

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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Official Organ of The Allied Trades and Labor Council.

A DECLARATION OF WAR

The U.M.W.A. through its Secretary Robert Peacock, in his message from Calgary of January 4th, has declared war upon industry and constituted authority. There is no question of wages of miners or working conditions. The U.M.W.A. set out to close the Edmonton mines by a policy of violence, and Secretary Peacock reiterates their determination to succeed. The Herrin massacre, condoned by constituted authority, was what won the strike of 1922. Quite clearly the U.M.W.A. firmly believe that like tactics will produce like results in Canada—and they will, if the authorities of Canada take the same attitude of "neutrality" as did those of the United States. In the Calgary despatch of Jan. 4th, Robert Peacock, representing John L. Lewis, head of the U.M.W.A. boldly throws down the challenge to law and constituted authority in Canada. There is no alternative than to take it up as boldly and promptly as it has been thrown down. A mob of mercenaries, numbering not more than 300, very few of them citizens of Canada, have kept the coal industry of the Edmonton field in a condition of disturbance for the past six weeks. They have committed numerous crimes of violence, destroyed some property and have declared their intention of destroying much more. That they have not already committed murder is due to accident, not design. Their activities have cost the coal industry and therefore the people at large, over a quarter of a million dollars already.

Approximately half of the total number are now in custody and therefore where they cannot do further damage at present Secretary Peacock dares the authorities to put the other half of the mob along with those already locked up. He threatens that if they do so he will send further forces to pursue the same tactics. There is only one way to deal with such a situation. The law must be maintained. Life and property must be protected at all costs. It was necessary during the war to lock up several thousands of men and keep them locked up. The safety of the state demanded that action and it was taken. The activities of the section of the red army now taking orders from General Ryan in this district imperatively demand that they be stopped forthwith. If reinforcements are sent they can be dealt with in the same way. If we have in this country a number of people whose activities are a menace to private right and public welfare the only thing to be done with them is to restrict their liberty of action by the ordinary processes of civilization. It is cheaper to keep 300 or 400 men in jail than to allow them to pursue such a line of activities as that followed under General Ryan's orders.

There is another remedy, and that is to deport such people to the country they came from. That remedy should be adopted without delay.

UNEMPLOYED BACHELORS ASK TO BE PUT IN JAIL.

Vancouver.—Unemployed bachelors, numbering two hundred, waited on the civil authorities and asked that they be put in jail as a means of providing them with food and lodging. The

mayor told them the city was not in a position to help them with work and could not put them in jail. Delegates from Victoria report a similar demonstration of unemployed bachelors there as means of drawing the attention of the authorities to their plight.

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MASS INTELLIGENCE WHAT IS REQUIRED

H. C. McDaniels Says Labor Better Opportunity to Create It Than Farmers.

Medicine Hat, Alta.—There are many lines of effort of mutual advantage to labor and organized farmers, declared H. C. McDaniels, fraternal delegate of the United Farmers of Alberta, at the session of the Alberta Federation of Labor convention, and one in particular was to "knock the 'con' out of the economic system."

Mr. McDaniels deplored the ever present spectre of unemployment and starvation. There was no lack of natural resources he said, nor machinery, transport or power, but there was a serious lack of mass intelligence.

"In my opinion," he said, "you have a better opportunity to create this essential than the farmers. To the progress of this development most democracy set its pace."

Mr. McDaniels stated that the last federal and provincial elections, so far as Alberta was concerned, were the finest examples of co-operation between two groups he had ever seen.

Warm Debate.

The federation, by a considerable majority, yesterday voted non-concurrence in a resolution calling for recognition of the Third International at Moscow. The debate was warm at times, but a majority of the delegates appeared to view with approval the statement of Fred White, M.L.A., chairman of the resolutions committee, when, in recommending non-concurrence, he said sufficient evidence was not at hand to enable Alberta labor to pass upon the merits either of the Amsterdam or Moscow Internationals.

Furthermore, considerable attention was paid when George Latham, delegate from Edmonton, read extracts from an address of Premier Lenine of Russia, in which the Soviet leader declared that "the policy of the Third International is incomprehensible to the foreigner, and if an occasional one did understand it he could not fulfil it."

Discussion on the Alberta minimum wage report resulted in several recommendations being made, one of which was that the minimum of \$14 a week was insufficient in view of the fact that the lowest living budget presented had been \$14.50 a week.

As Mr. Moore ably outlined the industrial conditions and the insurgency prevailing in Europe he gave an intensely interesting, panoramic word picture of the precise situation in each country as it was impressed on him during his observation and first hand study of the particular problems of each.

LABOR IN FRANCE IF SOLID, COULD STAY THE CRISIS

Tom Moore, Pres. of Dominion Trades Congress, Says This is His Impression From Recent Visit. Situation Result of the Ambitious French Movement for Trades Unionism Has Become Disrupted.

"The recent military expedition on the part of France into the Ruhr Valley would never have taken place if the Labor movement in France had been as solid as it was in 1919. If a plebiscite could have been taken of the workers in France, the action of the past few days would never have resulted. In France, as in all countries, there is a group of industrialists and financiers who are wedded to militarism, and the industrial captains of France have joined with the militarists to secure control of the coal and steel industry of Europe."

Such was the statement of his impression of the present European crisis made by Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and representative of Canadian Labor to the last conference of the International Labor Office at Geneva, in the course of a splendid address last evening before the members of Local 93, United Brotherhood of Carpenters, in their headquarters, 115 Sparks street.

The address was a logical and well-reasoned presentation of industrial conditions in Europe—a subject upon which the premier representative of Labor in Canada is well qualified to speak. Surveying the world situation in industry as it affected Labor, Mr. Moore considered "that the forces of reaction are paramount today, and that the advantages gained for the workers by the trade union movement in every country must be jealously safeguarded."

International Labor Office.

In urging the necessity of the continued existence of the International Labor Office as established by the provisions of the peace treaty, the speaker declared: "I am quite convinced that there are influences in the Canadian government that would be quite content if Canada never again sent a government representative to an International Labor Conference; influences that would be quite content if Canada should adopt the same isolation with regard to Europe as is being pursued by the United States."

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Up to the Workers.

In commencing, the speaker stated that he was convinced that upon the workers devolved to a large degree whether or not wars would menace civilization in the future. "There is no greater movement, in any country," declared Mr. Moore, "seeking to prevent war than that of the organized workers."

Referring to the present crisis in Europe, the speaker's impression of the situation was that it was the result of the ambition, on the part of the industrial captains and the militarists of France to secure control of the coal and steel industry of Europe. Had the workers of France spoken, he contended there would have been no such action as had resulted in the last few days. The French Labor movement had become disrupted, due to the activities of the Communist extremists with the result that the Labor movement in France had become weakened. He contrasted its present weakness with its strength and solidarity in 1919 when the French government, due to that solidarity he maintained, had enacted the eight-hour day.

"Because of the present weakness of the Labor movement in France," declared Mr. Moore, "the French government, so insistent that the Treaty of Versailles be observed as regard its financial clauses, is not so insistent at present that its obligations under Part 13 (relative to the eight-hour day) of that treaty shall be maintained in its own country."

Dealing with the conditions in Italy he said that that country "had also offered a fertile field for the activities of the Communist party." He traced the rise of the Fascist movement.

Touching upon Austria, he characterized the present situation in that country as "a depressing condition of affairs." The dismemberment of Austria had resulted in the division of its industrial centres among the neighbouring states.

German Confusion.

Referring to Germany, Mr. Moore admitted that he "was confused to know if Germany possessed the

wealth demanded of her," but, he added, "I am convinced, that the workers of Germany do not possess such wealth." Continuing into an analysis of the situation in Germany and its effect upon the rest of the world, the speaker declared that he was "not attempting to defend any actions committed by the German government or to plead mercy for those who had transgressed the laws of civilization."

"The German workers," he declared, "paid during the war in suffering and misery and they will continue to pay the price of war in continued suffering and social degradation."

In Great Britain.

Touching on conditions in Great Britain, he considered such to be "none too hopeful." While it was true that the British worker was slow to take drastic action, yet the speaker stated that "no one could go through England without realizing that there is a deep-seated and warranted resentment against the extreme inequality of social conditions in that country." Mr. Moore emphasized that he did not mean to imply by this that the Communist party was gaining headway in Great Britain, but there was the problem created by the "urgent urge of sensible men, thrown on the industrial scrap heap in the vigour of life because of unemployment."

Mr. Moore gave credit to the employers of Great Britain as being more amenable to the necessities of the workers than the employers of any other country.

UNION PRINTERS' HOME IS BEING EXTENDED.

In spite of the fact that the Typographical Union is carrying on a strike which costs its members half a million dollars a month the organization is able to announce the extension of the Union Printers' Home at Colorado Springs, which will cost \$125,000, Mr. W. R. Trotter stated upon his arrival at his home.

Mr. Trotter is the second vice-president of the International Typographical Union and has been absent on international affairs of the organization for many weeks.

He stated that the fight of the printers in the book and job section has been a remarkable test of endurance. They have contended against their own employers and the manufacturers' associations on both sides of the international border. The fight was for the Saturday half-holiday, and since May, 1921, about \$13,000,000 has been spent in the war. At one time more than 10,000 printers were drawing benefits. Now this figure has been reduced to less than 6,000. The real cause of the continuation of the strike, Mr. Trotter said, was the slump in business. If business would resume normally, the strike would fade into insignificance.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS THREE YEARS OLD

Dominion Premier Reviews Accomplishments in Field of Peace.

Ottawa.—"Three years ago the League of Nations Covenant was signed. It is fitting that this anniversary should not be permitted to pass without reflection upon the significance of that world instrument of peace, to which Canada was one of the signatories," Right Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King declared in a statement.

"In the sphere of accomplishment within this brief interval of time," he continued, "the League has prevented actual outbreaks of war in Europe. It has established a court on international justice and an international labor organization, which in the fields of politics and industrial relations have served to substitute good will for ill-will in the settlement of international differences, and the maintenance of industrial standards. Its humanitarian activities in the hands which have suffered most acutely from post war afflictions have afforded notable examples of the possibilities of an ever widening brotherhood."

"These stirrings of a world conscience, in which lies the ultimate hope of enduring peace, will be found in the growing public opinion of the League's 52 member nations with reference to the merits of international consultation and co-operation. The achievement of such an end is worth all possible effort in thought and action. That Canada has taken a worthy part in so great a cause may well be a source of national pride. It will become increasingly so as we further the work of the League, and support the purpose whenever and wherever opportunity may afford."

Paris.—The attorney general made formal request to the minister of justice today that the parliament immunity of Marcel Cachin, Communist member of the chamber of deputies, be suspended so as to allow a charge to be brought against him of an attempt against the internal and external safety of the state. Cachin recently returned from Essen, where he was active in propaganda work.

The Communists under arrest as a result of the government's campaign to apprehend the leaders of the Ruhr propaganda movement—new number eleven. They will be held in Sainte prison as political offenders to await trial.

TO CHARGE FRENCH COMMUNIST DEPUTY.

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QUADRUPLE PAY FOR LABOR ON SABBATH

Australian Visitor Says Sunday Observance Laws Are Strict In His Country.

The regular monthly meeting of the Anglican Fellowship Club, which was held in the parish hall of All Saints church, Laurier Avenue East, Ottawa, was addressed by Hon. Digby F. Denham, of Queensland, Australia, who is on a visit to Ottawa on behalf of the E.T.A.O.A. on a visit to Canada.

He said that the people of Canada and Australia knew very little of each other. There was very little news of Australia in the Canadian newspapers. Referring to Ex-Premier Hughes of Australia, Mr. Denham said he was a very remarkable man. He had risen from the position of a humble umbrella maker to the leadership.

In speaking of the wool production of Australia he said there were seventy-five million sheep in the country, and the value of the wool produced last year was ninety-two million pounds sterling. The railways, telephones and telegraphs were all state-owned, and the country was a white man's land. It was the only country in the world where cane sugar was raised by white labor. The Sunday laws there were strict and if a man had to work on Sunday he must be paid, not double, but four times his daily wage.

The programme for the evening was arranged by All Saints, St. Margaret's and St. Augustine's parishes and in the absence of the president of the club, Mr. A. de B. Tremaine occupied the chair. Cards were played, the prize winners being J. Titchings and P. Salmon.

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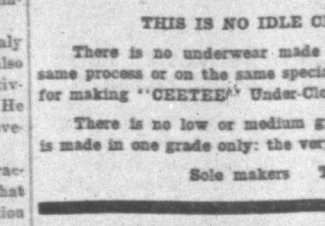
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