

among the weapons in the anarcho syndicalist armoury sabotage is the one most feared by the employer & most harshly condemned as unlawful. in reality we are dealing here with a method of economic petty warfare that is as old as the system of exploitation & political oppression itself. it is, in some circumstances simply forced upon the workers, when every other device fails, sabotage consists in the workers putting every possible obstacle in the way of the ordinary mode of work, for the most part this occurs when the employers try to avail themselves of a bad economic situation or some other favourable occasion to lower the normal conditions of labour by curtailment of wages or by lengthening of the hours of labour, the term itself is derived from the french word, sabot, wooden shoe, & means to work clumsily as if by sabot blows. the whole import of sabotage is actually exhausted in the motto, for bad wages, bad work, the employer himself acts on the same principle, when he

calculates the price of his goods according to their quality, the producer finds himself in the same position, his goods are his labour power. & it is only right & proper that he should try to dispose of it on the best terms he can get, but when the employer takes advantage of the evil situation of the producer to force the price of his labour power as low as possible, he need not wonder when the latter defends himself as well as he can & for this purpose makes use of the means which the circumstances put in his hand, the English workers were already doing this long before revolutionary syndicalism was spoken of on the continent, in fact the policy of "ca' canny" (go slow), which, along with the phrase itself, the English workers took over from their Scottish brethren, was the first & most effective form of sabotage, there are today in every industry a hundred means by which the workers can seriously disturb production, everywhere under the modern system of division of labour, where often the disturbance in ^{one} branch of the work can bring to a standstill

the whole process of production, thus the railway workers in France & Italy by the use of the so called grève perlée (string of pearls strike) threw the whole system of transportation into disorder, for this they needed to do nothing more than adhere to the strict letter of existing transport laws, & thus make it impossible for any train to arrive at its destination on time, when the employers are once faced with the fact that even in an unfavourable situation where the workers would not dare to think of a strike, they still have in their hands the means of defending themselves, there will also come to them the understanding that it does not pay to make use of some particular hard situation of the workers to force harder conditions of living upon them,

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