

# The Harvester Worker

Vol. 2, No. 2

FEBRUARY 1927.

453

Price 1 cent.

Issued by the McCormick Works Nucleus of the Workers (Communist) Party of America

## FOR AN EIGHT-HOUR DAY! WITH AN INCREASE IN WAGES!

The International Harvester Company, through its officials, openly boasts of the "spectacular speed", the "increasing rate" and the "lowering costs" of production carried on now thru the newly introduced speed-up basis. In its delight it points out that some work is done now in 3½ hours that formerly took a whole week.

However, in their enthusiasm, they quite consciously overlook a few essential things. They say nothing of the effect this newly developed speed-up has on the health, strength, even the very lives of us, the workers. They do not say that the enormous increase in the output, and consequently also in profits, is possible only because of the unspeakable exertion and break-neck speed at which the workers have to toil nine long hours, which at the end of the day leaves them completely exhausted.

### Reward With—More Work.

And what is the reward of the workers for all this?

Are we getting our share of the additional profits that are piling up for the bosses? Have the wages increased in proportion to the increase in production? Have the hours of work been reduced, now that much more work is being done in much shorter time? Not on your life.

Wages are kept down to the lowest minimum. The hours of work, instead of being shortened, as they should, are actually intensified.

It was possible formerly to stop work ten or fifteen minutes before quitting time, to wash up and get ready to leave; and during the actual hours of work to stop now and then for a drink of water or get relief for a minute or two in one way or another. All this has been done away with now. Now the men actually have to work from whistle to whistle, nine long dreary hours, with no time even to get their breath.

### Support the "Harvester Worker!"

Do you want the HARVESTER WORKER to appear regularly? Then, YOU, Harvester workers must pay for the paper when it is sold before the gates. Also, you must help further by making donations. Send in your financial help to the *Harvester Worker*, 19 South Lincoln Street, Chicago, Ill.

How long will the workers be able to stand this? Will the company take care of them when their health is shattered and their strength gone? The company does not give a rap how long the workers will be able to stand it. When their lives are ruined, it can get a fresh supply of labor power. And the workers unlike McCormick, from their miserly wages cannot save enough for health resorts, etc. Even now the bosses are shifting the men around at work, replacing those that can't go so fast with others that can turn out more work.

### Fight for Better Conditions.

Nine hours a day is too much even under normal conditions of work. But in McCormick's under the new speed-up system, it passes all limits of human endurance.

*We must demand an 8 hour day, with an immediate 10 per cent increase in wages, guaranteeing a minimum of 30 dollars a week and up.*

Almost in all modern shops, the 8 hour day has been established long ago. In many places the workers have won even a 7 hour day, and their wages are considerably higher than those in McCormick's. In Soviet Russia the 8 hour day has been incorporated into the law of the land.

Why should we, the workers in the International Harvester, be treated like beasts of burden, with no human rights at all, except to submit to the dictates of the bosses, who rob and exploit us mercilessly?

Let us all rally around this demand:

*For an 8 hour day!*

*For a living wage!*

*For a union of workers only!*

The so-called Employee's Representatives on the Industrial Council should take up these demands and fight for them.

In the meantime, we, the workers, should make preparations to organize our own shop councils, independent of, and in opposition to the bosses.

### Don't Dream! Organize and Fight!

Wage-slave: "Say boss, last night I dreamed that you raised my wages. Now, what does that mean?"

Slave-driver: "That means that you were—dreaming! Now get to work!"

8473

### **Tractor Works Get Big Order From Soviet Russia.**

The McCormick Tractor Works are now rushing thru a big order of 1150 tractors for Soviet Russia.

Many workers are now asking the following question:

If the Harvester Company can do such a good and thriving business with the Workers and Farmers Government of Soviet Russia, why does not the United States government officially recognize the Soviet Government? Trade relations would be increased immeasurably. This trade is being gotten by other capitalist countries, like Germany and England. The capitalists of those countries don't like the rule of the workers and peasants in Russia any more than the American capitalists do. But they like the business. So does McCormick, as the order for 1150 tractors from Russia, shows. Trade, increased thru official diplomatic recognition of the United States and Soviet Russia by one another, would help to reduce unemployment in America.

#### *Demand Soviet Russia Recognition.*

All Harvester workers should demand thru their fraternal organizations, trade unions, etc. recognition by the U. S. of the Soviet Government. Meanwhile, the fact that McCormick Tractor is doing such big business with Soviet Russia is one more proof of the fact that the conditions of the workers and farmers of Russia are improving faster than any country of the world.

### **Twine Mill Girls Compare \$16.00 Wage with McCormick's.**

In the Twine Mill mostly girls and women are employed. The conditions of work are just a little worse than in the McCormick Works. Wages are very low, the beginners getting only \$16 a week. Just think of it, working nine long hours a day for \$16 a week, while parasites like Mrs. McCormick can freely spend thousands of dollars on special trains.

*Girl Worker in the Twine Mill.*

### **Write for the "Harvester Worker!"**

There is always something doing in your department of interest to other workers in the Harvester plant. Write it up, any way you know how; in any language you please. Put it in an envelope and mail your story to the *Harvester Worker*, 19 South Lincoln Street. Your name will not be used. You do not need to sign your story. Just tell the facts, the department in which the incident took place. We'll do the rest.

### **Low Wages in Lumberyard.**

*By a McCormick Worker.*

Dear Comrades:

The workers in the lumberyard receive 48 to 45 cents per hour, plus what may be made over day rate by piece work.

The weekly pay amounts to \$22.00 to \$30.00, the average being about \$25.00 for a 50 hour week. Workers in the employ of the company 15 and more years admit that they are ashamed to say how little they are getting.

Is \$25.00 a week the American Standard? Why don't you try it, McCormick?

The piece work rate is not known to any of the workers. The bosses do not make it known. The piece work rate depends upon the kind of lumber handled. Often four or five different kinds and sizes are handled a day, which makes it very complicated to even guess at the day's pay.

The wages we get mean that we are living far below the American standard of living. It is no wonder that the workers are demanding an immediate increase of wages. It should not surprise anyone if the workers commence to see "red" and become bolsheviks.

I think piece work should be abolished here, and a minimum wage of \$30.00 per week and a 44 hour week should be established.

### **Rotten Foreman in Dept. 12.**

My job as a pipe fitter takes me all over the shop, so I have a chance to see the conditions under which men have to work and the treatment they get from the foremen. When I first stepped into department 12, I thought hell opened up before me. The big furnaces are heated to about 2500 degrees, clouds of smoke burst forth so that you can't see one man from another, and there is no ventilation either.

Naturally I thought that men working under such conditions must be well paid. I was astounded when some fellow workers told me that they only get 45 cents an hour. Such low wages are outrageous. And the piece work is such that it is impossible to make above the day rate.

The foreman in this department, Heky, is as bad as they get them. He continually hollers and shouts at the men as if they were mules and not human beings.

Fellow workers, we must resist these conditions and demand more wages. \$30 a week is none to much to demand and a 10 per cent increase for those that get \$30 or more now.

I am in favor of continuing *The Harvester Worker*, so I send you herewith 25 cents for its upkeep, and I'll try to collect more from my friends.

*Pipefitter.*

### McCormick Says Cutting Wages Easy in Company Unions.

At a meeting of the American Management Association in 1925, Mr. McCormick was again called upon to describe the glories of his company union. He told the assembled business men about "the helpful efforts of our works councils in bringing an end to the sad strikes of those days (meaning some years ago) unnecessarily foisted by a radical and strident minority upon a sane majority."

Trade unionists are always referred to by manufacturers and millionaires as a "radical and strident minority."

Under the heading "An understanding of Economic Law" McCormick spoke further: "During the time of business depression and within the space of 20 months our company was compelled to cut wages, once 20 per cent, then again 12½ per cent . . . all without any disturbances whatsoever."

Which means that the slaves of the International Harvester, led by the company dupes, accepted the cut without a murmur. And Mr. McCormick appears before his fellow bosses to boast of this achievement.

But the real purpose of the company union is not to help the workers in any way but in Mr. McCormick's own words: "it prompts and encourages the workers to take part in reducing production costs." Decreasing wages, reducing production costs and increasing Mr. McCormick's profits. These are the purposes of the company union, or, as it is better known to us, the International Harvester Council.

We must build a real union of our own.

### Protect Foreign Born Workers.

All workers, alien and native, must continue the struggle to prevent the passage by Congress of the exception laws leveled against the foreign-born workers and which, if passed, would muzzle every foreign worker and make of him an out and out slave.

The Council for the Protection of the Foreign Born is also organized in Chicago to protest and work effectively against these anti-worker bills. All Harvester workers should support and join this Council at the earliest moment.

### A Distinction with a Difference

Worker from out of City to Chicago Motor Bus Conductor: "Do you go by the Courts of Justice?"

Bus Conductor, rubbing his chin, thoughtfully: "I dunno about Courts of Justice, brother; we go by the law courts."

### Company Preparing for Wage Cuts.

Dear Friends:

Recently a polisher in the binder department had his wages cut 25 per cent.

He used to get one dollar a hundred for his work. Now the company has cut it down to seventy five cents a hundred. No reason was given for the reduction in wages.

One worker reports that the boss came to him one day and suddenly mentioned that there are many men out of work walking the streets this winter. The worker at that time didn't attach any importance to what the boss said, but now he knows, that the boss was just trying to find the sentiment among the workers; if the workers would peaceably submit to any reduction in wages.

This means we workers must organize to resist against these wage cuts.

Send in to the "Harvester Worker" anything you know about reducing wages. Let everyone know what the company is trying to do.

A McCormick Binder Worker.

### Hands Off Mexico, Nicaragua, China!

U. S. Marines have landed in Nicaragua, a weak and tiny republic south of us, and there, at the point of bayonets, forced the Diaz government upon that country. The government thus upheld there is nothing but a tool of American bankers and fruit companies. No pretense is made that it is the choice of the people of Nicaragua, who support the Sacasa forces.

In the year of 1776, the American people rose in a revolution for the principle of National Independence and self-determination. Today the American government is doing the exact opposite, namely, it is embarking on an imperialist policy of conquest and subjugation not only in Nicaragua, but also in Mexico, China, etc.

Such a policy inevitably leads to war. And won't it be a pleasure for American workers to march down to Mexico, Nicaragua, etc. to shoot their brother workers there, with whom they have no quarrels, so that a few more hundred millions may flow into the pocketbook of the Standard Oil Co., The American Fruit Co. and such corporations as these. Be sure, in case of war none of these parasites will leave their bones on the battlefield. Instead, they'll reap millions and millions of dollars, and send the poor deluded workers to kill and be killed in the interests of the bankers, oil companies, etc.

We must demand:

Withdraw the American Marines from Nicaragua! No intervention in Mexico! Hands off China! Solidarity with the workers of all lands!

## Bonuses--For Bosses, Not Workers.

Editor "Harvester Worker".

Dear Friends:

In department No. 9, Tractor works, we are working mostly on the crank shafts. Just imagine—a worker must stand by a machine for 9 hours. The lifting must be done for 500 crank shafts, not to say anything of the operations that must be performed on the machine. The actual operation itself takes more than the lifting.

For all this heavy and hard work, the highest scale is 89 cents an hour, but only a few in the department are fortunate enough to make this scale. They have to speed like hell and ruin their health. Most of the workers here are lucky if they make 72 cents an hour.

Mr. Ohorn, with his bunch of foremen, skin the price so low, that a worker ruins his health to keep his family alive. Some of the men say that Mr. Ohorn is getting a bonus from the Company thru speeding the men up. More profits for the Company; more bonuses for Mr. Ohorn; and less pay for the workers.

*A Department No. 9 Tractor Worker.*

## Bosses Shout Safety; Do Nothing to Prevent Accidents.

In department 19 recently a worker lost two fingers, that were cut off due to the bad condition of the machine that he was working on. The bosses did not take much trouble to investigate the cause of the accident, but blamed it on the carelessness of the worker. So without putting the machine into shape, they put a new man to work on it. The next day his hand was cut off by the same machine.

Such crimes against the workers as these go on unchecked from day to day. The company makes much noise about safety only for the purpose of blinding the workers to the real causes of the numerous accidents that continually take place in the McCormick Works.

The accidents will be considerably reduced *when the workers in the McCormick Works will be organized* and in a position to say something about the conditions of their work. In the meantime accidents will go on unchecked; the workers will be blamed for them; profits will pile mountain high, and the bosses will come around and talk hypocritically about safety.

*By A Worker in Dept. 19.*

You can read in the DAILY WORKER of the amazing happenings in China where the Chinese masses are fighting the Imperialist powers in order to rule their own land. Buy and read the DAILY WORKER!

## What We Want and Demand

1. Immediate 10% increase of wages for all workers receiving \$30.00 and up; no worker to receive less than \$30.00.
2. An 8-hour day; 44-hour week.
3. Abolish the speed-up system: pay, a minimum of 70 cents an hour, for all time lost in cleaning and setting machines.
4. Two weeks vacation for all workers with pay after one year's service.
5. No boss-controlled (company) council or union. Make it a council of workers only, and for workers.
6. Build a union controlled by workers only.

## The Safety Flag.

To the Harvester Worker.

The many accidents that happen in the McCormick works force the Company to make new rules about the "pulling down" of the safety flag.

Formerly, if a worker lost a whole day or more on account of an accident, the safety flag was pulled down. But now the ruling is changed. If a worker is hurt in an accident so badly that he or she must draw money from the Company, or receives compensation, the safety flag is pulled down.

The Company admits that there will always be minor accidents in which the worker must stay home a day or two. It is only a severe form of injury, taking many months to heal, when a worker dares to stay home "a day or two" to recover from the shock. Pressure of the company on the worker against "layoffs" is exerted in many ways thru the foremen, fear of loss of job, etc.

## Demand Safer Machines and Working Conditions.

As long as old, ancient buildings and machinery are used, there will be accidents to the workers. The McCormick family and the other parasites take a chance on accidents while playing golf, yachting, eating too much turkey, chasing monkeys for glands, etc.

It is time that the company should modernize the buildings and apply good safety devices to all the machines. These will create safer working conditions.

The safety and lives of the Harvester working men are more important than profits for McCormick.

*A McCormick Worker.*

P. S. Enclosed is 25 cents to help the Harvester Worker alive. More power to it!

# The Harvester Worker

Vol. 2, No. 3.

MARCH, 1927

Price 1 cent

Issued by the McCormick Works Nucleus of the Workers (Communist) Party of America

## No Lay-offs Because of Speed-up!

*Make the Industrial Council Act for Benefit of Workers!*

A reduction of the working forces in the McCormick Plant can be noticed. In many departments workers are being laid off. Yet, those at work are actually forced to double the output through the terrible speed-up that is being introduced throughout the shop. This inevitably creates the condition for laying off workers, while production is going on at a break-neck speed.

A much smaller working force is made to do more work in less time than a bigger working force was able to do formerly. The superfluous workers are either laid off or put to other work with a smaller pay.

In this manner the workers become victims of the speed-up, which threatens their very jobs, while the employers reap enormous profits.

**Shorten the Work Day!**

This policy of the company must be resisted by the workers. No worker should be laid off because of speeding up production. Instead, the working hours should be shortened to eight hours a day, with a corresponding increase in pay, so that more workers could be employed.

The company can easily afford that because of the tremendous profits that come from the newly introduced speed-up.

The workers must demand the 8-hour day to insure their own employment. Otherwise we shall have the pitiful spectacle of a small group of workers actually being worked to death by the greedy employer, while the others are thrown out on the street to starve, and whom the company will try to use to beat down the wages of those employed.

The so-called Employees Representatives on the Industrial Council must make an energetic fight for this demand, or else stand convicted as willing tools in the hands of the bosses against the workers.

In the meantime the workers must make preparations to organize their own forces in order to secure these demands:

**An 8-hour day!**

**An increase in pay—a living wage!**

**Protection against lay-offs caused by long hours of work at a terrific speed!**

### What We Want and Demand:

1. Immediate 10% increase of wages for all workers receiving \$30.00 and up; no worker to receive less than \$30.00.
2. An 8-hour day; 44-hour week.
3. Abolish the speed-up system: pay, a minimum of 70 cents an hour, for all time lost in cleaning and setting machines.
4. Two weeks vacation for all workers with pay after one year's service.
5. No boss-controlled (company) council or union. Make it a council of workers only, and for workers.
6. Build a union controlled by workers only.

"You will eat bye and bye,  
In that glorious land above the sky;  
Work and pray, live on hay,  
You'll get pie in the sky when you die."

### Workers! Oppose U. S. Wars!

Workingmen are not interested in protecting the interests of the bosses, whether oil in Mexico, concessions in Nicaragua or China or elsewhere. The masses of Chinese workers and peasants, with the aid of the Cantonese Army are getting rid of foreign imperialists and then will go after the native capitalist exploiters. Let's help them in that job by preventing U. S. interference. Nor should a single American worker give his consent to spilling his or any other workers' blood for defense of American capitalist interests in Mexico and Central or South American countries. Harvester workers, take up these demands in your organization.

Get your Union, Fraternal Organization, or any other Organization you belong to, to telegraph Congress immediately:

**Withdraw All U. S. Warships from Nicaragua!**

**No Intervention in Mexico!**

**Keep the Marines Out of China. Hands Off China!**

## What the H. I. C. Has Done to the Workers.

Read what Robert W. Dunn has to say about the Company Union in the Harvester plants, the I. H. C., in the article below, taken from Mr. Dunn's famous book, "Company Unions".

Robert Dunn is the well known economic and research writer who has investigated the workings of the various Company Union plans now in existence in some corporations throughout the country. His investigations, made thoroughly and impartially, have caused him to condemn these Company Unions, among them one of the rottenest, the I. H. C., as absolutely anti-labor, wage-cutting schemes. His review on the I. H. Council follows: (Emphasis is ours.)

### International Harvester Company.

Some twenty plants of this company in the United States and Canada are working under the Harvester Industrial Council scheme. The plan has been much praised by employers ever since 1919 when most of the plants adopted it. One of the Chicago plants held out at the time, and when its workers went on strike later, the council was used to close down the other Chicago plants "to avoid bloodshed," which is one way of saying that picketing was effective. Finally, the strikes were beaten and since the Harvester plan has been a model for imitation by smaller companies throughout the country. The plan stresses the educational features and is used with skill to offset what its spokesmen call "the promiscuous propaganda" of "organized labor and labor agents." The workers are given "the facts" in the usual way and the company-directed "leaders" do the rest. A Department of Industrial Relations, similar to that used by the Pullman and other large companies, gives special attention to the plan, and the chairman of this department, a salaried official of the company, or some one appointed by him, acts as chairman of the works council, while the secretary of the council is appointed by the superintendent of the workers. The company prides itself on the way the plan has been used to reduce wages "without friction" while the workers, particularly in the Tractor Works in Chicago, speak of the plan as a "Bitter joke" and regard the representatives as "company men." Said one of the workers, "we know and they know that they would not dare to run for the position of representing us unless they obeyed every wish of the Harvester Company. Their jobs would be taken from them." Active union men have been discharged from the plant for being too talkative on behalf of real unionism. Of course no unions are recognized as all the works are completely open shop. Americanization, stock-selling, and safety campaigns are tied in with the plan, and the workers' representatives are inspired with "mutual responsibility" by handing over to them minor jobs in connection with the administration of these "morale-building" devices.

## Another \$20.50 a Week Wage.

Comrades:

Forty-one cents an hour or \$20.50 a week is paid to the workers in the warehouse.

Considering the heavy manual labor and the danger of handling clumsy parts of machinery, these are miserly wages. This is what McCormick calls "a fair day's pay for a fair day's work." How long will we let the Company get away with this?

—Warehouse Worker.

## Dangerous Work in Lumberyard.

Editor, HARVESTER WORKER:

Dear Brothers:

One out of ten have met with some kind of accident in 1926 in the lumber yard, McCormick Works.

The real cause of these accidents is the lack of safety measures and the speed-up work. Numerous small injuries happen, but are not reported. Among such are: slivers in hands and legs, smashed fingers and toes and falling-down accidents, due to workers compelled to stand on perilous places and handling heavy lumber—and then slipping.

In our work, we take the lumber out of the box cars and put them on trucks. We unload the trucks and stack the lumber as high as 30 feet, and then again take the lumber down to be loaded again on wheeled trucks for the saw mill.

Added to this, is the slippery ice and snow and the heavy physical work. Some boards weigh close to 300 pounds. We work in uncomfortable weather, which all together makes the work of a dangerous sort—and with little pay for it, as a fellow worker of mine has written you in another letter.

But conditions for us won't improve until all the slaves, (that's what we are now), in the Harvester Company, unite to compel better conditions of work and a decent living.

Yours for unity of the workers,

A Lumberyard Worker.

## Shipping Department Wages Low.

Michael works in the shipping department of the McCormick works. He gets a weekly wage of \$20.50.

On this low pay, he says, his wife and two children must be supported. Both children must go to school; one is eight and the other is thirteen years of age. The house rent is \$21.00 a month and what is left of the money must go for food, clothing, heat and light. He says that he can never get enough to eat and eats mostly soup and bread.

Altho Michael has worked in the same place for nearly a year, and cannot read or write, he has developed an intense hatred against the robbing of labor power by the Company.

When asked what must be the first thing done, he said, there must be an organization of workers.

A Shipping Department Slave.

## Muller, Dept. 46 Foreman, Bulldozes, Cheats Men.

To The Harvester Worker.

Sir:

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter to let you know the conditions of one of the departments. In Department 46 we have a young foreman and his name is Elmer Muller and he is a rotter. He waits on the men coming down in the morning. If they are a minute after seven, he wants to keep a half hour off them. He is always telling them the price of the stuff and the waste the men make.

One of the men got his foot smashed. He was naturally going to go home, as he was not able to work well. However, instead, he got an "easy job" till his foot was all right, and afterwards our Mr. Bullhead laid him off. All the fellows in Muller's gang are discontented, but are afraid to speak up. But some day, he will go too far. Before he was a foreman, he didn't often work a full week, some weeks only three days and late often. Of course, he said then that was nothing to us.

But now, this foreman cheats the men out of their increases on the pay which we are supposed to get every three months. Instead he wants to take it down. A swell bird, this rotter is.

Sir, I hope to read this in the Harvester Worker the next time it is out.

I am a worker of Department 46.

## Are You Helping?

How did you like the February issue of the Harvester Worker? Some fellows have written in saying it was great stuff. The company, however, has not yet sent us a complimentary letter or a donation to keep us going. We wonder why, don't you?

Quite a few dollars were gotten through the sales of the Harvester Worker at the gates. However, we need more to be sure of coming out regularly. Help as much as you can. Be sure to pay for the paper when it is handed out at the gates, and send a donation to "The Harvester Worker" at 19 South Lincoln Street, Chicago, Ill. Every little donation will be appreciated.

## Company Unions and the Workers.

We recommend that every worker employed by the International Harvester Company read the pamphlet on "Company Unions" by Mr. Robert W. Dunn, from whose book we have quoted before in the HARVESTER WORKER.

The pamphlet sells for 25 cents. You can buy it directly at 19 South Lincoln Street, or send us 25 cents in cash, money order or postage stamps to the HARVESTER WORKER, 19 South Lincoln Street, and we will mail you the copy to your home.

## The Young Workers' Column.

The Young Workers (Communist) League is the only organization that fights for the interests of the young workers. Just as the Workers (Communist) Party fights for the interests of all workers, so the Young Workers' League struggles side by side for the young workers who have their special issues.

There are ten million young workers in this country who are exploited in the work shops and deprived of a real education, recreation and all that helps to build up young workers.

The young workers do the same work as many older workers and yet receive helper's pay. We believe that the only way that the young workers can get their real share of work is to organize side by side with the older workers and struggle unitedly. All young workers should rally around the following demands:

For an eight-hour day!

Equal pay for equal work!

Organization of a union, together with old workers.

A two-weeks' vacation yearly with pay.

Young workers, write for the young workers' column of the Harvester Worker. Send in your news to Young Workers' Column, Harvester Worker, 19 So. Lincoln St.

## Warehouse Dark; Floors Rough.

By a Warehouse Worker.

Editor, HARVESTER WORKER:

The old, rough, uneven and wornout wooden flooring and the wornout concrete floors, together with insufficient light, make the work in the warehouse very dangerous. Every day, truck loads of machinery tip over, which is always dangerous to everyone.

The aisles are only lighted by small 25 Watt lamps and these are far apart. There are no shades. The light shines on the dark walls and ceiling, giving the warehouse a very dark and gloomy appearance.

The north platform lights have been out of order for months; and the workers must feel their way when working in the box cars.

The Company does not, in reality, care one bit for the lives of the workers. As long as the profits roll into their coffers, everything is "jake" with them.

Alone, none of us can do anything to remedy such conditions. But when all the workers together, say:

We want better working conditions!— then we can make the Company shell out some of the profits for improvements for the workers.

## Two Workers Killed Through Defective Machine and Lights.

Editor, Harvester Worker:

On January 26, in my department, a worker was killed working by a so-called safety machine. His clothes were caught in the belt.

On January 27, another worker was needlessly killed by an *Exposed Electrical Wire*.

These two victims were fathers and the supporters of their family. Mr. Harrison is the superintendent here. He carries out the orders of the McCormick Company. What will the company do, through Mr. Harrison, about these two dead workers and to prevent similar fatalities? Hang up another Safety First placard, we suppose, and leave the old and deficient machinery to get more victims. The blood of these dead workers is upon the company's hands. Some day the workers will remember this—only too well.

Fellow workers! What a Hell hole is this McCormick plant we slave in. All the shops are infested with placards, bearing the inscription, "Safety First." Safety gets as far as the inscription and no farther. While the superintendent, Harrison, is hanging up placards on the walls, workers are getting killed.

When we are finally organized into a union of our own, then we workers will be really preparing for more wages, better conditions—and really safe working conditions.

A McCormick Worker.

## Sent in a Story Yet?

Send in your story about your department, the foreman, wages, hours of work, and so on, for publication in the Harvester Worker, 19 South Lincoln Street. Take a few minutes off in the evening and jot down, in any way you know how, a few lines telling us what you think of conditions in the International Harvester Company. This is *Your Paper*. Show it by contributing stories to it.

## Discriminate Against Union Plumbers.

Non-union plumbers are used by the Company. Plumbers that demand a union scale of wages are not hired by the Company. This incident again shows that a genuine, fighting union organization would mean more wages and better conditions for the Harvester workers. What the boss doesn't like is nearly always a good thing for the workers.

## A Labor Candidate for Mayor.

After a campaign of mud-slinging, the primaries for mayor are over. Both the Republican and Democratic parties have candidates for that office, each appealing to the workers for support. On what basis? On issues that are good for us? Not at all. No matter whether the Republicans or Democrats were in power, the city government, the police, the courts—have all been used against workers. Injunctions against labor, against pickets, arrests of pickets, persecution of labor union leaders, raids on union headquarters have taken place at all times.

Both parties are supported by the owners of the factories, like the McCormicks, the Marshall Fields, the Samuel Insulls who put up large slush funds to elect tools whom they can use for their own purposes. The old parties do not concern themselves with wages, working hours or the piece-up system.

The election platform of the Workers Party deals with the traction problem, public utilities, the public schools, and public administration. The demands put up are all in the interest of labor. Copies of the platform will be distributed at the gate, and we urge you to read the leaflet carefully. The Workers (Communist) Party is now gathering signatures to put on the ballot its candidate for mayor, C. E. Ruthenberg. We urge all voters to sign his petition, so that voters may have a chance to cast their ballot for a labor candidate for mayor.

## Demand So-called Workers' Representatives Fight for Wage Increase.

By the way, have you read anything in the minutes of the proceedings of the H. I. Council about an increase in wages? Have the so-called Employee representatives demanded, in the name of the workers, an immediate 10 per cent increase? Not so you could hear it.

Fellow workers, you know these so-called Employee representatives. Every time, you see any of them, ask them: What about taking up the matter of an increase in wages and an 8-hour day?

Let them show openly whether they are Workers' representatives or tools of the Company?

New employee: "If I don't get a raise soon, I'm going to quit."

Old employee: "Say, what are you kidding about? It takes time to get a raise. Say, how much do you get, anyway?"

New employee: "65 cents an hour."

Old employee: "Ye gods, and I'm working here over 25 years and only get 60. I too will have to start to raise hell!"