STEEL.

Are You Interested in the Facts of the Steel Strike?

Do You Know Why One Third of a Million Steel Workers Went on Strike?

Why is This Called a Foreigners' Strike?

What About the Open Shop?

Who is Standing for Law and Order in Pennsylvania?

The following summary of facts can be supported by testimony given before the Senate Investigation Committees in Washington and Pittsburgh, by figures from the annual reports of the U. S. Steel Corporation, bulletins of the U. S. Department of Labor and the findings of the War Labor Board, by the reports of special investigators for the Bureau of Industrial Research, the Civil Liberties Bureau, and the Information Service of the Methodist Federation for Social Service, and by affidavits of workers and citizens of Western Pennsylvania.

Causes. With wartime production of steel higher than ever before, majority of workers earned approximately the minimum for decent living announced by War Labor Board, January, 1918, which was $1,500 yearly for family of five.

After armistice, 12 hour day and seven day week maintained, but thousands of men discharged to restrict production. Union men dropped first.

Employees feared wage cut. Knew their helplessness against unemployment and abuse if unorganized.

Judge Gary's Statement before the Senate Committee, September 30th, 1919:

> "My idea is that we should establish fair prices and working from that point of decreased selling prices, we should decrease wages. The steel industry attempted that very thing, but the industrial board created by Secretary Redfield broke up that program."

Conference. Conference unsuccessfully sought by Committee for Organizing Iron and Steel Workers with Judge Gary. President Wilson's intercession with Judge Gary also failed. Increasing number of union men discharged made delay of strike impossible. Strike vote taken showed 98 per cent. yes, 2 per cent. no.

Strike began	Sept. 22nd,	270,000	estimated	out.
	Sept. 29th,	300,000	"	"
	Oct. 7th,	350,000	"	"
	Nov. 8th,	325,000	"	"

November 24th: At a meeting of the National Committee for organizing Iron and Steel Workers, the strike situation was thoroughly canvassed. While it was realized that the companies have numbers of strikebreakers in the plants, it was also made clear that production of steel is reduced to an insignificant amount by the strike.

The situation was deemed a winning one for the strikers and the Committee voted unanimously to redouble its efforts for victory.

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Demands: Main Issue: Recognition of Union.

Twelve demands:

1. Right of collective bargaining.
2. Reinstatement of men discharged for union activities, with pay for time lost.
3. An eight hour day.
4. One day's rest in seven.
5. Abolition of the 24 hour shift.
6. Increase in wages sufficient to guarantee American standards of living.
7. Standard scale of wages for all crafts and classifications of workers.
8. Double rates of pay for all overtime, holiday and Sunday work.
9. Check-off system of collecting union dues and assessments.
10. Principles of seniority to apply in maintenance, reduction and increase of working forces.
11. Abolition of company unions.
12. Abolition of physical examination of applicants for employment.

Open Shop. Definition: Supposedly a shop where union and non-union men work together without discrimination.

Judge Gary's Claim: "We stand for the open shop. I will say for myself that questions of moral discipline cannot be arbitrated or comprised." Judge Gary's speech at Ritz-Carlton dinner, in New York.

Actual Policy of the Steel Corporation: To discharge union members at such points in development of union as wil break its morale. (See "The Closed Shop," by John A. Fitch, in The Survey, November 8th.)

Member of company police testified before Senate Committee that his instructions included detection of union men and that negroes were kept ready to take places of such.

Charles Seeger of Johnstown, deaf and dumb skilled worker, discharged as "union agitator." Taken back upon renouncing union. Seeger advised to do this by union officials, who realized his helplessness.

Destruction of union cards demanded as condition of returning to work.

Is This a Foreigner's Strike? American-born employes, about 16 per cent. of total number, work mainly as supervisors and foremen, and do highest paid skilled work. Testimony at Washington showed one man receives $32.56 a day. Others in this class range between $10 and $20 a day. Work not steady.

Unskilled foreign born work 12 hour shifts in dangerous and devitalizing heat at 42 cents an hour. Twenty-four hour shift once a fortnight.

Plants advertised by Steel Corporation during the war as "100% American." Signs on mill walls at Homestead read: "Subscriptions to Fourth Liberty Loan, $117.43 per man.

Bulletin of New York Evening Post, Nov. 12, 1919: "Heavy Selling of Liberty Bonds by Steel Strikers."

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Hours, Wages and Profits. Hours. Judge Gary, before Senate Committee at Washington, said only 26 per cent. of the employes work 12 hours daily, 88,904 average an eight hour day.

Francis Tyson, Professor in University of Pittsburgh, says: "These figures must include office force, skilled men, etc., or take into account part week work. Statement by superintendent of large corporation mill showed 40 men working 8 hours in force of nearly 7,000. The great problem of the steel industry is not inadequacy of wages; speeding, over exertion and fatigue partly explain discontent."

Union hours, 44 to 48 per week.

Steel Company hours, 52 to 84 for same money. Unskilled labor generally 12 hours daily, with 24 hour shift once a fortnight.

Average Wages of all employees, including superintendents and foremen:

1914—$2.93 per day.

July, 1919—$6.27 per day; unskilled workers, $4.64 per day.

Increase of 114 per cent. over 1914.

(Judge Gary's Figures)

Profits of the U. S. Steel Corporation.

1914—$23,496,768.
1915— 75,833,833.
1916—271,531,730.
1917—457,685,000. Increase of 1,887 per cent. over 1914.
1918—123,318,362. Increase of 435 per cent. over 1914.
1919—Figures not available.

(Figures from annual reports of Steel Corporation and income statistics of War Labor Board.)

Union Wages vs. Steel Company Wages. Union laborers get 50 to 70 cents per hour, 8 hour day, 44 hour week, time and a half pay for overtime.

Steel Corporation pays 42 cents hour, 10 to 13 hour day, 60 to 84 hour week.

Housing. Living conditions almost as much a problem for workers as hours and methods. Land is high; speculation has enhanced rents, mills command river valley sites; housing, especial problem of Pittsburgh. Perhaps only peasants of Austria Hungary and the Balkans would be content with the ugly shacks. Decline of standard of living indicated by single man boarding houses. Estimates of house shortage vary from 20,000 to 80,000. If sanitary code applicable to cities were enforced, many dwellings would be condemned. (Methodist Federation for Social Service, Information Service.)

The Constabulary. Mounted and armed State police summoned to vicinity of Pittsburgh early in October. (Proper function of this body to serve the State in emergencies.) No disturbance at Braddock, but constabulary appeared.

Burgess and Borough Councilmen denied all knowledge of who sent for them.

One of many instances of inciting to riot. Constabulary charged upon first grade school children standing in school yard in sight of parents across the street. (Testimony of Rev. A. Kazencz, Braddock, Pa.)

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Activities of Steel Company in Attempt to Break the Strike.

Maintains an army of plant police, officered and organized on military lines. Estimated 3,000 in number round Pittsburgh before strike. These men deputized under a special law. Do sentinel duty in towns, acting as company pickets. No labor pickets allowed.

Burgesses of towns sometimes openly in employ of mills, refuse permits for meetings, either in halls or on public grounds or privately owned land.

At Newcastle and Homestead men and women taken from homes or picked up on streets by company deputies, beaten, jailed, kept for weeks under unsanitary conditions, because of excessive bail demanded. Medical assistance refused in jail. County Sheriff Boyd offered to release those who would return to work.

At Brackenridge Fannie Sellens, a union organizer, and Joe Streslecki, a miner, murdered without provocation by guards.

At Monessen men beaten inside mils gates, told to go to work or jail.

At Donora ,armed negro strike breakers shot white strikers withoutout provocation. Negroes reported to have been deputized later.

William Z. Foster, Secretary Committee for Organizing Iron and Steel workers went to Johnstown, Pa., to address a union meeting. Was surrounded by a crowd of fifty armed men, led to the station and forced upon an outgoing train.

Censored News from Gary. Gen. Leonard Wood in charge of the military at Gary, Indiana, has "requested" newspaper men to get their news from military headquarters.

The American Federation of Labor fully supports this strike and has opened commissaries at various strike centers, distributing food to the extent of $3.12 weekly for the families in need.

If You Feel that these issues of **The Shop Closed to Union Members, Civil Liberties, Suspension of Law and Order, and the Struggle for American Standards of Living** are of such importance that the workers should not be allowed to be starved into defeat,

EXPRESS YOUR CONVICTION IN DOLLARS

Send donations or weekly contributions while the strike lasts to Strike Fund Committee of New York Alumni Chapter, Intercollegiate Socialist Society, Room 931, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Make checks payable to **Louise Adams Grout,** Treasurer.

Speakers will be sent to address meetings upon request.

LABEL PRINTING TRADES UNION COUNCIL NEW YORK, N.Y. 111

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