

The Line

We walk, we hold,
for Fellow Workers,
we do not cross

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FREE



The United Auto Worker's lose vote in Chattanooga, what can we learn?

Unions have historically had a hard time organizing in the South and the trend seems to be continuing today. At the Volkswagen auto plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, the United Auto Workers (UAW) have lost yet another union election this past June. While there are a lot of forces at work in the South against the working class – business unions still seem to be using the same tired tactics that have not worked in the past and are not working today.

In Chattanooga there has been an on going fight to win a union contract. The UAW needs to gain a foothold in the South and also at a foreign owned plant. Since 2014, the UAW has been trying to get a contract/work with the company in a vain attempt at copy

the "work council" model of Germany, where Volkswagen is based. In Germany, where there are much different labor laws than we have here in the United States, the company has to negotiate with workers on many levels of the business in the company. But the company has demonstrated that they do not really care about their workers and are only complying with the law when forced to.

In the aftermath of the 2014 loss, the UAW switched gears and won an election with a bargaining unit of 160 skilled workers, however the company refused to negotiate with Local 42 and continued to file appeals with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). It seemed like the UAW was open to trying different tactics that

had worked before the passage of the NLRA. Under the NLRA, it was more common for workers to take action into their own hands and put pressure on the boss for better wages and conditions.

The NLRA was passed as part of the New Deal in 1935. It has long been hailed as the saving grace of the labor movement, even with the setback of the Taft-Hartley Act of 1947 that greatly amended the NLRA, much to its detriment. However, even the unchanged and main part of the act, the segment about sole bargaining, is not what it seems to be. The NLRA defines a union as "two or more workers acting in concert to improve their working conditions." However, this is not what most people today would

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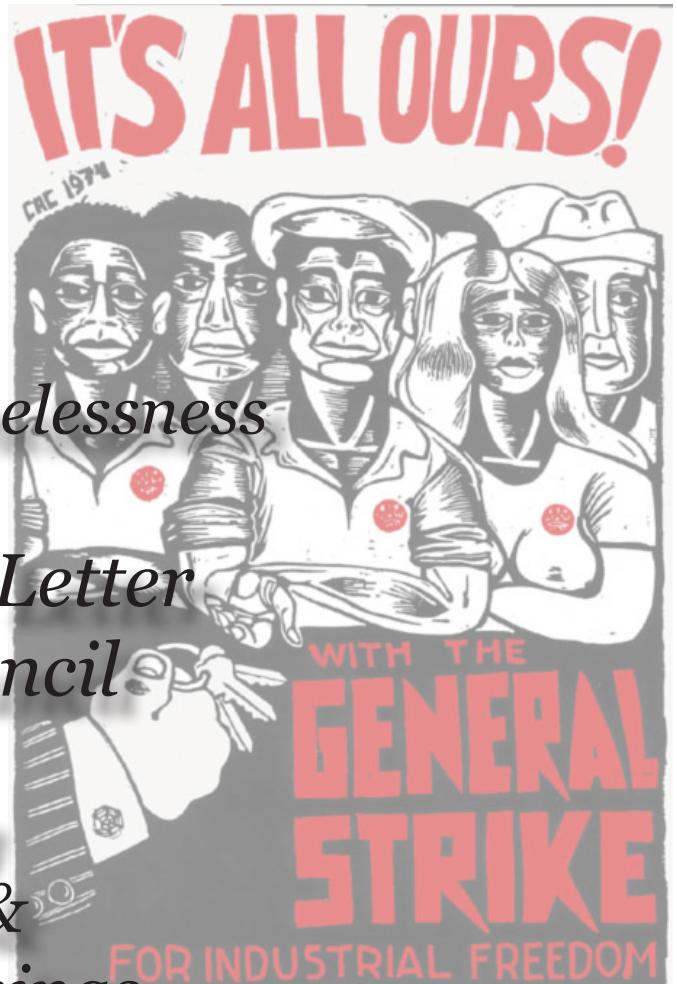
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Hi Fellow Workers!

The months of May and June have been busy months for labor; from strikes on International Workers' Day to the Wayfair walkout. Not to mention everything going on around the world. Which means we couldn't fit everything we would have liked into this issue. It is important to have an international prospective but here at The Line we like to center, as much as we can, on what is going on closer to home. So while this issue doesn't have any coverage of international labor issues we encourage you to seek those out yourselves and see what is going on with our brothers and sisters around the world.

In Solidarity,
Dylan B. - Editor


The Line

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Wayfair Walkout

Workers at Wayfair, an online furniture company, organized a walkout after discovering that their bosses were selling furniture to the government to be used in migrant camps, what some have started calling concentration camps.

The workers first organized a petition to their bosses, signed by over 500 workers, to demand that Wayfair cancel the deal. After the CEO Niraj Shah refused, the workers quickly organized a walkout.

The idea of the walkout spread rapidly and was covered by major news networks. They carried signs that read "A prison with a bed is still a prison."

The business media has pushed back some. They say had Wayfair not provided the furniture then another company would have and even if all companies decided not to provide furniture then the "situation" at the border would be worse. However, they are missing the point here.

The point is to put pressure on the government to end their practice of rounding up humans and putting them in camps. If the government was under pressure from all sides then they would stop. That is the point.

This walkout is further proof that power lies in the hands of the worker. Workers in "choke-point" industries, such as shipping, steel, energy, etc. have major power to bring things to a halt. But all workers have this point of production power as well. Any major issue that is in the headlines, such as migration, can be effected by workers.

Workers as a class make everything happen, everything move. The important thing is we have to realize this power, just as these workers at

Wayfair have done. Someone has to take that first step and we all have to support each other. We need to build networks that last so that we can create even bigger change.

As of this writing the company is going ahead with the sell.

Uber & Lyft drivers go on strike

On May 8th, just one week after International Workers Day, Uber and Lyft drivers went on strike. The strike called for all drivers to turn off their apps and for a boycott to the services by consumers for several hours. Uber and Lyft drivers are at the epicenter of the gig economy. The euphemistic name given to the not new problem of precarious work.

There was a lot of media coverage and some big endorsements. Such as from a hand full of presidential candidates. However, actual economic impact seems to have been lacking as an outcome.

According to organizing.work "...there was little indication that the strike had impacted the company much at all, nor that it had drawn much participation, even in New York and LA, where the biggest organizing efforts seemed to have taken place. Ride availability appeared unchanged, as did customer demand."

The important thing here is to understand what the goal really was. The goal seems to have been largely to make a media splash. If that is the case then this was a success. This does have value as it is good to have strikes talked about in the media in a positive light, even more so when the strike is about poverty wages and workers at the bottom of the scale.

However, it is also important that we don't let strikes devolve into only being media stunts. Events that are

"managed," only last a few hours, and are designed not to directly impact the boss but gain public support through the media.

Read more about this at <http://organizing.work/2019/05/uber-and-lyft-drivers-deserve-a-better-strike/>

Teachers strike in South Carolina

On May 1st of this year, International Workers Day, 7,000 teachers marched on the state capital of South Carolina in what continues to be a wave of teacher action across the country but primarily in southern states where teachers, and public workers, lack unions and other basic rights.

One of the main issues is wages, but teachers are also concerned about the lack of funds for rural schools. The rural schools have an even harder time recruiting and retaining teachers because of the lack of funding.

The teachers also want better working conditions. This means less testing, at least 30 minutes a day to eat lunch and use the restroom or do other work, and smaller class room sizes.

Teachers in South Carolina along with some other southern states do not have collective bargaining rights as public employees. But what this wave of teachers strikes in southern states show is that workers don't need permission from the government to take action. Workers have the power.

It is also important to note that teachers in various states have consistently stood up for their fellow public workers. This shows solidarity and the idea that workers are all in this together not just out for themselves.

On July 1st, South Carolina passed a new budget that gives at least a 2% raise to all state employees. Workers who earn less than \$70,000 will also get a one-time bonus of \$600.

Little Big Union updates

In the last issue of The Line we reported on the creation of a new union called the Little Big Union. Workers at Little Big Burger have organized with the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW). The workers are calling for wage increases, fair and consistent scheduling, and better working conditions in general.

The company that owns Little Big Burger, Chanticleer Holdings, a North Carolina based corporation, has now gone full tilt in their union busting campaign. They have taken the rare move of filing for a union election with the National Labor Relations Board themselves. However, they only took this action after they fired five pro-union workers and hiring a union busting law firm. Workers

that are living paycheck to paycheck cannot afford their own lawyers. The company also launched an anti-union website and "anonymously" disseminated the link to workers via text,

Now it may seem, and certainly the company would want you to believe, that they are calling for the election because they "care about their workers" and will "respect what they want." But don't be fooled. The idea here is that right now workers at Little Big Burger have mostly been organizing in the Portland area and this election would be in every store in Oregon, so under the guise of giving their workers a choice they in fact manipulate the situation to deny workers a voice. The company certainly has the money, time, and resources, to campaign against organizing in all of its stores. However, for the workers, who are living paycheck to paycheck

it is much harder to reach out to the other workers in a short window of time before the election.

The company also was pushing the NLRB to have in store voting. Meaning that the workers would have to cast their votes in a potentially hostile environment.

"These are hardly the terms of a good-faith election," says [Little Big Burger] worker Geran Wales, 'I would hope that when a NLRB election does occur, that it does so under conditions that would allow for and encourage mass participation."

Little News Update

- June is Pride Month! Where all across the world people march in solidarity with Gay, Queer, and Trans folks. Pride is a celebrate of the Stonewall rebellion that happened New York City on June 28th 1969. In response to the police raiding the Stonewall Inn the people rioted and attacked the cops.
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The NLRB said on June 14th that they would host a mail-in vote. The election will start on July 1st for all locations and the workers will have until July 23rd to mail in ballots. Workers will hopefully have less pressure

from the company with a mail-in vote rather than an in-store vote with the bosses breathing down their neck.

Speech from May Day

Good evening everyone, happy international workers day! I'm Uncle Jamie from Just housing, I'm a homeless advocate and a homeless person.

And I can tell you from experience that it can be difficult to find work when you're homeless. Employers are, well lets say their hesitant. They have a lot of questions. Legitimate questions. Is this person suffering from substances abuse or mental health problems? Can this person maintain their appearance and hy-

giene properly? How reliable is this person? What if they get swept or arrested and I have to find someone to cover their shift?

These are all legitimate questions but they also make for very high barriers for unemployment when your unhoused.

But the thing is though a lot of us do work. Studies have shown that between 22 and 25%, depending on the study, of unhoused people, are technically employed full time.

And between 40 and 60% are intermittently employed, seasonal work, day labor, gig jobs.

So whatever the exact numbers are that is a significant portion of our population that is gainfully employed and working. But here's the thing according to another study statistically in this country in order to afford a modest two bedroom apartment, one needs to be working at, get this, 21.21 an hour.

And so places that are only one bedroom or studios, competition for them is fierce. And a lot of us unhoused people we have spotty rental histories. So for a lot of us, even if we are bringing in a weekly income rent is simply out of reach for us.

So think about that for second. Maybe the person that checks your groceries out, or blended your latte, went home that night to a shelter or a car or a tent.

So while we are here today in solidarity celebrating working people around the world please lets not forget those working people whose gainful employment cannot cover the rent.

Olympia IWW endorses Just Housing letter to the Olympia City Council

To the City of Olympia staff and Council Members,

We ask that you take the follow actions:

End the forcible removal of homeless encampments on public property.

Develop and adopt more just, compassionate, and effective policies related to responding to encampments, like a Shelter-in-Place model. This might include specific actions like:

Creating transparent policies and accountability processes that ensure adequate time, support and legal and appropriate alternatives are provided if a person needs to move.

Including encampment residents in the process of developing said policies.

Adopting said policies in keeping with humane principles as outlined in City resolution M – 1942 and The Charter for Compassion.

Partnering with service providers, advocacy groups and faith communities who are supporting existing camps.

Promoting health and safety with garbage service, handwashing stations, and public restrooms at existing camps

Developing and supporting self-governance among the residents of the camps, and seeking to engage camp residents as an essential part of the solution to this challenge, rather than viewing them/us as the problem.

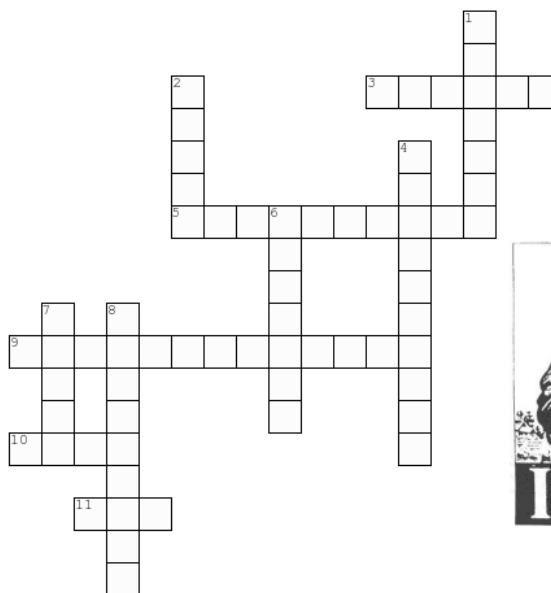
Engaging treatment providers to partner with and provide outreach to the residents of camps.

Supporting the development of a regular stakeholders group meeting that invites all interested citizens, organizations, and businesses to guide the effort.

The goal is to develop a continuum of options created by the whole community that is sustainable. As stakeholders in this effort we wish to end the sweeps of camps that only creates more misery and suffering and erodes public confidence and partnership. We believe these are essential steps needed to ensure that all residents of our community have safe, legal, and appropriate places to live.

If you would like to learn more about just housing check out justhousingolympia.org and they are also on Facebook.

The Word on The Line



Created with [TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Puzzle Generator](http://TheTeachersCorner.net/Crossword_Puzzle_Generator)

Across

- 3. The only thing we have to lose
- 5. Famous current musician who is a member of the IWW
- 9. The Seattle IWW newsletter
- 10. Month the IWW was founded
- 11. The Union's favorite animal

Down

- 1. City the IWW was founded in
- 2. Eye that 'Big Bill' Haywood was missing
- 4. It's a weapon not a word
- 6. Famous IWW cartoon character
- 7. Mnemonic device for organizing your workplace
- 8. King of Olympia

Little News Update

On June 13th the Lacey City Council passed a confusing camping ban. It makes it illegal for "any person to store personal property, including camp facilities (tents, vehicles) and camp paraphernalia" in any park, street or "any publicly owned parking lot or publicly owned area, improved or unimproved." However, if the person is homeless and shelters are full then the cops are not suppose to cite them. The Mayor called it "a first step." A first step towards what?

Events, Trainings, and ongoing Mutual Aid

Olympia IWW Origination

The 1st Saturday of every odd Month. 3pm - 5pm

Olympia Center

Sept. 7th, Nov. 2nd, Jan. 4th

Mutual Aid Monday

A project of Olympia Mutual Aid Partnership (OlyMAP)

Every Monday from 7pm to 8:30 help to provide food and supplies to our friends who live under the 4th AVE Bridge.

Just Housing's Rolling Refuse Removal (RRR) every Sunday starting at noon. Meet at the West Food Co-op to help our houseless friends with picking up trash - which the city refuses to do.

IWW Radical Movie Night

Every 2nd Friday of the month

Starting at 6pmish

Mixx96 - on the corner of State & Washington.

OlympiaIWW.org



UAW

Cont. from Front Page

consider a union. It is closer to what workers would have considered a union pre-1935, and it is what a union should be. A union should be workers on the shop floor taking action against the boss to better their working conditions.

However, this is counter to what the NLRA does. The main part of the act is the sole bargaining aspect which does just as it implies. It allows for a union to be the only bargaining unit in a shop, or among workers within a certain trade in that shop.

The point is that the NLRA codified into law a particular way of unionizing that was but one among many, which benefited top down unions and helped to take power out of workers hands. The NLRA helped to create the situation we find ourselves in now with business unions. That is, what the company's generally assert about unions, they tend to act as a 3rd party. Rather than working to support and empower workers to take action themselves in fighting the bosses, business unions tend to act as a check on workers.

Business unions also put a lot of emphasis on recognition. They only operate through the NLRA union election process, which even under good conditions is heavily tilted towards the company. However, workers do not necessarily need the recognition of the company to improve their working conditions or raise their wages.

While workers still have some legal protection under the NLRA, without being in a union these so-called protections are all but unenforceable unless there is a union contract. Unlike health and safety, or fire protection, there are no government agents that come around to workplaces and ensure that they are treating their workers fairly under the law.

All that being said, there are parts of the NLRA that can be used to the workers advantage: Avoiding sections that hurt unions and using the pieces that help or protect unions, is just part of an answer to reviving the labor movement in the United States.

As a result of this history, people concerned with the labor movement were generally excited about the

United Auto Workers creation of Local 42 as a minority union in the Volkswagen shop, Chattanooga after their initial loss in 2014. The idea that the UAW might be getting back to the basics is heartening to hear since they are one of the original CIO industrial unions. The members succeeded in creating a voluntary union on the shop floor and won over workers by proving that actions can speak louder than third party services and grievance procedures.

However, it seems this was not what was on the agenda for the UAW. According to Labor Notes, after the formation of Local 42, workers took action by marching on the boss because of line speed ups. According to one worker, "When the car carrier enters your pitch, there is a timer that counts down seconds, so you know exactly how many seconds you have to do the job, now, usually our time is 110 seconds... These two days it was down to 99 seconds. That doesn't sound like a lot, but when every second is accounted for in the pitch, it means everything."

After finding this out and seeing that it was on-going, workers discussed it and decided to demand an end to the

decreased time in their pitches. "We walked into their office about 12 deep to let them know what was going on."

The next morning the problem was fixed.

"We definitely found a way to get things done when we need them," said another worker. "We decided that's our route from now – if we need something, it's directly to [management]."

However, according to Labor Notes this is contrasting with Local 42 which has no organized presence on the shop floor, has trained no shop stewards, and doesn't even represent workers in disciplinary meetings.

It would seem that the UAW was just fighting a holding action. Despite this, workers continued to take things into their own hands and put pressure on the company from the inside. In December of 2018 there was another march on the boss. This time with close to 50 workers filling up the office. This resonated on the shop floor.

In the IWW we have a saying – Know the Union, Hear the Union, See the Union. This means some workers will just "know" the union right away, they are already down with it. Others have to hear about it. You need to talk to them. Yet, others still have to see it in action. This is the real benefit of actions like marching on the boss: not only do you get your issue addressed, you also show other workers who were not involved, the power of collective action.

From this shop floor presence the workers pushed UAW to file for another election, which they did in the beginning of April. The company in a new and strange move, filed an appeal against the election stating that the UAW had to decertify Local 42 before it could file for another full plant election. This is strange because the company had never recognized Local 42 and always maintained that it was not legitimate, but now the company

determined that the UAW had to decertify it.

The purpose behind Volkswagen's action was to cause a delay in the election and give them more time to ramp up their union busting campaign. The election was suppose to happen at the end of April but was then pushed back to mid June.

During this two and half month time the company, its outside supporters, and the state government ran a bitter campaign against the union. In this coming together of forces, the standard captive audience meetings were held where workers are required to attend and are flooded with anti-union propaganda. An outside group called "Southern Momentum" was used for the appearance of public support of Volkswagen and its anti-union stance, all the while the company was stating that it is neutral.

Workers who attended one of these captive audience meetings just days before the election were given water bottles with anti UAW stickers and free Chick-fil-a sandwiches. Just as in 2014 when the state government got heavily involved in the anti-union push, the current governor of Tennessee, Bill Lee, unexpectedly came to the plant to talk to the workers during a special captive audience meeting. During which, as expected, he told them he didn't think the union was a good idea.

The United Auto Workers lost the vote by a narrow margin, 776 to 833. Even though they lost, it is still impressive that for all the push back, intimidation, and scare tactics that were and are unleashed by the company, its supporters, and the government itself, the vote was close. The tricks of the company almost always multiply when they have a long lead time up to an election. It would appear that those workers needed more time "below ground" to solidify support and solidarity before they filed for the election, with emphasis on a good inoculation campaign to count-

er the things the company would say and do.

While the company was brutal in its effort, it also utilized predictable anti-union propaganda. Another benefit of having a strong presence on the shop floor and running direct actions against the boss, is that the company and lawyers they hire are not ready for it. Educating fellow workers on the tactics and tricks of the bosses is of vital importance in a campaign. Letting workers know what the company will say about unions, why it is wrong, and how to respond is work that has to be done.

With the union workers inside the plant doing what they could, the UAW seemed to be mainly spending its time and money on radio and television ads. A more productive use of these resources could be spent leveraging their other members at nearby parts suppliers or calling on workers at the other unionized plants in Germany.

According to Payday Reports, workers at the Volkswagen plant are still optimistic, but it is hard to tell where this will go now that Local 42 has been dechartered in order for the UAW to file for this past election.

Unions need to get away from these tickets that are enshrined in law. The law has never treated the working class fairly.

Unions should not be fighting fire with fire. The companies run ad campaigns and such because they do not have the connection to workers that workers themselves have. We should not give up our most prized ability in the fight against the bosses – that as workers, we understand what workers are going through and how it relates to our lives. This is something that capitalists will never have or understand.

A UNION FOR ALL WORKERS



Why Join the I.W.W.?

It does not take long to figure out that workers and their employers do not have the same interests. Workers want shorter hours, higher pay, and better benefits.

We want our work to be less boring, less dangerous, and less destructive to the environment. We want more control over how we produce goods and provide services. We want meaningful work that contributes to our communities and world.

Our employers, in contrast, want us to work longer, harder, faster, and cheaper. They want fewer safety and environmental regulations and they demand absolute control over all decisions, work schedules, speech, and actions in the workplace.

The easiest way to stand up for each other in our workplaces and communities and the easiest way to improve our working conditions is to join a union.

That is why employers fight so hard, and spend so much money, to keep unions out of their workplaces. Workers with unions generally have higher pay and job security, better benefits, and fewer scheduling problems. More pay equals fewer hours at work and more hours for enjoying the good things in life.

Nothing will change until we organize. Joining the IWW is easy. Just give us a call. The sooner you do, the sooner things will improve and the sooner we, and not the bosses, will enjoy the good things in life.

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Houselessness and Violence: Who is really in more danger?

There is always a lot of talk about how dangerous downtown has become. This danger supposedly comes from the amount of people who are forced to live on the street because they don't have anywhere else to go. And while it is probably true that some people "feel" less safe around people and things they don't understand this does not necessarily make it so.

On May 30th, there was a shooting at the Jungle, a large houseless camp on the Eastside of Olympia. This shooting highlights an important issue.

Who is really more at risk of violence because of houselessness? Is it the housed or the unhoused.

Everyday people who live on the streets or in the woods have to worry not only about food and shelter, but they also have to worry about protecting their belongings. People who live on the streets have to worry, more than housed people do, about the possibility of being mugged or attacked. And this is not only from other houseless folks but also from housed people, who feel for one reason or another that it is ok for them to do such things.

Houseless folks also can't typically rely on the police to help them.

So the next time you feel unsafe downtown think to yourself about where that fear is coming from. Is it coming from a real threat, or from a perceived bias? And think about how all these people, that don't have any place to stay or a good place to store their belongings, might feel.

Preamble to the IWW Constitution

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system, and live in harmony with the earth.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the evergrowing power of the employing class.

The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry, thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for everyday 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.