

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

Patronize White Laundries Who Employ White Labor



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LABOR PARTY IN ENGLAND PROMISE MANY REFORMS

From all appearances the working man in England is indeed burdened with many grievances and they have a good deal more troubles to contend with than we have in Canada as a resume of the platform of the newly elected Labour Party will show.

One of the big ideas of the Labour Party is the Capital Levy which they consider is the logical solution to reducing England's huge war debt and only effects those people who should and can well afford to share the burden. The Capital Levy will be a special tax to reduce the war debt and will be imposed once only. It is on private fortunes of over twenty-five thousand dollars and does not touch industry in any way. Neither is the levy at the same rate on all fortunes but a graduated scale would be used. On the first twenty-five thousand dollars of an individual's fortune there would be no tax but if a man had over twenty-five thousand dollars and up to thirty-thousand dollars, he would pay five per cent only on the amount over the twenty-five thousand. The scale gradually increases until we find that on fortunes of over five million dollars, the amount of the levy would be sixty per cent. On the scale proposed the levy should yield on a conservative estimate, three million pounds, sufficient, that is to say, to wipe out nearly half the debt, apart from owing to the United States Government (allowing for the fact the greater part of the debt now stands below par on the stock exchange), and to reduce the annual debt charges by about one hundred and fifty million pounds. The seriousness of the situation is apparent when it is considered that the proportion of the national expenditure that is devoted to the payment of interest on the War Debt has risen from ten per cent in 1918 to 42 per cent in 1923 and the interest paid now amounts to nearly one million pounds per day. While the Capital Levy plan has met with the strongest opposition, the Labour Party contend that the need is urgent if England is to get back to a sound basis of industrial activity and when you require money you have to go where the money is. They also state that the Capital Levy is the only practical plan yet suggested for stopping the enormous leak of money from the revenue of the country.

Old age pensions, re-establishment of fair wage boards, the unemployment question, taxation of land values, improved position of the farmer and better treatment for the returned soldier are among the other serious problems that are to be taken up by the Labor Department.

Federated Press Chief Purveyor of "Red" Propaganda in U.S.

The Federated Press is the chief propaganda distributing agency in America of the Communists and Bolsheviks of Russia. This agency is the medium through which the great mass of propaganda favorable to the red flag of general destruction in Russia is being circulated in this country. These facts should be kept in mind in reading the following statement which was issued by Ellis Searles, editor of the United Mine Workers Journal.

By ELLIS SEARLES

My attention has been called to an article recently issued by the Federated Press, and unfortunately, published in a number of labor publications that have been misled and beguiled by that outfit, in which an attack of ridicule is made on the series of articles given out by the United Mine Workers of America exposing the destructive activities of Communists in the American Labor Movement. The Federated Press falsely alleges that the articles were the product of a man who was closely connected with non-union coal operators, and that he peddled them around among anti-unionists who refused to buy them and that he then sold them to me. That statement is wholly untrue, like much of the other matter that is sent out by the Federated Press.

I started an investigation of Communist boring-from-within activities last February. The trail led to an amazing disclosure of disloyalty to both the United States and the organized labor movement. I soon found that the task of following that investigation was too great for any one person to handle, and I hired several persons to assist in the work. One of these persons was B. C. Clarke, who, the Federated Press falsely says peddled the articles around. Clarke did not offer the articles for sale to anyone. They were not Clarke's articles. They were my articles. I am the author of the articles, not Clarke. I directed Clarke's work and the work of the others who helped in their preparation. The Federated Press did not like the articles because they told some truths about that organization.

In one of the articles these statements were made:

"The major propaganda distributing agency of the Communists is the Federated Press."

The Federated Press has not denied that statement.

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their eyes to the new situation, are acting unwisely.

There is not the least likelihood that the ballot will be favorable to the continuance of the agreement; yet there are few signs that the owners are ready to modify their present views. Everything, therefore, points to the deadlock which may end in the miners resorting once again to industrial action in the effort to improve their lot.

Nor, in the present temper of the great shipping magnates, is the outlook for peace in dockland much better. With a few days the notice for an increase of 2s. a day will be given by the men's representatives. Unless that request is heeded, unless the cuts made since the summer of 1922 are restored, the possibility of a great national dock strike will have to be reckoned with.

Here again it will be prudent in the employers and the nation to recognize that the men are in earnest. This move is no "bluff"; it results from a deep-seated determination to win back some of the losses that, in the period of retreat, have been forced upon a very hard working and an indispensable body of workers.

The reason for these and other struggles for decent conditions of life is plain. As a result of an attack on wages, unexampled in its fury, the workers of this country have lost, at least a thousand million pounds a year. They were told that reduced wages would result in production costs being cut, and that work would then be found for the unemployed. Nothing of the kind has happened. There are still two millions either without work at all or on short time. Yet still the cry for lower wages goes up, in engineering, in wool, in cotton, in the whole range of industry there is intermittent employment and "standings off." Thus two millions of workers, with six million wives and children, have to go short of the necessities of life.

It is an appalling thought that by far the greater number of workers in the country's main industries are worse off now than they were before the war. That is the reason for this new movement towards an advance in wages, and it may be added that only by such advance can anything immediate be done to restore industry. Industry is depressed because too little money is being spent by the mass of the nation and because our foreign markets are not what they were. These will take a long time to restore, but the other evil can be remedied at once. Rises in wages would mean greater prosperity all round.

Should employers prove obdurate and see short-sighted to see this, 1924 will be a year of industrial strife. But should a Labor Government be in power, the workers will not, as hitherto, find the dice loaded against them. They will know that the Government is not under the control of financiers and industrial magnates; they will have, for the first time in their history, sympathy and a feeling of comradeship towards them at Westminster and in Whitehall.

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The Fight For Better Homes and Lives

The new year is likely to be marked not only by the advent of political labor to power, but by growing movements of the industrial side of the Movement for better conditions and higher wages. Throughout the ranks of the workers there is a deep feeling that they have endured privation and hardship long enough and that every effort must be made to raise the standards of comfort and home.

Dockers have already made known their intention of seeking advances in wages. A million miners are balloting. Railwaymen are closely watching the companies' manoeuvres for an attack on their basic rates. Engineers are beginning to think in terms of a forward movement. In building and in almost every other great industry the attitude of defence is changing to one of attack.

Saturday's decision of the delegate conference of the Miners' Federation to take a ballot throughout the coal fields on the question of ending the present wage agreement shows clearly the change in outlook and method. Those who rely on the fact that three months' notice must be given after the miners have voted and who are inclined to shut

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International Federation of Trade Unions

SECRETARIAT NOTICES.

We have arranged with the German Trade Unions to pass on the following appeal. We ask not only the members of the organizations affiliated with us in all countries, but all who would like to help German children to send gifts.

It is requested that all donations be sent to the address: International Federation of Trade Unions, Amsterdam. Post Box 1065.

International Federation of Trade Unions.

J. OUDEGEEST,
 JOH. STSSENBACH,
 Secretaries.

Help for German Working-Class Children.

Privation and hunger are making terrible ravages in Germany. Starvation wages, gold mark prices, unemployment and short time work are daily reducing the strength of the German working classes. The greatest sufferers of all, are, however, the Children of the Working Classes.

Various charities unconnected with Labor are beginning to collect crumbs from the tables of the rich for the poorest of the poor. But Labor itself, is anxious to take a hand in the work; not only foreign labor, but even German Labor, burdened though it is with its own privations. The rescue

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