

## Strike Settled

**Victorious Hello Work  
With All Points Gained—Unions  
Effect Settlement**

The strike of the Rocky Mountain Bell telephone girls was settled last Saturday with a complete victory for the girls.

The strike lasted five days and during such time the manager gave out the statement that there was nothing to be done, if the girls did not return to work, new girls would be employed. But the manager did not attempt to carry out his threat as he was aware that an attempt to do such meant a spread of the strike to other points throughout the state.

Various attempts were made to settle the trouble and a compromise was offered the girls that they return to work at the rate of \$41.00 per week, which was rejected by the girls.

On Saturday morning the Montana Federation of Labor handed the telephone company an ultimatum, to the effect if the strike was not settled within three hours that the telephone company would be declared unfair and the strike extended throughout the state.

Within a short time after the ultimatum was given, a committee of the union and Helena Trades Council and the management of the telephone company met in final conference and an agreement was reached.

The daily papers of Helena gave it out that while the girls got their wages raised the company won the open shop proviso. This is absolutely a misstatement as the company recognizes the union, dealt with the union, and agrees to deal with the union in the future.

The following is the agreement and the public can judge for themselves how much of the open shop there is about it.

### An Agreement.

Entered into this 23d day of Feb., 1907, between the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company, party of the first part, and Helena Telephone Operators' Union No. 39, M. F. of L., party of the second part.

The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company agrees to pay the following schedule of wages:

Chief operators, \$60.00 per month.  
Toll attendants, \$60.00 per month.  
Assistant toll attendants, \$60.00 per month.  
Operators, \$50.00 per month.  
Relief toll attendants, \$22.50 per month.  
All operators shall have every other

Sunday off, not to be deducted from their monthly pay.

Full shift operators shall be given nine hours work out of each twenty-four.

All operators shall work half shift on the following holidays: New Years, Washington Birthday, Decoration Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas at full pay.

Nine hours shall constitute a day's work and all overtime shall be paid for at a rate of time and one-half.

No member of Operators' Union No. 39 shall be discharged for any connection she may have had or does have with a grievance against the aforesaid company, and this company agrees to give a good and sufficient reason to Telephone Operators' Union No. 39 for the discharge of any operator who has taken part in the grievance which this agreement is to settle.

Operators shall be relieved at least fifteen minutes twice per day.

The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company and the Helena Telephone Operators' Union No. 39 agree that this agreement shall be in force until the 16th day of February, 1908.

It is further agreed that full pay shall be given to all employees for lost time on account of the strike and the said pay shall be in effect from February 15th, 1907.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY.

By D. S. Murray, Gen. Manager.  
HELENA TELEPHONE OPERATORS UNION NO. 39,  
By Miss Briscoe, Pres.

From a union standpoint the strike was well managed and showed considerable solidarity on the part of the unions of Helena. Every union made it its business to see that the girls were well supported. The Trades and Labor Assembly was especially active; delegates to assembly were on hand night and day, to picket if necessary or to advise when desired. To the assembly is due much credit in handling the situation and settling the difficulty.

The militant spirit and aggressive attitude of the girls were the admiration of all old time union men. They had nothing to lose but their chains and they knew it, for the fear of losing their job was absent from them.

Many a union man was heard to remark, "If we just had a bunch of men who would act like those girls during trouble, our strikes would be always won."

The following National Executive Committee motion has been submitted by Comrade Hillquit:

"I move that a meeting of the National Executive Committee be held on the 2nd and 3d days of March, 1907, for the transaction of the following business:

1. To lay out the work of the National Executive Committee for the coming year.
2. To adopt a set of rules which will ensure prompt and efficient action in the transaction of all business of the committee.
3. To draft appropriate resolutions on the question of Immigration and Trade Unionism to be submitted to the International Congress, (such proposed resolutions to be submitted to the National Committee for approval.
4. To arrange for proper representation of our party at the coming International Congress.
5. To decide upon the action to be taken by the party in connection with the Moyer-Haywood case:
  - (a). In the event that the trial will again be adjourned.
  - (b). In the event of a trial and conviction of our accused comrades.
6. For the transaction of such other business as may come before the meeting."

The National Secretary has referred to the National committee the question of providing for party representation at the International Congress to be held in Stuttgart, Germany, beginning August 25, 1907.

The National committee is now voting upon the application for a state charter presented by the locals of Maryland and Washington, D. C.



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## MAYOR MAKES BAD BREAK

The part that Lindsay, the mayor of Helena, has played in this strike business is enough to disgust anyone that thinks at all with having the chief official of a town an unprincipled tool of the corporations no matter how corrupt they may be. Three years ago at a joint meeting of the Trades and Labor Assembly and the Retail Business Men's Association, with Lindsay present, an agreement was made to withdraw from the Citizens' Alliance and build up the business men's association. Lindsay assenting to the arrangement. Last Monday while the strike of the telephone girls was in operation Double-Dealer Lindsay called withdraw from the Citizens' Alliance and a committee was appointed, composed of Lindsay, the mayor, Mr. Pickett, Mr. Hull, and Fred Benson, of the firm of Benson, Carpenter & Co., to meet Murray, the general manager of the telephone company, before any one else could get to him, and have their put in. This was done. The committee met Murray and protested against his meeting with the unions, stated that they were ridden to death by the tyranny of Helena unions and urged him to refuse to confer with any one except the girls individually. To this end they promised Murray every financial assistance if he would stand pat against the unions, and pledged that 75 per cent of the phone users would back him up. The only way to look at the matter is that Lindsay played the part of a low-down, contemptible scoundrel, for a man in his position as mayor of all the people, where instead of working to the interest of all and the city's best good, he panders to a set of profit-grabbing exploiters as against the demands of decency and life for young girls that must earn a chance to live by performing useful social service for the sake of turning out profits for the Bell Telephone company stockholders.

**Disgusted Public.**  
That Lindsay has disgusted the public generally by his actions is evidenced by the remarks one hears among the business men about town. One prominent Main street business man said if we had had a mayor of any account it would have been a short matter of inconvenience to the public. He would have called up the company, said, "See here, you're operating under a franchise, and you'll settle this up at once or the city will step in and look after its own convenience, and handle the situation itself," and that would have been all there was to it. Instead, however, of acting in behalf of the commonweal foxy Lindsay waddles off, and goes blabbing with the Citizens' Alliance and plotting against overworked young girls to enhance the profits of a bloated robber corporation. True to his pirate reputation as the man that-raised the black flag in the unions

of Helena he allied himself with an organization to get the telephone corporation to refuse to meet another organization—that of the working class. This is the man who was elected by the people. This is the republican mayor. If he ever has any more political aspirations he'll get his'n.

### Butting In.

The strike would have been settled much sooner if the business men had kept their fingers out of the pie altogether. The class lines are well defined in labor difficulties, and any attempts to gloss over the real class issues are useless. This small middle class is always pleading the interests of an indefinite public, regardless of the pains of those who do the work, and whose interests alone are the primary factor in the case. A committee from their number wanted the girls to go back to work pending a settlement. This would have been equivalent to losing their advantage, given the company a chance to get scabs in, and side-tracked the girls altogether. Fortunately they repelled all such overtures, the Trades Assembly and the State Federation supported them solid, and thus achieved satisfactory results. The State Federation forced the terms and outside bodies had nothing to do with it. Edwards and his co-operators are without doubt bent on making political capital at the coming elections on the alleged part played in the settlement, but as a matter of fact they had nothing to do with it, the unions of the state conducting and completing their own negotiations.

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The Independent has played the part of a contemptible dog-in-the-manger throughout all these difficulties. It has always had a sling and a slur at the unions, goes into maudlin hysterics over a "long-suffering public," as though the interest of a class of people who can afford phones were far superior to those who make phones possible. In every way possible it has aimed to throw sympathy against organized labor, and discredited the unions. Saturday night this sheet without a label sent its reporter to the strike headquarters at the Workers' Club to interview Fairgrieve, the president of the State Federation, on the situation. He was given the facts, as the matter stood, but the paper cut out everything, but the side of the company, and would not print the union side of the controversy.

It's getting what's coming to it in Butte though during these days. When you ask a newsboy for the Independent on the streets of Butte, in these paper famine days when almost any kind of a rag is at a premium, he answers with contempt, "I ain't got no scab papers." If you ask the same question in a saloon it is, "To h—l with the Independent. This ain't any scab town." Other state papers are selling thousands of copies in the great copper camp.

## Butte Situation

**Increased Cost of Living Makes Labor's Attitude Precarious—Profits and Life Conflict**

The miners of Butte held an election on Monday of this week to decide whether or not their rate of wages should be increased. The election was carried on under the Australian ballot system. The polls opened at 10 A. M. and closed at 10 P. M. The result of the ballot was as follows: For the increase in wages from \$3.50 to \$4.00 a day, 2,349; against the raise 1,068; for the raise for contractors doing shaft work from \$4.00 to \$4.50, 2,182; against 1,000.

While the election went in favor of the increase, the majority is not large enough to declare a strike, should the corporations refuse to grant same, as a three-fourth vote is necessary to declare a strike. On Friday the mill and smelters of Anaconda and Butte vote on an increase of fifty cents a day.

On Monday, March 4, the Montana unions of the Western Federation of Miners meet in convention in Butte for the purpose of forming a state district lodge and perfecting and unifying their organization throughout the state, as well as considering matters of importance pertaining to mining in Montana.

The difficulty of the carpenters, teamsters and Butte Workingmen's Union is about the same as it was a week ago, little having been done to effect a settlement.

The pressmen's strike and printers' lockout is still in force, with no signs of a settlement.

During the week a leaflet was sent throughout Butte, addressed to the Butte miners and signed "Citizen." The circular shows the smooth hand of a corporation agent and is intended to prejudice the miners against the other unions and to array one union against another. It goes on to say that the smaller unions in Butte have been acting arbitrary and forcing wages up beyond all proportions to the wages received by the miners, and owing to the other unions forcing an increase in wages that the increased and that if the miners would not support the other unions, then their wages would not be so high, then the miners would be able to live more cheaply.

This is all buncomb. The cost of living has increased beyond all proportion to the increase in wages not only in Butte but throughout the entire country. A working man can live as cheap in Butte as in any other city in the state. Dry goods and groceries

can be purchased in Butte as cheaply and in some instances more cheaply than in any other Montana city.

Shaves, haircuts, house rents, doctor fees are the same in all towns in the state. Printed matter can be had in Butte as cheap as any where else, and at as low a figure as can be had in towns where the printers are not organized. In fact in some lines of printing the prices are forty per cent cheaper than in Billings. Still the publishers of Butte claim that owing to the high wages in Butte they cannot compete with other towns in the state.

Coal dealers raised the price of coal thirty per cent at one stroke. Railroads raise their freight rates, and after the San Francisco disaster the insurance companies to cover their loss raised the insurance rates on miners' homes one hundred per cent. Is it possible that the unions of Butte are to blame for this increase?

We hope that the miners and smelters of Butte will see through this latest move of the capitalist and not do anything to cause dissention among the various unions.

The capitalists are to blame for the increased cost of living. They want their profits and when labor forces up wages the capitalist makes a corresponding increase on the necessities of life with interest added. Every increase in wages the capitalist puts as an investment and he draws additional interest on same and labor foots the bill.

The only solution of the increased cost of living is for the people to own the machinery of production.

Indications are that Montana will witness considerable labor troubles during the spring and summer months.

The increased cost of living is forcing the unions to demand higher wages, and it is expected that the employers will resist the demands.

The socialist press and socialists in general are advised not to accept everything that may appear in the capitalist press relating to the industrial situation in Montana. Exaggerated and nonsensical reports are being printed about the situation in Butte. The same is either originating in the pipe dreams of some reporters or is maliciously being circulated by capitalist papers to bring discredit on the unions of Butte.

While the industrial outlook at present is anything but peaceful, yet it is not panicky.

## Echoes of Strike Doubles Profits

The increase of wages to the telephone girls in Helena amounts to \$2,838 a year. In order that the dividends of the company would not be reduced, rates on phones have been raised fifty cents a month to business houses and twenty-five cents a month to residences. This will increase the income of the company \$6,100 a year.

Taking the increase of wages to the girls as an investment, the company makes a profit of over 100 per cent on the investment. Pretty nice dividend.

This is the way corporations treat an increase of wages, and this is the way the cost of living goes up. They grant an increase of wages and make you earn a dividend for them on the increase you have received. The best way to settle this matter is for the people to own the telephones and the other industries.

There is very little change in the linemen's strike, the men at Missoula have gone out. The company is having troubles with their wires and have requested the union to supply two men to repair same and offered to pay the two men the money demanded by the union. This request of the company was laughed at by the strikers, who say, "We all go back to work or none of us."

In the town of Orsa, Sweden, no taxes are levied and the railroad, telephones and libraries are also free. It is a Socialist community and the working class control the means. How different in this valley.

## Preliminary Battle in Adams Trial

The preliminary battle between the Western Federation and their persecutors, the mine owners, is evidently on in the Steve Adams trial at Wallace, Idaho. The forces of the organizations of both sides of the class struggle in the west are lined up in the contest now transpiring in the Wallace courtroom. All actors and factors of the great struggle are in action in this trial. McPartland, the chief prostitute conspirator, is there with his smooth and fiendish lies. The attorneys of both sides are lined up—the same that will be the leading spirits in the great Moyer-Haywood case, whose first chapter is now being written. The grand stand play weapon of the operators, the "confession" is also much in evidence, with its old accustomed idiotic fakish glimmer. Murder, guns, conspiracies, play their melodramatic part. McPartland need never suffer. Till his dying day he can draw a first class salary in any cheap vanderbilt as the horrible villain. He's bad enough without the trimmings, but the trimmings make him both bad and ridiculous. The "confession" introduced at this trial is so palpably trumped up that one wonders at the gall that would insult the public with such a flimsy subterfuge. Let the murderous conspirators play the game to the end. Labor is awakened.

Two good measures proposed by the socialist legislators in Wisconsin are free text books in the public schools, and the election of federal judges by the people.

J. Mahlon Barnes, National Secretary,  
Socialist Party, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrade:—As a member of the National Committee I move the following:

That the National Secretary be instructed to communicate with all secretaries of locals for the purpose of determining how many would subscribe regularly for a definite number of propaganda leaflets monthly, and pay for them in advance for three months or more, with a view of establishing through the National Headquarters, a

### National Leaflet Service

and in this way provide ways and means for the regular distribution of propaganda leaflets throughout the United States and that if a sufficient number of locals so subscribe, that the National Secretary under the supervision of the National Executive committee carry the above into effect.

As comment on the above I wish to say:

That comrades throughout the country hear of the efficient literature distribution in the larger socialist centers, as Chicago, Milwaukee, New York, etc., and we wish to do the same thing in other places, and could do the same thing if the literature would be provided suitable for distribution.

At present the distribution of literature depends mainly on haphazard individual effort, and I wish to see substituted in its place the collective, conscious effort of the locals throughout the country, so that we may in time equal the distributing machine of our German comrades.

In my motion I have purposely said nothing about the cost. I believe the National Secretary will be able to give this information to the local secretaries. (Signed) JOHN HAGEL, National Committeeman, Oklahoma.



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This is the way corporations treat an increase of wages, and this is the way the cost of living goes up. They grant an increase of wages and make you earn a dividend for them on the increase you have received. The best way to settle this matter is for the people to own the telephones and the other industries.

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In the town of Orsa, Sweden, no taxes are levied and the railroad, telephones and libraries are also free. It is a Socialist community and the working class control the means. How different in this valley.

## Preliminary Battle in Adams Trial

The preliminary battle between the Western Federation and their persecutors, the mine owners, is evidently on in the Steve Adams trial at Wallace, Idaho. The forces of the organizations of both sides of the class struggle in the west are lined up in the contest now transpiring in the Wallace courtroom. All actors and factors of the great struggle are in action in this trial. McPartland, the chief prostitute conspirator, is there with his smooth and fiendish lies. The attorneys of both sides are lined up—the same that will be the leading spirits in the great Moyer-Haywood case, whose first chapter is now being written. The grand stand play weapon of the operators, the "confession" is also much in evidence, with its old accustomed idiotic fakish glimmer. Murder, guns, conspiracies, play their melodramatic part. McPartland need never suffer. Till his dying day he can draw a first class salary in any cheap vanderbilt as the horrible villain. He's bad enough without the trimmings, but the trimmings make him both bad and ridiculous. The "confession" introduced at this trial is so palpably trumped up that one wonders at the gall that would insult the public with such a flimsy subterfuge. Let the murderous conspirators play the game to the end. Labor is awakened.

Two good measures proposed by the socialist legislators in Wisconsin are free text books in the public schools, and the election of federal judges by the people.

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Dear Comrade:—As a member of the National Committee I move the following:

That the National Secretary be instructed to communicate with all secretaries of locals for the purpose of determining how many would subscribe regularly for a definite number of propaganda leaflets monthly, and pay for them in advance for three months or more, with a view of establishing through the National Headquarters, a

### National Leaflet Service

and in this way provide ways and means for the regular distribution of propaganda leaflets throughout the United States and that if a sufficient number of locals so subscribe, that the National Secretary under the supervision of the National Executive Committee carry the above into effect.

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That comrades throughout the country hear of the efficient literature distribution in the larger socialist centers, as Chicago, Milwaukee, New York, etc., and we wish to do the same thing in other places, and could do the same thing if the literature would be provided suitable for distribution.

At present the distribution of literature depends mainly on haphazard individual effort, and I wish to see substituted in its place the collective, conscious effort of the locals throughout the country, so that we may in time equal the distributing machine of our German comrades.

In my motion I have purposely said nothing about the cost. I believe the National Secretary will be able to give this information to the local secretaries.  
(Signed) JOHN HAGEL,  
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## Strike Settled

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The Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone Company and the Helena Telephone Operators' Union No. 39 agree that this agreement shall be in force until the 16th day of February, 1908.

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The militant spirit and aggressive attitude of the girls were the admiration of all old time union men. They had nothing to lose but their chains and they knew it, for the fear of losing their job was absent from them.

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The National Secretary has referred to the National committee the question of providing for party representation at the International Congress to be held in Stuttgart, Germany, beginning August 25, 1907.

The National committee is now voting upon the application for a state charter presented by the locals of Maryland and Washington, D. C.



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He has traveled among the Socialists of the world; leaves for Russia to be present at the opening of the Duma immediately on leaving Butte.

## MAYOR MAKES BAD BREAK

The part that Lindsay, the mayor of Helena, has played in this strike business is enough to disgust anyone that thinks at all with having the chief official of a town an unprincipled tool of the corporations no matter how corrupt they may be. Three years ago at a joint meeting of the Trades and Labor Assembly and the Retail Business Men's Association, with Lindsay present, an agreement was made to withdraw from the Citizens' Alliance and build up the business men's association. Lindsay assenting to the arrangement. Last Monday while the strike of the telephone girls was in operation Double-Dealer Lindsay called withdraw from the Citizens' Alliance and a committee was appointed, composed of Lindsay, the mayor, Mr. Pickett, Mr. Hull, and Fred Benson, of the firm of Benson, Carpenter & Co., to meet Murray, the general manager of the telephone company, before any one else could get to him, and have their put in. This was done. The committee met Murray and protested against his meeting with the unions, stated that they were ridden to death by the tyranny of Helena unions and urged him to refuse to confer with any one except the girls individually. To this end they promised Murray every financial assistance if he would stand pat against the unions, and pledged that 75 per cent of the phone users would back him up. The only way to look at the matter is that Lindsay played the part of a low-down, contemptible scoundrel, for a man in his position as mayor of all the people, where instead of working to the interest of all and the city's best good, he panders to a set of profit-grabbing exploiters as against the demands of decency and life for young girls that must earn a chance to live by performing useful social service for the sake of turning out profits for the Bell Telephone company stockholders.

**Disgusted Public.**  
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of Helena he allied himself with an organization to get the telephone corporation to refuse to meet another organization—that of the working class. This is the man who was elected by the people. This is the republican mayor. If he ever has any more political aspirations he'll get his'n.

#### Butting In.

The strike would have been settled much sooner if the business men had kept their fingers out of the pie altogether. The class lines are well defined in labor difficulties, and any attempts to gloss over the real class issues are useless. This small middle class is always pleading the interests of an indefinite public, regardless of the pains of those who do the work, and whose interests alone are the primary factor in the case. A committee from their number wanted the girls to go back to work pending a settlement. This would have been equivalent to losing their advantage, given the company a chance to get scabs in, and side-tracked the girls altogether. Fortunately they repelled all such overtures, the Trades Assembly and the State Federation supported them solid, and thus achieved satisfactory results. The State Federation forced the terms and outside bodies had nothing to do with it. Edwards and his co-operators are without doubt bent on making political capital at the coming elections on the alleged part played in the settlement, but as a matter of fact they had nothing to do with it, the unions of the state conducting and completing their own negotiations.

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The Independent has played the part of a contemptible dog-in-the-manger throughout all these difficulties. It has always had a sling and a slur at the unions, goes into maudlin hysterics over a "long-suffering public," as though the interest of a class of people who can afford phones were far superior to those who make phones possible. In every way possible it has aimed to throw sympathy against organized labor, and discredited the unions. Saturday night this sheet without a label sent its reporter to the strike headquarters at the Workers' Club to interview Fairgrieve, the president of the State Federation, on the situation. He was given the facts, as the matter stood, but the paper cut out everything, but the side of the company, and would not print the union side of the controversy.

It's getting what's coming to it in Butte though during these days. When you ask a newsboy for the Independent on the streets of Butte, in these paper famine days when almost any kind of a rag is at a premium, he answers with contempt, "I ain't got no scab papers." If you ask the same question in a saloon it is, "To h—l with the Independent. This ain't any scab town." Other state papers are selling thousands of copies in the great copper camp.

## Butte Situation

### Increased Cost of Living Makes Labor's Attitude Precarious—Profits and Life Conflict

The miners of Butte held an election on Monday of this week to decide whether or not their rate of wages should be increased. The election was carried on under the Australian ballot system. The polls opened at 10 A. M. and closed at 10 P. M. The result of the ballot was as follows: For the increase in wages from \$3.50 to \$4.00 a day, 2,349; against the raise 1,068; for the raise for contractors doing shaft work from \$4.00 to \$4.50, 2,182; against 1,000.

While the election went in favor of the increase, the majority is not large enough to declare a strike, should the corporations refuse to grant same, as a three-fourth vote is necessary to declare a strike. On Friday the mill and smelters of Anaconda and Butte vote on an increase of fifty cents a day.

On Monday, March 4, the Montana unions of the Western Federation of Miners meet in convention in Butte for the purpose of forming a state district lodge and perfecting and unifying their organization throughout the state, as well as considering matters of importance pertaining to mining in Montana.

The difficulty of the carpenters, teamsters and Butte Workingmen's Union is about the same as it was a week ago, little having been done to effect a settlement.

The pressmen's strike and printers' lockout is still in force, with no signs of a settlement.

During the week a leaflet was sent throughout Butte, addressed to the Butte miners and signed "Citizen." The circular shows the smooth hand of a corporation agent and is intended to prejudice the miners against the other unions and to array one union against another. It goes on to say that the smaller unions in Butte have been acting arbitrary and forcing wages up beyond all proportions to the wages received by the miners, and owing to the other unions forcing an increase in wages that the increased and that if the miners would not support the other unions, then their wages would not be so high, then the miners would be able to live more cheaply.

This is all buncomb. The cost of living has increased beyond all proportion to the increase in wages not only in Butte but throughout the entire country. A working man can live as cheap in Butte as in any other city in the state. Dry goods and groceries

can be purchased in Butte as cheaply and in some instances more cheaply than in any other Montana city.

Shaves, haircuts, house rents, doctor fees are the same in all towns in the state. Printed matter can be had in Butte as cheap as any where else, and at as low a figure as can be had in towns where the printers are not organized. In fact in some lines of printing the prices are forty per cent cheaper than in Billings. Still the publishers of Butte claim that owing to the high wages in Butte they cannot compete with other towns in the state.

Coal dealers raised the price of coal thirty per cent at one stroke. Railroads raise their freight rates, and after the San Francisco disaster the insurance companies to cover their loss raised the insurance rates on miners' homes one hundred per cent. Is it possible that the unions of Butte are to blame for this increase?

We hope that the miners and smelters of Butte will see through this latest move of the capitalist and not do anything to cause dissention among the various unions.

The capitalists are to blame for the increased cost of living. They want their profits and when labor forces up wages the capitalist makes a corresponding increase on the necessities of life with interest added. Every increase in wages the capitalist puts as an investment and he draws additional interest on same and labor foots the bill.

The only solution of the increased cost of living is for the people to own the machinery of production.

Indications are that Montana will witness considerable labor troubles during the spring and summer months.

The increased cost of living is forcing the unions to demand higher wages, and it is expected that the employers will resist the demands.

The socialist press and socialists in general are advised not to accept everything that may appear in the capitalist press relating to the industrial situation in Montana. Exaggerated and nonsensical reports are being printed about the situation in Butte. The same is either originating in the pipe dreams of some reporters or is maliciously being circulated by capitalist papers to bring discredit on the unions of Butte.

While the industrial outlook at present is anything but peaceful, yet it is not panicky.

## Echoes of Strike Doubles Profits

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## Preliminary Battle in Adams Trial

The preliminary battle between the Western Federation and their persecutors, the mine owners, is evidently on in the Steve Adams trial at Wallace, Idaho. The forces of the organizations of both sides of the class struggle in the west are lined up in the contest now transpiring in the Wallace courtroom. All actors and factors of the great struggle are in action in this trial. McPartland, the chief prostitute conspirator, is there with his smooth and fiendish lies. The attorneys of both sides are lined up—the same that will be the leading spirits in the great Moyer-Haywood case, whose first chapter is now being written. The grand stand play weapon of the operators, the "confession" is also much in evidence, with its old accustomed idiotic fakish glimmer. Murder, guns, conspiracies, play their melodramatic part. McPartland need never suffer. Till his dying day he can draw a first class salary in any cheap vanderbilt as the horrible villain. He's bad enough without the trimmings, but the trimmings make him both bad and ridiculous. The "confession" introduced at this trial is so palpably trumped up that one wonders at the gall that would insult the public with such a flimsy subterfuge. Let the murderous conspirators play the game to the end. Labor is awakened.

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## Strike Settled

### Victorious Hello Work With All Points Gained—Unions Effect Settlement

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### Increased Cost of Living Makes Labor's Attitude Precarious—Profits and Life Conflict

The miners of Butte held an election on Monday of this week to decide whether or not their rate of wages should be increased. The election was carried on under the Australian ballot system. The polls opened at 10 A. M. and closed at 10 P. M. The result of the ballot was as follows: For the increase in wages from \$3.50 to \$4.00 a day, 2,349; against the raise 1,068; for the raise for contractors doing shaft work from \$4.00 to \$4.50, 2,182; against 1,000.

While the election went in favor of the increase, the majority is not large enough to declare a strike, should the corporations refuse to grant same, as a three-fourth vote is necessary to declare a strike. On Friday the mill and smelters of Anaconda and Butte vote on an increase of fifty cents a day.

On Monday, March 4, the Montana unions of the Western Federation of Miners meet in convention in Butte for the purpose of forming a state district lodge and perfecting and unifying their organization throughout the state, as well as considering matters of importance pertaining to mining in Montana.

The difficulty of the carpenters, teamsters and Butte Workingmen's Union is about the same as it was a week ago, little having been done to effect a settlement.

The pressmen's strike and printers' lockout is still in force, with no signs of a settlement.

During the week a leaflet was sent throughout Butte, addressed to the Butte miners and signed "Citizen." The circular shows the smooth hand of a corporation agent and is intended to prejudice the miners against the other unions and to array one union against another. It goes on to say that the smaller unions in Butte have been acting arbitrary and forcing wages up beyond all proportions to the wages received by the miners, and owing to the other unions forcing an increase in wages that the increased and that if the miners would not support the other unions, then their wages would not be so high, then the miners would be able to live more cheaply.

This is all buncomb. The cost of living has increased beyond all proportion to the increase in wages not only in Butte but throughout the entire country. A working man can live as cheap in Butte as in any other city in the state. Dry goods and groceries

can be purchased in Butte as cheaply and in some instances more cheaply than in any other Montana city.

Shaves, haircuts, house rents, doctor fees are the same in all towns in the state. Printed matter can be had in Butte as cheap as any where else, and at as low a figure as can be had in towns where the printers are not organized. In fact in some lines of printing the prices are forty per cent cheaper than in Billings. Still the publishers of Butte claim that owing to the high wages in Butte they cannot compete with other towns in the state.

Coal dealers raised the price of coal thirty per cent at one stroke. Railroads raise their freight rates, and after the San Francisco disaster the insurance companies to cover their loss raised the insurance rates on miners' homes one hundred per cent. Is it possible that the unions of Butte are to blame for this increase?

We hope that the miners and smelters of Butte will see through this latest move of the capitalist and not do anything to cause dissention among the various unions.

The capitalists are to blame for the increased cost of living. They want their profits and when labor forces up wages the capitalist makes a corresponding increase on the necessities of life with interest added. Every increase in wages the capitalist puts as an investment and he draws additional interest on same and labor foots the bill.

The only solution of the increased cost of living is for the people to own the machinery of production.

Indications are that Montana will witness considerable labor troubles during the spring and summer months.

The increased cost of living is forcing the unions to demand higher wages, and it is expected that the employers will resist the demands.

The socialist press and socialists in general are advised not to accept everything that may appear in the capitalist press relating to the industrial situation in Montana. Exaggerated and nonsensical reports are being printed about the situation in Butte. The same is either originating in the pipe dreams of some reporters or is maliciously being circulated by capitalist papers to bring discredit on the unions of Butte.

While the industrial outlook at present is anything but peaceful, yet it is not panicky.

## Echoes of Strike Doubles Profits

The increase of wages to the telephone girls in Helena amounts to \$2,838 a year. In order that the dividends of the company would not be reduced, rates on phones have been raised fifty cents a month to business houses and twenty-five cents a month to residences. This will increase the income of the company \$6,100 a year.

Taking the increase of wages to the girls as an investment, the company makes a profit of over 100 per cent on the investment. Pretty nice dividend.

This is the way corporations treat an increase of wages, and this is the way the cost of living goes up. They grant an increase of wages and make you earn a dividend for them on the increase you have received. The best way to settle this matter is for the people to own the telephones and the other industries.

There is very little change in the linemen's strike, the men at Missoula have gone out. The company is having troubles with their wires and have requested the union to supply two men to repair same and offered to pay the two men the money demanded by the union. This request of the company was laughed at by the strikers, who say, "We all go back to work or none of us."

In the town of Orsa, Sweden, no taxes are levied and the railroad, telephones and libraries are also free. It is a Socialist community and the working class control the means. How different in this valley.

## Preliminary Battle in Adams Trial

The preliminary battle between the Western Federation and their persecutors, the mine owners, is evidently on in the Steve Adams trial at Wallace, Idaho. The forces of the organizations of both sides of the class struggle in the west are lined up in the contest now transpiring in the Wallace courtroom. All actors and factors of the great struggle are in action in this trial. McPartland, the chief prostitute conspirator, is there with his smooth and fiendish lies. The attorneys of both sides are lined up—the same that will be the leading spirits in the great Moyer-Haywood case, whose first chapter is now being written. The grand stand play weapon of the operators, the "confession" is also much in evidence, with its old accustomed idiotic fakish glimmer. Murder, guns, conspiracies, play their melodramatic part. McPartland need never suffer. Till his dying day he can draw a first class salary in any cheap vanderbilt as the horrible villain. He's bad enough without the trimmings, but the trimmings make him both bad and ridiculous. The "confession" introduced at this trial is so palpably trumped up that one wonders at the gall that would insult the public with such a flimsy subterfuge. Let the murderous conspirators play the game to the end. Labor is awakened.

Two good measures proposed by the socialist legislators in Wisconsin are free text books in the public schools, and the election of federal judges by the people.

J. Mahlon Barnes, National Secretary, Socialist Party, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Comrade:—As a member of the National Committee I move the following:

That the National Secretary be instructed to communicate with all secretaries of locals for the purpose of determining how many would subscribe regularly for a definite number of propaganda leaflets monthly, and pay for them in advance for three months or more, with a view of establishing through the National Headquarters, a

#### National Leaflet Service

and in this way provide ways and means for the regular distribution of propaganda leaflets throughout the United States and that if a sufficient number of locals so subscribe, that the National Secretary under the supervision of the National Executive committee carry the above into effect.

As comment on the above I wish to say:

That comrades throughout the country hear of the efficient literature distribution in the larger socialist centers, as Chicago, Milwaukee, New York, etc., and we wish to do the same thing in other places, and could do the same thing if the literature would be provided suitable for distribution.

At present the distribution of literature depends mainly on haphazard individual effort, and I wish to see substituted in its place the collective, conscious effort of the locals throughout the country, so that we may in time equal the distributing machine of our German comrades.

In my motion I have purposely said nothing about the cost. I believe the National Secretary will be able to give this information to the local secretaries. (Signed) JOHN HAGEL, National Committeeman, Oklahoma.