



The Canadian Labor Press
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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

GREATEST STRIKE IN HISTORY

The greatest strike in the history of the North American continent, that of the miners, is now entered on its third week. Starting with four hundred thousand strikers, he ranks have been so augmented that at the time of writing there are close to seven hundred thousand workers in the anthracite and bituminous fields who have laid down tools.

It should be remembered that the strike is a double-header. Anthracite and soft coal miners are striking together for strategic reasons, but with different ends in view and under different circumstances. The hard coal miners call for a twenty per cent wage increase while the soft coal operators' demands for reduction; but the bituminous operators have been unwilling to meet the representatives of the workers in a joint conference to decide on a basic wage-scale.

When the strike was called on April 1, some 560,000 union miners, more than 400,000 of them in the soft-coal fields, and an undetermined number of non-union men, responded. The strike in the unionized fields, says President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers, is 100 per cent effective. Speaking for the soft-coal men he said on the second day of their contracts: "The miners are looking to the carrying out of their contracts. The miners want to retain collective bargaining in the manner in which it has been in vogue in the coal-mining industry for thirty years."

Mr. Lewis says: "In the case of anthracite mine-workers, wages were never 'inflated'; they were never raised to a fair and reasonable level, and are even now below such a level."

An outspoken advocate of the miners' cause, "Labor" (Washington, D. C.), wants its readers "to get essential facts straight":

(1) The bituminous coal-mine owners have refused to meet the representatives of the workers, altho they signed an agreement to do so.

(2) The miners are fighting for a living wage. Congressman Bland of Indiana inserted in "The Congressional Record" a statement showing the average earnings of miners in the principal coal fields. In the Pittsburgh field these workers received an average of \$762 in 1921. In Ohio, \$550, and in West Virginia, \$500. How can men rear families on such beggarly incomes?

(3) This appalling situation is not due to the impoverished condition of the industry. While coal miners were probably never more miserable, the records show that coal mine owners were never more prosperous.

(4) The miners in demanding a five-day week and a six-hour day are insisting that they be permitted to do more work, not less. Miners are paid by the ton. They can not earn enough to support their families unless they are permitted to work at least thirty hours in the week.

(5) The coal miners are fighting the public's battle as well as their own. The operators want to restrict production and increase prices. The miners want to decrease prices by increasing production.

(6) The coal mine owners are preparing to use the strike as an excuse for further profiteering.

It has been noted before that one reason consumers are not panicky over the coal strike is because of the large supplies on hand. Newspaper summaries of official Geological Survey figures state that there is at present a supply of 64,000,000 tons of soft coal, which at an average rate of consumption ought to last some eight weeks. This, of course, might be increased by a production of perhaps as much as 6,000,000 tons weekly from the non-union mines. There is said to be in storage some 4,000,000 tons of anthracite available for domestic use, which should last twelve weeks, and something more than eleven weeks' supply of steam sizes of anthracite available for industry.

CASUALTIES IN INDUSTRY

The casualties in industry are as impressive as those of war. Since Workmen's Compensation has gone into effect in the more accurately. A recent report of the Department of Labor for United States, it has been possible to compute industrial accidents in the State of Pennsylvania shows that, during the five-year period ending December 31, 1921 there were 10,777 fatal accidents and 183,278 cases in which compensation for injuries was paid in the Keystone State.

The American trade-union movement accomplished a most necessary and worthy object when it secured the establishing of Workmen's Compensation and at the same time secured the setting aside or repeal of the common law, defense of assumption of risk, contributory negligence, or fellow servant, which had proved of such value to employers when workmen were suing for damages for the injuries suffered while employed.

There still remains much to be done in the field of Workmen's Compensation, but a most splendid foundation has already been established.

SPECIAL BODY ON DEPORTATION

Bill No. 16, based on a resolution by J. S. Woodsworth, Labor, Center Winnipeg, to amend the Immigration Act, removing therefrom the clause which permits the deportation of British born subjects from Canada without a trial, was given a second reading in the House this week and will be referred to a special committee. The same course was followed in respect to Mr. Woodsworth's Bill No. 17 to amend the Criminal Code, both of which were introduced in the house some days ago.

When the bill to amend the Immigration Act was reached, Hon. Ernest Lapointe, minister of marine and fisheries, explained that the principle of this bill was the same as that contained in one which he himself had moved last year to amend the act passed in 1919 which the Winnipeg strike was under way by which a British subject might be deported without the right of trial to which every British subject was entitled.

Two years ago, said Mr. Lapointe, the then minister of labor, Hon. G. D. Robertson, had moved in the Senate a bill which had for its purpose prevention of the summary deportation of British-born persons. The bill, however, had been defeated in the Upper House and had not reached the Commons. Last year,

Mr. Lapointe had moved the same bill in the Commons, and it had been taken over by the government and incorporated in amendments to the Immigration Act by the government of the day. The amendments had passed the house, only again to meet defeat in the Senate. Mr. Lapointe said he would not like to oppose the principle of the bill, but in some of its provisions the present measure went further than the one he had introduced. There were provisions in the present bill which he could not accept, but in view of the importance of this subject he would urge that it be referred to a special committee of the house to consider the proposed amendments and report back to the house.

LABOR ORGAN'S REPORT

London, April 12.—The correspondent of the Daily Herald (labor organ), at the Genoa conference, says that according to a statement made privately by Premier Facta on Tuesday, recognition of Soviet Russia now is an accepted fact. Premier Facta, says the correspondent, admitted that a common understanding was reached among the Allies that meeting with the Russians on the basis of the Cliché conditions implied mutual recognition by the convening powers and the powers concerned.

INDEPENDENT LABORITES ISSUE LIST OF CANDIDATES

The Independent Labor Party of Manitoba is preparing to launch its early campaign in connection with the approaching provincial election. The three Winnipeg branches have chosen tentative candidates and final selection of the party slate will be early campaign in connection with organization.

LABOR IS STRONG IN NEW ZEALAND

Wellington, N.Z.—The Labor party in New Zealand fully expects to win the next general election to be held in a few months' time. Last election it won only eight seats out of eighty in the house of representatives but this result in no way indicated its real strength, for New Zealand has an archaic voting system and refuses to adopt proportional representation. Under P.R. Labor would be the second largest group in the country and with a small turnover of votes would defeat the present Reform government, which, through it having to increase taxation, reduce salaries and wages throughout the state services and because of the general bad tones, has become unpopular.

The Liberal party which was formerly led by Sir Joseph Ward consists of only a few small groups and there is a negligible fourth party which combines Liberals and moderate Labor but which has as yet only two members in parliament.

The government expects to go to the country on its financial record which admittedly had been good despite the slump. The Labor party will declare for more state enterprises and another instalment of what is called in New Zealand "Socialism." The Liberal party is not yet defined.

ONTARIO LABOR ON N. S. STRIKE

Hamilton, Ont., April 14.—The action of the minister of labor in connection with the Nova Scotia miners' strike was criticized today at the annual convention of the Ontario Labor party.

J. W. Buckley, president, said: "It can at least be said that Labor representatives, through the workers, have compelled the government to repudiate the policy of one of its ministers, who demanded that Labor be respectable in its fight with capital, but that capital is to be allowed to trample on the rights of the workers because of a time-honored policy, aimed to defeat Labor's interests."

RESOLUTION FAVORS OLD AGE PENSIONS

The advisability of the federal government instituting a system of old age pensions will be debated in the house of commons. Dr. J. E. Lafontaine, Liberal, Hull, has filed a resolution on the order paper:

"That in the opinion of this house, the federal government should consider the advisability of devising ways and means for the establishment of a system of old age pensions in Canada."

He went on to say that a political Labor party was necessary to consolidate the forces of Labor at election times. The sooner the trade unionist realized he was a class in society, the sooner he would benefit, the president declared, and, sooner or later, the unionist would become as class conscious as the farmer. The alliance of labor and the farmer has brought about many reforms. With their interests identical, both being the producers of the wealth of the land, he saw no reason why the two interests of these RADO RAH TRA IRD ERD would not continue to co-operate. Progress, it was advised, should be along sane and safe lines, and be urged against violence.

A resolution was adopted calling upon the federal and provincial governments to provide for every man and woman either work at recognized fair rates for the district or full maintenance. "That, where municipalities fail to carry out the expressed desire of the government the granting of relief shall be done by joint committees representing both the federal and provincial governments."

GOVERNMENT ON LABOR CONFERENCE

The calling of an Interprovincial conference to discuss the 8-hour day and other conventions of the International Labor Conference held at Washington, under the aegis of the League of Nations in October and November, 1919, is now being considered, it was stated in the House of Commons, in reply to a question by A. W. Neill, Independent, Comox-Alberni.

Mr. Neill also asked if the Government was prepared to authorize the eight-hour day on all government contracts. The reply stated that the practice with respect to works performed for the Dominion Government requires that the working hours shall be in conformity with the practice or law of the locality. "Since the provinces are understood to have the representations of the convention under consideration, in the opinion of the government a change of practice or policy at the present time might only serve to create a misconception or confusion as to the position of the provinces in dealing with the matter," the answer concludes.

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COAL MINERS ARE MAKING BIG GAINS

Indianapolis, Ind.—Continued gains in the non-union coal fields were claimed today by the United Mine Workers of America for the nation-wide suspension of work in the coal industry with the union's announcement that 665,000 miners are now participating in the walk-out.

Plans for pushing the movement into the non-union fields, particularly central Pennsylvania, were being considered by union officials, with indications that more organizers may be sent into the coal fields.

With the strike now nearing the end of the second week, the new figures on the numbers of idle men showed an increase of 65,000 since the opening of the suspension when the union claimed 600,000 participants.

Except for the developments in the non-union fields, no change has yet come in the general situation. In union circles here, the opinion apparently was that the strike is settling down to a test of endurance and that any changes will occur slowly.

A colored boy walked into a local drug store and asked permission to use the telephone; then he called up Mr. Jones and the following conversation took place: "Is this you, Mistah Jones?" "Yes."

"Well, Mistah Jones, I saw yo' ad in de paper, de other day and yo' wanted a colored boy. Did you get one?" "Yes."

"Is he givin' perfect satisfaction?" "Yes, he's giving perfect satisfaction."

"Well, Mistah Jones, provide this colored boy don't give perfect satisfaction, you call me at 504."

The colored boy turned and started out, and the druggist, who had overheard, remarked: "You didn't do any good, did you?" "Yes, sah," came the reply. "I's dat colored boy what's working down there. I's jest checking up to see how I stand."—Forbes Magazine, New York.

The Story of Bill Smith and Abe Honeyman

CHAPTER 4.

In the first year, Abe Honeyman received on his \$500, a dividend of 10 per cent, or \$50 in all. In the second year, he received a 200 per cent stock dividend, i.e., for every share he owned he got two more for nothing. He then owned 60 shares, which means that his principal had increased from \$500 to \$1,500. The company then paid him a dividend of 10 per cent or \$140 in all.

In this manner his money made money, so that five years from the time of his original investment, Abe was able to sell out his interest for \$10,000, and set up in business for himself. ONE GOOD INVESTMENT IS WORTH A LIFETIME OF SAVING.

The end. Watch this space next week.

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