

# Bolsheviki, I. W. W.'s, Labor Unions, Strikes, *et id genus omne*

By A. A. Freeman

In the spring of 1918, shortly after the strike of the letter carriers in the City of Victoria, I prepared the following article.

Why it was not published, it is unnecessary to say.

The article is as follows:

**"Ought Government officials to be permitted to join, or remain in Labor Unions, or any other Union, or Association, the propaganda of which may interfere with the proper discharge of their duties as Government officers?"**

In the discussion of any matter which relates to the general welfare of the public, the greatest care should be exercised in avoiding all vituperation or abuse. We must not forget that we cannot all think alike. Men differ in their views, and differ honestly, and that difference of views should be treated respectfully. Most men are disposed to do right. Most men are honest. But this consideration does not remove the necessity for combatting wrong or mistakes, by pointing out wherein the wrong or mistake exists.

The following pages are to be devoted to what I deem a correct answer to the enquiry contained in the heading of this paper.

I propose to establish the negative of the proposition.

I do not believe that a Government officer, no matter what the grade of the office he holds, whether postal clerk, or carrier, or postmaster, or the Postmaster General, or any other public officer, can "strike," as the term is understood.

I admit that he may abandon his office, may refuse to perform his duties, may resign.

But I deny that he can refuse to perform the duties of his office and still remain in office.

There are two reasons why he cannot remain an officer, and refuse to perform the duties attached to the same

First: Before assuming the office he voluntarily takes a solemn oath that he will perform the duties attached to