

So, You're out of a job!



Zabalaza Books

"Knowledge is the Key to be Free"

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eyes. The businessman, banker and politician have made an awful mess of things and so, as a ruling class, they are about to be thrown away as obstacles to human progress. The social system of the New Era will most probably be industrial rather than political in character. The highly developed and very intricate nature of our modern mechanistic civilization demands the administration of experts instead of the continued mismanagement of politically minded incompetents. Either it will be possible for Science and Labour to step in and bring order out of chaos or the world will sink into the New Dark Ages.

Everything depends on these marvellous new machines. When you go back into the factories you must go back not only with the idea of using that machinery to save yourself and your class from starvation, but also with the firm determination to take over the whole works and to operate the industries under scientific management, in the interests of the human race instead of for the enrichment of a class of lazy, arrogant and overfed parasites.

Wake up!

***16,000,000 workers are
unemployed because they did
nothing about it.***

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***For information on the contemporary IWW, go to:
www.iww.org***

So, You're Out of a Job!

INSIDE:

- ★ **So, You're out of a Job!**
- ★ **Why Jobs are Scarce**
- ★ **Dividends vs. Wages**
- ★ **Machines Displace Workers**
- ★ **Machinery - Friend or Foe of the Workers?**
- ★ **The Revolutionary Four-Hour Day**
- ★ **Why Unemployment?**
- ★ **How Can Unemployed Workers Help?**
- ★ **Why Picket the Industries?**
- ★ **Permanent Employment - Not Charity**
- ★ **Go Where Jobs Are**
- ★ **Employed and Jobless, Unite!**
- ★ **Science and Labour - The New Day**

because you are hungry, you would be willing to take their jobs away from them by offering to work even longer hours and for even less pay. If you were to do this you would be the worst possible kind of scab. And in the long run you would spoil it for yourself and everybody else. And so the I.W.W. is seeking to organise the unemployed on the basis of SOLIDARITY with the employed workers - to enthuse them with common purpose and give their struggle a common objective. The I.W.W. insists not only that you don't scab, but that you will make it impossible for anyone else to scab - even the ones on the job who are willing to work like mules to gain the favour of the bosses. This is the only way you can convince the fellows on the job that you mean business and are on the square.

The I.W.W. has started a nation-wide - a world-wide campaign for the four-hour day, four-day week with no wage cuts. This means the SIXTEEN-HOUR WEEK. If a worker has to work eight hours a day, their week's work is done in two days. Then the next worker gets a chance. Figure it out for yourself. And there is to be no wage cut at all. There is no reason for wage cuts. The bankers in Wall Street, who own the industries, are better prepared in gold and reserves than ever before to pay Labour its just reward. These bankers have used the depression as an excuse to shake down the whole people. They have foreclosed on everybody and now they own the whole country. They'll pay, all right, if you are capable of developing enough organised economic power to MAKE them pay. Otherwise they will deal out more wage-cuts and longer hours for everybody!

So the thing to do is to tackle this problem in a BIG way. Join the I.W.W. and help AGITATE, EDUCATE and ORGANISE for a GENERAL STRIKE for the FOUR-HOUR DAY. It should be clear to you by this time that there is not one problem for the employed and another for the unemployed. There is one joint problem that can only be solved by the joint efforts of both. It means that YOUR interests are bound up with the interests of the workers on the job and that it is up to you to convince them of your honesty and loyalty. It means that the millions now forced to work long hours for starvation pay, and the other millions forced to starve on insulting charity unemployment money, join hands in a common cause to abolish human exploitation and the devilish system which is built upon it.

Science and Labour - The New Day

The Technocrats have proven that, under sane management, every willing and capable worker can earn the equivalent of \$20,000 a year working four hours a day or less. That's how rich in productive machinery and resources the country is! This means that it is up to you and your jobless fellow workers to show your fellow workers on the job that you are willing to help them get theirs in order that you - all of you - can get yours.

Don't kid yourself that things are going to get better and that in a short time you will regain the full dinner and again enjoy the status of a well-fed slave. The depression is here to stay. The world is in the midst of the greatest crisis in history - the greatest revolution in history. The capitalist system is cracking up before our very

Trying to use them in this manner would be like trying to live on the promises of politicians.

But don't forget this: While you cannot eat, drink or wear the mechanical equipment of the mine, mill or factory, you can hardly expect to get anything to eat, drink or wear without them. The machinery of modern production represents everything you MUST HAVE and CANNOT GET ALONG WITHOUT if you wish to continue living. These machines represent freedom from hunger, cold and insecurity. They represent for you, and the millions of unemployed like you, that which you want and need more than anything else in the world right now - a JOB!

Go Where Jobs Are

So, when you are through fooling around with relief stations and City Halls you will of necessity go back to the place where the jobs are - TO THE INDUSTRIES. And you will go back determined to see the thing through.

"But how can I get a job at the mill or factory when no workers are needed?" you may enquire. This is a question very easily answered. You and your fellow workers who have been kicked out of the industries by the industrial overlords of this country, will get back at the point of production by MAKING jobs for yourselves. You will, as a body, picket the factory gates for a workday short enough to re-absorb into industry every worker now unemployed! Anything less than this is less than justice.

Employed and Jobless, Unite!

Scientists who have gone deeply into the subject of unemployment have recently demonstrated that you, and millions like you, will never be given an opportunity to work in industry again as long as you live. Their figures have not yet been disproved. New inventions and new mechanical processes have increased the output so tremendously that, unless hours are shortened, your labour power will be PERMANENTLY DISPLACED. And this condition confronts the entire working class. Unless the workday is drastically cut there can be nothing else in store for the producing class save increasing misery and humiliation.

"But what if the workers now employed continue to be willing to work twelve, ten, eight or even six hours a day for the bosses - what if they refuse to take a stand for the four-hour day?" you may ask again. The answer is that very many workers now employed would be more than willing to take a stand for the four-hour day IF THEY THOUGHT THEY HAD A CHANCE TO WIN OUT. They would rather work four hours a day than twelve, ten, eight or even six. But most of them so disposed are afraid to do anything about it, particularly in hard times, for fear the hungry hordes of jobless would scab on them. And so the first thing to do is to convince them that the unemployed are ORGANISED and DISCIPLINED to CO-OPERATE and not COMPETE with them. This is the thing to work for, and is the kind of propaganda campaign the unemployed should carry on. What else is more worth striving for?

The thing most employed workers are afraid of is YOU. They are afraid that



So, You're Out of a Job!

While you were working, in years past, you took everything for granted. You called it "your job," and tried to kid yourself into believing that you could hang on to it - or a better one - as long as you lived. You made plans and dreamed dreams. Perhaps you even started paying off on a little home of your own. Things began to look pretty rosy and you didn't want anybody to tell you that the boss wasn't a fine fellow and that this wasn't the finest country in the world.

Now all that is a thing of the past. There are no more paydayes. You lost not only your job but also the hope of a job. And perhaps the real estate or tax vultures swooped down on the little home and you had to break up the family and go live with relatives or friends. When you were up in the bucks the newspapers and politicians used to slap you on the back and call you a "rugged individualist." Not knowing any better you would swell out your chest and consider it a compliment. That was when you were coming home regularly with a pay envelope. Now they call you a beggar and a bum. And they make you like it.

Just at present you are a worker struggling in a nightmare. Where previously you were paying your way and getting by, you are now face to face with privation and humiliation of all sorts. The depression is no respecter of persons. This time it is YOU, and not the other worker, who is getting it in the neck. You are no longer a "rugged individualist;" you are one of the gang - one of the big army of fifteen or sixteen million other willing and capable workers who are being deprived of the opportunity to make a living.

Heretofore you have trusted to brass-check editors theorists and political witch-doctors to do your thinking for you. And just look what happened! You, and millions like you are out of work and the crowd you trusted have been able to do nothing but tell you nonsense which cant help you out. Being out of a job is the most horrible and inescapable reality in the world. Upon your ability to THINK and ACT for yourself, in keeping with your CLASS INTERESTS, depends whether or not you sink or swim. In either case no one can do anything for you but yourself.

Why Jobs are Scarce

Lots of times, judging from what you read in the papers, you would think that unemployment on a large scale was unknown before the crash of 1929. This might lead you to believe that as soon as the depression is over there will be no more workers without jobs. But look at the facts! During the most 'prosperous' years before the crash there were plenty of unemployed. Prior to 1910 the standing army of jobless numbered about one million. Since that time it has increased continually until it

is now admitted that one worker out of every three in the country is out of a job. The way things are going it won't be long until only one out of two will be employed. Even twelve million workers is a huge number of workers to be thrown out on the streets without any means of making a living. The worst of it is that only about half of these could find work even if we suddenly returned to a condition of 'prosperity.' The rest, according to best scientific opinion, will have been permanently displaced by improved machinery. So you can see what your chances are to hold a steady job again as long as you live.

And what do they offer you in place of a job? First of all charity from relief stations, emergency relief work under slave conditions and soup lines. This they are glad to do because they are afraid of what twelve or fourteen million desperate workers could do to the country if they were infuriated beyond endurance by hunger. But relief stations, soup lines, etc., cannot go on forever. Sooner or later the taxpayer's money will run out. Then what? As you can readily see charity is not a permanent cure for the problem of unemployment. And the same thing applies to the 'share the work' plan. Sharing each other's work without any increase in pay simply forces the already underpaid worker with a job to kick in with half their earnings to support the other worker. It displaces one starving worker with two who are half starved. It spreads, rather than cures, the contagion of poverty.

Even more foolish than this is the so-called 'back to the land' movement. To force, or try to force, the industrially trained population of the most highly industrialised nation in the world to go back to the 'sticks' and scab on the already starving farmers is a poor remedy indeed. It is like trying to turn back the pages of history from the twentieth century to the eighteenth. Such things just cannot be done and there is no good reason why they should be done. The advocacy of the 'buy American' plan and the return to the primitive method of barter are two additional examples of the helplessness of the employing class in the face of a situation that they can neither understand nor control. Unemployment insurance is an empty slogan.

Dividends vs. Wages

Each and every one of these fake remedies are efforts of the vested interests in the United States to evade moral and financial responsibility for the continuation of an outgrown social system, based upon the exploitation of labour, of which the employers are the sole beneficiaries. A glance at the following figures will show who has paid for and who has profited from the terrible conditions of the last few years:

(Figures are for the third quarters of the years indicated)

1926 ... Dividends, \$282,000,000. Interest paid on borrowed capital, \$769,000,000. Wages, \$2,700,000,000. Dividends plus interest, \$1,051,000,000.

1928 ... Dividends, \$597,000,000. Interest, \$911,000,000. Wages, \$2,590,000,000.

tion.

"But why go to the industries?" you may ask. "Why not go to the relief stations, the City Hall or the State or National Capitals to try to get what we want?"

Now, that is the very point. It all depends on what you WANT. If soup or a meagre basket of charity will satisfy you, then perhaps the relief station is, after all, the proper place. That is where such things are to be found - as long as they last. After having taken your jobs away from you the least the ruling class can do is to keep you from starving. At all events it is better to get relief than to go hungry. And you are as much entitled to relief as anyone. But you are foolish not to ask for something more permanently beneficial than a few days rations.

"Where there is justice charity is unnecessary; where justice is denied, charity is an insult." And, in this case, anything less than a JOB is less than JUSTICE.

And so, if you insist on demonstrating in this manner, keep in mind that your chief purpose is not to demand a crust of bread but rather the ABOLITION of the SYSTEM which forces able-bodied willing workers to fill the role of BEGGARS.

Even demonstrating for bread is a lot better than doing nothing at all about it. The danger of such demonstrations is that workers are apt to expect too much from them and, after they are let down once or twice or dispersed with violence, they will become hopelessly discouraged and be unwilling to continue to fight. Then too, relief stations may someday go dry. What then? Surely, if the City Halls went broke and the relief stations ran short you could not expect very much of either of them, could you?

And that is why the I.W.W. says you should always keep yourselves prepared to "demonstrate" in irresistible numbers around the factory gates.

Permanent Employment - Not Charity

Let's look at the facts of the case for a moment. The thing that has happened to you is that you are out of work. The thing you want most of all is a job. Well, they are not putting out jobs for the likes of you at the City Hall or the relief station. The only place jobs can ever be found for people of our class is IN THE INDUSTRIES. Therefore, sooner or later, you will either have to go to the industries DEMANDING that they make room for you by means of the FOUR-HOUR DAY - or you will remain on the streets.

The reason the I.W.W. seeks to direct your activities and the full current of your discontent in the direction of the industries is because it is obviously impossible for you and your loved ones to continue living on charity for all rest of your lives. Besides, in a country as richly endowed with machinery and resources as this country is, there is no good reason why you should. As a human being you are entitled to all the good things of life which machinery, resources and your labour are capable of producing. Any class of people that stands between you and your bread are USURPERS and PUBLIC ENEMIES. And you must deal with them accordingly.

"But I can't eat machinery or drink steam or electricity!" you may exclaim. And of course you are right. Such things can hardly be reckoned among articles of diet.

anything worthwhile. Only through ORGANISATION can you hope to either better your condition today or achieve emancipation from wage slavery tomorrow.

The mines, mills and factories are still where they were. The technicians, superintendents and workers are available to step in and resume operations. The money of the country has not disappeared into thin air. There is as much of it as there ever was - enough to fill everybody's pay envelope. Technocracy has shown that, under a sane industrial system we can earn the equivalent of \$20,000 a year by working only FOUR HOURS a day! The only thing that keeps the unemployed on the streets is the fact that the workers now employed ARE WORKING TOO LONG HOURS. These workers should be won over to a GENERAL STRIKE for a shorter workday with full pay. The workers displaced from industry - the unemployed - should join in this strike and give it their full support. They should not only not scab on the employed BUT THEY SHOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE ELSE TO SCAB.

By establishing powerful and determined picket lines of this sort and CO-OPERATING instead of COMPETING with their fellow worker in the industries with the idea of establishing a UNIVERSAL FOUR-HOUR DAY, the unemployed are striking at the ROOT of unemployment. But, as you can see, you cannot do this alone. It will take the organised, combined efforts of the army of production, backed up by AGITATION and EDUCATION. That is why you should join the I.W.W. and endeavour to make it the MOST POWERFUL LABOUR UNION IN THE WORLD.

If you and your fellow workers want jobs, go back to the places where the jobs are - TO THE INDUSTRIES. Go back organised, disciplined and determined to WIN AT ALL COSTS. Go back in irresistible numbers and DEMAND that the hours of labour be shortened to the extent that there is room for all workers in production.

No force on earth can withstand the SOLIDARITY OF LABOUR!

Why Picket the Industries?

The I.W.W. was the first labour organisation in America to realise the need for industrial tactics to meet the economic situation arising from the slump in industry. Early in the depression the General Secretary of the I.W.W. submitted the question of picketing the industries to the General Convention of the union. From that time to this few matters of strategy in the modern class struggle have been so widely discussed. It is a mistake however to infer that the I.W.W. plan is to have small groups of jobless workers walk up and down in front of the factories where they used to work. This indeed would be a foolish and ineffectual method of registering disapproval of such conditions.

The I.W.W. conceives of and advocates picketing the industries on a vast, nationwide scale. Sixteen or seventeen millions of workers with their families could get anything they wanted by merely demanding it in unison. If they once started out to get the four-hour day they would succeed because pressure about the factory gates would make anything other than the four-hour day impossible. The I.W.W. believes that sooner or later this MUST be done if the human race is not to perish of starva-

Dividends plus interest, \$1,508,000,000.

1930 ... Dividends, \$1,041,000,000. Interest, \$1,066,000,000. Wages, \$1,306,000,000. Dividends plus interest, \$2,080,000,000.

1932 ... Dividends, \$524,000,000. Interest, \$1,118,000,000. Wages, \$903,000,000. Dividends plus interest, \$1,642,000,000.

If you want to find out why you are out of a job you must look to the modern labour displacing machine for an answer. A little study will prove that you are unemployed because the new machinery, requiring only a few workers to tend it, can turn out more goods in the same number of hours than the old style machine that required many workers. It can turn them out faster, better and for much less cost. The findings of technocracy prove this fact beyond any question of a doubt. A few of their figures will give you an idea of just what you are up against in this respect:

Machines Displace Workers

- One worker in today's automobile factory can produce as much as twelve workers could produce in 1904.
- One modern glass blowing machine, in a twenty-four hour day sucks and blows more than a quarter of a million bottles.
- An electric steam shovel picks up eighteen cubic yards every time its jaws bite into the ground, while a worker with a pick and a shovel would do well to move but two cubic yards of dirt in a ten-hour day.
- Magnetic cranes, belt conveyors, electric hoists and other forms of modern power equipment are capable of handling tons in less time than a worker can handle pounds.
- One worker with a tractor-drill can sow an acre of ground in fifteen minutes while it takes four and a quarter hours to seed the same area by hand.
- A modern automatic baking machine can turn out as many loaves of bread in an hour as one hundred bakers using the old style French oven.
- Only a couple of years ago 500 cigarettes a minute was high speed for a tobacco factory machine. Today they are capable of turning out as many as 2600 a minute.
- One plant can turn out 10,000 auto chassis frames a day with only 208 workers at work.

Comparisons of this sort are endless. Every worker can recall similar displacements that have taken place in their own industry.

Machinery - Friend or Foe of the Workers?

And this brings up the most important part of the subject - the purpose for which this machinery should be used. There are two viewpoints. On the one side are those who claim that the socially necessary mines, mills, factories should be used to ben-

efit the millions who depend upon them for life, and there are those who claim that these things should remain, as they are now, the property of a few men who use them simply for purposes of self-enrichment.

As far as we are concerned, as workers, there can be but one choice. As things stand now we do not have to be reminded of what has happened as a result of private ownership. We have been locked out of the industries by the millions. Only the employing class and their determination to make price instead of use the purpose of the production of goods, is to blame for what is happening. The owner of the machine, and not the machine itself, is the cause of our present worldwide misery. This parasite class stands between twelve or fourteen million working people and their bread. If it were not for them the machine would be as great a blessing to the human race as it is now a curse. The working class therefore has no other course but to demand the abolition of private ownership.

The Revolutionary Four-Hour Day

On the subject of what is to be done to end the depression there is a remarkable agreement between class-conscious workers and the real (not pseudo) scientists. In the fall of 1932 the Technocratic group in New York City, representing perhaps the most outstanding engineering genius of North America, came out with a proposal to end the depression which was as startling as it was simple - THE FOUR-HOUR DAY, FOUR-DAY WEEK! So alarmed was the American ruling class at this obvious and self-evident remedy for unemployment that they immediately caused the expulsion of the Technocrats from Columbia University. Also they turned loose upon this fine body of scientists a broadside of adverse publicity and ridicule from the Kept Press that was eagerly joined by the self-styled economists and philosophers of Socialist and Communist parties. This united attack on the Four-Hour Day by the employing class and their dogma-drugged allies among the "radical" politicians revealed clearly the cupidity and treachery of Labour's enemies in both camps. It showed the exploiters and betrayers of the working class in their true colours and in a manner that will not soon be forgotten or forgiven.

With the I.W.W., however the story was different. Two weeks before the Technocrats released their now famous declaration in favour of the four-hour day the I.W.W. in convention assembled had officially altered its Six-Hour Day program in favour of one advocating the FOUR-HOUR DAY, FOUR-DAY WEEK WITH NO WAGE CUTS as a means of putting the vast army of unemployed to work. This was a mere coincidence but it proves the scientific soundness of the I.W.W. position as compared with that of the so-called "revolutionary" politicians, whose high-sounding election campaign slogans made no mention at all of this practical and common-sense method of ending the depression.

Unemployment, as it confronts the worker today, does not spring from local, seasonal or accidental causes; it is technological. This means that industrial evolution has reached a stage where machinery has been and is being installed to make human labour increasingly unnecessary. If one machine and one worker, for

instance, can do the work of ten workers it stands to reason that nine workers have been permanently displaced from industry. It stands to reason also that the logical solution of the problem is to SHORTEN THE HOURS OF LABOUR to whatever extent is necessary to PUT ALL THE DISPLACED WORKERS BACK ON THE JOB - and to put them back with NO DECREASE IN EARNING POWER. The I.W.W. claims that the FOUR-HOUR DAY, FOUR-DAY WEEK, WITH NO PAY CUTS is the ONLY procedure that can ever be expected to do away with the curse of MACHINE-MADE unemployment. Furthermore the I.W.W. claims that this four-hour day program will not only abolish unemployment but that it will also abolish the CAUSE of unemployment which is the capitalist system itself.

Why Unemployment?

Try to look at it this way for a moment: Why should millions of willing and capable workers go hungry, cold, shelterless and jobless in a land equipped with the finest factories and most perfect machinery which modern science and human ingenuity can devise? No one as yet has given any good reason why a situation like this should exist. It is absurd to try to explain such a thing away. It is an unanswerable FACT, and one that no amount of political "Faith Cure," "Cheer up" chats or philosophical horse-medicine can alter. Machinery brought on this depression and the problem is bound up inextricably with that of the machine. Ask yourself why it is that millions of us can be LOCKED OUT of the industries by a handful of employers who "own" the machinery. If you once get this idea in your head you will realise that our ONE PROBLEM is to get BACK INTO THE INDUSTRIES whether the so-called "owners" or their politicians, economists and other dupes and hirelings like it or not. Did it ever strike you that the employing class turned you out into the streets as if you were a bunch of dogs for the simple reason that, like a bunch of racketeers, they use the machinery of production UPON WHICH WE ALL DEPEND for the purpose of enriching themselves instead of supplying human needs? Well, that is exactly what happened.

How Can Unemployed Workers Help?

If you have followed the foregoing carefully you may, at this point, pause and say, "Very well, I realise that, if anything is to be done for the workers they must do it themselves instead of trusting to politicians and fakirs, but where do I, as a member of the unemployed, fit into the picture?"

And that brings us to the most important point of all: As long as we workers are going to solve our own problems without the direction or advice of the ambitious, would-be Stalins or MacDonaldis of the American labour movement it means that we, AS WORKERS, will have to function through our own UNIONS instead of through POLITICAL PARTIES (both during the revolutionary period and afterward.). And so the whole question of what you are to do is summed up in the idea of the REVOLUTIONARY INDUSTRIAL UNION. Individually you are helpless to protest, fight or do