to a hell called a prison, there to serve sentences of from one to fourteen years. Because of the apathy of the rest of the working class they are sacrificed on the altar of Mammon.

Yet despite the persecution of the Industrial Unionists, the cause of the working class is steadily advancing. A social consciousness is awakening in the minds and hearts of the workers. Slowly they are beginning to realize that they must organize into the ONE BIG INDUSTRIAL UNION if they would emancipate themselves. A social vision has come to the working class and they are organizing to make that dream come true.

The whole world is growing better, and in the Future, in the long, long ages to come, it will be redeemed. The same spirit of Solidarity and fraternity that broke the black man's shackles and is today melting the white woman's chains will emancipate the wage slave. And as the ages bloom and the great wheels of the centuries grind on, this planet will be transformed into one unbroken and unparalleled spectacle of Justice, Peace and Solidarity.

If you are interested in seeing justice obtained for these men who have trod the road that leads to prison in the cause of humanity, and desire more information about the Criminal Syndicalism persecution, write to the

**CALIFORNIA BRANCH OF THE GENERAL
DEFENSE COMMITTEE**

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