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THE UNION LABEL GUARANTEES THE TRADE AGREEMENT

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Those Who Use Their Pur-
chasing Power.

One of the big things developed by the war as a stabilizer of industrial conditions was the need for a more extended adoption of the principle of collective bargaining.

The War Labor Board of the United States, which was created by proclamation of the President, for the purpose of adjusting disputes in war industries, declared as its first principle "the right of workers to organize in trade unions and to bargain collectively through chosen representatives is recognized and affirmed. This right shall not be denied, abridged, or interfered with by the employers in any manner whatsoever."

The use of a union label, shop card or working button to designate the product of trade unionists or their employment in an establishment is predicated upon a trade agreement, carrying with it the collective bargaining principle, with all that this implies.

When an appeal is made to give preference to the purchase of commodities bearing the union label or a shop where a card is displayed or a button worn to distinguish membership in a trade union, it is a request to recognize a fundamental principle of the trade union movement, the trade agreement. Under the trade agreement the workers have a full and equal opportunity to regulate their hours of labor and wage scale as, except this measure of justice is accorded them, there can be no union label, shop card, or button agreement with an employer.

Justice and equity are therefore guaranteed to those who use their purchasing power in favor of the trade agreement, as exemplified by the Union Label, shop card or working button, as well as high class workmanship and humane treatment, and in addition to this is the satisfaction of knowing that a consistent demand for labeled goods strengthens the trade agreement principle as well as the Union Label.

AUSTRALIAN JUDGE SAYS EMPLOYER WILL HAVE TO GIVE IN

"The world is talking about a better world for all after the war, not a worse one," said Justice Powers of the Australian federal arbitration court at Melbourne, in setting a wage for carters and drivers.

"Employers and governments," he said, "will have to recognize that men are not going to live on less, and let their families live on less than a fair regimen of food because they had to do so during the war. Nor can they continue for long to use or patch up their old clothes as they have had to do in war time."

"The evidence submitted to the court from time to time show that the people are living on less food and using less clothing since 1914."

The individual who thinks he knows it all has the most to learn.

BRITISH DOCKERS REJECT 'FODDER BASIS' OF WAGE AGREEMENT

At a hearing on the wage demands of longshore workers, held in London the dockers' representative was asked if these workers would accept a sliding scale, based on the cost of living. The representative replied that he would not insult his associates by asking them to accept a "fodder basis" of wages.

The theory that wages should rise and decline with the cost of living is now referred to throughout Great Britain as "a fodder basis." The workers are asking by what right should others decide for them what is a luxury and what is a necessity. They point out that other classes are never questioned in this respect, and that the living standard of these classes is not based on what will "keep them in condition."

The workers are rejecting the old notion that they shall be considered apart from all other classes, rather than be permitted to set their own living standards.

BRITISH LABOR ISSUES MANIFESTO FAVORING LEAGUE

Both Conservatives and Radicals
Are United in Support of
League of Nations

News comes from England that Labor of all possible and impossible shades of opinion has united in issuance of a manifesto favoring the establishment of a League of Nations. Of course, the League of Nations is already in existence (with America absent), says the Labor News, editorially, so this latest manifesto may be regarded as an effort at popularizing it.

There is no news in the fact that British Labor is for the League. Only certain Socialists, pro-Bolsheviks and other habitual calumniators have striven to spread the friction that British Labor was divided on this point. They have said, for example, that the Labor Party was against the League. Yet nothing could be further from the truth. In a veto in Parliament nothing could be further from the truth. In a vote in Parliament only one vote was raised in the Labor Party against the League, and that one emanated from a Glasgow pro-Bolshevik.

British Labor, or rather its leadership, may have been divided on the question of winning the war, but it knows the inevitability of another war unless some sort of machinery is created which will minimize, if not eliminate, the possibility of war.

The present manifesto is signed by 33 leaders of British Labor including all the most prominent. Among the signers are the conservative as well as the radical leaders. We find the most radical of the Conservatives, Arthur Henderson, joining hands with that most conservative of Radicals, J. Ramsay MacDonald. Of course, these two have joined before on popular (and unpopular) issues, but the presence of such other names as Bouverman, Clynes, Thomas and Stuart, together with Robert Smillie and Philip Snowden, indicates their present unanimity.

In America the American Federation of Labor long ago ranged itself on the side of a League of Nations. Only the Radicals, the Protestants, are divided on the subject. Generally speaking, the Socialists regard the League with suspicion. If the sentiment of the general radical movements could be canvassed it would probably be found that they were opposed to it.

This sentiment is carefully, though not outspokenly, fostered by such "journals of opinion" as the New Republic, Dial, Nation, Survey and Call. And their attitude is best expressed in the words of the critic, W. J. Ghent: "Has Mr. Gompers done this or that? If so, he has but shown again his innate, inflexible reactionism and the tyrannous hold he maintains upon the Labor movement. Has he done otherwise? He but reveals himself once more in his ancient character of an unprincipled opportunist desperately striving to buttress his tottering throne." We wonder how these professional opponents of the American Federation will view this singular unanimity of British Labor, including, as it does, the best thought in the Labor party?

A copy of the manifesto issued by British Labor will be found in another column of this issue.

LABOR REPORT SHOWS THAT BRITISH ANTI- STRIKE LAWS FAIL

The report of the British ministry of labor shows that anti-strike legislation even during the war failed of its purpose. Under the munitions of war act, 1915, compulsory arbitration was introduced in the munitions trades at the option of the board of trade and strikes and lockouts were prohibited. Despite war conditions, it is stated that this system had "only a qualified success."

Commenting on this report, the London Times says: "The fundamental objection to any scheme for the compulsory prevention of strikes is that no statutory prohibition and penalties will deter men from striking, if they are so minded. Experience in other countries demonstrated this fact before the war, and experience in this country during the war, when the patriotic impulse was strong, clinched the argument."

"If compulsory arbitration failed to prevent disputes in a time of national emergency, what hope is there that it would be more successful in normal

WORKERS MUST DEFEAT EVERY RADICAL MOVE

Stand By Labor Congress and A.
F. of L. and Maintain High Position
of Canadian Labor.

This is a critical time in the lives of the workers. Labor must awaken and act at once, in order to protect its industrial welfare, in order that it may have the continued well-paid work which it had during the past four years, in order that it may continue to enjoy the comforts which good pay, good hours, and constantly improving working conditions have enabled it to enjoy, in order that it may continue to hold the high place in the community which it has attained. All of the great progress which it has made is in danger, owing to the actions of unscrupulous, Red-Minded, Black-Hearted, Yellow-Streaked Agitators—would-be imitators of Lenin and Trotsky.

We are under the impression for a moment that you intend to break away from the policy of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which has safely and sanely guided Canadian labor during the stressing period of reconstruction, but in some quarters the Straight Trade Unionists have taken things for granted, and failing to attend the meetings of their unions, the "Reds" have been constantly working and agitating and in some cases been successful in transferring the support to the Red Flag. How long are you going to stand for this sort of thing? It is the duty of every Canadian workman to attend his trade union meetings, and see to it that the every radical move is defeated. Stand by the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress and the American Federation of Labor, and thus will improvements continue, and the already high position of labor in Canada be maintained.—Canadian Labor Press.

BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS' UNION REPORTS GAINS

The general executive board of the Boot and Shoe Workers' union reports that on January 1 of this year "we had 231 active chartered locals as against 175 local unions January 1, 1919, with a net increase of 14,484 members for the year."

Cincinnati shows the largest percentage of increase, "due to a considerable extent," says the report, "to the woman stitchers who, for the first time since the days of the Knights of Labor, have again manifested interest in organization."

Substantial increase in wages and a general reduction in hours were secured. The general membership is congratulated because of the appreciation of the times? The Whitley committee reported against it two years ago and the evidence of the present report reinforces their opinion.

"It is recorded with evident satisfaction by the ministry of labor that the awards of the arbitrators in the 8,000 cases dealt with during the five war years were almost universally accepted by the opposing sides."

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