

I. W. W. STRIKE CHIEF LYNCHED AT BUTTE

**Frank Little Taken from Home
by Six Masked Men in Auto
and Hanged to Bridge.**

VIGILANTES' SIGN ON BODY

**Agitator Called Our Troops "Scabs
in Uniform" and Denounced
American Government.**

BUTTE, Mon., Aug. 1.—Frank Little, member of the Executive Board of the Industrial Workers of the World and leader in labor troubles in Arizona, was taken from a lodging house early today by masked men and hanged to a railroad trestle on the outskirts of the city. Little, in a recent speech here, referred to United States troops as "Uncle Sam's scabs in uniform." Since his arrival in Butte recently from Globe, Ariz., he has made speeches to strikers, in all of which he had attacked the Government and urged the men to shut down the mines of the Butte district. He was bitter in his denunciation of the Government.

When his body was cut down by Chief of Police Jerry Murphy at 8 o'clock this morning, a card was found pinned to the underclothing on his right thigh. It bore in red crayon letters the inscription:

Others Take Notice.
First and Last Warning.
3-7-77. L D C S S W T.

Sign of the Vigilantes.

A circle was about the letter L. The letters were inscribed with a lead pencil. The figures "3-7-77" are the old sign of the Vigilantes in Montana. The custom of the Vigilantes was to send three warnings to a marked man, the third and last being written in red.

Six masked men in an automobile drove up to the front of Little's lodgings at 5 minutes after 3 o'clock. One stood upon the sidewalk in front of the rooming house. The others entered. Without speaking, the men quickly broke into the Room No. 30, on the ground floor. Light from an electric torch showed them the room was unoccupied. Mrs. Nora Byrne, owner of the place, who was awakened by the noise, occupied an adjoining room at the front of the building.

"Some mistake here," she heard a voice say. Then she heard the men move to the door of her room, which they pushed slightly open. Mrs. Byrne sprang to the door and held it. "Wait until I get my clothes on," she said. Then she asked who they were and what they wanted. "We are officers and we want Frank Little," she was told.

Mrs. Byrne hastily dressed, again went to the door and opened it. The leader of the masked men poked a revolver into the opening.

"Where is Frank Little?" he asked.

"He is in room 32," she answered.

The men ran down the hall and tried the door to that room. One of them gave it a kick that broke the lock and they entered. Mrs. Byrne said she heard them coming from the room and saw them half lead, half carry Little across the sidewalk and push him into a motor car.

Wounded on the Head.

The body was found hanging on the north side of the railroad trestle. The ties on the trestle are about fourteen feet above the roadway. Little's feet were about five feet from the ground. On the back of his head was a wound. The Coroner could not determine whether the mark was a gunshot wound or an abrasion from a blow. An autopsy was ordered held late today.

Little wore only his underclothing when taken from his room. He is not known to have made any outcry or demanded any explanation.

Following the identification of the body, Butte members of the I. W. W. telegraphed appeals for aid. A message was sent to William D. Haywood, at Chicago, and others went to I. W. W. organization leaders in the Southwest and the Pacific coast. It was said that a message was received later from Haywood, saying the resources of the organization would be employed to bring the lynchings of Little to justice.

Early in the day men gathered at Flinn Hall, headquarters of the Metal Mine Workers' Union, and threats were made against "gunmen" said to be employed here. At Union Hall threats were made by individuals against local newspapers. Little's record was under investigation by the Federal authorities, whose at-

tention had been called to his activities. On the other hand, the report was current that he was in the employ of a detective agency, and one theory was that he was the victim of the radical element of whom he appeared to be a member.

The agitator took a leading part in recent labor troubles in Arizona. He addressed a letter to Governor Campbell of Arizona, protesting against the deportation of I. W. W. members from Bisbee. This letter was written from Salt Lake. Governor Campbell replied, telling Little he resented his interference and his threats. Little was understood to have the confidence of William D. Haywood, Secretary of the I. W. W. national organization and was regarded here as one of Haywood's confidential agents. He had letters in his baggage from various I. W. W. organizers, including Haywood.

Slurred American Troops.

Little began to make speeches on the day of his arrival in Butte three weeks ago. On July 19, before a mass meeting of miners, he referred to the United States soldiers as "Uncle Sam's scabs in uniform." In the same speech he said: "If the mines are taken under Federal control we will make it so hot for the Government that it will not be able to send any troops to France."

Referring in another address to his interview recently with Governor Campbell of Arizona, Little said that he used these words:

"Governor, I don't give a d— what your country is fighting for; I am fighting for the solidarity of labor."

Last Friday night, at Flinn Hall, before the Metal Mine Workers' Union, Little said:

"A city ordinance is simply a piece of paper which can be torn up. The same can be said of the Constitution of the United States."

When Governor Sam Stewart was asked at Helena if he contemplated any action in relation to the lynching he would give no opinion. Attorney General Ford said he had communicated with County Attorney Jackson at Butte asking for a statement of the facts.

"They got Little. He was the first man marked to go. We had received warnings and were told that Joe Shannon was the second in line, Tom Campbell third, and another man fourth," said William Sullivan, attorney for the Metal Mine Workers' Union, this morning. "I can't tell you how we received the warnings, but we knew they were marking some of the men."

Shannon, one of Little's associates in Butte, is prominent in the new mine workers' union and is Chairman of its Strike Committee. He had a leading part in the labor troubles of three years ago when the Western Federation of Miners organization was broken up, its hall destroyed and Charles H. Moyer ordered to leave Butte.

Sullivan shrugged his shoulders when asked if he himself were not the fourth man referred to as marked.

"We used every precaution and even had the marked men change rooms every so often," added Sullivan. "I cannot give the names of other men who were supposed to be designated as victims."

Speaking of possible trouble growing out of the lynching, Sullivan said there would be no outbreaks in Butte, "although the temper of the men is much tried."

"We have taken steps to provide against trouble," he said. "The men will not cause riot or other disturbance. We are going to the bottom of this thing, but in a legal way."

"Have you any idea of the identity of the men who composed the hanging party?" Sullivan was asked.

"We have practically proved who five of them were, we are uncertain as to a sixth. We soon will know who they all were," he replied.

Unwise, Says Prosecutor.

"It is the most unwise thing that has happened in Butte," said United States District Attorney B. K. Wheeler, in discussing the lynching. "The men who perpetrated the affair should be brought to justice."

Mr. Wheeler said he wrote yesterday to the United States Attorney General in Washington, asking if prosecution could be brought against Little on the ground of his unpatriotic utterances.

County Attorney Joseph R. Jackson said: "It is a cold-blooded murder and every effort will be used to apprehend the men who did it. If they are caught they will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law."

CAUSED RIOTS IN FRESNO.

**Little Had Long Record as Agitator
and Strike Leader.**

FRESNO, Cal., Aug. 1.—Frank H.

Little lived in Fresno until seven years ago, when he became a national officer of the I. W. W. According to the police, he organized and personally led a so-called "free-speech campaign" in Fresno in 1910 when several hundred I. W. W. members were arrested for violating a city ordinance.

Little was convicted and refused to work on the municipal rock pile. He was put on a bread-and-water diet in a dark cell. Industrial Workers came here from all parts of the country and street riots continued for part of the year. Armed citizens finally raided an I. W. W. camp outside the city, burned the tents, and drove the inmates into an irrigation canal. The agitators then disappeared.

MIAMI, Ariz., Aug. 1.—Frank Little had a large part in directing the strike of I. W. W. members here and in Globe. He is said to have aided in organizing the strike at Bisbee, as a result of which about 1,200 men were deported from that city.

DULUTH, Minn., Aug. 1.—Frank Little, lynched at Butte, Mont., today, was on the Mesaba Iron Range during the strike last year. He was arrested with other I. W. W. agitators after the murder of James C. Myron at Biwabik, but was released.

MICHIGAN DISTRICT GUARDED.

**Disorder Ceases After I. W. W. Men
Are Put in Jail.**

IRONWOOD, Mich., Aug. 1.—With the leading I. W. W. agitators in the county jail and hundreds of special deputies augmenting the State constabulary force, mine operators and citizens express the belief today that there will be no further disturbance of any consequence in the Michigan iron district. Since Monday night there has been no disorder and operators assert that virtually all the 350 men who went out Monday, except the thirteen ringleaders in jail, will return to work next Monday.

Special deputies are still searching for H. W. Rusanen, alias William Strang, one of the alleged leaders. It is charged that he stirred up most of the trouble at the Colby-Ironton mines.

Acting on information that trouble might be fomented at the Montreal and Windsor mines at Hurley, just across the Wisconsin line, mine operators have thrown cordons of deputies around the properties and placed armed men along the roads leading to the mines.

Members of a committee of iron mine strikers who conferred at Bessemer today with Mayor Byrne of Bessemer expressed willingness to make concessions in their demands, he said, after the conference. Representatives of the operators said they would grant no concessions. The strikers demanded an answer within twenty-four hours.