

JOHN SHERMAN'S PROGRESS by ROBERT DUNN

(Continued from page 8)

in-industry propaganda, reveals it as a consistently anti-union, strikebreaking organization. The facts have been recorded partly in public documents. They may be summarized with a view to showing the true purposes of this agency and the dozens like it now operating against the organized workers in American industry:

A few years ago Sherman advertised a booklet bearing the title, "Industry, Society and the Human Element." We list the subdivisions of the chapter on the "Sherman Strike-breaking Service." "Plants shut down; Strikers affiliate; Enter Sherman Service; Method of Operation; Mill Opens; Workers Imported; Proper Protection; Housing the Workers; Conveying the Workers; No Change in Situation; Importation Continues; Inside Secret Service; Outside Secret Service; Some Strikers Return; Arrests Made; More Workers Return; Recruited Workers Remain; Conference Refused; Strike Declared Off; Result—After Strike Service; Harmonization; Organization Efforts; Disunionizing of Workers; Meeting Dates Extended; Finale."

What is the Finale? We read, "The strike is a thing of the past." So is the union.

This is probably the frankest manual of strike-breaking ever issued. And besides being extraordinary advertising copy, it is a true story of almost any strike in which Sherman participates. It is, in fact, an autobiography of the Service. But for some reason discretion proved the better part of advertising. This booklet was withdrawn from circulation and is no longer obtainable.

CHAPTER VII

In the great Steel Strike of 1919, Sherman's invisible evangelists continued to "correct employee attitudes." One of the instructions to them ran as follows: "We want you to stir up as much bad feeling as you possibly can between the Serbians and Italians. Spread data among the Serbians that the Italians are going back to work. Call up every question that you can in reference to racial hatred between these two nationalities . . . Urge them to go back to work or the Italians will get their jobs."

"Man engineering" was illustrated also in the statement of a Sherman official instructing a prospective operative at the time: "There is enough ammunition in the plant of the Illinois Steel Company at South Chicago to shoot down every worker like a dog." For its pains in breaking this strike, the Chicago office of the Sherman Service was raided by the State's Attorney and its officers indicted, but the cases never came to trial.

Other emissaries of mental resanitation, harmonization and personnel service on the Sherman payroll have been caught and identified within recent years in strikes at Lawrence, Mass., Stafford Springs, Conn., Staten Island, Milwaukee, Philadelphia and Detroit. One of the "employee acceptance"

promoters suggested in the Lawrence strike of 1919 that "We ought to take the machine gun and turn it on the police."

Mr. Sherman boasts of many large and satisfied clients. The American Woolen Co., the Bell Telephone Co., the Kirschbaum Clothing Co., the S. S. White Dental Co., the Sperry Gyroscope Co., the New Bedford Cotton Manufacturers' Association, have used him at one time or another in connection with strikes and other situations demanding "conciliations, peace and harmony, good will, efficiency and mutual productivity," as well as "the stability of our national structure," to use the phrases of the copy writers of this prince of espionage. No matter what the situation may be the treatment is labelled "constructive." As a Sherman Vice President on the stand in a suit in Philadelphia put it:

"We send representatives into a plant (where there is trouble) and through us they endeavor to instruct the workers along constructive instead of destructive lines. They try to point out to them what the teaching of the radical agitator, bolshevik, socialist or whatever you may want to term them, will bring them to."

Right-thinking, new thought, positive thought and reconstructed thought—all are Sherman expressions. In hazy words this industrial hypnotist sketches what he is trying to get over to his prospective client. Such as the following: "The worth of the thing is what must be considered first and its *understandability* carefully taught is the Big Job." (Italics always his.)

CHAPTER VIII

Yes, but the very best people employ him. Mr. Coolidge's intimate, Mr. Butler, Senator from Massachusetts, has been served very adequately at one time or another by Sherman. Some years ago when Mr. Butler was the president and active head of the New Bedford Cotton Manufacturers' Association, this Co-ordination and Rehabilitation Bureau did him quite a bit of work for a very handsome consideration, certainly not under \$50,000 a year. Indeed, the Sherman office in return for this piece of coin composed a very pretty speech which a labor official—a Sherman operative—one of the representatives of the New Bedford Textile Council, recited before the hearings on the Fordney-McCumber Tariff bill in Congress, stating to the legislators that the bill would be a boon to the textile workers of New Bedford. In addition, the agency served up various and sundry reports to Mr. Butler secured from the under-cover operations of some twenty-five members of textile unions who received their \$40 per week from Mr. Sherman. Mr. Butler was kept constantly informed as to who the active union leaders were, how large the "radical element" had become, and what the feelings of the workers would be were another wage cut proposed, and whether it could be

put over without causing a strike. The Sherman agency prepared a file of the "radicals" in the mills and on Mr. Butler's instructions turned these over to the local Department of Justice agents, during the days of the deportations delirium. A Sherman man also made a midnight visit, breaking and entering the office of the New Bedford local of the I. W. W. and destroying its property. The story released to the press, through another Sherman uplift agent, hinted that the American Legion, incensed at the presence of the wobblies, had done the work. Mr. Butler was well pleased with this job and the way it was handled. He at one time financed a two-months sales trip by a Sherman agent through the South to confer with millmen as to the advisability of installing the Sherman "attitude correction" service there.

Mr. Sherman being a millionaire does not fear exposure. Besides, his political connections, as the last paragraph would indicate, are of the best. His high-pressure, spat-wearing salesmen sell his SERVICE from one end of this country to the other. They consult with the personnel management fraternity and deliver speeches before seminary chapels, rotary clubs and schools of technology. The service issues a book entitled, "The Analysis of 439 Industrial Problems"—compiled by the industrial and technical research divisions of the company. Its advertising and contributed articles are spread over the pages of the fattest engineering and technical journals. The Service is ready, on a few hours' notice, to provide professional snoopers, overall-wearing stool pigeons, union-card-carrying *provocateurs* and an army of strike breakers from gutter and college classroom.

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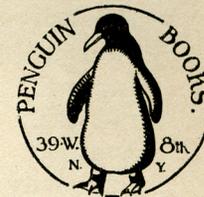
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