James Connolly was deeply impressed with a new type of union formed in 1905. The Industrial Workers of the World.

The most serious organizers in the U.S. and Canada had failed so many times.

We need direct action at the place where you work. We can't wait years for a bill from Congress. Your families will starve to death waiting!

Big Bill Haywood, Western Federation of Miners.

We need to work with the best of labor's leaders. We need only the best ideas.

Mother Mary Jones organized miners in the East.

What's all the whistlin' for?

The whistle means quittin' time!

But we work 12. We were goin' to negotiate that next year!

We worked 8 hours.

You can't get another work crew see ya tomorrow. Boss. This is now an 8 hour a day job.

We need one big union instead of a lot of smaller specialized unions.

We bricklayers are going on strike. All the workers should stick together and support each other.

I can't go on strike. Us plumbers have a contract good for 8 more months.

US hod carriers should be in the same brick union.

Their union wouldn't give us a penny when we were on strike and my kids had no bread.
Against The Current

When us roofers were on strike the bricklayers union said that if we got a raise, there'd be less money for bricklayers.

Lucy Parsons, Organizer

We need to give support to any strike or dispute not just for your own union or family. We all need to stick together.

Every time a cleaning lady gets paid less than a janitor doing the same work, it hurts all the women and all the men. It robs women and keeps men working for low pay so he won't get replaced by a woman. When Negroes or Jews or the Chinese are paid less, it keeps wages low for all. White Christians are paid a little more and told that they are not exploited.

The American Federation of Labor is dead wrong refusing to allow membership to Negroes, Italians, Filipinos, and the Chinese. It is not fair — and it backfires.

I'll work for half pay so the boss won't hire a woman or a kid.

Mr. Block, his head is solid wood, no brains.

Too many unions keep out women, children, and anybody the boss wants to underpay.

In Goldfield, Nevada, miners asked the IWW to help them build a union.

The miners asked everyone working at every job in Goldfield to join their union.

Clerks

Cooks

Teamsters

Tinkers

Smithies

With the workers at every job in town in the same organization, they demanded that nobody in town should ever be paid less than $4.50 per day.

This was the first U.S. minimum wage law.

The IWW got the first U.S. minimum wage law, shorter hours, raises, an end to child labor, and improvements at thousands of jobs.

"Workers themselves are in the best position to improve their own jobs, run their own organization, and ultimately bring genuine democracy into the workplace."

Daniel Gross

I - W - W

Educate

Agitate

Organize

Town minimum wage law

$4.50 per day!

8 hour day!

For all jobs in town