

### AN AMERICAN VIEW OF BRITISH LABOR METHODS

(Continued from Page One)

press radical ideas among the rank and file. This results in an almost incredible difference in the atmosphere of the two movements, optimism, harmony and progress along fundamental lines being the dominant characteristics here. It is the fact that the radicals are in command of English labor that makes the psychology of a Gospels something half pitiable and half disgusting to the movement here. There is no blinking the fact that men like Bob Smilie, Bob Williams, Frank Hodges, and others who have a large share in the control of English labor policy would be in Moundsville or Atlanta if fate had made them citizens of the land of the free. Ramsay MacDonald told me that he doesn't consider Gene Debe more radical by temperament than Smilie, yet the strength and cohesion of the British miners is such that their government dare not touch this labor general. Several men prominent in the labor movement here would scarcely believe me when I remarked that the attorney general of the United States had publicly characterized James Maurer as a dangerous "red," and they enjoyed a hearty laugh when shown American newspaper clippings on the occurrence.

For contrast they need only be mentioned a meeting in London a few nights ago at which H. N. Brailsford lectured on Parliament and Soviets in a manner very disparaging to the present constitutional government of England and distinctly laudatory to that of Russia. His remarks were sufficiently "scintillating" to have gained him a 20 years jail sentence in the United States. Here they brought courteous attention and loud applause from a respectable middle class audience who had paid 50 and 75 cents for their seats. Moreover there were no secret service agents present and no scare headline in the press next morning.

The third striking difference about the English labor movement is the close practical co-operation of all its units. Adherents of different schools of economic thought left, center and right; and members of all working class organizations, whether political, industrial or co-operative, are all working in harmony which is the most marked contrast with the disunion of American labor. This disunion is always a cause of amazement here, as is the failure to launch a great national labor party working with the Socialist organization. On the other hand the only questions asked about the new Communist and Communist Labor parties is "what good

can they do to make up for the harm they have already done?"

In the English labor world individual differences are being buried, group makes concession to group, strength is increased a hundred-fold by union. It is everywhere recognized that the first aim of eliminating capitalism in favor of a socialized industry is common to almost all, and that the differences between individuals and these can best be thrashed out after, and not before, that end is achieved. For that reason there is virtually no anti-parliamentarianism in England now and labor is getting control of the political hand in hand with the economic field.

In domestic affairs nationalization of basic industries, beginning with the coal mines, is an issue which has been taken up by the entire labor movement. A great campaign for state ownership of the mines, and control by district and pit committees, "representative of the national government and the various classes of workers, including those engaged in the managing, technical, commercial and manual processes," still goes on. The campaign for this program, very similar to the Plumb Plan, is now being pressed in every section of the country, despite the action of the recent Trades Union congress.

Nationalization of the mines is only the entering wedge of the broad program of industrial democracy for which the British labor movement is working. The mines came first because conditions happen to be most advantageous in that industry, for it is recognized that in practical working out the socialization of the railroads would be even easier. But in the mining industry not only is labor most strongly organized and progressive; it also faces a situation peculiarly suitable for radical economic change. The Lloyd George government has violated the confidence of labor in refusing to adopt either the letter or the spirit of the report brought in by the commission of experts appointed to investigate the ramshackle and inefficient condition of the British mining industry under private capital. It has also been forced by the capitalists to withdraw a compromise bill limiting net profits (exclusive of the infamous royalty system) to 25 cents a ton. Now that the government has deceived labor and surrendered to capital on the coal issue, labor intends first to educate the public on the facts and merits of the case and second, to take such action as may be necessary to make the government live up to its pledges. Campaigns for the socialization of other industries will follow in due course. As Frank Hodges of the miners said at the opening mass meeting of the "miners for the nation" campaign—"The drama opened tonight will witness in its last act the death of the whole capitalist system in Great Britain."

The spirit of direct action, in the sense of political strikes to coerce the government into making concessions

### CHICAGO BRICKLAYERS WILL RECEIVE LARGE INCREASE IN WAGES

Rate of \$1.25 Per Hour May Be Established for All Building Trades.

(By Federated Press)  
Chicago.—The first round in the battle of the building trades for a general wage of \$1.25 an hour was won, when 4,500 bricklayers were given a contract by the Chicago Masons' and Builders' Association calling for the required scale. The old scale was \$1 an hour with bonuses ranging from 10 to 25 cents.

Negotiations were carried on between Peter S. Shaughnessy, president of Bricklayers' union No. 21, an arbitration committee, and representatives of the contractors.

Contractors in other lines and the business agents of the other building trades are to meet soon to talk over the demand for a \$1.25 wage throughout the building trade.

The union label stands primarily for union industry. As such it is an indispensable complement of "home industry" or other shibboleth of business in the mind of the purchaser who holds principle above local pride.

which cannot be brought about by parliamentary pressure is, however, something noticeably distasteful to British labor. These tactics will only be used as a last resource. The English workers by the millions are getting in step with social evolution now—with a rapidity which fully merits an investigation by the judiciary committee of the United States senate.

Meanwhile in the political field, the Labor party is daily gaining more experience and power, instilling the vision of a new and better world into the people in every section of the country, and preparing itself to take over the reins of administrative government as the trade unions are preparing themselves to take over the reins of industry. Every municipal election, every parliamentary bye-election sees a steady increase of the labor vote and every day that goes by sees a development of the ability of its leaders in the field of honest statecraft. A general election held tomorrow would see labor cutting the present huge and untruthful majority of conservatives by scores. When the great test does come the results will be a shock to the reactionaries the world over and the fight is crucial, because overthrow of the coalition government by labor will obviously be followed by overthrow of capitalist control in England.

(Editor's Note—The above is the first of a series of six articles on the British Labor Movement, by Mr. Morley. The second article will appear at an early date. Watch for it.)

### DEFENSE COUNSEL QUILTS FOLLOWING WORDS WITH JUDGE

(Continued from Page One)

He charged that organization with assuming a dictatorship over Winnipeg at the very time when it accused Labor of so doing.

Trueman made an impassioned plea for freedom of speech and press in Canada.

"Now's the time to come to a showdown and I believe it well to take it before a Canadian jury," he said, in replying to Andrews' declaration that resolutions demanding lifting of censorship, passed at the Walker theatre meeting, were seditious.

"If that censorship was a good thing while the war was on it came to an end for all practical purposes on November 11, 1918, and these men were asking the following March 15th, that the censorship be brought to an end.

"Something never permitted, in times of peace, is for the government to say what may or may not be read. That was a right that was being interfered with by the censorship established by the Dominion Government and continued after the war came to an end. Sometimes the people don't know their rights under the constitution but if they had better knowledge of their rights they would resent interference. These men were bestowing benefit on Canada by protecting it against continuance of censorship."

"I give my entire approval to the editor of the Western Labor News the Rev. William Ivens, one of the accused) when he said he would not allow himself to be gagged by the government in the discussion of the terms of the peace treaty," Trueman declared, after quoting from an article defying the censorship which was printed in the Labor paper.

Andrews objected to Trueman's criticisms of the censorship, to which Trueman replied:

"I don't take these order-in-council as seriously as my learned friend. I think the censorship was absolutely vicious after the war. If I had been editor of that paper I would have taken the same stand."

Judge Metcalfe: "I can't sit and hear defiance of the law."

Trueman: "I said, if I were editor."

Judge Metcalfe: "You're sitting here as counsel."

Following Queen's speech, Ward Holland, lawyer for R. J. Johns, spoke briefly. The Rev. Wm. Ivens, who has been most severely criticized by the government lawyers, then started his address. It was eloquent, and many in court wept.

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