The Need for the I.W.W.

Editorial Reprinted from "Industrial Worker"

The I.W.W. was launched some 41 years ago to organise the working class not only of America, but of the entire world, in which to fight the world's ruling class to a frazzle and run the industries of the world for their own good. So far we have not succeeded, the workers of the world have paid "in blood, and sweat, and tears." But we have been performing some very important functions—some of which are not commonly understood or appreciated. Here are some of the things the I.W.W. has done:

1. It has maintained the union in the face of its difficulties. Despite a chronic lack of funds, it has repeatedly during these years proved itself an effective fighting instrument and has directed some of labor's greatest and most successful industrial battles. It has been able to do this, despite difficulties, because it has attracted to it many of the ablest men of the labor movement—men and women who came to the I.W.W. and stuck with the I.W.W. and fought the world, fighting to the death, the forces for the lack of working class solidarity and understanding into one big union. In the process, it has also developed the only significant and satisfying purpose to which they could dedicate their lives: labor to remedy this lack.

2. As a result of its struggles, it has taught a great deal of theory and practice, with which it started a proved and tested system of unionism—hence more, one might say, into a larger, more reliable union—"the people." This union is free to apply the investigations made into the domain of social science to the problems of the world. The I.W.W. would not talk on someone's-toes if they did. The results, as is usual, are shallow, short-sighted, and unhelpful. But the I.W.W. has been able to develop a deeper, more solid foundation on which to build. It has maintained the union in the face of its difficulties. Despite a chronic lack of funds, it has repeatedly during these years proved itself an effective fighting instrument and has directed some of labor's greatest and most successful industrial battles. It has been able to do this, despite difficulties, because it has attracted to it many of the ablest men of the labor movement—men and women who came to the I.W.W. and stuck with the I.W.W. and fought the world, fighting to the death, the forces for the lack of working class solidarity and understanding into one big union. In the process, it has also developed the only significant and satisfying purpose to which they could dedicate their lives: labor to remedy this lack.

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5. A surprising amount of the debates and solidarity that has been shown in the I.W.W. influence. Because hard words, hard actions, have been shown in strange in I.W.W. influence. Because hard words, hard actions, have been shown in strange in I.W.W. influence. Because hard words, hard actions, have been shown in strange in I.W.W. influence. Because hard words, hard actions, have been shown in strange in I.W.W. influence. Because hard words, hard actions, have been shown in strange in I.W.W. influence. Because hard words, hard actions, have been shown in strange in I.W.W. influence. Because hard words, hard actions, have been shown in strange in I.W.W. influence. Because hard words, hard actions, have been shown in strange in I.W.W. influence. Because hard words, hard actions, have been shown in strange in I.W.W. influence. Because hard words, hard actions, have been shown in strange in I.W.W. influence. Because hard words, hard actions, have been shown in strange in I.W.W. influence.
Workers' Councils

Workers' Councils in no way owe their origin to the theoretical analysis of sociology, but they are the result of the situation, of the masses. Deprived of every form of organization, living in the blackest poverty, the Russian workers class themselves organised their own strike in a living period 1905-6.

The Western European method of struggle was practically unknown in conditions of the ban on organisations. Parties and Trade Unions which in Western Europe were already free and strong had no influence on the actions of the Russian working class. In Russia, therefore, the workers could only scheme with conducting the struggle through their Party or Trade Unions themselves in the factories. In the industries, strike committees were formed for the organisation of the struggle.

One weapon

The Russian masses knew no organised conciliation conference, no fighting funds, no congresses, motions, and official leaders. There was one weapon: strikes, organised by themselves from below, passing an iron factory to factory, and above all, an ending. In every factory a committee was chosen, out of which factory committees joining together, a general committee was chosen. These general committees or Workers' Councils had no permanent function, did not exist out of paid administration, and were raised up in the struggle itself.

Bolshevism Suborned: Struggle from 1917

The contradiction between the Russian working masses, fighting under their own leadership and the gentlemen of the school of scientific socialism, under nationalized banking, the workers will be BORDED more than ever by the State money-wage workers are being driven to a real high standard of living with a huge increase in wages-workers is to organise in job units to eventually produce to form Workers' Councils as an embryo of a NEW ORDER free from wage exploitation~ production, the comfort and well-being of ALL.

Remember, we hope to, early in 1948, commence the publication of Workers' Councils as soon as the MSS. arrives from Antwerp. From this book of hundreds of pages was outlined in Ns 30 issues of this journal. Comrade K.J. Renan translated from Spartacus of 1st February last an article on...

The BLOODBATH OF KRONSTADT

"The bloodbath of Kronstadt, where the Bolshevik party, including thousands of workers, slaughtered only because they advanced a point of its own party's programme, All power to the workers' council (Soviets) was the historical evidence of it. If we measure the correctness of a theory by its results, then the practice has given judgment. What has the years long Trade Union struggle got for the masses? What increase in the standard of living have they got out of it? Where are the results of the Party political struggle? The scales tip in favor of the self-acting and thinking Russian masses.

TRAITORS TO SOCIALISM

The practice of the class struggle in Europe gives the same result. Ninety per cent of the leaders of the scientific school have become traitors to Socialism and by their leadership have diverted the masses further from Socialism than ever before.

HOW WILL THE WORKERS' COMMUNE COME?

"The coming of Socialism will be the result of the uprising of great masses of workers joined in one front, organised in workers' councils. The Trade Union and political parties must be settled with. They form an obstacle in the way for the independent uprising of the masses. One must not expect that the Workers' Council idea could be a magic charm, that it is only needed to be in practice in order to bring forth results. Far from it, in social democracy, the Workers' Councils only express the exhausting struggle of the workers to rise from their slavery and free men.

THE INSTRUMENT IS FORMED

"The upward climb of the working class, now bound down in wage slavery, to the position of a class in a state to rule the world will be lengthy process. The skirmishes are only carried on to show the new hour is dawning. The workers' councils are the instrument whereby and by way of which they will free themselves from dependence on leadership. They are in sharp conflict in opposition to the Trade Unions and political parties, an emancipating power of their own."

SOUTH AFRICAN SLAVE BILL

Trade Unionism Legalized

The "Native Trade Union Bill," introduced into the current session of the Cape Parliament by Minister of Labor, John Stemp, makes trade unions illegal for African workers in gold mining, agriculture and domestic service, is to say, for the overwhelming majority of African workers. It takes away completely the African workers' right to strike. African workers will have no say in the appointment of personnel for arbitration tribunals, and the Secretary is given the right to veto any agreement arrived at by the workers and the bosses.

The organizing of any trade unions, other than those registered under the proposed Bill, will be illegal. Any strike, and black workers will not be allowed to belong to the same unions. This is the Bill which the Government of General Smuts is trying to impose on the workers of South Africa—the same Smuts who drafted the Premiers' Charter of the United Nations, with its honeyed phrases of freedom, freedom and liberty. It now becomes clear what the Merit, during his term of office, was powerless to prevent. The Union was being rewarded by the Government for his services to the capitalistic class and British imperialism. The Bill is directly in the interest of British capital and imperialist investments in South Africa. Behind it is Smuts, the ministerial shadow of the Chamber of Mines.

Introducing the clause giving the Minister the right to give endorsements to employers and workers, the Government was afraid that secondary industries will not be able to take trade union labor away from the mines by offering higher wages. The British owned and controlled Chamber of Mines has been pressing for such a measure to prevent "undue competition," and the "disturbance social evils" among labor workers. From The Times, Sydney, N.S.W., Oct.