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### THE BRITISH LABOR MOVEMENT

(Continued from Page One)

press labor newspapers at his discretion, as has been done in America with us?" I inquired.

The reply was a hearty laugh. "Why Lloyd George knows only too well that it was tactics of that sort which made a bloody revolution in Russia inevitable," he said, adding that the same realization of the intention of the workers to maintain the right of free press is held by the government with a respect to papers more directly propagandist in their outlook, such as the Glasgow "Forward."

Any article on the British Labor Press at the present time must centre on the Daily Herald. It is the one daily newspaper of British labor; is already a very vital factor in the labor movement on this side, and is steadily gaining in importance. Remarkable success in getting accurate news from Russia is only one reason why it is so cherished by the British Labor Movement. The special trade union committee of which Arthur Henderson is chairman, appointed last November to assist in developing the paper, stated recently that "during the trying period of reconstruction through which we are passing our work would appear well high hopes without the Daily Herald."

It was the great railway strike last fall which really made the Daily Herald. The capitalist press united in characterizing the attitude of the railway men as something little short of anarchy. As the only daily giving a true account of the strikers' case the Herald's fundamental importance to the whole labor movement was recognized everywhere. Its daily circulation leaped to half a million and at city news stands there were throngs every morning asking for "the labor paper."

That the circulation since then has dropped to a daily average of something over 300,000 is due solely to the fact that the paper's present printing equipment in London can not meet the full demand.

Imagine an honest labor newspaper with a circulation approximating that of the New York Times and reaching every corner of Great Britain, a paper which subscribes to every press association operating in England and in addition is now spending upwards of \$25,000 a year on special foreign correspondence, a paper which not only covers the industrial news of Great Britain from the workers standpoint, but which can be relied upon to contain all that is essential of the news printed in other papers—and you have a good idea of the position already reached by the Herald. And yet it is of comparatively recent origin, founded in March, 1912 as a daily, becoming a weekly in September, 1914 (after the outbreak of war), and starting up as a daily again only in March, 1919. It should be noted that the Herald would not have been able to resume publication as a daily last year had it not been for the generosity of a small group of wealthy sympathizers who made the paper an unconditional gift of half a million dollars, without any suggestions or strings as to policy attached.

At first glance the Daily Herald is not impressive to American eyes, following the general English custom of small size and extreme condensation of

all but the most important news. There are only five columns to the page and eight pages a day, excepting Monday when the issue is ten pages. The Herald does not appear Sundays at present. This smallness of size is somewhat compensated by the small attention which is paid to advertising, an average of not more than three columns an issue being taken up by trade "ads." About a page is given to topical photographs and other daily features. There is an editorial page of exceptional strength, which carries special articles by men and women prominent in all phases of labor movement. There are also excellent cartoons by Will Dyson, rather spoilt by being compressed into one column width. In common with most English papers the Herald is not a financial success at the present time. It is running at a loss of about \$3000 a week.

The plans which have been laid to develop the Daily Herald and insure financial success, promise to make it one of the greatest and most influential newspapers in the world, bar none. They comprise (1) printing simultaneously in London and Manchester, in the northwest of England, with the same general, but different local news, so that the industrial north and Ireland can be readily supplied with a real labor newspaper. It is expected that this will result in the circulation going up to a million copies a day, (2) Enlarging the paper by making it ten or twelve pages daily, and adding a Sunday edition, which could be accomplished when the present strain on the London plant is relieved, (3) Issuing an Evening Daily Herald, with entirely different staff but same general policy as the present paper.

To accomplish these ends a great deal of money is necessary, and the way the entire labor movement is rallying to supply this money is typical of the co-operation which is bringing so much success in England. The special committee appointed by trade union officials to develop the paper consists of Arthur Henderson, secretary of the Labor Party; Frank Hodges of the miners, J. H. Thomas of the railwaymen; Ernest Bevin of the dockers; W. C. Robinson and Ben Turner of the Textile workers. Local development committees are at work in every section of the country and from the way cash and pledges are rolling in it appears that the desired fund of \$500,000 will be at hand by the end of this month. An important development contemplated will later give the unions authority to nominate half of the board of directors of the paper, though there is no question of interfering with the control of policy exercised by George Lansbury as chairman of the editorial board.

So far as the daily newspaper field is concerned the Daily Herald is the labor press of Great Britain. At the present time it is far from adequate to the responsibility imposed by this condition, a fact which its editors are the first to admit. It must be remembered, however, that any big New York or Chicago paper has a territorial circulation as wide as England, Scotland and Wales combined, and that Great Britain is still a country largely dependent on three cities—London, Manchester and Glasgow—for an informative press. When the Daily Herald is printed simultaneously in London and Manchester, with a morning and afternoon edition, and possible further development in Glasgow, a long step will have been taken towards meeting the insistent demand for a press able to voice the truth about the British Labor Movement.

The Daily Herald is the only daily, but by no means the only paper of British labor. There is a strong group of influential labor weeklies which are not only filled with labor news of national and international importance, but also serve to fill in the field of local information which is beyond the scope of the Daily Herald. A good example is the "Labor Leader," at present a four column, twelve page weekly with a circulation of 60,000. This paper is the official journal of the Independent Labor Party and well expresses the in-

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"Moreover, the workers must be assured that the increased production due to their increased efforts shall result in ameliorating the condition of the consumers instead of raising still higher the already scandalously large profits of the labor exploiters."

Intelligence, common sense, and fighting qualities which have made this Socialist organization the leading factor in the labor movement. Special articles by such leading characters as Ramsey MacDonald, Margaret Bondfield, Philip Snowden and Mary MacArthur have much to do with its popularity.

Weekly papers rather similar to the Labor Leader in appearance, but more violent in tone, are the "Call," the official organ of the British Socialist party, and the Glasgow "Forward," an independent paper mainly devoted to spreading the cause of industrial unionism. The circulation of the latter is about 40,000; that of the Call something less.

In common with other European countries there is a strong demand in England now for building up a powerful and comprehensive International Labor Press Service. This sentiment is being reduced to practical details. The Daily Herald has already unofficially promised to spend \$2,500 a year in subscribing to such a service. Plans for general British participation have been pretty well worked out. The executive committee of the Trades Union Congress have been asked to consider the recommendation that British Labor's official subscription to an International Labor Press should be not less than \$15,000 a year. Here a reliable international labor news service is regarded as a most necessary step and there is much comment over the apparent apathy of American labor towards the project.

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