



T-Bone Slim

FROM HERE

(Read slowly)—

Your next step is industrial unionism regardless of how many steps you take in any direction. Until labor have made that step it is there for you to make. You have been hotfooting all over the country without taking a single step; walking all the time like walking Daily or Dan O'Leary. At times you have walked in circles, but you have not taken that step. It is there for you to take, long after you take no more steps.

What is the matter, is your foot afraid?

I do not care what you do . . .

You can tramp down the snow in one place until it is smooth as glass and you break your neck upon it—it is still there for you to take.

* * *

Governments failure to purge the country of industrial slavery doesn't mean a thing for as I said before the capitalist system is based upon unquestioning servitude and that applies with equal force to the government.

Which all goes to prove the superiority of economic power over political.

Pen may be stronger than sword but bread knife is stronger than both.

No power on earth other than workers' one big union can put the industrial autocrat under the table. (All the guns in Christendom will not do it.)

Because why? Because One Big Union is economic power, plus organization. Therefore: if it be true that political state has a ball and chain on its ankles, how come I find you on your knees calling the state to come to your assistance? You must be a farmer or a railroad? Now, there's no use talking back to me, political state in its "constitutional corral" cannot come to your assistance but you can go to its assistance. You can knock the shackles from your shanks and then free the state.

I do not mean that you shall transfer the shackles from your legs onto the legs of the boss, which would be fair exchange.

No. No stable society can be constructed from any part of slavery. We're not going to have any slaves—not even a sample.—

Ten thousand years you have raised families, clans, nations, empires, civilizations—every damned one of them predicated upon human slavery, top and bottom—and they have crashed. Ain't you tired of sticking them up?

I know you are.

Here is an opportunity to reverse the procedure. Base it on freedom—no special privilege: Make labor best paid occupation.

You can do this by joining the I.W.W.

But you don't like the I.W.W.?

Of course, you don't—but you ain't the only fool in the country.

Example:

St. Peter: (at pearly gate)—

"Where's your pack-sack?"

Slave:

"Why, sir, it's here in heaven. The boss was supposed to bow it in here."

St. Peter:

"We ain't seen anything of it. You better go and get it. You'll find him down in hell."—

There you are! Didn't I tell you? You better not put off such things—get a red card today.