Opening the closed shop: the Galveston Longshoremen's Strike, 1920-1921

Beginning in March of 1920, the Galveston coastwise longshoremen's strike against the Morgan-Southern Pacific and Mallory steamship lines was a pivotal moment in the history of organized labor in Texas. Local and statewide business interests proved their willingness to use the state apparatus by calling on Governor William P. Hobby and the Texas National Guard to open the Port of Galveston. Despite this, the striking dockworkers maintained the moral support of many local citizens from a variety of social classes, including small merchants and officials of the Galveston municipal government. By February of 1921, however, the segregated locals representing the striking longshoremen had fallen victim to the divisive racial tactics of the shipping companies, who implemented the open-shop policy of non-discrimination in hiring on their docks. Further demonstrating the capital-state alliance, the Texas legislature passed Governor Hobby’s notorious Open Port Law in October 1920, making it virtually illegal for dockworkers and others to engage in strikes deemed harmful to commerce. This legislation and the nearly yearlong strike not only destroyed the coastwise longshore unions in Galveston, but ushered in a decade of repression from which Texas’s organized labor movement did not recover for many years.
Open shop. a company whose workers are hired without regard to their membership in a labor union. Closed shop. a company that hires only union members.

Lost Generation Writers. Group of writers in 1920s who shared the belief that they were lost in a greedy, materialistic world that lacked moral values and often choose to flee to Europe. Al Capone. United States gangster who terrorized Chicago during Prohibition until arrested for tax evasion (1899-1947). Eliot Ness. Head of the "Untouchables", federal agent who went after Chicago gangsters.

Good Appointments. no re-elections, indepen The literature on the longshoremen's strike to date has not examined the role of black, or even white, working-class politics before, during, and after the strike. Until recently, in fact, black labor activism and the experiences of black urban workers, including those on Galveston's waterfront, had remained largely hidden, ignored, or marginal at best in studies of southern labor and black history. The Longshoreman's Strike Treble Clef Instrument version. Treble Clef Instrument Traditional Treble Clef Instrument Free Sheet Music The Longshoreman's Strike. Folk Songs from 'Digital Tradition' Letter T The Longshoreman's Strike. The Longshoreman's Strike sheet music for Treble Clef Instrument. Sheet Music Midi Score Info. play. I am a simple lab'ring man And I work along the shore, For to keep the hungry wolves away From the poor longshoreman's door I toil all day long in the broiling sun On the ships that come in from the sea, From early light until late at night For the poor man's family. cho: Then it's give us good pay For every day For that's all we ask of thee, For our cause is right And we're out on a strike For the poor man's family.