



Mapping the IWW

Posted on November 7, 2015 by James Gregory

The **IWW History Project** is now live. Based at the University of Washington, the online project reveals in new ways the rich history of the Industrial Workers of the World during the formative years, 1905-1935. The project has many dimensions, but at the center are interactive maps and datasets that show the geography and density of IWW activism.

One set of maps locates more than 1,800 strikes, campaigns, arrests and other acts of persecution, allowing us to see year by year or month by month where the IWW was active. Another set of maps and charts shows the locations of more than 900 local unions. The maps are linked to chronological yearbooks of events that are based on data collected from the *Industrial Union Bulletin*, *Industrial Worker*, *Solidarity* and other sources.



Partial view of map of 1,800 strikes, campaigns, and arrests 1905-1920, [IWW History Project](#)

These visualizations bring surprises and invite new understandings about the radical organization. The scope of activity is one surprise. IWW local unions were found in more than 350 towns and cities, in 38 states and territories of the United States and five Canadian provinces. We are familiar with some of this geography—the Pacific Northwest, the upper Midwest, the Northeastern textile belt—but seeing the density of activity in Oklahoma, Texas, Indiana, and Ohio is eye opening. So is the IWW’s place in New York City which hosted dozens of unions and many strikes, including one by the Macaroni Workers Industrial Union No. 301. The city was also home to seventeen IWW affiliated newspapers published in seven languages.

The [IWW History Project](#) is a collaborative effort. Scholars are contributing data and short essays. Kenyon Zimmer compiled information about ninety IWW newspapers when researching his new book, *Immigrants Against the State: Yiddish and Italian Anarchism in America*. That data has become the basis for a set of maps and charts. Peter Cole contributed an essay on Philadelphia’s Local 8, the surprisingly successful local that brought together Black and White dockworkers.



IWW picnic 1919, Seattle. University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections.

Students at the University of Washington have also contributed. Undergraduates in my upper division course, “Class, Labor, and American Capitalism,” created the yearbook database, reading IWW publications year by year, recording and describing IWW actions, tracking local unions. Other students have contributed essays on key events and issues.

Conor Casey co-directs the project and has marshalled the resources of the Labor Archives of Washington and University of Washington Libraries. The project website is a gateway to hundreds of rare photographs and documents that have been digitized by the Library.



Katie Phar, the IWW “songbird” who

corresponded with Joe Hill is profiled in one of the essays. University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections.

The online project is intended as a teaching tool as well as a resource for scholars. A brief history/timeline introduces key events in the early decades of the IWW while linking to more detailed accounts. The interactive maps and charts (based on Tableau Public software) lend themselves to classroom presentations and are especially good for out-of-class assignments. Students can explore particular topics or geographies on their laptops. Exploring the more than 100 incidents relating to IWW free speech campaigns would be a good assignment. Or students can use the filters to track events in particular states or regions.

The [IWW History Project](#) welcomes new collaborators. Here is a chance to breathe new life into old publications. Many of us have research data that couldn't be used effectively in books and printed articles. Let's put it online where new readers can take advantage of information that has been lost or hidden. We would love to help you visualize and publish old or new research. Please contact co-director James Gregory at gregoryj@uw.edu.

I. W. W. Copper Miners in Arizona Strike to Support Butte

AN INJURY TO ONE

IS AN INJURY TO ALL



ONE UNION

ONE LABEL

ONE ENEMY

VOL. 8. WHOLE NO. 390 PRICE 5C. CHICAGO, ILL. SATURDAY JUNE 30, 1917 SIX MONTHS, 50 CENTS. \$1.00 PER YEAR

General Strike of Lumber Workers in Full Swing

LUMBER JACKS AND MILL MEN UNITED TO WIN FULL DEMANDS.

ALL LOGGING OPERATIONS SOON TO BE TIED UP

The general strike of all the workers in the woods and mills that was declared upon by the general convention of lumber workers last March is now in full swing. It is the most far-reaching and successful of the slaves of the lumber trust have ever made to better their conditions. The purpose of the strike is to secure the eight-hour day, and other demands decided upon as being essential to the safety of strength and health in the present period of high prices. One thing is certain, that the lumber workers are setting the greatest opportunity in history to make their strike a success. All too long have these men permitted themselves to be over-worked, underpaid and the victims of the roughest conditions imaginable. Now they are determined to use their organized power to better their lot, and get more of the good things of life.

According to a wire from James Brown, secretary of I. W. U. No. 205, all men at Sand Point, Bonanza Ferry, Spirit Lake, Lac Lebo, Elk, Ruby and the St. Maries country are coming out solid, and the strike promises to tie up all logging operations in western Montana, Idaho and eastern Washington.

A report from J. L. Taylor, of the organization committee of I. W. U. No. 569, addressed to Solidarity from St. Maries, Idaho, says strike is spreading rapidly, and many mill workers are already out with the lumberjacks. Taylor also says that other camps are making preparations to join the strikers, and the lumber workers are joining the I. W. U. every day, while the spirit of determination and the solidarity of the strikers is simply great.

It is evident that the companies are finding it increasingly difficult to procure scale and have, in fact, almost given up the attempt. From all appearances the strike will be just what it properly is—a short, powerful, united effort of the lumber workers, strongly organized and determined to win a sweeping victory.

Louis Miller writes from the picket line at Eureka, Montana, that the biggest strike on the Pacific coast good, and that scale is cutting every day, as well as the school kids who were trying to save the day for the lumber barons. Every time a new bunch of men leave the jobs the "woodchucks" get busy trying to get the scale up the river to start working again. Miller states that the woodchucks have the Eureka Lumber Co. going, and that a little more effort will bring them to their knees.

From Sand Point, Idaho, comes the following communication from the press committee of the union:

After a month of almost humane treatment by the Humboldt Lumber Co., the workers at many sites decided to call a strike for better food. So on June 25, at noon, the men requested a committee to see the boss and present our demands. The boss politely told the committee that the food was as good as we could expect, and that he could not consider any of our demands.

The committee then went to the bushhouse and called for a meeting to talk things over. There were about seventy-five I. W. U.'s in the bush, and they all decided to present the boss, not only the demand for better food and conditions, but the full demands drawn up by the last convention of the Lumber Workers Industrial Union, No. 100, of the I. W. U. Then came the news of the general strike of the lumber workers in the northwest. We renewed the organization committee, and are now on strike with the big bunch.

The lumber workers went to town very quietly and brought back food for the picket line, and then settled down to enjoy a long-earned vacation. There are still a few scabed human beings here who cannot see the sense of their own, and who persist in keeping the boss from getting his money. They are known as "scabs," and most of them have a hard time of it.

One of them—the hotel, a scabber, was very experienced in leading the boss, and was badly hurt as a consequence. He is now in the hospital. Another scab, a cook, spoke so disrespectfully of the American flag that the scabber couldn't stand it, and had to quit. The scab is now in jail where he can burn no more. A few scabs are still at work here among them are: John and Oscar Odense, Alex Fetterly, Jack Finn, Gus Bush, Fred Corcoran, Mike and George Odense, Fred Stevenson, John Bush, Ed Doyle, Geo. Spooner, Emory, Melville Hall, Fred Stevenson, John Bush, Ed Doyle, Geo. Spooner, Ed Ericson and "Prison" Martin Dorey.

Ed Ericson and "Prison" Martin Dorey. J. P. Thompson spoke here on the streets to a full house, and what he told the scabber made them sit up and take notice. We took up a collection for the strikers, which amounted to \$27.15. Victory is in sight, and this is the beginning of the end!

From Bonanza Ferry, Idaho, Albert Kinser and John Cowley, of the organization committee there, report that all workers have walked out of the logging camps to secure their demands. The boss said, "It's hell" when he begged camp to secure their demands. The scabs said, "It's hell" when he begged camp to secure their demands. The scabs said, "It's hell" when he begged camp to secure their demands.

A few weeks ago the loggers went on strike for better grub, salary and the right to organize. The scabs, who had not been members of the camps and the right to organize. The scabs, who had not been members of the camps and the right to organize. The scabs, who had not been members of the camps and the right to organize.

Friday was the day. The company will hire all the scabs it can get, and all the scabs will be hired. The company will hire all the scabs it can get, and all the scabs will be hired. The company will hire all the scabs it can get, and all the scabs will be hired.

Our first business meeting was held yesterday at the largest hall in town, with more than two hundred members present. It was one of the best ever, with most enthusiastic members that I ever attended. Job stewards were elected for both the mill and the camp—five for the mill and six for the camp.

(Continued on page 8)



The Hand That Will Rule the World—One Big Union.

STRIKE TO WIN!

War Prices for Copper—Why Not for Labor?

Copper Mines in Two States Closed Down

The Industrial General Strike Realized as 25,000 Arizona Miners Walk Out in Solidarity with Their Fellow Workers

Bisbee, Ariz., June 27, 3 A. M.

Wm. D. Haywood,

Chicago, Ill.

Bisbee branch of 800 on strike supporting Butte. Demands practically the same as Butte were ignored by companies. Big mass meeting tonight solid for strike. Prospects 80 per cent will come out at once.

A. D. KIMBALL, Secy.

Phoenix, Ariz., June 26, 12:38 P. M.

Wm. D. Haywood,

Chicago, Ill.

Bisbee, Globe, Miami, Swansea and Jerome strike. Other camps await call.

GROVER H. PERRY,

The miners of the West are in revolt. Answering the call of industrial solidarity the "hard rock" men have thrown down the gauntlet to the Copper Trust.

The Arizona miners of the I. W. U. refuse to scab on their fellow-workers now striking in Butte, Mont. They have decreed that not a drill shall move, that not a bucket of ore shall be hoisted till the Copper Trust shall come through with Butte demands.

The copper miners, they whose lives are in danger every minute of their shift, whose chance of a sudden and horrible death far exceeds the risk of any soldier in the bloody trenches of Europe; these have decided that their collective strength and not the "Copper Kings" whose millions are reaped from the miner's sweat and blood, shall be the power to dictate conditions in levels, stopes, and crosscuts of the Western mines.

Reckless of the lives of miners—unorganized and exploited as slaves never were, the operators of Butte are responsible for the revolt. Hundreds of miners were sacrificed to the God of Profits and the Speculator. Miners claim that the company flooded the lower levels while men remained in those levels seeking escape from fire and gas, seeking safety exits that were not there. The mines of Butte levels seeking escape from fire and gas, seeking safety exits that were not there. The mines of Butte levels seeking escape from fire and gas, seeking safety exits that were not there.

The Metal Mine Workers' Union No. 800 of the I. W. U. are working for the same Copper Trust in Arizona. They are suffering the same intolerable conditions. They have made demands the same as Butte upon the Copper Trust. Their demands are refused. The mines of Arizona are silent. The I. W. U. miners of Arizona will not scab on the miners of Butte. Nearly 25,000 miners are on strike in Arizona.

You miners of Butte—what is this Solidarity worth to you?

12,000 BUTTE MINERS ON STRIKE

All Mines Practically Closed Down.

Strikers Determined to Organize for More Wages and Better Conditions.

The strike of the Butte miners has thrown the mine owners and their hirelings into veritable spasms of ineptness. The mine owners, short-handed before the strike, and with no orders on hand at top prices and over twelve thousand men on strike, the situation is one that is not calculated to encourage the inevitable Copper-Kings in their lust for unprecedented war-profits.

In spite of the fact that wages are lower and the price of living higher in Butte than in almost any mining camp in the country, and that working conditions are notoriously unsafe and intolerable, the Masters of the Mines are resolutely determined that things shall remain just as they are and have been, and that the miners shall be denied the right to organize for living wages and self protection.

The newspapers have proved themselves to be just what they are, the plant and prostituted tool of the Companies, and they have been carrying on a campaign of lies and misrepresentation that is intended to discourage the miners and disrupt the strike. The strikers, however, have been standing solid. In spite of all that has been said to disrupt them. The efforts to discredit the miners are reacting upon the paid truth-pollsters of the press. The Metal Mine Workers' Bulletin has been reaching the strikers in spite of all efforts of the misopugnance and rascality of the bosses to stop it. And the more the real truth comes out about the actual conditions that have prevailed in the mines and of the relentless exploitation of the cold-blooded Mine Owners, the more clearly the crying need for an adequate organization of the mine workers is recognized.

The victory the metal miners in Arizona have won has greatly inspired the miners of Butte. The proposed contract system is looked upon with distrust and the idea of the six hour day is meeting with great approval.

Just at present the press and all other mouthpieces of the Mine Owners are in the throes of "O. R. U. phobia." The I. W. U. is being desperately maligned and cursed. The reason, of course, is that these paid labor-baiters realize the I. W. U. is the one organization that has always "got the goods." And a union is always hated by the bosses just to the extent that it is of benefit to the workers.

The Butte miners are not frightened at anything said or done to break their strike and stop them from organizing. They are out on strike to WIN, over 12,000 of them, and they are determined to stick as a unit until they force the Parasites to come around. The demands of the strikers follow:

First: Absolute abolition of the infamous "rotating card" system.

Second: Unqualified observance of the state mining laws.

Third: Discharge of State Mine Inspectors.

Fourth: Recognition and restoration of our constitutional rights of free speech and free assembly.

Fifth: Supervision of hiring by union committees, to prevent blacklisting of organized labor.

Sixth: Increase of wages in proportion to the outrageous rise in living expenses.

Conditions must be changed, and that is possible only by an organization strong enough to include all who work in any one industry, that the members thereof shall A.L.S. cease work whenever in case of strike or lockout, it may be necessary.

(Continued from page 4)

Solidarity is one of the newspapers student researchers used in constructing the yearbook database.

Author



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