Lawrence, MA Strike: 1912
The "Bread & Roses" Strike

DEMANDS:

- 15¢/hr. wage increase.
- Double pay for overtime.
- No discrimination against strikers.
- An end to "speed-up" on the assembly line.
- An end to discrimination against foreign immigrant workers.
Lawrence, MA Strike: 1912

A PROCLAMATION!

IS MASSACHUSETTS IN AMERICA?

Military law declared in Massachusetts!
Habeas corpus denied in Massachusetts!
Free speech throttled in Massachusetts!
Free assemblage outlawed in Massachusetts!
Unlawful seizure of persons in Massachusetts!
Unwarranted search of homes in Massachusetts!
Right to bear arms questioned in Massachusetts!
Mill owners resort to dynamite plots and violence in Massachusetts!

Militia hired to break strike in Massachusetts!
Innocent people killed by militia in Massachusetts!
Militia ordered to shoot to kill in Mass.!

Unusual bail and fines exacted in Massachusetts!
Corporations control administrations in Mass.!

The striking textile workers of Lawrence, Massachusetts are confronted with the above described conditions. They are making a noble fight for an increase of wages and to prevent discriminations against the members of the organization carrying on this strike. To abolish a pernicious premium system inaugurated for no other purpose than the speeding up of already overworked carders. If you want to assist the strikers send funds to JOSEPH BEDARD, 9 Mason Street, Franco-Belgian Hall, Financial Secretary Textile Workers Industrial Union, Lawrence, Massachusetts.
unions + violence + strikes + socialists + immigrants = anarchists
Labor Union Membership

“Solidarity Forever!”
by Ralph Chapin (1915)

When the union’s inspiration
through the workers’ blood shall run,
There can be no power greater
anywhere beneath the sun;
Yet what force on earth is weaker
than the feeble strength of one,
But the union makes us strong!

**CHORUS:**
Solidarity forever,
Solidarity forever,
For the union
makes us strong!
Come On and Sing Along!!
“Solidarity Forever!”

Is there aught we hold in common
with the greedy parasite,
Who would lash us into serfdom
and would crush us with his might?
Is there anything left to us
but to organize and fight?
For the union makes us strong!

**CHORUS:**
Solidarity forever,
Solidarity forever,
For the union
makes us strong!
“Solidarity Forever!”

* * * *

Through our sisters and our brothers
we can make our union strong,
For respect and equal value,
we have done without too long.
We no longer have to tolerate
injustices and wrongs,
Yes, the union makes us strong!

**CHORUS:**
Solidarity forever,
Solidarity forever,
Solidarity forever,
For the union
makes us strong!
Workers Benefits Today

- Health Care: 73% Union, 51% Nonunion, 16% Defined-benefit pension
- Pension: 79% Union, 44% Nonunion, 16% Defined-benefit pension
- Disability: 66% Union, 33% Nonunion, 16% Defined-benefit pension
The Rise & Decline of Organized Labor

TOTAL NONFARM LABOR FORCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% Organized</th>
<th>% Unorganized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1900</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>95.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1954</td>
<td>34.7%</td>
<td>65.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(CIO and AF of L merged in 1955)
Right-to-Work States Today


Legend:
- Red: Right to Work State (22)
- Blue: Non-Right to Work State (28)
Unionism & Globalization?