crowded. I was in the back part of the line and immediately saw that the strike breakers—the private detectives from Albany—who had been sworn in as special policemen, were confirming the rumor that "there would soon be trouble." I saw that unless the strikers could be got away, violence would occur and a chance be given to flood the country with reports that would prejudice the cause of the strikers.

I rushed into the midst of the struggle, pulling men out of the way of the policemen's clubs and shouting, "Back to the hall!"

The Captain of the Police told me to keep on, and urged the people to follow my advice.

For this assistance given to the police, after spending ten days in the county jail, I am held with ten or a dozen others in $2,000 bail for the grand jury on charge of assault with intent to kill!

After the strikers had got back to their headquarters, I found one of them who saw the officer fire the first shot. We were going together to the office of a lawyer, when the patrol wagon came rushing down and we were both arrested. Then the police continued on to the headquarters of the strikers; and there, I am informed, smashed everything in sight in the Slovak gymnasium, which had been kindly lent to the strikers for their meetings.

On arriving at the Police Headquarters we were pushed into the bull pen, which a day or two since has been condemned in scathing terms by the State Inspector. There we found about a dozen others and our number kept increasing until we were more than thirty.

At least nine of the men had broken heads. When I was placed in the pen six were in one cell and one in another. The latter's face was almost beaten to a jelly. He told me he had been taken into the mill, his hands tied behind him, and beaten half a dozen times over the mouth with a policeman's club. I didn't see him beaten, but his face corroborated his story. The six men in the other cell were all bleeding. They were shut off from the water faucet. We took an envelope, and as each placed his head against the bars we poured the water on his wounds.

In a few moments a man who said he had been shot by one of the officers was thrown into the cell. He sank groaning on the wooden bench. Three times he fell off and was lifted back. It took fully fifteen minutes and constant application of our meagre supply of water to bring him to full consciousness. A pool of his blood lay all day on the cement floor beneath our feet.

A little while later an Italian was thrown down the stairs. As he came in the doorway, his collar grew limp from the flow of his own blood. He said he was hit on the head as he came down the stairs.

Later still the now familiar noise of some one being dragged in was heard again. A man of middle age came through the door. The door clanged on his arm. It was opened again and he was knocked to the floor. He started to protest, and was knocked down again. He rose up and struck the officer; with a fiendish look on his face the officer threw him down, jumped on him with his knees, and with an instrument that looked like a blackjack rained a dozen blows on his face. A Slavish boy who started to protest was smashed in the mouth. Then the officer, still fighting, was dragged by the two men with him into the hall. They feared the results of his brutality.

In the afternoon an Italian was arraigned. When he returned to the pen, I saw a bunch on his face as large as an egg. He said the Chief of Police had stayed with him alone in the court room and had hit him with his fist in the face.

During the day, the language used to many of the Poles and Italians was unspeakable. An Italian boy said to me, "Have they got the right to hit anybody that way?" I didn't have time to answer before the question of right and legality faded away in the presence of a big club stained with the blood of another victim.

Then we were handcuffed together, and escorted by a burly special with an army rifle, after hearing the command of the Chief of Police to "pump anyone full of lead" that started to break, we marched through the streets to Herkimer Jail.

I see ever in my waking hours the bright-eyed, swarthy child of sunny Italy, the stolid faced descendant of the Polack, and the sad-faced Russian Jew, as they each in turn told me in our common prison cell, "They wouldn't do this in the old country"; and I wonder if, after all, the solution of our industrial problems lies in the direction of "subjecting the foreigners."

Not a single weapon was found on any of the strikers arrested, the largest instrument being a pocket knife, such as any man or woman carries to sharpen pencils. The police had the weapons. To those who were present it seemed perfectly clear that the police deliberately created their own riot and carried out their program of taking from the strike situation all who had been active in carrying it on. Back of every move can be clearly seen the determination, by fair means or foul, to break the back of this starvation strike.

The need for funds is greater than ever.

ROBERT A. BAKEMAN.

FOR A NEW CHARTER IN DULUTH.

Duluth will vote on its new charter December 3, a charter that is a municipal constitution, compact and simple. The old charter fills 225 pages of print, with careful enumeration of powers, duties, processes, salaries of officers, office routine, precision and punctuation. The pending charter is compressed into 40 pages of type. The powers of government are conferred on a Commission of five members, chosen at large, to serve four years, of whom one shall be mayor. The salaries are fixed at $4,000 on the present population, $4,500 when the city passes 100,000, and $5,000 when the population reaches 150,000. All other salaries are to be fixed by the Commission itself.

The enumeration of powers is covered in the most general terms. The city shall have all powers possessed heretofore by the city, all powers conferred by general State legislation, all powers, functions, rights and privileges usually exercised by, or incidental to, or inhering in municipal corporations, all municipal power, functions, rights, privileges and immunities of every name and nature whatsoever, plus all powers recited in this charter. That's all.

On the next page it says that "all powers of the city, unless otherwise provided in this charter, shall be exercised by, through and under the direction of the Mayor and Commissioners as the city council." And that is all there is to that. After that it is up to the commission. They are to appoint a clerk, auditor, treasurer, engineer and attorney. They are to apportion their own duties. They may create any unpaid boards they please. All told in the simplest language, and in short and crisp sentences that a layman can follow.

The civil service commission is continued. Elections are regulated by the charter more minutely than any other process of government. Here alone are forms provided for petitions and for the ballot. But the conduct of elections may be determined by ordinance. The ballot includes preferential voting and the requirement that the number of first choices must be complete or the ballot does not count.

The Initiative, Referendum and Recall are retained from the present charter.

The debt limit is fixed by general legislation. The provision of the present charter is retained which forbids any contract to spend money unless it is in the treasury. Except that after the tax levy is made the collection of taxes may be anticipated up to 80 per cent by the sale of certificates.

The city is empowered to acquire by eminent domain any property it may need for any public purposes, in or outside of the city. It has also power to acquire the property of any public utility by condemnation.

Franchises may be granted for terms not exceeding twenty-five years, with clauses fixing maximum rates, and the right reserved to control and regulate the holding, to require publicity of accounts, to censor issues of capital stock, and to submit to arbitration any labor dispute that interrupts service.

A good deal of stress is laid by advocates of the charter on the non-partisan features and the elections at large. Non-partisanship is carried to the point of forbidding on the ballot any distinguishing mark to tell what a candidate represents. On the other hand the charter does not fall into the error common under the primary laws of supposing that a candidate to be absolutely pure must be proposed by himself alone. It permits filing by petition and putting it up to the nominee to accept.

It will probably be opposed by public utility corporations and brewery interests. It has opposition from Socialists who insist on having their vote identified at all stages of the game. It is likely to be opposed by many of the Labor vote who suspect the consolidation of the tickets will turn the government ever entirely to the rich folks who live in the East End. A school house and church campaign is being carried on for it, however, with the general support of commercial bodies and middle class business. The little band of agitators, except the Socialists, are all for it. The chance of its adoption seems good.

J. S. P.

Duluth, Minn., November 23.

I want a minimum wage for everybody.—Oscar Straus.

Tut, tut! you don't mean it just like that, do you? —Syracuse Post-Standard.

LAND MONOPOLY IN ARGENTINA.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 16, 1912.

For some time past this country has been experiencing the blighting effects of land monopoly exteriorized in a great agrarian strike. The trouble began in the maize-growing area of the Province of Santa Fe.

The maize growers, generally men of small capital, are in the great majority leaseholders. Only about 450 men own approximately 21,250,000 acres. They lease to growers. Originally (some 50 years ago) this land cost about $5 United States money per acre; to-day the owners demand about this sum per acre as rental (paid in advance), or, if worked on the shares system, from 30 to 54 per cent of the crop. In many places the land has been cropped continuously for 20 years without fertilizing of any sort.

The rise in rental has been very great during the past 4 or 5 years; and whereas in former times, while rentals were moderate, the storekeepers were sure of being paid for goods once the crops were harvested, the excessive rentals now render store payments impossible. As a result the small traders, finding they could not collect their accounts, refused to give credit, and the maize planters and their helpers were thus face to face with starvation. Crops were ready for harvesting, but no one would give them either food or clothing, nor advance money to pay the harvesters.

Confronted with this difficulty, the croppers convened a public meeting at Casilda—a town in the center of the maize zone. Some 5,000 to 6,000 attended, and it was decided to strike.

The example of the Casilda growers was followed all over the north, and soon all renters were on strike.

They demanded a reduction in rental and a 3-years' lease in place of a year-to-year contract.

For over 2 months the strike has been on. In some parts the landlords have reduced rents and the croppers have again commenced work, but in others the strike continues.

In many districts the croppers have formed leagues. They found it impossible to treat individually with the giant landowners.

The latest move on the other side has been the arrest, and imprisonment without trial of the chairmen of a number of district leagues, as also of other officials. These poor wretches are treated as if they were slaves. They are denied the right of public meetings, they are cast in prison as agitators—just because they demand that they be given a chance of working their holdings on terms that will enable them to live and to feed their families.

Thus we are having the "Crofters" question and the "Irish" question repeated over here.

The trouble has only commenced. The fight will be a long one—and may in the end lead to consequences that will leave their mark on the history of the country.

Rental values have reached such extremes that