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## REAL CAUSE OF STRIKE DEEPER THAN SURFACE

Economic Condition Confronting the Nation Really Responsible

RICH, RICHER; POOR, POORER  
Exploitation, Profiteering and Combinations of Capital Are Causes

The Winnipeg general strike was not caused by the Triple Alliance's refusal to negotiate collectively with the men through their representatives provided for that purpose. That was merely the torch that started the conflagration.

The strike was caused by foodstuffs, commodities grown and prepared in Canada selling cheaper in London, England than in Canada. The strike was caused by profiteers exploiting the country and labor at war. The strike was caused by packing companies, cold storage companies, big manufacturing concerns piling up dividends equaling their total capitalization—watered though their stock might be. The strike was caused by combinations of capital throttling and controlling the government until a long suffering public is wholly nauseated. The strike was caused because the whole industrial organization persists in pursuing the same old course and is not prepared until forced to re-arrange to meet conditions caused by the evolution of things. The strike was caused because men and women may work as they will, save, stint and sacrifice as they may, and the rich become richer and the poor become poorer.

Not only is the man in the ranks of Organized Labor restless, dissatisfied, demanding a change. The business man, professional man, men and women in all walks of life feel the same. Only a comparative few, who wax fat and are responsible for the prevailing conditions, and politicians enjoying position and power, are satisfied.

The individual who sees the cause of the present labor troubles only in the immediate issue is shortsighted and without breadth of vision. There have got to be some radical adjustments in the whole country. Labor is organized and is an active agent in bringing such changes. Labor lives closer to the wall and feels the pinch of want most. It is natural and logical that Organized Labor would be the first big social element to introduce measures to force a remedy of conditions. By every argument, by delegations, by resolutions, by every facility at its command Labor has been crying out against these conditions. And it has availed little. Now Organized Labor is resorting to the strike. The strike is spasmodic, a group of men here, another there. Industry and commerce and trade are interfered with in several centers. Unless some national effort is made to conduct the nation for the welfare of the masses no man can tell what the upshot may be.

It is true that these strikes do bring inconvenience to the remaining part of society. But let every man and woman remember that these strikes are an effort to force a solution to problems to the betterment and to the welfare of the masses. Whether you personally agree with the procedure, the cause is your cause as much as theirs for which they are fighting.

## STRIKE COMMITTEE SENDS TELEGRAM TO ALBERTA M.P.'S

The following telegram has been sent to the Alberta members of Parliament by the Strike Committee:

May 28, 1919.  
General Griesbach, M.P., Ottawa  
H. A. Mackie, M.P., Ottawa  
J. M. Douglas, M.P., Ottawa:  
"We, the Organized Workers of Edmonton respect you to bring all pressure at your command on the Government to bring about at once an amicable settlement of the Winnipeg strike, and also that the Government take steps to materially reduce the present unwarranted high cost of living.

J. J. McCORMACK,  
CARL E. BERG,  
J. W. FINDLAY.

## VANCOUVER T. & L. THREATEN STRIKE

The Secretary of the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council has received the following telegram from the Secretary of the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council:

"Vancouver Council (Trades) holds special meeting Wednesday night. Have sent following wire to Premier and Minister of Labor: 'Unless the Government recedes from its position in opposing collective bargaining through joint councils and its determination to replace striking Postal Workers at Winnipeg and other places, the workers in this city will declare a general strike.'

J. KAVANAUGH,  
Secretary Vancouver T. & L. Council.

## ORGANIZER FOR THE A.F. OF L. IN WESTERN CANADA

Wm. Varley, the Labor candidate at the North-West bye-election, Toronto, has been appointed A. F. of L. organizer in the Western Canada section.

## GENERAL PUBLIC SEES NECESSITY OF NEW METHOD

Principle of Collective Bargaining Gained Only After Years of Struggle

IS NOW HERE TO STAY

Hereafter All Trouble About Wages Will Be Recognized As Public Concern

During the war collective bargaining, encouraged by the government, has had an immense development. Trade unionism is numerically far stronger than before the war. The official membership of the American Federation of Labor is said to have increased in two years by one million—60 per cent.

More significant than the increase in numbers or in the extent of collective bargaining is the assertion of the public interest in every controversy and the development of expert arbitration. This should make for better methods of dealing with labor disputes in the future. The arbitration boards have found out that it will not do for the arbitrating body to go out of existence when the award is made. There must be someone to see that the award goes into effect as intended. The continuation of the spirit, if not of the precise form of the war methods of settling labor disputes is greatly to be desired.

## ORGANIZATION OF LABOR IS DENIED

They Refuse Employees Rights Which They Take Unto Themselves

Winnipeg unions demand recognition of their unions and their affiliation with the Trades and Labor Council.

Once more they are standing on the agreement reached at the Paris Peace Conference. The same principle is recognized by Britain and France, and the U.S.A. and the Canadian governments. Nor is their recognition a mere matter of form, for when these governments wish to confer with Labor they approach in Canada the Dominion Trades Congress; in the U.S.A. the American Federation of Labor and in Britain the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Congress. Yet Mr. Deacon, speaking before the Mathers Commission, and his compatriots, Barrett and Warren, at various times and places, take the stand that Labor has no right to organize, and that they refuse to recognize any union they form.

The most they have been willing to do is to meet a committee of their men. This, provided they have no connection with the Trades Union Movement. Barrett and Deacon and Warren may meet and plan together, but this right is denied their employees. They can form their associations with the Winnipeg Board of Trade, with the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, etc., but Labor has no such right. And if it forms such unions, the members are dismissed at the first opportunity.

## BRICKLAYERS WANTED UNION AND NONUNION TO ATTEND MEETING

All Bricklayers of the city, union and nonunion, will hold a meeting in Bellamy block, corner Rice and Howard, on Friday, May 30th, at 2 p.m. Every Bricklayer in the city is urged to attend this meeting without fail.

## MINERS REFUSE TO LIE DOWN ON FELLOW WORKERS

Great Majority Could Profit at Expense of Small Minority

REFUSE THE ADVANTAGE Must Be Conceded That Spirit Manifested is Commendable

Coal miners of Alberta and British Columbia are on strike. The strike is in protest against Order No. 124 by Commissioner Armstrong. That order did provide for an increase in wages of the man underground. It did shorten the hours of another set from 11 hours to eight hours. And at the same time it reduced the per diem wages of that last mentioned set. The miners could have accepted the order, continued to work and their fellow laborers whose per diem wages were reduced would have been powerless to help themselves. But they did not do it. While conditions were satisfactory so far as the great majority was concerned, that great majority refused to work at the expense of the small minority. Instead they quit work, took upon themselves the hardships of a strike, are undergoing very substantial monetary loss to themselves. If that is not applying that Golden Rule "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" then what is it? He who makes self sacrifices in support of his brother has always been commended heretofore.

## STRIKERS' CAUSE IS PRESENTED

Right to Organize and Living Wage Is Demanded by Labor

The real issues of the Winnipeg strike have been the subject of considerable discussion in Edmonton, and in order that they may be presented clearly the following is printed as taken from the Winnipeg Strike Bulletin wherein the strike committee sets forth their case:

Citizens here are the issues:

The general strike is called to demand:

1.—The Right to Organize.  
2.—A Living Wage.

The Employers refuse these, and the Citizens' Committee of 1,000 (1) demands that:

1.—Labor shall not organize and cooperate—Hence, the sympathetic strike must end (Brotherhood must not exist in Labor ranks).

2.—The Policemen's Union must be disbanded.

3.—The Firemen's Union must be disbanded.

4.—The Postal Federation must be disbanded.

Actions Speak Louder Than Words They form organizations such as:

1.—Greater Boards of Trade.  
2.—Manufacturers' Associations.

3.—Committee of 1,000 to Oppose Labor.

Peace Table Condemns Them The Peace Table dealing with Labor says:

(a) "Workers shall be allowed the right of Association for all Lawful Purposes."

(b) "Every Worker has a right to a wage adequate to maintain a reasonable standard of Life."

This Treaty was Signed by: Premier Lloyd George for Great Britain.

President Wilson for United States.

Premier Clemenceau for France.

Premier Hughes for Australia.

Premier Borden for Canada.

Premier Orlando for Italy.

Citizens! You Must Make Your Choice

We have made ours. We stand by the terms of the Allies.

Our strength is as the strength of ten, because our hearts are pure.

## POSTAL WORKERS REFUSE TO JOIN IN LOCAL STRIKE

Edmonton Postal Workers Wednesday by vote of 46 to 25 decided not to strike and turned down a suggestion to vote \$50.00 to the local strikers until Carl Berg had been removed from the Strike Committee.

## EVIDENCE HERE SUFFICIENT FOR MOST PEOPLE

Simply Question of Collective Bargaining and Nothing Else

REFUSED IN WRITING Declared for Open Shop and Would Not Discuss Question

If there has been any doubt in the minds of anybody as to whether the Triple Alliance at Winnipeg precipitated the strike there by refusing to deal with the union as an organization; and if anybody doubts that the basic issue of collective bargaining, the following excerpt taken from the Winnipeg Strike Bulletin should be sufficiently convincing:

"The 'Winnipeg Citizen' is persistently in its statement that the issue is not the right of Labor to organize, and to get a living wage that is at stake. Alderman Fisher says: 'I don't believe it is a question of wages, hours or conditions.'"

The Committee of 1,000 declares the object is the setting up of a Soviet.

These Men Deliberately Mised There is no excuse for this deliberate, calculated, persistent propaganda of falsehoods and deceptions. These men who flood the city with these gross misrepresentations know that they are circulating falsehoods in order to deceive the people at large. The facts are these:

1.—The Metal Trades strike was called after repeated attempts to get Messrs. Barrett, Deacon and Warren to negotiate.

These men by a letter sent every employee by Mr. Barrett, definitely refused either to recognize the Union or negotiate the schedule.

Here is their letter: April 22, 1919.

To our Employees: Dear Sir:

By registered mail we received from the Metal Trades Council a copy of Schedule which they are submitting to all hops in the City of Winnipeg, and asking us for an answer on or before May 1st.

Last year, all our employees were handed a copy of our rules and regulations, governing the service of our employees, and in these rules and regulations we have agreed to meet with any of our employees that have any grievance, or with a Committee of our Employees if they desire to discuss any conditions that may not be satisfactory.

As you understand we are running an absolutely "open shop" and believe that any man has a right to make a living whether he is a member of any Union or not, all we ask is that he give us good honest labor and we will always be willing to pay the highest wages.

Under the circumstances, we think you will see that it would be utterly impossible for us to even discuss the matter with the Metal Trades Council, as they do not represent all the men employed by us.

We do not think that it is at all necessary for that Council to try and force themselves into the affairs of either our employees or this Company and believe that any difference which may arise can be settled much more satisfactorily between ourselves.

If the majority of our men do not agree with us in the stand we have taken, as stated above, they are quite at liberty to appoint their different committees and discuss this matter with the Management.

We would ask you all to give this letter your most serious consideration, and remember that we are more closely interested in your welfare than it is possible for any Labor Union to be, and therefore expect your loyal co-operation.

THE VULCAN IRON WORKS, LTD.  
Per L. R. Barrett, General Manager.

This letter is specific. It says that:

(a)—We run an absolutely open shop.

(b)—It is utterly impossible to deal with the Metal Trades Council.

(c)—The men can appoint their different committees to discuss the matter with the management.

This makes it clear that:

(a)—No committees then existed.

(b)—Because of this, the letter was sent to every employee.

(c)—The men's unions were ignored.

(d)—They positively refused to negotiate schedules.

This will convince absolutely any person who has reason to try and force that the men are out to enforce the right to organize.

IL.—The second fact is that: The Building Trades Council submit-

## JUSTICE OF POSITION CANNOT BE DENIED

To Attempt to Dispute Collective Bargaining is Folly

NOT A NEW PROCEDURE Principle Adopted by Allies in Agreeing to Sign Separate Peace

Much effort is exerted by the daily press to discredit justification of the Winnipeg strike, and to persuade the citizens of Edmonton that they should turn strike breakers. Hon. G. D. Robertson, Minister of Labor of the Union Government Cabinet eventually got to Winnipeg. He says that the Winnipeg strike was unwarranted. His brand of collective bargaining was refused by the Metal Workers. Incidentally his brand happened to be identical with that of the Triple Alliance at Winnipeg which was the torch that precipitated the conflagration.

The Triple Alliance union or set of employees. Organized Labor does not do business that way. All men of similar crafts whether in one local or several locals, have a central council, provided specifically for handling wage schedule, hours of labor and such matters. On that council sit representatives of all men of the craft. When that council arrives at a scale and working conditions, the same is uniform throughout that city or district. One employer has not driven a better bargain than another. All are on an equal footing. Furthermore opportunities of discrimination against workers are minimized.

The principle of collective bargaining is no innovation. It is used generally. In 1911 and 1912 in Edmonton the building trades in this city dealt that way with the employers' council. The Railway operators, in which the Minister of Labor holds a card in the Conductors' Union, has been dealing that way for years. No one is more familiar with that fact than the Minister himself.

If there were need of any further argument to convince the most obstinate, it is a fact that the Allies adopted the principle of collective bargaining when they pooled their interests and efforts in the war and agreed that there would be no peace unless all were a party to that peace. There is no man on this continent who disputes for one moment that such was the right and proper course to pursue.

## ORGANIZATION AND RECOGNITION

What's Right For One Should Be Right For the Other

The manufacturers organize a Manufacturers' Association which appoints its own agents whom it expects to be recognized as such. That's all right.

The bankers organize a Bankers' Association, which appoints its own agents whom it expects to be recognized as such. That's all right.

The retailers organize a Retailers' Association which appoints its own agents whom it expects to be recognized as such. That's all right.

The Metal Trades Workers organize a Metal Trades Council which appoints its own agents whom it expects to be recognized as such. That's all wrong. Of course.

Bacon says that "reading maketh a full man." So does eating bacon.

These schedules were rejected by the employers. They said the wages asked were fair and reasonable, but they could not pay them because the building industry could not stand it.

That is, though the men were asking only a reasonable living wage, it was decided that this could not be granted.

The employers offered an alternative wage scale lower than that demanded.

When this was rejected by the men, the employers refused to recognize the Building Trades Council, and said they would deal only with the various crafts concerned apart from each other.

III.—The general strike ballot was called on the two specific questions of:

(a)—The right to organize

(b)—A living wage.

There WERE on other issues. There ARE no other issues.

IV.—The Strike Committee has placed in the hands of the Mayor of Winnipeg the basis of settlement.

These are the conditions:

(1)—Recognition of right of collective bargaining.

(2)—Recognition of Metal Trades Council.

(3)—Re-instatement of all persons on strike.

## TEAMSTERS' UNION HOLD BIG MEETING AT LABOR HALL

Teamsters, chauffeurs, warehouse workers held a large and determined meeting at Labor Hall Tuesday evening. A large number of new members were initiated. This organization is now around the 300 mark in membership. This union is on strike.

## RAILWAYS OF COUNTRY WILL BE TIED UP

Operators Taking Strike Vote and Serious Situation Promised

ANOTHER STRIKE VOTE

Railway Federation Deciding Action To Be Taken On Individual Issue

Railway operators, engineers, conductors and brakemen, are taking a strike vote throughout Canada. Unless the industrial differences are adjusted shortly there is little question but that Canadian railways will not be turning a wheel very shortly. The Federation of Railway shophmen—those who keep the rolling stock in running order—are also taking a strike vote over differences of their own and the result is only too apparent. These men are also out on strike now in a number of places in sympathy with Winnipeg.

Unless the national Government takes some steps to ameliorate conditions the greatest Labor crisis in Canada is inevitable. But Ottawa seems to be sitting while Rome burns.

## LABOR MINISTER CHANGES FRONT

Disputes Today What He Advocated One Year Ago

Senator G. D. Robertson, the envoy of the Federal government to Winnipeg just a year ago, said: "He would admit the right of workmen to a sympathetic strike if a principle such as the present were involved."

The issue then was the right of Labor to collective bargaining. The issue now is exactly the same, therefore we claim that Senator Robertson stands behind our demands for the right of Labor to organize today.

He said then that "If he had been mayor of Winnipeg there would have been no strike, for he would have negotiated with the men." Quite likely, then, had he been owner of the Vulcan, the Manitoba and the Dominion Bridge and Iron Company there would have been no strike.

He characterized the position of the City Council as that of kicking up a "tempest in a teapot." It looks as if he would repeat his statement at this time.

He added "The men will NEVER agree to relinquish the right to strike even if they are absolutely defeated; they will organize again for another blow." This was a good prophecy—this is EXACTLY what happened in the case of the Metal Trades, but this time the blow is that of a giant awakened from sleep.

## SCHEDULE WHICH CAUSED STRIKE

Three Big Employers Refuse to Treat With Unions on Subject

The schedule presented to the Triple Alliance by the Winnipeg Metal Trades, is as follows:

Eight hour day, 44-hour week, Weekly pay—no more than three days' pay to be held back—Double pay for overtime—Night shifts shall be 9 hours per night, five nights per week, and shall be paid for 10 hours per night.

Business representatives of the different crafts shall have free access to the shops at all times, provided they do not interfere or cause the men to neglect their work.

Then follow regulations governing apprentices, blacksmiths, boiler-makers, electricians and machinists.

The Rates of Pay Demanded Are: Apprentices—25c per hour for 1st year and 5 cents increase per hour for each additional six months until end of apprenticeship.

General Schedule: The following minimum wage scale shall prevail during the life of this agreement, the rate being per hour:

Machinists, 85c; Moulders, 85c; Core-makers, 85c; Pattern-makers, 85c; Blacksmiths, 85c; Boiler-makers, 85c; Electricians, 85c; Acetylene Welders, 85c; Electric Welders, 85c; Specialists, 75c; Helpers, 65c; Laborers, 55c.

## STRONG PLEA FROM PULPIT FOR STRIKERS

Saskatoon Methodist Clergyman Urges Citizens to Give Assistance

REPRESS MUST BE HAD Says Three Capitalists Are the Parties Wholly Responsible

Rev. Charles Endicott, in a sermon at Grace Methodist Church, Saskatoon, on Sunday night, urged leading men and prominent organizations of Saskatoon to stand behind Labor in the Winnipeg strike, which threatens to spread through the West, and see that the capitalists responsible for the strike be forced to recognize the rights of Labor. "No person has said," explained Mr. Endicott, "that the men of Winnipeg are asking an unreasonable thing. They are asking that their committees meet the employers in an endeavor to settle the question amicably. This is only collective bargaining which is coming to be recognized the world over."

In speaking of the request for higher wages, Mr. Endicott said the laborer's high wages mean nothing as long as prices remain high. He pointed out that 5% per cent. on Victory Bonds was considered a good investment. "But," he asked, "would the capitalist consider 5% per cent. a fair investment?" Mr. Endicott said to him the time seemed ripe for leaders in the community to take a hand and say, "The right of the laboring man to collective bargaining must be recognized." The world would not be subjected to a great loss if it lost the three capitalists in Winnipeg, he maintained. The capitalist's money is no good to him except through the people. Many millionaires, he insisted, robbed the people to make their fortunes. "We have coal mines," he said, "which we have not. We have timber lands which we have not. If the capitalist had to prove his title to his property he would have a difficult task."

Cause of Trouble.

In referring to the cause of the Winnipeg trouble, Mr. Endicott said three capitalists took the stand, "We're capitalists and we're running this business and if you don't like it, then get out." The men said, "We don't like it and we won't get out." They wanted to send a committee to discuss the situation with the employers, but the employers refused to meet the committee. Then the men went out.

There are persons, Mr. Endicott said, who immediately say, "Now there's your laboring man for you!" Mr. Endicott said the men did not want to strike. The slender income, scarcely sufficient to keep their wives and children, now stops altogether.

The minister likened the situation to the Biblical story of Mordecai's warning to Esther over the proposed massacre of the Jews. He said, "Think not with yourself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews. For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, shall there come enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed."

A Fight for Existence

Mr. Endicott said that now there were men who had good positions, good employers and good wages. But their brother laborers, not so well situated, are holding out their hands to them saying, "Help us or you may perish also."

The outcome of the contest, Mr. Endicott pointed out, will mean the survival or the destruction of Labor unions. "If Labor loses," Mr. Endicott said, "the Jews go home and destroy your cards. You are at the mercy of men who have sweated the laboring man and made them live in houses not fit for cattle."

The problem as he sees it, Mr. Endicott explained, is that the employers say they know the men need these wages, but they cannot pay them. "Are we in Canada so deficient in leadership that we cannot solve this problem?" Mr. Endicott asked.

In closing Mr. Endicott said it took courage to go on a strike. "We are still a little afraid of the big ones," he insisted. "Isn't it time for us to realize that man was not created in the image of a machine to grind out luxuries for those who already have too many? Isn't it time for us to realize that a man's a man for a' that? Stand with the working man. There are many influential men in this city. They with the Board of Trade and the lodges in Saskatoon should get busy and see that these three men in Winnipeg do not tie up their own city, but ours as well."

## SAME OLD CROWD SURE TO OBJECT

The boycott proposed by the league of nations to enforce peace will undoubtedly be opposed by all nations which want to "run their own business."