

Oct

AN APPEAL

TO THE MINERS OF GREAT BRITAIN!

MINERS OF GREAT BRITAIN, whose labor is the foundation of all modern industry! Those whom you call your employers, but who are really your masters, are continually attempting to reduce your wages. In resisting this attempt to render your lot a little less endurable than it now is you will have the sympathy of every worker who knows that at any moment a similar attack may be made upon his own position.

Strike, then! For your masters drive you again and again to strike. But in striking see to it that your aim is worthy of the efforts you propose to make.

To strike against a reduction of wages may be good, may be essential to your welfare; but when the battle is over, even if your sacrifices, your endurance of hardship, have won the victory you desired, where will you stand? Certainly no better than you did, for while you will have maintained your earning capacity for the present, you will have lost wages and weakened your resources during the struggle. And even then your victory will not be secure; for the most trivial circumstance may be taken advantage of by those who control your labor to renew the attack.

Miners, how long do you intend to work for wages under the control of a master? How long do you, grown men, intend to have your work arranged for you like school boys? How long do you intend to have all you produce taken right away from you and a pitiful sum of money, worth half or a third as much, given you in return? How long are you going to be made fools of by the wage system?

Strike, not for any petty gain; not to maintain or even to slightly increase your present wages; strike for the abolition of wage-slavery. Until workmen are their own employers there must and will be a constant recurrence of industrial war.

Yes, war! for the interests, not of capital and labor, but of capitalists and laborers, are so opposed that the opposing parties must wake up to the obvious fact sooner or later.

Labor needs capital, i.e., that portion of the stored-up wealth of the community required as a means of production. But the workers don't need the capitalists at all, and the sooner they make that fact clear to themselves, the quicker will they find life become worth living.

If the unions have not yet the sense to understand the root of the matter, the masters have. They are beginning to realise now, whether the men realise it or not, that mere disputes about wages, and even about "free labor," are only passing phases of the labor movement. The great root question is: Who is to control the means of production? Who is to control and organise the work? Who is to enjoy the fruits of toil? The men who do it? Or the class who have hitherto controlled

both means of production and organisation of labor?

How long will it be till the unions boldly say, "Yes, we do intend to take the control out of your hands! What right have you to control our labor? What right have you to hold exclusive possession of mines and machinery, or whatever the special means of production in question may be? You did not make them. Why should you not share and share alike with us in the work and the fruits of it? We will take the sole responsibility of organisation off your shoulders, and you will, of course, see that, in that case, you ought to lend a hand to the manual labor, and take your fair share of the results, just like the rest of us."

Miners, we call upon you to awake to the importance of your position. You have it in your power to paralyse commercialism. If you make common cause with railway men and dockers, you can cut off the coal supply and thereby bring the existing system of industry to a deadlock. And the capitalist class know it and dread you. Only act energetically, and in concert with your fellow workers and you need not fear to make big demands.

Demand the abolition of private ownership in mines, against which you have already declared at your last conference. And demand also that mining plant shall not be the private property of individuals or companies: what the masters have not created they have no right to monopolise.

Demand for all workers the free use of the means of production, and therefore for yourselves the free use of mines and machinery, that you may exchange the coal you raise with your fellow workers for what they produce and you need.

Demand to be left free to organise your own labor, and dispose of its produce without the interference of masters.

Demand all this, and act as if you meant it. In a word, declare open war upon the capitalist system.

If your attack is united and energetic, the capitalist system will have no chance against you, for you will be joined by workers from every trade. You will pave the way for a General Strike, and what can armies and policemen do against a nation of producers who won't produce—except on their own terms?

You can, by such action, dethrone the capitalist and enable every man who wishes it to work, and every man who works to live as a human being should—a free man in a free society.

Strike for freedom! Away with authority and monopoly! So shall the wealth produced, by all be shared by all, and poverty and oppression come to an end in the new Brotherhood of Man.

Issued by the FREEDOM GROUP.

If you wish to get more enlightenment as to your position and how the workers in all countries struggle for their emancipation, read "FREEDOM," a journal of Anarchist Communism, published monthly, 1d.; can be obtained through any newsagent or from the Office, 61 St. Augustine's Road, Camden Road, London, N. W.