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CO-PARTNERSHIP SCHEME AT PORT SUNLIGHT, ENGLAND

Lord Leverhulme Has Scheme for Distribution of Dividends by Additions to Wages.

Lord Leverhulme recently announced a co-partnership scheme which was to be put into effect at the works of Messrs. Lever Bros., Limited, at Port Sunlight, England. The scheme consists in the distribution of dividends in the shape of additions to weekly wages. It appears that this plan was acceptable to all the labor unions except the National Association of Carpenters and Joiners, which threatened to expel any of its members who participated in the Port Sunlight co-partnership scheme. This action was resented by a large number of carpenters at Port Sunlight and they held a meeting at which the following resolution was unanimously passed:

"That this meeting of co-partners employed by Messrs. Lever Brothers, Limited, emphatically protests against the action of the National Association of Carpenters and Joiners in threatening to expel from the above association members participating in the Port Sunlight co-partnership scheme. Our co-partnership recognizes the just right of labor to receive a share of the profits which they have helped to make, and any attempt to prevent co-partners participating in the benefits accruing from the co-partnership scheme is diametrically opposed to the true principles of trades unionism. We also pledge ourselves to resist by all means in our power any interference with our liberty as a free people."

In his recent visit to Canada Lord Leverhulme announced the intention of making every employee a shareholder on a greater scale than before. He also stated that the inauguration of the six-hour working day in subsidiary plants in Canada was under consideration.

EMPLOYMENT MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN FORMED AT TORONTO

An Employment Managers' Association has been formed at Toronto. Its objects are "To promote and foster interest in employment and industrial relations problems in Toronto and elsewhere; to discuss problems of employees, including selection, training, management and working conditions; to encourage closer co-operation between industrial relations executives, and to work with municipal and governmental bodies to bring about closer co-operation concerning employment problems."

The following officers were elected: President, C. H. Pringle; First Vice-President, H. D. Warren; Second Vice-President, W. L. Clark; Secretary, S. B. Heath, Hydro-Electric Power Commission; Treasurer, F. W. Allen.

Stationary firemen in St. Louis ask that these rates be established in the city water works: One dollar an hour for oilers, firemen, boiler washers and maintenance men and \$125 a month for coal passers.

RURAL MAIL CARRIERS QUITTING AT RATE OF FIFTY A DAY

At a wage hearing before the United States senate postal committee President Brown of the National Rural Mail Carriers' Association said these carriers are resigning from the government service at the rate of 50 a day.

The rural carriers recently affiliated with the A.F. of L., much to the surprise of some senators, who seemed to think that the recent anti-trade union hysteria in the senate has affected government employees.

WAR INSPIRED WORKERS TOWARD GREATER THINGS

Employers Must Realize That Workers Will Demand Greater Share of Production.

The war has inspired workers in England to greater things and employers must realize that wage-carriers will demand a greater share of production, and that they will not "settle down" and accept pre-war conditions, writes a correspondent in Reynolds' newspaper. "Periods of social upheavals always follow great wars," he says. "Take the Napoleonic war. People in England at that time were virtually slaves. They could not leave their own parish to work elsewhere. Trade unions were illegal. Men were imprisoned who conspired against their masters. Only the people in the large towns were anything like free. After a period of war waste and destruction labor is at a premium."

"It was the same after Waterloo when this country had its purse drained by Pitt's loans to the continental allies. Labor was excited, restless, discontented—awakening to the knowledge of its strength. In the years of restlessness which followed, labor cast off the shackles of obvious slavery and commenced the long struggle which, after nearly a century of battling, ended in victory for labor, with the securing of the vote and with the legal right to strike."

"The present day unrest is caused by two factors—first, by the knowledge gained by the workers, who have traveled and have seen themselves in a new light; and, secondly, by the natural reaction which has followed the strain of the war."

"Workers have been amazed at the profits made by the capitalists. The scales have fallen from the workers' eyes: Never again will they be content with the old conditions under which they existed, fluctuating closely to the margin of starvation."

"At the present moment America is being held up as the bogey. America will snatch our trade! America will seize the world markets! What is more likely to happen is that the American workers will copy the methods of the workers of this country and cease their feverish struggle for the maximum individual output—a state of slavery under which life becomes well nigh insupportable, and which at most, can only continue for a brief number of years."

"The second reason why workers won't settle down is because they have been 'rubbed up the wrong way' by those in power."

"During the war the stimulus to win was the great incentive to work. Now that stimulus is gone, what are we going to put into its place?"

"The capitalists can provide that incentive by giving a greater share of reward to labor. That is a tangible reward; but nagging is only irritating."

WORKERS WANT EDUCATION NEXT TO LIFE AND LIBERTY

No System of Education Which Free Man Can Accept Has Yet Been Established for Poor.

In a press bulletin issued by the federal board for vocational education attention is called to this declaration at a meeting of mechanics and working men in Philadelphia, in 1829:

"Next to life and liberty we consider education the greatest blessing bestowed upon mankind." The meeting then adopted this resolution: "That the public funds should be appropriated (to a reasonable extent) to the purpose of education upon a regular system that shall insure the opportunity to every individual of obtaining a competent education before he shall arrive at the age of maturity."

At that time, says the federal board for vocational education, the only free schools were pauper schools. "No system of education which a freeman can accept has yet been established for the poor," declared a meeting of Philadelphia working men in the same year 1829.

In tracing labor's fight for educational opportunities it is stated that in 1850 almost all northern states had established tax-supported, publicly controlled and directed, non-sectarian schools. The south, with its widely scattered agricultural population, had a different educational problem.

"And labor is not through," continues the board. "It is now eagerly awaiting the passage of the bill providing for the rehabilitation of persons disabled in industry. Both branches of congress have passed this legislation, but there are minor differences between the two bills which are awaiting adjustment in conference."

DECEMBER STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS SHOW DECREASE

Seven strikes, involving about 502 employees, were reported as having commenced during December. There were in existence at some time or other during the month 22 strikes, involving about 2,828 workpeople. The total time lost on account of industrial disputes was estimated at 48,960 working days, as compared with 84,073 in the previous month and 64,079 in December, 1918. The time loss occasioned by the seven strikes which began in December was 9,246 working days, while a loss of 41,314 is charged to the 15 strikes that commenced prior to December. Termination was reported in the case of four disputes which commenced prior to December. Five of the disputes commencing during December terminated during the month, leaving the following 13 strikes, affecting approximately 1,695 workpeople, on record December 31: lumber workers at Hyle, Alta.; miners at Kimberley and South Mint; pottery workers, St. Johns; moulders, Brantford; moulders and coremakers, Sherbrooke; moulders and patternmakers, Toronto; shipbuilders, Sorel; garment workers and military workers at Montreal; millinery workers, Marieville; glass workers, Thorold; and musicians at St. John.

The Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators and Paperhangers is headed toward the 100,000 mark. A membership of 98,381 at the close of June is reported. During the month of July 3,334 were added to the membership roll.

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DECISION OF INTEREST TO LABOR RENDERED

Right of Workman To Sue For Injuries Sustained While Employed on Navigable Waters.

A decision of much interest to Labor was that rendered by Judge Wolverton of the United States court for the district of Oregon, last week, when the right of a workman to sue in the United States court for injuries sustained while employed on navigable waters was upheld in the case of H. F. Rohde against the Grant Smith-Porter Co.

Rohde, a member of Carpenters Union No. 226, was injured last April when he fell on a hull which had been launched by the defendant. Rohde suffered a broken back and since that time has been helpless. He elected to take his case to the federal courts to collect from his employers rather than to accept the settlement of the state industrial accident commission. The employers contested the claim on the ground that they were under the state compensation law and were not otherwise liable. The court decision was made on the right of one injured on navigable waters to refuse to accept the state aid and to force collection through the federal courts. The decision holds that the claimant may accept the state compensation, but is not compelled to do so.

The decision is said to set a precedent as state compensation is of comparatively recent origin. It is understood that the attorneys for the ship building company will appeal to higher courts. If the case is taken to the United States supreme court it will probably be several years before the matter is finally decided.

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