

nerve to make the plan worth while." To this comes the reply: "Sabotage would fail to bring permanent results, because it is not the weapon of courageous and progressive men. It is on a par with the eavesdropper and stool pigeon of the telegraph companies. A coward's tool to be used in the dark and cannot stand the light of day. Suppose the Western Union did run into an epidemic of 'bulled' and 'lost' messages. Wherein would that help us organize, and that is what we are trying to do."

Deeper Meaning of Sabotage. — It yet remains to emphasize one point in regard to this strange weapon upon which the members of this branch of unionism count so much. Its use means the reaching of the verge of despair. Strikes and boycotts cannot be effectively pushed by these groups of unskilled and irregularly employed men. Their organizations, when built up on the lines of the older unionism, do not stay together. They lack coherence. In the political field they cannot make themselves felt. Their voting strength is greatly scattered by the transitory nature of much of their work and they have no candidates of their own to push. The methods used by the substantial skilled unions have no effectiveness when adopted by these workers. There seems no way but to terrorize the employer. Sabotage serves this purpose. Its main strength lies in the furtiveness of its use. Individuals can use it singly as well as collectively. Its vagueness causes the employer very uneasy moments when he sees its results appear in his plant. It means a kind of disorganization before the spread of which he is helpless. Further it means that a reckless desperation has seized his workmen and he knows not where it may lead or at what point it will break out next. "Whenever a nation loses hope of a peaceful solution of a problem, that moment all the elements of war are present. Whenever a class or a portion of a class loses hope in its policies, loses confidence in its policies, all the elements of war are there and the idea of direct action grows and a change takes place." So significant is this phase of the movement that there are those who declare that "the heart and the soul and the blood of the syndicalist movement is sabotage."

The Industrial Workers of the World is the remnant of an industrial unionist movement that at first sought to work largely by bringing into its membership the aggressive wing of