

P.S. One other point occurs to me. In England, Australia, New Zealand and (in the main) the United States, organized Labour has, as you know, been given a very large place in the control of every branch of the war effort. In Canada, the situation has been very different. The December issue of the Canadian Congress Journal (organ of the Trades and Labour Congress, not this body I work for); there is a list of Controllers, Administrators, Co-ordinators, Deputy Controllers, etc., and Directors of Crown companies, running to over eight large pages of close print. In the whole lot there are exactly three trade unionists. I shall not argue the case for including adequate union representation farther than this: that it seems to me that even if every one of the representatives chosen was quite worthless in himself, a perfect dud on the Board or Committee or whatever it was (and I am convinced that there are many trade unionists who would be very useful indeed), it is only common sense to put some union people in so that organized Labour will feel that it is being taken into partnership in the running of the war, not simply asked to take orders. After all, it has as much to lose in this war as anyone, or more. Yet King apparently just can't see the psychological value of making even a small gesture in this direction.

B. A. J.

I note that the Globe and Mail says the men should go back to work and "place their case before the people of Canada, and the people of Canada will not fail them". But the men have ~~been~~ been placing their case before the people of Canada, for over a year. They did it in their evidence and submissions before the Commission. The transcript of the union witnesses' evidence runs to hundreds of pages; the union brief, most of which I wrote, runs to about 60 pages of single-spaced typing, the union exhibits run to at least double that. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ If the Globe and Mail, or anyone else, can tell us how to get our case more fully before the people, and how to make sure that the people of Canada, gagged and bound as they are by King and his cohorts, ~~will~~ will not fail us, we shall be only too pleased. Working men don't like strikes, goodness knows; union leaders don't like them either (for one thing, every union official takes pride in building up the union's financial position, and a strike of any proportions simply shoots that to pieces); but in this case the men and their leaders, rightly or wrongly (and everyone has to judge that for himself) came to the conclusion that any other means of getting what they considered ~~the~~ justice had been exhausted.

I may also add that the union has repeatedly made to the Government constructive proposals for greater steel production. All its suggestions have been ignored, evaded or rejected.

B. A. J.