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TIME NEVER RIPE

If the subject under discussion at the Industrial conference on Tuesday had been the six-hour day and the five-day week we would have expected considerable opposition to the proposal. But that there should have been strenuous opposition to the eight-hour day is almost incredible.

That long hours are not necessary for greater production, has been proven in many instances beyond the shadow of a doubt. When the time of the conference is being consumed by opposition to such an obvious measure as the eight-hour day, it is evident indeed that an inculcation of twentieth century ideas is necessary in the case of some Canadian manufacturers.

A PROGRESSIVE STEP

The executive meeting of the Alberta Teachers' Alliance, a full account of which appears in another column, was a notable event in the annals of the teachers' movement of this province.

It is obvious that the teachers are not going to be content hereafter with a wage that is ridiculously low when the responsibility attached to the teacher's position is taken into consideration. The proposed minimum which is \$360 more than at present in force is not at all too high.

Members of the trade union movement will be pleased to know of the teachers' determination to have more say in the arrangements under which they shall work. The experience and machinery of the Labor Movement is at the disposal of the teachers, and any assistance required will be gladly given by Organized Labor in this Province.

HE SAID IT, OTHERS THINK IT.

James Waters, Canadian delegate at the Glasgow labor conference, told his fellow delegates yesterday that union government in Canada had been unscrupulous in its dealings with labor. We don't know just who Mr. Waters is representing in Canadian labor ranks, but feel certain that his opinion does not represent truly the feeling of organized labor in this country.

There is no law to prevent the Herald from "feeling certain" about anything. But we do know that Jim Waters, who is representing the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and does "represent truly the feelings of organized labor in this country," has voiced the feeling of the great majority of Canadian trade-unionists; the Calgary Herald to the contrary notwithstanding. We are judging from the fact that we have heard very general condemnation of the Government's policy with regard to organized labor, and we have yet to hear any favorable comment by trade-unionists regarding the Government's dealings with labor.

KEEPING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD.

The Convention of the British Trades Union Congress which was held last week was a notable gathering. The eyes of the world were on the convention and a tense interest was taken in the proceedings. Just as the British Parliament is referred to as the "mother of Parliaments," so is the British Trades Union Congress the greatest federation of working class organizations in the world.

Direct action, or industrial action, for political purposes was in the convention of last week, the question of greatest moment. Strong and influential leaders took opposite stands on the question, and the vote which decided against direct action should without doubt be representative of British trades' unionism as a whole.

Meager dispatches available in this country make it difficult at this date to comment on the work of the convention, but it would seem that the gathering was radical yet moderate, with the extremes of either type not having a great influence on the delegates assembled. While direct action was defeated, nationalization of mines, railways, banks, etc., received almost unanimous support. Havelock Wilson, who probably represents the ultra-moderate group was defeated on the vote for the members of the new parliamentary committee, and his speech in opposition to nationalization was not well received. The Congress appears to have adopted the safe procedure of traveling in the middle of the road.

COALITION'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED.

The claim is freely made that the Coalition Government of Great Britain was elected on an appeal to passion. "Kill the Kaiser," "Make Germany Pay," and like phrases were the election cries of Lloyd George supporters. The result was the return of a strong Tory government, with an influence so great as to counteract the effect of any Liberal views the Prime Minister might possess.

A different condition now prevails. And the result of the changed situation is showing in the outcome of elections that have taken place during the present year. Even allowing for the fact that by-elections in Great Britain usually go against the government in power, the remarkable reversal of the vote in this case cannot pass without notice. The situation is such that it leads the London Daily Mail to remark that, "a Labor government is not a remote possibility."

Canadian Laborites will gain an especial satisfaction from the election of Arthur Henderson by a majority of one thousand votes in the Widnes by-election. Predictions that Henderson had lost the confidence of the British people are proven to be unfounded, and the great Labor leader can be expected to fill a prominent part in the national life of Great Britain during the coming months.

THE AGITATOR.

The eminently respectable word, "agitator," has fallen into dire disrepute. It has taken the place of almost every other distasteful epithet with which men were wont to brand the undesirable individual. There is no valid reason that we can see, why a perfectly good and innocent word should have descended to the level that "agitator" has. Our dictionary gives the meaning of the word as: "One who, or that which, agitates, rouses, or stirs up."

If conditions on this old globe are in every way ideal, then the agitator in whatsoever cause is a menace. If "man's inhumanity to man" and the exploitation of one group of society by another are myths, then the agitator is a nuisance. If improvements in our economic and social life are not to be desired, then the agitator is an undesirable. But on the other hand, if our methods of government, our economic and social system, our ethical standards are not what

they should be, the agitator is an asset to our national life and plays a very necessary part in the progress of the race.

If we can be justly termed an "agitator" we will feel that this paper has gone a long way toward fulfilling its mission. "One who, or that which, agitates, rouses or stirs up." To agitate for a higher standard of economic and social life for the worker; to rouse the unorganized from their lethargy and assist them to take their proper place in the line of human progress; to stir up the workers' organizations to a larger conception of their responsibilities, that they may be of greater value to the membership; truly, a great and glorious mission is that of the agitator.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

Silk hats will now be gently laid to rest. R. I. P.

The Labor Party is the workers' medium of political expression. Are you a member?

A number of Canadian papers are saying that the "better element" of the returned soldiers are not taking part in the bonus demonstrations. Somehow the expression has a familiar sound.

The decision of the Trades' Council to lower the per capita tax was a wise one. A large affiliation with a small per capita is much more to be desired than a small membership with a large per capita tax.

Union, association, alliance, society, or whatnot. What's in a name when a body of workers get together for mutual benefit and protection. And by the way, just keep your eye on the Alberta Teachers' Alliance.

We would like to have been at the Industrial Congress to have heard the reasons why J. R. Shaw representing the employers thought it impossible to co-ordinate the multifarious federal and provincial laws affecting labor.

J. W. Bruce of Toronto, has a happy knack of hitting the nail on the head and his statement to the effect that our Government might well keep its mind off the European situation long enough to clear up the muddle at home, was no exception to the rule.

We must appreciate the fine sarcasm of James Auld's remark at the investigation of the Board of Commerce in Winnipeg, when he said to a representative of the packers: "The farmers don't make money; the creameries don't make money; you don't make money; nobody's making money."

Arthur Henderson is occupying a prominent place in British political circles just now, and his utterances are being cabled to all parts of the globe. Which reminds us that we don't hear much of Peter Wright whose unscrupulous attacks on Henderson, Canadians will not soon forget.

One cannot but marvel at the child-like simplicity of some of our molders of public opinion. For example the Toronto Mail and Empire believes that a victory over the steel workers by the Trust would "indicate to everyone that the period of union disregard of national needs and of the public's welfare had disappeared." We wonder if the Mail and Empire does really believe that if the Steel Trust still further succeeds in retaining its system of slavery, efforts on behalf of organized labor to loose the steel workers' shackles will cease. No! All the newspaper ranting in the world by the Trust's apologists about "national needs" and "public welfare" will not deter the American Trade Union movement in its efforts to free the enslaved victims of the gigantic octopus known as the United States Steel Corporation.

TUCKETT'S CIGAR COMPANY'S SYSTEM CLAIMED UNFAIR

Refuses to Negotiate With Men Asking Raise of \$1 Per Thousand

The Trades and Labor Council has ordered that the following letter which is self-explanatory, should be published in the Edmonton Free Press. To all Organized Labor and their Friends:

We are taking this method to inform you of the system the Tuckett Cigar Co., now employ in the manufacture of the following brands of Cigars: Tuckett's Preferred, Club Special, and Marguerite. Previous to the Cigarmakers asking for an increase of \$1.00 (One Dollar) a thousand, these Cigars were made by men only, and were strictly hand made.

The Tuckett Co. refused to negotiate with the men, and even closed their plant, located in the city of Hamilton, and left in the neighborhood of 300 employees to starve as far as they were concerned.

They are now operating factories in Montreal, and London, and the above mentioned brands are now made by children, and machine section table work, they have also a few women working on these jobs, and are now working from 10 to 12 hours a day, and are paying from \$4.00 to \$5.00 less than the Union scale of wages.

We are asking all Organized Labor, and their friends, to register their protest against this firm's action, by refusing to use any of the Tuckett Co. products. Also if possible have your local give this circular three readings at the next meetings, and a committee to give this all the publicity possible.

We herewith submit a few names of popular Union brands of cigars which are fair to Organized Labor, and bear the Cigarmakers' Blue Label: The Jap, Armada, David Harum, Eldora, El-Sidelo, Bobbie Burns, and La Preference.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this circular, and what action, if any, your local has taken. Fraternally, CIGARMAKERS' LOCAL 278, London, Ont.

UNIONISTS FINED FOR NOT PARADING ON LABOR DAY

At Portland, Ore., the Meatcutters' Union assessed fines aggregating about \$100 on members of the union who failed to march in the Labor Day parade and then voted to give the money thus obtained to the Jewelry Workers' Union for use in their picketing fund.

Astonishing Values in the Home Furnishing Section

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