

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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OFFICIAL ORGAN ALLIED TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF OTTAWA.

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PRICE BROTHERS' VICTORY?

THE Montreal Financial Times, in a recent issue, praises the tactics of Price Brothers, paper makers. This financial paper alludes to the personal victory for Sir William Price. Rather there are two alleged victories. One is the "victory" won in the courts, when the authority of the Board of Commerce was challenged. The second "victory" was won, according to the Financial Times, when Sir William Price decided with the Board of Directors that Organized Labor was not to be tolerated in the industry operating under the name of Price Brothers, Limited.

"At the annual meeting of Price Bros. recently, in alluding to the strike which is now in progress throughout the pulp and paper trade, Sir William spoke in effect as follows: 'With the approval of your directors, I have definitely decided to fight all attempted interferences with Canadian labor conditions by foreign unions and to take the stand now to eliminate for all time such dangerous influences.'

"He added that it might cost the company something, but that this would come back in the betterment of conditions. 'This was another frontal attack, again Sir William, according to order. He made the necessary arrangements to follow through, and then notified the striking employes that unless they signified, by going back to work within a given period, that they wanted their jobs, he would replace them and proceed to operate his mill as usual. The result was that they are back at work with a 20% decrease and an open shop.'

This is what the Financial Times calls a "victory for Sir William Price." The president intimated that it would cost the company something to defeat Labor. Sir William Price knows perfectly well that Labor cannot be defeated. Autocratic actions such as those of Price Brothers, the United States Steel Corporation, and other large financial corporations will not be tolerated. The great Labor movement, organized as it is for the protection of the workers in industry, will never submit to the passing whims of large captains of industry. The campaign to which Price Brothers have contributed is designed not to impose the open shop in industry, but to close industry to union labor. Preparations for this battle were not made yesterday, or the day before, and while the great labor movement has had a few reverses, it has made many victories since the battle commenced, Sir William Price, notwithstanding.

It is indeed unfortunate that sabotage should be practised at the Kenogami Paper Mill, owned and operated by Price Brothers. The International Trades Union Movement which Sir William Price declares is dominated by foreigners, has insisted, day in and day out, that a fair day's work should be given for a fair day's pay. This is the policy of the "foreign unions." The Canadian union, which Sir William Price prefers, according to his statement in the Financial Times, preaches sabotage. We refer to the only Canadian union we know of—the One Big Union of Canada. Is this what Sir William Price prefers? Certainly the unions with whom Price Brothers previously did business can not be held responsible for the ugly sabotage which recently occurred in one of the mills. Under "open shop" conditions, which are imposed by the employer, there is no guarantee to the employer that a fair day's work will be given in return for a fair day's pay. Had collective bargaining and a union shop prevailed when the machinery was destroyed in Price Brothers mill, the union would have been the first to assist in the clearing of the situation. As conditions exist now, Sir William Price will have to order a flank attack in an endeavor to clear up the situation. However, in these stressing times of peace, would it not be better for all concerned, certainly it would be better for Canada, if peace was to reign again in the industry owned and operated by Price Brothers. The way to peace is through the continuance of the union shop, which will ensure fair wages and decent working conditions for the workers, and a guarantee to Price Brothers that sabotage will cease and that the employes will render a fair day's work for a fair day's pay. The question can be settled only by Price Brothers. Labor will never submit to present conditions.

We are always most generous where our interests are least affected. Optimist—"Cheer up, old man. Things aren't as bad as they seem."

"A gentleman is a man who always tries to put in a little more than he takes out."—Bernard Shaw. The opposite of profiteer.

We have every sympathy for pit ponies, but we cannot help wondering why the press have only just discovered them. Keir Hardie found them out many years ago.

THE BRITISH MINERS' HOBBY

When a passenger train is waiting at the platform of one of the stations in the English "Black Country"—Birmingham, Dudley, Wolverhampton, for example—it is no uncommon thing to see a workman walk alongside and put a brief question to some of the travelers. In his hand he invariably carries a paper bag, which seems to contain some live animal. Presently he finds the person he was seeking, man or woman, the paper bag is handed in through the window with the utmost care, the man salutes, smiles, and leaves the platform. He is a typical Black Country workman, a miner or iron founder most likely, the passenger is a kindly disposed traveler, who has promised to set free at a certain stage of the journey the captive in the cage. The passenger, whose training is made possible by the simple device of a paper bag, is a fast animal. Fanclars have elaborately organized clubs and long-distance races. The hobby is now spreading fast. At the last annual meeting of the general council of the National Homing Union, South Wales and Monmouthshire, decided to form themselves into a separate center of organization, and all up and down the Welsh mining valleys clubs are being started. The Cardiff Former-Service Men's Flying Club is a fair sample. It will have Saturday races at intervals during the summer months. The young birds' progress will be marked by successive homing from Weymouth (about 60 direct miles), Bournehead (80), and Jersey (160), while veterans will start from Bristol (180 miles), next from Cardiff (220), and lastly, in the Victory Race, from Perth (340 miles). A racing pigeon has been known to attain a speed of 80 miles an hour, 80 being a very common rate. As every aviator knows, the higher the flight the less the resistance of the air; homing pigeons instinctively fly high on a big race.

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NO STRIKE ON U.S. RAILWAYS OVER WAGE SCHEDULE

National Agreements Are to Remain in Force, According to Board's Award.

CHICAGO.—There will be no strike of railroad employes on account of the 12 per cent. wage reduction ordered by the United States Railway Labor Board, which went into effect on Friday. This was the decision reached by the officials of the various railroad unions, who have been in conference here since Friday. The wage reduction was not the only issue considered, but working rules have been an even more important factor.

When the conferences are finally concluded, the question of acceptance of the board's decisions, which brought the Labor representatives to Chicago, will be submitted to the membership of such organizations as have not already taken a referendum vote.

Indications are that any further voting will be influenced by the fact that the board is opposed to a general walkout. David Beady, James J. Davis, Secretary of Labor, has indicated his willingness to confer with the railroad Labor officials, but he is not expected to do so until after the board's decision. There is dissatisfaction among the railroad workers throughout the country because of the wage reduction, and the board is expected to order arbitration in its original order arbitrating the national agreements issued by the Railway Labor Board, by which these agreements are to remain in force, with the exception of pay for overtime, until such time as others have been settled upon by the railroads and their employes, has been the means for bringing about harmony among the union representatives. By this addendum they have temporarily relieved something of what they had lost.

Repudiation of the Railway Labor Board as a means of settling disputes and a return to the old method of direct negotiations with the railroads in the matter of wages and working conditions may be the outcome of these conferences. Many of the union leaders agree in expression of dissatisfaction with the recent decisions of the board and have voiced their determination to work out a plan which will eliminate the board as a factor in settling disputes between the railroad management and their employes.

According to the assertion of union officials, if the question involved had been merely that of a conference would have disposed of that with a formal protest, but as the working agreements presented to the board were being fought by railway union labor, they were not inclined to give up what they had gained in that time. The board had been given the impression that the railroads would meet them half way in negotiating substitute rules, and it is now being fought to do away with the board, which has caused such general dissatisfaction. However, reports indicate that railroad officials are now showing inclination to negotiate on working agreements.

ORGANIZED FALSEHOOD LABOR'S GREATEST FOE

When Labor's Gospel Spoken People Hear it Gladly. SYDNEY, New South Wales, Australia.—In urging 100 per cent. support by labor of its press and other publicity, the Australian Worker says: "We have reached a stage in our existence which renders it imperative that we should be able to cope with the lies by which we are assailed on all sides, and efficiently refute the slanders of our unscrupulous enemies. 'Capitalism has organized falsehood to a point of amazing effectiveness. It has created an Ananias press that insinuates itself into the homes of the working class and by its ironic perversion of the truth actually in many instances fills them with hostility to their own interests and with an angry distrust of those who are fighting against the wrong odds that they, the workers, may enjoy the fruits of victory. 'The rulers of men have always understood the value of falsehood. They have paid it great attention. In every period of history, have encouraged organizations for its dissemination, subsidized them lavishly and granted them great privileges. 'But never before have the rulers of men had a liar like the capitalist press. 'Undoubtedly the daily papers of capitalism have been the greatest obstacles in the path of labor. They have kept the people politically ignorant. They have saturated them with falsehood. They have intensified their bigotry and dulled their brains with the ethics of slavery. 'Where labor's gospel is spoken, the people hear it gladly. Where labor's truths are uttered, they are acclaimed by the multitude. All that is needed is the machinery of publicity. Provide it and success is in adequate measure and its triumph is assured."

UNVEILS CROSS OF SACRIFICE

Premier Meighen Performs Ceremony in Be fitting Solemn Setting. VIMY RIDGE, France.—Hard by Thelus, where stupendous French industry, despite the magnitude of the task, and despite this year's almost unexampled drought, has turned the blasted and bleached surface of the ridge to fresh green growth and mellow yellow of an incoming harvest, Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, Prime Minister of Canada, this week unveiled the Cross of Sacrifice erected in the cemetery where rest the brave of Canadian dead, who fell at the capture of this famous height four years ago.

The site of the monument is distinguished by the ridge and overlooking west across the valley one sees the white ruined tower of the church of St. Eloi. Westward stretches the general view of the Plain. The cemetery is but one of hundreds dotting the whole countryside, which when they are completed will be the despoiling places of pilgrimages and devotion for generations to come. Here lie together commingled in dust, officer and ranker; English, Scotch, Canadian, Australian, and South African, beneath uniform headstones, under the shadow of Sir Reginald Bloomfield's magnificent Cross of Sacrifice, and the massive stone of remembrance both exquisite in line and noble in design, worthy memorials of the immortal dead below. Some of the cemeteries are completed, and when the whole task is accomplished, the result will be one which the British peoples may well regard with pride.

A Be fitting Setting. The ceremony was held while the church bells in nearby villages were summoning the faithful to mass. It was a be fittingly solemn setting. The large number present, which included the chief members of the Imperial War Commission, Gen. Sir Pakenham, commander of the British troops in France, the French general, the prefect of Pas-de-Calais, the mayors of surrounding towns and villages, and a number of British and Canadian visitors with their wives, headed by Premier Meighen, who spoke with more emotion than is his wont, delivered the oration. His address, which was afterwards repeated in French, followed: "Premier's Address. 'The great war is past; the war was tried through and through every quality and mystery of human mind and might of human spirit; the war that close, we hope forever, the long story of the arbitrament of men's differences by force. The last clash and crash of earth's millions is over now; there can be heard only the sporadic conflicts, the moan of prostrate nations, the cries of the bereaved and desolate, the strutting of exhausted peoples to rise, stand and move onward. We live among the ruins and echoes of Armageddon. Its shadow is receding backward into history. The proper occupation of the living is, first, to honor the dead; next, to repair the havoc human and material, that surrounds us; and, last, to turn the lessons of the war into a sheathed sword of devotion. 'Here in the heart of Europe we meet to unveil the memorial to our country's dead. In the earth which has resounded to the drums and trappings of many contests, they rest in the quiet God's Acre, with the brave of all the world. At death they shed their heroic sword of devotion, and now from off stricken fields they hold aloft the cross of sacrifice, mutely beckoning to those who would share their immortality. 'No words can add to their fame so long as gratitude holds place in men's hearts never can our forgetfulness be suffered to detract from their memory. Just as the war dwarfed by its magnitude all the contents of the past, so the wonder of human resource and the splendor of human heroism has reached a zenith never witnessed before. 'Danger to "Common Things." 'Ours we thought were prosaic days when the great causes of earlier times had lost their inspiration, when the petty demands of the petty raising inconceivables of the hour. And yet the nobility of manhood had but to hear again the summons of duty and honor to make response which shook the world. The danger to the treasury of common things—for common things are, when changed, the most precious of all—the danger to the treasury of common things, ever stirred our fathers to action, and it has not lost its appeal to the sons. 'France lives and France is free, and Canada is better because she did something worth while to help France to live. In many hundreds of plots throughout these hills and valleys, all the way from Flanders to Picardy, the fifty thousand of our dead, their resting places have been dedicated to their memory forever by the kindly and grateful heart of France, and will be tended and cared for by us in the measure of love we bear them. 'Around and over all are being planted the maple trees of Canada. In thought, her sons will rest the better in the trees which they know so well in life. Across the league of the Atlantic the heart strings of our Canadian nation will reach through all time these graves in France. We shall never let pass away the spirit bequeathed to us by those who fell. Their names live for evermore. 'I would desire no finer epitaph than that it should be said of me: He added a little to the awareness of the world a little to its light.'—Havelock Ellis."

UNITED STATES' INFLUENCE "DECISIVE" IN A WORLD'S CRISIS.

LONDON, Eng.—Viscount Grey, in a statement issued on the eve of the great League of Nations demonstration in Hyde Park, renews his advocacy of the league. Referring to President Harding's declaration that the United States could not join, Viscount Grey says: "I believe the President and people of the United States have the same desire for world peace as those in this country, who are the strongest supporters of the league. We know the influence of the United States must be very great and very likely to be decisive in a world crisis. We shall welcome that influence in whatever way the United States decides to exercise it, but we cannot escape the league."

MR. GOMPERS AGAIN

(Leading editorial in the Christian Science Monitor, a neutral international newspaper published at Boston, Mass.)

Either ability for leadership or ability for political control is in evidence when the chief of an elective body like the American Federation of Labor is kept in office for 40 out of 41 years since the beginning of the organization. No doubt Samuel Gompers is not without some power to control the destinies of the federation by political methods, yet it is a Gompers machine in existence within the federation, one may remember, that great political machine usually feel the compulsion of popular opinion, as time runs on, and no Gompers machine would be likely to have continued functioning for so long a period in the wilderness of labor unionism unless the Gompers control had accorded pretty well with the desires of the rank and file body of federated members. That it has accorded with them, and still does so, is indicated by the magnitude of the endorsement given to Mr. Gompers at the recent convention of the federation in Denver. Though there had been widespread prediction that he would be displaced by John I. Lewis, the enthusiasm shown over this result was something wholly different from what might have been expected from voters who had felt the least touch of coercion.

The truth seems to be that the members of the American Federation of Labor have more confidence in the methods and policies of their old leader than they have in those of any other. The members have seen Mr. Gompers in all sorts of situations. They have heard him and watched him and followed him under varied conditions. They know what state he is in, and they know about what he is likely to do. In times like the present, when organized labor is being seriously tried, and when it is doing its best to hold fast whatever it gained during the war, the federation is obviously reluctant to change its captain. No doubt the distinction had as much to do as anything in securing Mr. Gompers' reelection. But there is not much doubt, either, that his policies are in favor of the majority of the members. He was one of the founders of the American Federation, in 1887. He has shown the same qualities in his long term in the presidency that made him influential in getting the organization under way. Under his direction the federation has steadily increased its power in the industrial world. It includes most of the stronger and more advantageous unions with similar unions in other countries. But it has built up its position by supporting constitutional government, instead of by opposing it, following the counsel of Mr. Gompers, the federation has exerted its political influence indirectly, steadfastly refusing to unite with any political party. It has been aggressive in seeking the advantage of labor unionists, consistently with loyalty to the government and respect of wages and working conditions amid the industrial agitation.

Incidental to the war were no less traceable to this general policy than was the failure of ultra-radical labor groups to win a foothold in the American industrial world after the armistice. It has been the Gompers influence, to a marked degree, that has made the American Federation at once a progressive development and an instrument of the labor movement, as well as a power for conservative opposition to Socialism and Bolshevism. Thus it appears that the re-endorsement of this leader by an overwhelming majority of his followers is essentially a declaration in favor of typically American methods of working out the labor problem.

More than is generally realized, perhaps, it amounts to a vigorous protest against un-American influences and methods in the handling of labor affairs. Not that Mr. Lewis is believed to be the intentional agent of anything of this sort. Rather the supposition is that subtle influences undertook to use his candidacy for their own ends, and in the breaking of this sort of Gompers strength and the possible perversion of the federation's influence in the American labor movement. The political agent of work in the election, so Mr. Gompers believed, centered in William Randolph Hearst. It is no new thing for the Hearst influence to be brought to bear quite heavily upon the labor movement and those who speak for it. With a chain of newspapers reaching from coast to coast, the significance of the means of bringing the power of the press to his aid, whether for the spread of personal opinion and political plans for some significance for Gompers or for the overcoming of any opposition to his proposals. On more than one occasion in the past, the Hearst influence has been outstretched to close over him, but each time the federation's president has refused to yield himself to the grasp of Hearst. And just as the Gompers influence has favored labor's advancement in harmony with American ideals, the Hearst influence has often appeared to exert itself in sympathy with those who have tried to break down the American labor movement, or break into it from other camps. The shadow of the Hearst hand was over Mr. Gompers in this latest contest, and out of this fact, rather than out of any triumph over Mr. Lewis of the Mine Workers, comes Mr. Gompers' chief satisfaction in his reelection.

There is equal opportunity here for satisfaction on the part of labor and of the American public. The labor movement is not properly the field for unprincipled manipulation for personal gain. It is a trust of the people, in or out of the American Federation of Labor, can hope for nothing better than to see the labor movement work out its proper destiny in the United States, enjoying fair protection from the established government and giving to the established government its fair protection. The interests of popular government and the labor movement are fundamentally the same. Inasmuch as Mr. Gompers has performed his leadership pretty closely to this conception, it is reassuring of an American spirit among federated labor unionists, and of establishing the old leader in spite of a disrupting propaganda.

ageddon. Its shadow is receding backward into history. The proper occupation of the living is, first, to honor the dead; next, to repair the havoc human and material, that surrounds us; and, last, to turn the lessons of the war into a sheathed sword of devotion. 'Here in the heart of Europe we meet to unveil the memorial to our country's dead. In the earth which has resounded to the drums and trappings of many contests, they rest in the quiet God's Acre, with the brave of all the world. At death they shed their heroic sword of devotion, and now from off stricken fields they hold aloft the cross of sacrifice, mutely beckoning to those who would share their immortality. 'No words can add to their fame so long as gratitude holds place in men's hearts never can our forgetfulness be suffered to detract from their memory. Just as the war dwarfed by its magnitude all the contents of the past, so the wonder of human resource and the splendor of human heroism has reached a zenith never witnessed before. 'Danger to "Common Things." 'Ours we thought were prosaic days when the great causes of earlier times had lost their inspiration, when the petty demands of the petty raising inconceivables of the hour. And yet the nobility of manhood had but to hear again the summons of duty and honor to make response which shook the world. The danger to the treasury of common things—for common things are, when changed, the most precious of all—the danger to the treasury of common things, ever stirred our fathers to action, and it has not lost its appeal to the sons. 'France lives and France is free, and Canada is better because she did something worth while to help France to live. In many hundreds of plots throughout these hills and valleys, all the way from Flanders to Picardy, the fifty thousand of our dead, their resting places have been dedicated to their memory forever by the kindly and grateful heart of France, and will be tended and cared for by us in the measure of love we bear them. 'Around and over all are being planted the maple trees of Canada. In thought, her sons will rest the better in the trees which they know so well in life. Across the league of the Atlantic the heart strings of our Canadian nation will reach through all time these graves in France. We shall never let pass away the spirit bequeathed to us by those who fell. Their names live for evermore. 'I would desire no finer epitaph than that it should be said of me: He added a little to the awareness of the world a little to its light.'—Havelock Ellis."

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WOULD DIVIDE WORK FOR HULL EMPLOYEES

Alderman Says Engineer Did Not Follow Out Wishes.

HULL.—City Engineer L. Lanctot, of Hull, was the storm centre at the city hall on Monday evening, at the conclusion of the city council meeting, which was of brief duration. He was taken to task by Ald. Talbot, who complained bitterly at the engineer's method of dealing with the unemployment situation in the city. It seems that owing to the Quebec Provincial Minister of Municipalities having shut down on the city's expenditure, many of the civic laborers have been thrown out of employment. Ald. Talbot has been urging that those who are still employed should share what work there is with their more unfortunate brethren by laying off every other week. The city engineer, however, has not followed the suggestion made by the alderman, who gave vent to his feelings in an uncertain manner.

UNITED STATES ENDS STATE OF WAR WITH GERMANY.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The compromise resolution passed by the United States Congress, on Saturday, ending the state of war with Germany and Austria, was signed on the same day by President Warren G. Harding at the New Jersey home of Senator Joseph S. Frelinghuysen, where the President is a guest.

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