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## Strike Area

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## Strike Area

*By* ARON KRICH

Iron

On the old wheel, down neck

The city ends betrayed

To the river, sold to smoke.

Salt the wound!

The police hand played,

Cards scattered,

The sharper gone.

This is where we must begin!

Torn from newsprint

The silver lining.

Men gripped by promise,

Given to raw sleep.

Now!

Now is the time!

Whispers

Pushed along with nightsticks.

Whispers slugged in alleys.

"Pride . . ."

The catchword exposed.

"Pride what?"

"We want to know!"

Strike! The lie unfinished.

"Fellow stomachs,

Business men, the enemy

Within our gates. . . the flag

Must lead the investor!"

Dollars wave.

Crucible pours the cannon.

Dust is thrown.

"We want to know!"

"Now! Now!" The question burns.

The deceiver runs from flame.

The answer rages strike.