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CLAIMS POLICY CONTRARY TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

Sir Adam Beck, chairman of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, regards as fatal to the cause of radial development the proposal of the provincial Government to initiate legislation taking radials out of the hands of the commission and placing them in the sole control of the municipalities.

In a statement given out, Sir Adam says: "What have I to say of the proposal of the Government to repeal the existing radial railway legislation, and to pass some new legislation which will give the municipalities power in some way to go on with the radials under commissions appointed by themselves?"

Well, if the press reports are accurate, and the Government carry out such a programme, the result will undoubtedly be to kill all hope for a system of publicly owned radial railway for Ontario, now or in the future.

S. A. LABOR WANTS PARLIAMENT ASSEMBLED

A Reuter despatch from Pretoria, Transvaal, South Africa, states that a joint deputation of Labor and Nationalist members of Parliament have urged the Governor-General, Prince Arthur of Connaught, to summon Parliament immediately to deal with the strike situation.

The Governor-General replied that he was unable to act without the advice of the South African Cabinet.

The past 24 hours have been the quietest to the strike of coal and gold miners, says Reuter's Johannesburg correspondent. Men are returning to work in the coal fields, but there will be difficulty in taking them back even at reduced time owing to the small demand there is for coal.

The striking gold miners appear to have accepted the settlement offered by the Chamber of Mines, guaranteeing that the proportion of natives employed in the mines shall not exceed 10% to each European and that wages shall be the daily rates prevailing last December, with an additional sum representing half the increased cost of living.

Meanwhile, the men's leaders are concentrating their efforts on the political issue, advocating the nationalization of the mines and the submission of the whole dispute to Parliament.

NOVA SCOTIA COAL IS USED BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Dominion Government through the Purchasing Commission of Canada is setting a remarkable example in favoring "Made-in-Canada" products and encouraging home industry. Every ounce of coal burnt in Government buildings in Ottawa this year has been mined in Canada. Other Government buildings in the Dominion, excepting a small territory in Central Canada where transportation costs make it prohibitive to compete with American firms, are also using Canadian coal.

Not only in coal but in every purchase, for office supplies as well as machinery and outdoor supplies, preference is given to Canadian goods. In unifying government purchases a saving of approximately \$500,000 has been effected by salvaging surplus stocks from one department for use in another.

EDMONTON MEETING POSTPONE ACTION

A request to one of the members-elect to submit to a by-election for the purpose of making an Alberta seat available for the Hon. Charles Stewart, proposed to the Dominion Labor Party at their meeting, was laid on the table for consideration at the next meeting, called for February 14. The following resolution was introduced by Dr. Raymond C. Ghesley:

"That we, the Dominion Labor Party, constituting one-third of all the electors in the city portion of the Edmonton constituency, and, therefore, more than the tax-payers, necessary called for by the local, call upon through the public press other locals in this constituency to meet and consider requesting the resignation of one of the members elected at the recent federal contest. This will provide a means of giving a seat by acclamation to the Hon. Charles Stewart, as has been done in all by-elections held throughout Canada by Conservatives."

HAMILTON'S UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

During the hearing of a complaint by members of the Independent Labor party the Hamilton Board of Control regarding measures of aid for the unemployed, it was stated that in one week recently the City had given relief to 3,724 people. Dealing in detail with some cases members of the deputation said that \$6.00 and 24 pints of milk was the total sum of the city's contribution for the support of a family of seven children. This case will be specially investigated.

GERMAN STRIKE LOOMS BIG

An extension of the railway strike to take in the men employed in the repair shops now brings the number of strikers to approximately 50,000 in Berlin and 200,000 throughout the country. Mediation by the General Manufacturers' Union is contemplated. The union is holding conferences with prominent industrial magnates and with Chancellor Wirth, but the result of these discussions has not been made known.

A sharp rebuke to the striking railroad men for the manner in which they effected the strike in the face of pending wage negotiations with the Government is contained in a joint proclamation issued tonight by representatives of the General Federation of Labor Unions and independent organizations. It sets forth the catastrophic effects of the strike upon the internal situation in Germany, coming as it does on the eve of the Geneva conference.

Demand is made that the strikers return to work immediately, whereupon, the resolution says, the wage parleys will be resumed promptly, and the anti-strike ordinances promulgated by President Ebert will be revoked.

This unexpected condemnation of the strike by the chief labor organizations leaves the rail men without practical or moral support, as the proclamation also disapproves of any sympathetic strike in other quarters on their behalf.

There is considerable unrest among the Berlin postal and telegraph workers, and it is considered that a strike is not impossible. Leaders of their unions have protested against the Government decree relating to strikes, demanding its withdrawal. Some of these workers have already quit work, and others are expected to leave their posts tomorrow, when it is believed that the municipal workers also will come out, they having voted almost unanimously in favor of a strike.

Berlin gas, electric and water supply would be imperilled by a strike of municipal workers, and tramway service would be crippled.

The Berlin branch of the railway union joined the ranks of the strikers this morning.

Passenger and freight traffic in north Germany was at a complete standstill. Undelivered mail has begun to accumulate, and postal authorities are maintaining serial service for urgent mail and passenger purposes.

Efforts to maintain the milk and food supplies for Berlin have failed, and the newspapers have considerably reduced their size and number of editions.

The Government's manifesto declaring the strike illegal has aggravated the situation. The executive committee of the Berlin Labor Federation adopted a resolution in favor of issuing a manifesto denying subordinate officials the right of association and demanding cancellation of the manifesto published by the Socialist press supporting the claim for such right.

Representatives of the railway union, it is unofficially stated, have approved of the assurances given at the parleys for arranging a settlement of the railroad strike and that, in consequence, the leading labor organization will issue an appeal to the strikers to resume work.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT AND FAIR WAGE CLAUSE

The provincial government will not agree to the insertion of a fair wage clause in all contracts in which the government is interested.

General Organizer John Flett, of the American Federation of Labor, and James Marsh, organizer of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters, were in Toronto to discuss with local labor leaders the government's attitude. The government, according to Mr. Flett, takes the stand that to incorporate in government contracts a clause insisting upon wages and conditions prevailing in the locality in which the work is being done would be "slavery."

"That the worker should be permitted to work as long as he liked, was the reply made to President Marsh when he and officials of the trades union movement sought to obtain a promise from the government of legislation upon these lines.

COBALT CIVIC SALARIES TO BE REDUCED

Cobalt mines may be producing wealth for some folks, but the council of the town is not getting too much of it judging by its decision to cut the salaries of all employees on the pay roll. It is estimated that \$1,500 per year will thus be saved. The cut includes a reduction in the pay of laborers from \$4.25 to \$3.75 per day.

TORONTO HARBOR WAGE SCALE BEING WATCHED

Hungry, that wages on federal government work in the Toronto harbor will be reduced this season by as much as fifteen cents an hour brought organizers of the International Trades Union movement in to conference. They discussed also the situation existing on the Welland Canal, which has caused considerable controversy between the department of labor and trades unions and had not been adjusted when the late government met its defeat.

It was stated that Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, was endeavoring to adjust the dispute on the Welland Canal, and might be expected to visit the city to learn from contractors the foundation for the rumor of wage reductions on the harbor and canal this season.

B. C. DELEGATES DISPLEASE PROVINCIAL PREMIER

Premier John Oliver ejected from his private office at Victoria, B.C., a member of a delegation of unemployed who advocated extreme measures. Women, led by a few men, attempted to create some excitement at the parliament buildings, when they swarmed into the premier's office. They demanded that the premier call the legislature together and vote them \$500,000. After the premier had invited two men and four women into his private office, W. R. Moulton gave the premier the impression that he was out to create trouble, and after listening to him for a few minutes, Mr. Oliver got up, opened the door and put the man out. He then returned and continued his talk with the other five members.

QUEBEC FARMERS URGED TO POLITICAL ACTION

Sixty thousand United Farmers of Ontario are sending you their heartiest wishes, and I can assure you that they are with you in every effort to promote the agrarian movement in Quebec in spite of the seeds of friction sown by unscrupulous politicians to alienate the farmers of Ontario and Quebec during the recent elections," said R. H. Halbert, Progressive M.P. for Ontario North and former president of the U.F.O., in the course of an address before the convention of the United Farmers of Quebec.

Mr. Halbert urged the Quebec farmers to go into active politics at once. "There was no reason," he said, "why Quebec should not have as powerful a farmers' party as Ontario and the western provinces."

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BARBERS' INTERNATIONAL LOSES ITS CHIEF

Frank X. Nuschang, president of the Journeymen Barbers' International Union, with headquarters in Indianapolis, died in Albany, N.Y., after a stomach ailment of several weeks. Nuschang was well known to trade unionists of the United States and Canada.

Roe H. Baker, of San Francisco, has become the acting president of the Barbers' Union. Whether Baker will be chosen permanent president will be decided at a meeting of the executive committee of that body to be held shortly at headquarters in Indianapolis.

Jacob Fischer, secretary of the Barbers' International and a vice-president of the American Federation of Labor, is seriously ill in Indianapolis. As soon as Fischer has recovered his health, Baker will summon the members of the executive committee of the Barbers' International to meet in Indianapolis for the purpose of choosing a permanent president of that organization.

S. A. STRIKERS RECEIVE SUPPORT

General J. E. M. Hertzog, South African Nationalist leader, addressing a strike meeting at Witbank, stated that 83 per cent of the people in the country sided with the striking gold and coal miners, according to a Reuter despatch from Capetown. He praised the constitutional methods adopted by the men, and wished them success.

After the meeting General Hertzog conferred with the miners' leaders.

A Reuter despatch from Johannesburg states that all is quiet there with the exception of the explosion of three sticks of dynamite in a "colored" church. No persons were injured.

A mass meeting in the town hall attracted the smallest audience of any meeting held so far, and the men seem despondent, and appear anxious for a settlement enabling them to return to work. Their leaders have been urging so-called "commandees" and others to "pull out the soles," but they have not got beyond threats.

COBALT OPERATORS SAY MINERS ARE BRITISH

Mine operators in the Cobalt camp take exception to an editorial in a Toronto evening paper in which it is stated that a returned soldier claimed he could not get employment there because the mines employ Austrians and Poles. Managers state that a recent survey of the camp showed that of all the men employed at the properties, 85 per cent were British, and they declare their invariable practice is to give preference to returned men.

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