

go *Tribune* later wrote that "what was expected and predicted happened."

Criminal action against the owners, operators, and ranking crew members predictably followed the *Eastland's* sinking. Federal charges were assigned to Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, a Logansport native and former Marion attorney. After reassignment another court found no probable cause that a conspiracy took place and declared the defendants not guilty. Civil suits yielded limited damages, and they dragged on for nearly twenty-one years until the United States Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal. Meanwhile, the *Eastland's* hulk was sold for use as a naval training vessel and was renamed the *Wilmette*.

Hilton's investigation is done in great depth and makes a fundamental contribution to marine history, but his book is not for light bedtime reading. Although the work is necessarily complicated and involved, one does question whether or not the heavy use of nautical terms could have been simplified. A list that identifies fifty-five major actors in the cast is helpful, but a glossary of nautical terms would have been similarly valuable.

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"Without Blare of Trumpets": Walter Drew, the National Erectors' Association, and the Open Shop Movement, 1903-57. By Sidney Fine. (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1995. Pp. viii, 384. Illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. \$49.50.)

The opening years of the twentieth century witnessed both the dramatic expansion of the American labor movement following the devastating depression of the mid-1890s and the rise of a concerted employer counteroffensive against unionization. Ideological opposition to union work rules, wage rates, and sympathetic strikes and advocacy of employers' unfettered right to manage was cultivated by, and anchored in, a number of organizations, including the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Anti-Boycott Association, and the National Erectors' Association (NEA). Walter Drew, slighted or ignored in industrial relations historiography, was a leading open shop zealot and, Sidney Fine suggests, the movement's most important figure. He is the hero of Fine's laudatory biographical account and quasi-institutional history of the NEA.

Walter Drew dedicated his life to combating unions and spreading the open shop gospel. The Michigan-born lawyer had formed his negative opinions of organized labor by the early twentieth century, and apparently nothing over the next half century prompted any serious reevaluation of his position. Indeed, Drew, the "true believer" (p. 206), emerges in these pages as an intellectually dull figure; from the start of his career to his retirement, he played a one-note

song. His arguments against unions were standard employer rhetoric, devoid of nuance or an understanding of his working-class opponents. His interest in "history, philosophy, and science," as well as his "firm" belief in astrology (p. 36), receives but passing mention and, apparently, did little to make Drew a more interesting intellectual figure.

For decades Drew pounded the proverbial pavement on behalf of employers' rights, fighting not only unions that dared to question employers' power and practices but also employers who might backslide and cut their own deals with unions. Seeking to block the spread of unionism to the steel industry, Drew's particular target was the Indianapolis-based International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Iron Workers (IABSIW), a building trades union with a reputation for violence and corruption. For Drew and Fine the IABSIW was composed of thugs, dynamiters, and intimidators; for both, apparently, any tactics against it were warranted or at least understandable. In his seemingly never-ending struggle against organized labor, Drew himself hired shady private detectives and sanctioned breaking and entering, primitive wiretapping, theft of allegedly incriminating documents, and even kidnapping. Fine credits Drew with prompting the federal government to indict and try the IABSIW's top leadership on charges of dynamiting or hiring dynamiters in 1912. During the widely publicized case in Indianapolis—which writer John Fitch described as the "largest criminal conspiracy trial" (p. 124) in the nation's history—the NEA's director worked closely with government attorneys, even providing funds to the prosecution.

The strength of Fine's work lies in its careful reconstruction of the open shop movement's day-to-day operation. Despite the depth of employers' anti-union beliefs, maintaining a movement devoted to combating labor—and to overcoming employers' tendencies toward fragmentation and division—required continual hard work on the part of ideologues such as Drew. Yet Fine's contention that Drew and other open shop advocates "generally directed their fire not at trade unionism as such but rather at trade unionism practices" (p. 203) is not convincing since they attacked virtually everything unions stood for and virtually every tactic unions employed. The author's enthusiastic treatment of his subject includes few analyses of the shortcomings of Drew's philosophy and practices or new insights into the world of the building trades workers whom Drew consistently battled. The book's level of detail—accounts of strikes, meetings, and campaigns against unions are numerous and long—and the one-dimensional character of its subject will limit the book's appeal to specialists in industrial relations and labor history.

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