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# Accident Insurance and Political Action.

by Charles Ruthenberg

An excerpt of an article published in the *Chicago Daily Socialist*, Aug. 15, 1910.  
Reprinted in *Charles Ruthenberg: Speeches and Writings*. (New York: International Publishers, 1928).

A writer in *Everybody's Magazine* speaks of the United States as "the industrial slaughter house."

"Men are run down ruthlessly by huge cranes, crushed almost beyond recognition under great masses of falling metal; fingers and hands are cut off in great shears; feet and legs are torn off and mashed in the dim light of night; bodies are mangled in belts and chains; injuries are almost a daily occurrence."

These are conditions which workingmen have to face in factories in this country. The industries of the United States kill, injure, and maim twice as many workers in proportion to the number at work as any other civilized country. This is a statement which should challenge the attention of every American workingman. We ought to ask why twice as many accidents occur in this country as in Germany, France, England, or Austria. Why should the risk the workingmen in this country have to face be twice that in any other machine-using nation?...

The capitalist class knows no other law than the law of profits... The workers have the power to place on the statute books a compulsory insurance law, but they cannot secure such a law by voting for the candidates nominated by parties owned and controlled by their employers. They must have their own political organizations to fight their political battles just as they have their own industrial organizations to fight their industrial battles.

*Edited by Mitch Abidor.*

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