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LABOR WILL NOT TOLERATE DELAY IN

Continued From Page One.

differeces exist from time to time as to the way the commission treats its employees, but that has nothing to do with the principle of public ownership, and will not be made an issue in the determination to see all obstacles are removed so that the Hydro-Electric radial scheme may be proceeded with immediately. "Organized Labor has confidence in publicly expressed opinion, and after the fight it has taken part in against entrenched interests at Hamilton, Guelph and many other points, to secure approval of the ratepayers of those cities to the Hydro-Electric radial project, it does not intend to sit quietly by and allow the whole scheme to be either blocked or destroyed. The public at large in a great number of the municipalities directly affected have expressed their voice in no uncertain manner as to their endorsement of the Hydro radial project. If Premier Drury thinks the present commission is not capable of honestly carrying this into operation, then let him say so, and boldly appoint another commission. If it is capable, and we have never heard him express an opinion otherwise, interference will not be quietly tolerated.

Is Not a Debt.

"Premier Drury has a distorted idea of public debt. In his published article of Thursday, July 8, he points out that 50 per cent. of the debt of the Province—of Ontario—is in Hydro-Electric Bonds. Our conception of public ownership is that this is no debt, that is money invested more a debt than is money invested in any other commercial enterprise. Road construction and similar works can be considered as debts, but revenue-producing investments cannot be considered as such by any stretch of the imagination. Before this could become a debt, the whole investment would have to be destroyed 100 per cent. It is true that if the scheme were a failure the deficiencies would have to be made good, against which contingency the municipalities have deposited debentures. The probability of the province being called on to put up real cash for their guarantee of the bonds is too remote and improbable to be made a reason for stopping the project at this time.

"Premier Drury seems afraid of money when it is mentioned in millions. Sugar has advanced on an

average about 14 cents a pound in Ontario since 1914. This means \$70,000,000 a year more to the workers of Canada to buy sugar, and, on Premier Drury's statement that Ontario represents one-third of the Dominion, means that the people of Ontario are paying a total of approximately \$23,000,000 a year in that respect alone. Bread and other commodities can show tolls of millions that are being demanded unnecessarily from workers, yet the Ontario Government has not moved to save the workers all these millions. Why the hurry and urgency to now take steps to protect the people of Ontario from their imaginary loss, which may accrue if the Hydro Radial project is gone ahead with? The whole amount is not expected to be expended in one year. With the purchase of the lines now projected from the Dominion Government, experience will be gained, and if the assumption of loss is correct, the project by then may be stopped without having committed the province or the municipalities to any real loss.

No Water in Hydro.

"Premier Drury states that comparison may be made with radial lines in United States, where losses are now occurring. This cannot be accepted as a comparison for public ownership. Street car and radial financing, both in United States and many Canadian cities, is today endeavoring to meet dividends on water and, in addition, provide profits. The Hydro-Electric project will not have either of these things to do, only having a bonded indebtedness on actual investment, and providing service at cost.

"It is hoped that Premier Drury will reconsider this situation, and give immediate sanction to the Hydro-Electric Commission to complete its bargain with the Federal Government for the three radial lines at present arranged for, and will further get sincerely behind the scheme in order that much-needed rapid transit may be provided between the fast-growing municipalities of Ontario which have endorsed the Hydro Radial scheme."

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Labor Should Oppose Re-introduction War-Time Anti-Loafing Legislation

Peterboro Striker Arrested as Vagrant and Remanded to Jail For a Week Because He Was Not Working.

Editor Canadian Labor Press: Dear Sir:—I enclose a clipping from the Toronto Globe of July 2, in which you will see the police purpose putting in force the War-Time Anti-Loafing Law.

A case occurred this week in Peterboro Police Court when one of the striking employees of the Canadian General Electric was up on a charge of vagrancy because he was not working. When he explained that he was out on strike, the magistrate remarked that he would give the accused something to strike for and remanded him to jail for a week.

Now, sir, if the police are to arrest strikers as vagrants under the anti-loafing law, it can only be at the instigation of those who wish to destroy organized labor, and I submit it is high time Labor men took the matter up, for it strikes at the very root of organized labor and its rights. Yours, etc. SUBSCRIBER. Peterboro, July 7, 1920.

at a banquet. Among the resolutions of public importance adopted was one requesting the executive to take up with the Department of Justice the desirability of putting into force the anti-loafing law in vogue during the war. The convention was unanimously in favor of continuing the law.

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