

The I. W. W. Arrests and Trials

ON Sept. 5, simultaneously throughout the country, federal raids were made on I. W. W. headquarters and halls, in the alleged search for evidence of "German gold." Twenty-three days after a grand jury returned 166 indictments against 166 members, on grounds of "Seditious conspiracy"—no "German gold" having been discovered—and wholesale arrests began. Up to the present time, 82 have been arrested. They are: Chicago, George Andreychine, Richard Brazier, Ralph Chaplin, Edward Hamilton, Clyde Hough, William D. Haywood, Vladimir Lossieff, Bert Lorton, Herbert Mahler, Paul Pika, Charles Plahn and Chas. Rothfiser; Waukegan, John Pancuer; Rockford, Harrison Haight and Fred Nelson; Springfield, Joe Usapiet; Los Angeles, Angeleo Vincent Azuara, James Elliot, Chas McWhirt and Glen Roberts; Duluth, Charles Jacobson and Fred Jakokola; Minneapolis, Sigfried Sternberg, Carl Salteen, Dan Buckley, Forrest Edwards, Ted Frazier, Ragner Johnson and Chas. L. Lambert; San Francisco, Geo. Speed and Luigi Parenti; San Jose, Peter McEvoy; Stockton, Wm. Weuh; Bemidji, Archie Sinclair; St. Paul, Pete Dailey; Portland, Chas. Bennett, Peter R. Green, Alton E. Soper and T. H. Beyer; New York City, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Aurturo Giovannitti, Carlo Tresca and John Baldazzi; Buffalo, Manuel Rey; Huron, Alexander Cournos; Detroit, Arthur Christ and Otto Justh; Philadelphia, Edward F. Doree, Walter N. Neff and Joseph T. Ettore; Scranton, Joe Graber, Albert B. Prashner and Salvatore Zumpano; Pittsburgh, Harrison George and Jack Law; Denver, Meyer Friedkin; Boston, Roy S. Fanning; Salt Lake City, H. A. Giltner, Chas. H. MacKinnon, Fred C. Ritter and Grover H. Perry; Spokane, H. Humphrey, Wm. Moran, James Rowan and Don Sheridan; Seattle, Harry Lloyd and Jas. A. McDonald; Bellingham, Walker Smith; Tacoma, J. T. Doran; Raymond, Jas. P. Thompson; Cleveland, Geo. Hardy and Jas. C. Slovick; Youngstown, Dave Ingar; Akron, Samuel Scarlett; Butte, Peter Kerkonen; Providence, Francis Miller; Paterson, John Avila; Tulsa, Arthur Boose; Muskogee, H. H. Munson; Enid, Walter Reeder; Jacksonville, Stanley J. Clark; and Wm. E. Gourland, place of resident not given in reports. Doree, Law, Neff, Giovannitti, Flynn, Ettore and Tresca are out on bail.

A glance at the above list will convince one that it is thoroughly international. Despite the newspaper attempts to make the I. W. W. out to be largely Austro-Hungarian, one will be impressed in the above, by the large number of American names, like Hamilton, Chaplin, Hough, Haywood, Edwards, Speed, George, etc. He will also be impressed by the Scandinavian, Swedish, Finnish, Russian, Mexican, Spanish, Italian, Irish,—in brief, by the relatively few Teutonic names. The I. W. W. are truly The Industrial Workers of the World, with a membership of all nationalities and with international ramifications. In the Frisco

hearings of Speed, Parenti and McEvoy, Lawyer R. M. Royce said:—

"The I. W. W. is affiliated with the union movements of Italy, France, England and Russia. And the commissioner may be certain that the proceedings of this courtroom will be reported to these organizations and will also reach the Council of Workmen's and Soldier's Delegates in Petrograd. These are matters of public policy of which the government should be informed."

Another glance at the above list will show cities and states that are the strongholds of huge industrial trusts. Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, Portland, Bellingham, in the state of Washington, stand for the lumber trust; Duluth, for the steel trust; Butte and Salt Lake City, for the copper trusts; Tulsa, Muskogee and Enid, for the oil trusts; San Jose, fruit trusts; Minneapolis and St. Paul, metal, machinery and agricultural trusts, etc. In all these cities and states the I. W. W. conducted strikes against the trusts (who are reaping untold profits from the war) for more wages and less hours. The I. W. W. assert that back of their prosecution these interests most likely may be found.

A final glance at the above list will show a wide diversity of occupations and skill; fruit pickers, harvest hands, R. R. construction workers, metal and coal miners, railroad workers (operating division), textile workers, transport workers (longshoremen, sailors, firemen, etc.) auto builders, machinery constructors, and others too numerous to specify. A wide range of ability, in organizing, oratory, editing, poetry, historical research, etc., is also included in the list. In fact, the brain, the brawn,—all the aspirations of the workers are represented in the above list. So are all schools of politico-economic thought—quite a few of the imprisoned being graduates of the Socialist Labor Party and the Socialist Party—Haywood having, at one time, been a member of the national executive committee of the latter.

The I. W. W. answer to the "seditious conspiracy" charge is very simple. They hold the greed of the war profiteers responsible for the obstruction. These profiteers refused to listen to even governmental suggestions of concessions. The I. W. W. also point to the fact that the A. F. of L. has done and is doing the very things that they are charged with doing. They want to know why it is not prosecuted as they are? Is it the policy to first convict the I. W. W. and then go after the A. F. of L. with the precedent in hand?

It looks as if the A. F. of L. feared such a result. Washington news despatches report it as preparing to have lawyers at the I. W. W. trials to note the issues raised. The despatches read, in part, as follows:—

"The American Federation of Labor officials now fear an attempt to destroy the right to strike during the war."

The I. W. W. are preparing to defend their members well. An able legal staff as been secured. Geo. Vanderveer, who

became favorably known for his handling of the Everett cases, is chief counsel. Otto Christensen, who aided Judge Hilton in the defense of Joe Hill, is first assistant. John Matzan will be second assistant, with a record yet to make. They announce that they will be ready to go to trial on the first of January next.

A general Defense Committee has also been organized, with headquarters at 1001 W. Madison St., Chicago, Ill. This defense committee urges the organization of local defense committees by labor organizations when and wherever possible. Local defense committees have already been formed at Boston, Omaha, Chicago, Seattle, Spokane, Portland, Cleveland, New York City, and other large points. The New York I. W. W. Defense Conference meets every Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock at 74 St. Mark's Place. It is very successful, raising almost \$1,000 in a very short time. If the desire to help the I. W. W. federal prisoners that exists in New York is general, they will be found to have a

great many friends all over the country.

What the outcome of the trials will be, none can tell in advance. Some believe, that, having killed the lumbermen's and miners' strikes, the authorities will remain content with this achievement and let the I. W. W.s down easy. Others believe that the I. W. W. will be outlawed. Haywood, in his bulletins to the membership, following the raids on Sept. 5, hints at such a possibility being on the program.

But whether freed or outlawed the I. W. W.s believe economic, social and political tendencies, at home and abroad,—in Australia and Russia,—are working in their favor. So they calmly face the future, convinced of their irresponsibility, now more than ever before. Like the Socialists, their belief in the tides of evolutionary fates moving towards their ends, makes them undaunted, and unafraid of the outcome.

Here's hoping that their beliefs are well founded, as, indeed, they seem to be!

Items of the I. W. W.

The I. W. W. is more sinned against than sinning. Instead of committing 10,000 crimes, 10,000 crimes are committed against it. The I. W. W. never lynched a capitalist. But the capitalists lynched Frank Little. The I. W. W. never deported mine owners and deprived them of all rights. But the copper capitalists at Bisbee, deported 1,200 I. W. W. amid deeds that shamed the Prussian deportations in Belgium. The I. W. W. never terrorized thousands of innocent men and women. But the commercial clubs, citizen's, and other leagues, did that, and worse, to I. W. W.'s by the hundreds, in Washington, Oregon, etc. The "ten thousand I. W. W. crimes" are merely a "stop thief" cry to hide the ten thousand crimes of law and order."

In the Frisco federal cases against I. W. W. members Speed, McEvoy and Parenti, there are some curious features about the complaint sworn to by Special Agent Rathbun. It is charged that the defendants had conspired to violate all of the statutes of the United States concerning the conduct of the war and particularly the Acts of Congress of May 18th and June 15th, but the date of the alleged conspiracy is given as May 15th, three days before the passage of one, and twenty-eight days before the passage of the other of the laws mentioned. Conspiracy to violate laws not yet enacted is certainly a new sort of crime and one to be committed only by the I. W. W.

In the face of the nation-wide attack on the I. W. W., Chas. Moyer makes himself ridiculous when he calls the I. W. W. "a tool of the employers." That Moyer is allowed at liberty would indicate that the charge can more reasonably be made against him.

Lawyer Royce is right. The authorities charge the I. W. W. with 10,000 crimes in order that they may be able to prove one, at least!

THOSE SABOTAGING SLEUTHS.

We would hate to accuse the sleuths of the bureaucracy of the terrible crime of sabotage, but the evidence is all against them. They seized the effects of the I. W. W. in Seattle and dumped the whole works,—death masks, waste paper, due stamps, blanket rolls, membership records, spittoons, literature, laundry, typewriters, adding machines, and general paraphernalia into big moving vans without any regard for order. This conglomeration was taken to the police station and unloaded in a way that mixed it up more than ever. Then it was piled back into the vans helter-skelter and carted to the Federal building, where the stirring up process was repeated. In each case there were scores of police and sleuths accompanying the moving vans to see that the terrible I. W. W. did not swoop down with their German rifles and regain possession of the cuspidors. The entire process seemed to be designed to make the job last for the investigators.—*The Industrial Worker.*

PILLORYING GOMPERS.

In a second letter to Samuel Gompers, James H. Maurer, president of the Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor again demands a reply to the question whether certain activities of the Alliance for Labor and Democracy, of which Gompers is the President "have been financed wholly or in part by the widely recognized enemies of labor with whom you (Gompers) have lately been appearing on the platform—such men as Elihu Root and Governor Burnquist. I asked you and ask you now, who paid the expenses of the special train from New York to Minneapolis, the rent of halls etc.