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THE Voice of Senator Belcourt Mumbles from the Senate Chamber Graveyard, "Let the Unionizing of the Workers be Made a Penitentiary Offense."

MILWAUKEE VICTORY

For the first time in American history a large city has elected a Socialist council, Mayor and officials. Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a city of almost four hundred thousand people has gone overwhelmingly Socialist. By the elections on April 4th, the two old party candidates were turned down cold and Milwaukee set her face to the light.

Just before the election the then Democratic Mayor, David Rose, in a public speech asked pompously, "Citizens of Milwaukee, how would you like to go away from your home and have it flung in your face that you were a city of Socialists?" He paused for a reply and a voice answered, "Well, that would not be so bad," and the audience broke out into a storm of applause. Rose subsided without finishing his speech.

Emil Seidel, the Socialist candidate, has been elected Mayor by a plurality of 7,109 votes. The total vote was: Seidel, 27,622; V. J. Schonecker, Dem., 20,513, and John M. Bieffel, Rep., 11,262.

Seidel is a pattern maker by trade. After his election he kept at work and went to his job at seven o'clock in the morning as usual. He expects to quit his job in a few days.

Of the aldermen the Socialists elected all seven of the aldermen at large and twenty-one out of the thirty-five ward aldermen. Ten Democrats and four Republicans compose the balance of the council.

In addition the Socialists elected the controller, treasurer and city attorney. The council will appoint the commissioner of health, inspector of buildings, two public service commissioners out of three on the board of public works, city engineer, tax commissioner, fire and police commissioner and all the minor positions which go with these offices. The city will be in control of the Socialists for two years.

The following is the past vote of the Socialist party in Milwaukee since 1898:

1898	2,414 votes
1900	2,473 votes
1902	8,455 votes
1904	15,056 votes
1906	16,837 votes
1908	20,887 votes
1910	A CLEAN SWEEP.

There are many causes going to produce this splendid result. There is the general unrest throughout the country. There were the clean records of the Socialist aldermen in the last council, men whose rugged honesty would not yield to bribery nor their courage to intimidation. There were the corruption and bribery that reigned throughout Milwaukee under both old regimes. There was also the terrible exploitation of labor in the breweries of Milwaukee. But there was first and foremost the campaign of education and agitation carried on ceaselessly and energetically by the Milwaukee Socialists. Hundreds of thousands of dodgers and leaflets were scattered throughout the city. They were left at every door by a willing squad of workers who worked during the day for their wages and during half the night for the freedom of their class.

Milwaukee is the home of the political actionists, the Victor Berger school. They have struggled to conquer through the ballot. Their platform on which they won contained the following planks: Home rule for this city, initiative and referendum, better schools, municipal ownership, penny lunches, street car company to sprinkle streets, trades union conditions of labor, a seat for every passenger in the street cars—lifting jacks, automatic breakers, fenders, three cent street car fare, eight hour day for labor, cheaper gas, cheaper ice by means of municipal plant, cheaper coal and wood by municipal fuel yards, cheaper and better light—and more of it by means of municipal plant, corporations to pay their full share of taxes, clean street cars, work for the unemployed at union wages and eight hour day, widows who do washing to support families to have water rates remitted by city, cheap bread by requiring standard weight in every loaf.

The Milwaukee victory will give the Socialists new courage throughout the American continent. "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick," declared Solomon. If the Socialists, with heart sick hope fought with such courage in the past, what will be the courage with which they will fight now? Already the victory is

rousing the workers. Already the old party representatives read the writing on the wall. A new Social order is dawning.

When labor wakes capitalism will be rocked to sleep.

What shall we do to help the criminals? Abolish the capitalist system which forces men to become criminals.

Shall the workers control or shall the useless capitalists? The workers have the votes and can control if they will but act together politically.

Thirty thousand immigrants are booked to come to Canada during the month of April. Some are coming as labor exploiters, but the great mass are coming as wage slaves.

The Bank of Montreal has lost millions in Mexico. Is Belcourt trying to get back these millions for the Bank of Montreal by sweating them out of the hides of Canadian workers?

The Bank of Montreal got pinched in Mexico through the failure of a Mexican bank. The exploitation of the peon labor however is profitable and the loss of a million or two will quickly be made up again by the profits arising from slave labor.

There is insurgency within the Conservative Party at Ottawa. This is a healthy sign of agitation. But the insurgency among the Conservatives at Ottawa is insignificant compared with the insurgency among the workers who are insurging against capitalist exploitation.

The workers operate modern industry while the parasite capitalists own, control and enjoy the machinery of production and the resulting riches. Socialism would place the ownership, control and enjoyment within the power of the class that does the useful work.

We have social production. A thousand workers produce socially. But the boss takes the lion's share of the wealth produced. A thousand men toil and one enjoys. Would it not be a good idea to so arrange society that the thousand who toil should also enjoy?

There is to be a government Commission for the Conservation of natural resources. But the members of the Commission will have the right of buying and selling the natural resources of Canada while they are commissioners. Sifton will be the head of the Commission. This is capitalism run wild.

Canada is developing rapidly. The surplus values from the wage slaves of other countries are pouring into Canada in enormous volume to create the same condition of capitalist exploitation and labor unrest as exists in other countries. But the quicker the development takes place the sooner will the revolt come.

Independent labor politics are all right providing the politics are absolutely independent and are saturated with revolutionary Socialism. The S. P. of C. fulfils these conditions. Much of the so-called independent labor politics is but a sham to deceive the workers into supporting the political parties of the exploiting class.

Christopher Furness, ship builder of Great Britain, a year ago started a profit sharing scheme. The workers who purchased stock were to have big interest on their money. The workers in the Furness plants have now decided after a year's trial, that they do not want the profits on such a basis. They are on to the game that Furness is playing on them. Labor produces all wealth and when labor pays dividends to itself it is but transferring the wealth it produces from one pocket to another. The dividends labor does not get, but which goes to Furness the capitalist, are robbed from the workers. So the workers have resolved that they are not in favor of the scheme which robs the workers and then aims at keeping the workers quiet under robbery by giving back to the plundered a little of the plunder taken from them.

BELCOURT WOULD BREAK THE BACKS OF THE LABOR UNIONS

The Ottawa-gang is against labor. You have to watch them continuously and eternally lest they reduce the Canadian worker to the position of the Russian serf or the Mexican peon. The latest attempt to smash labor comes from the Senate.

I have been not paying much attention to the Senate and its activities. I have considered that the Senate was an expensive home kept up by the people of Canada for the aged infirm and decayed politicians who had grown old in the trickeries of legislation and in sycophancy to the capitalists.

Now from this home of the aged and dying mumbles a voice. It is the voice of Senator Belcourt. Reactionary to the last he wants to bind the workers helpless to the triumphant capitalists of Canada.

Belcourt is cute. He knows that what he is about to do will raise a cry against him. So just as a dog will sneak in and steal a ham and run, so Belcourt wants to sneak legislation through, get away with it, and escape before the wrath of the workers wakes against him.

The bill is very innocent in appearance. The following is the bill.

THE SENATE OF CANADA.

BILL CCC.

An Act to amend The Criminal Code.

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:—

1. Section 497 of The Criminal Code is hereby amended by inserting, after the word "union" in the first line thereof, the words "whose members are British subjects."

2. Subsection 2 of section 498 of The Criminal Code is hereby amended by inserting, after the word "employees" in the second line thereof, the words "who are British subjects."

That bill gives no hint of the work it will do. It appears innocent enough until the Criminal Code is turned to and the articles referred to are read as amended by Belcourt's bill. The following are the three articles affected, with the amendments, as proposed by Belcourt inserted therein in capital letters and in brackets.

OFFENCES CONNECTED WITH TRADE AND BREACHES OF CONTRACT.

496. A conspiracy in restraint of trade is an agreement between two or more persons to do or procure to be done any unlawful act in restraint of trade.

497. The purpose of a trade union (WHOSE MEMBERS ARE BRITISH SUBJECTS) are not, by reason merely that they are in restraint of trade, unlawful within the meaning of the last preceding section.

498. Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to a penalty not exceeding four thousand dollars and not less than two hundred dollars, or to two years' imprisonment, or, if a corporation, is liable to a penalty not exceeding ten thousand dollars, and not less than one thousand dollars, who conspires, combines, agrees, or arranges with any other person, or with any railway, steamship, steamboat or transportation company,—

- (a) to unduly limit the facilities for transporting, producing, manufacturing, supplying, storing or dealing in any article or commodity which may be a subject of trade of commerce; or
- (b) to restrain or injure trade or commerce in relation to any such article or commodity; or
- (c) to unduly prevent, limit, or lessen the manufacture or production of any such article or commodity, or to unreasonably enhance the price thereof; or
- (d) to unduly prevent or lessen competition in the production, manufacture, purchase, barter, sale, transportation or supply of any such article or commodity, or in the price of insurance upon person or property.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to combinations of workmen or employees (WHOSE

MEMBERS ARE BRITISH SUBJECTS) for their own reasonable protection, as such workmen or employees.

Do you see where this amendment will land the unions? It will break them completely. If this amendment passes, unions whose members are not British subjects, and members of the International unions such as the Typographical Union, the Western Federation of Miners, the United Mine Workers, and other like international unions, will be completely put out of business in Canada.

Section 497 and subsection 2 of the Criminal Code of Canada are the articles which protect the trades unions from criminal prosecution under the Statute Law and the old British statutes. By the old laws of conspiracy no two workers could get together to discuss their wages even without being liable to punishment by imprisonment. Unions were altogether forbidden. It was only by a continuous series of bomb outrages and assassinations of bosses in England by the workers that the British Unions were given a protective clause similar to that now enjoyed by the unions in Canada.

This bill of Belcourt's is as savage a bill as ever was conceived in the mind of a slave driver.

Read section 498 carefully. Subsection two as proposed to be amended by Belcourt would read that the conspiracy laws would not apply to unions whose members are British subjects, from uniting for their own reasonable protection as such workmen or employees. This would throw the foreign workers back under the savage laws of the conspiracy. IT WOULD DEPRIVE THE FOREIGN WORKERS IN CANADA OF THEIR RIGHT TO COMBINE AND MAKE THEM AS MUCH THE PEONS OF THE CANADIAN CAPITALISTS AS ARE MEXICAN PEONS OF THE DIAZ EXPLOITERS.

No two foreign workers in Canada could get together to demand a rise in wages without making themselves liable in damages. No company could agree to pay its foreign workers an increase of wages nor to make a contract with them collectively with regard to wages without being liable to a ten thousand dollar penalty.

The foreign workers, should they strike, could each be jailed for two years. If they have saved anything it could be taken from them by a four thousand dollar fine against each and every worker who struck. And the foreign worker in Canada would be reduced to such a state of peonage that the Canadian worker would be dragged into peonage with him.

The United Mine Workers are on strike in Glace Bay. Owing to the jokers in the Alien Labor Act, the coal company can import Belgians and other European workers. A thousand of these workers are on their way now. These men will probably be socialists. They are probably coming under contract, not knowing the true condition of affairs. They will combine in unions when they come over here. That is what Belcourt wants to prevent. He desires that these workers shall be kept in bondage to the coal companies.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company is putting on big gangs of workers this year. There are seven thousand already put on work. These are mostly foreigners, Swedes, Norwegians and Italians. Belcourt wants to prevent these workers combining among themselves for their reasonable protection. He wants a law that will lay them prostrate under the lash of the C. P. R. slave drivers.

Rome had free laborers. The conquests began of other lands and Rome was flooded with slaves, prisoners who had been captured in war. This slave labor replaced the free labor and the hardy Romans who were formerly workers at good wages and independent, were thrown out of work and became the rabble that destroyed Rome.

Belcourt would smash Canadian independent labor. He would enslave the foreign workers and the enslavement of Canadian labor would necessarily follow.

But the workers are protesting. At a mass meeting of the Toronto Street Railway employees held in the Labor Temple of that city the workers protested against Belcourt's barefaced attempt to take away from the workers their most effective means of securing their rights from their bosses.

The Glace Bay Local of the Socialist Party of Canada has passed the following resolution and forwarded it to Laurier of the murder ship infamy, To the Hon. Wilfred Laurier,

Premier of Canada:
Sir,—We the members of Local Glace Bay, of the Socialist Party of Canada, in general meeting assembled, on the 31st day of March, 1910, hereby place ourselves on record in the following resolution:

Whereas, The Socialist Party is the Political expression of the working class, having for its object their emancipation without any distinction of race, creed or nationality, and to achieve this end the solidarity of the workers must be secured and maintained on both the political and industrial fields,

And Whereas, Senator Belcourt has introduced, in the Senate of Canada, a bill (C. C. C.) the object of which is an attempt to disrupt the solidarity of international labor by making it criminal for the workers in Canada of various races and nationalities to organize in their own interest, and thus placing them more completely at the mercy of their exploiters, the capitalist class,

Therefore Be It Resolved: That Local Glace Bay, of the Socialist Party of Canada, do most emphatically protest against the passing of this proposed bill by the Parliament of Canada.

Yours truly,
ALFRED NASH,
Secretary Glace Bay Local Socialist Party of Canada.

Local Union No. 469, U. M. W. A., Springhill, N. S., has also protested with the following resolution:

Springhill, N. S.
April 1st, 1910
To His Excellency the Governor General of the Dominion of Canada, The Hon. President of the Senate and to His Honor the Speaker and Members of the House of Commons for the said Dominion.

The Petitioners of the undersigned, Respectfully sheweth—

That Whereas Labor Unions are composed of workmen of various Nationalities, who may or may not be British subjects and who have interests in common.

Whereas the government of Canada has spread literature in Foreign Countries to induce workers of these Countries to immigrate to Canada.

And we know that the British flag stands for justice and protection to all men, without distinction of Creed, Race or Nationality and that the passing of Bill (S. CCC.) proposed to debar Unions their right to remain organized which we consider our only means of protection.

Again it is to be regretted that at a time like this when Labor and Capital are so often at variance that it should be further antagonized by drastic legislation as Senator Belcourt proposes to enact and whereas there is no law that can prevent employers or capitalists from organizing whether they be British subjects or not.

Be It Therefore Resolved that we as a loyal body comprising fifteen hundred workmen organized in Local Union No. 469, United Mine Workers of America, located in the Town of Springhill in the Province of Nova Scotia, do place ourselves on record as being strongly opposed to the enactment of such hostile legislation as proposed by Senator Belcourt.

We are respectfully yours, on behalf of Local Union 469, U. M. W. of A.,
C. A. BONNYMAN, President.
W. WATKINS, Secretary.

Are the workers going to stand forever such treatment? Are they going to let Senators and capitalist politicians do away with their liberties?

A mighty protest alone will save the Canadian workers from being flung back a hundred years into slavery equalled only by that of Russia and Mexico.

The hope of unjust men is wrapped up in the capitalist system.

THE EIGHT HOUR DAY

In three provinces and in the Dominion Parliament bills have been introduced to give the eight hour day to workers. In British Columbia the following bill was introduced in the Legislature by Hawthornthwaite the Socialist Member,

An Act to establish a General Eight-hour Day.

HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the "Eight-hour Day Act, 1910."
2. No person shall be employed in any industry, where the hours of labor have not already been regulated by law, for a longer period than eight hours in any twenty-four hours, and six days in any one week.
3. "Twenty-four hours," for the purpose of this Act, shall mean from midnight to midnight.
4. Any owner, agent, or manager, or any one acting on their behalf, employing any workman or person in contravention of this Act shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars, nor less than twenty dollars, for each workman or person so employed, and any workman or person so working for a longer period than specified in section 2 of this Act shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred dollars, nor less than twenty dollars.
5. This Act shall come into force on the first day of May, 1910.

Of course this bill was turned down by McBride's plunderband.

In Ontario a bill was introduced to give the eight hour day. It was killed by postponing its consideration for six months. This was done on the motion of the Premier the so-called "Progressive" Whitney.

In Nova Scotia a bill to regulate the hours of labor in shops and offices has been introduced. Its fate will probably be the fate of the other bills in the sister provinces.

Verville introduced a bill to give eight hours to workers on government works and prohibit the government from purchasing supplies made in shops where the working day was longer than eight hours. The bill was sent to a committee and there it lingers and is buried.

As long as the workers will continue to vote for their exploiters they can expect to be kept in wage slavery. When the workers vote in the revolutionary Socialists, then the workers will not have to go round begging their parliamentary representatives to give them the eight hour day. When the workers vote in the Socialists then the workers will control industry themselves. They will run the machinery of production in their own interests. They will cease to support the parasite capitalists. They will no longer be forced to earn dividends for the idlers. They will no longer be forced to support landlords. They will no longer be compelled to provide fat livings for the stock exchange brokers. They will work and provide for themselves and families. Each and every worker will rise to affluence.

But as long as the workers support and elect capitalist politicians the workers will be compelled to whine around for the eight hour day and be kicked and cuffed from politician to politician for their pains.

If Belcourt's bill passes the employers will not be able to make agreements granting a rise of wages to their employees, without being liable to a ten thousand penalty. That is the kind of law the capitalist likes. It is an impartial law, oh yes. If the bosses agree to give more pay, they get fined. They will take great care not to raise wages because that would be illegal. That is the kind of impartiality the law hands out to the workers and capitalists. Is it not time for the workers to unite and abolish the capitalist system?

The Andes between Chile and Argentina have been pierced by a railway tunnel and direct railway communication between Valparaiso and Buenos Ayres is now afforded. Immense engineering works are resulting from slave labor in the same manner as in Egypt in former days. But the modern works will not benefit the workers until they own, control and operate them.