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INTERESTING ADDRESS BY H. C. NEWLANDS

Labor Party Hears Teachers' Alliance Held on Subject of Group Organization

Very interesting and instructive was the address on "Group Organization" delivered by H. C. Newlands of the Alberta Teachers' Alliance at the regular monthly propaganda meeting of the Labor Party on Tuesday evening.

In his opening remarks Mr. Newlands referred to the Alberta Alliance as the outcome of a desire for greater self-determination on the part of the teachers of the province. He stated that the Alliance was experiencing opposition and difficulties such as had been met by organized labor in the past, but the teachers realized that individuals could do very little alone and organization was found to be necessary if they were to receive just consideration.

Mr. Newlands in his address sketched the history of governmental ideas down through history, and showed that the economic conception of history went to the heart of the question of government. The speaker referred to the civilizations of Egypt and ancient Greece and claimed that all governments began with race domination and were maintained by slave labor. This also was established the holding of property gained by conquest, and nine-tenths of the laws in existence even today are based on the rights of property. In the light of history the fundamental basis of society is an economic one, declared the speaker, and the most successful system of government must be based on representation by economic groups.

Mr. Newlands referred to the present experiment in Russia and contended that in principle the soviet system combining the industrial or economic, and political interests, was a good example of the application of the group system of representation. The Russian Revolution, said the speaker, was one of the great things coming out of the war. An opportunity was being given for the working out of a system that has been claimed by its adherents to be practical as well as idealistic. Such an experiment was seemingly impossible in a country where British parliamentary traditions dominated, and we were privileged, said Mr. Newlands, in having an opportunity to see the experiment being made in Russia where matters had gone to such length that the old system had not been able to re-establish itself following the revolution, as had been done following other outbreaks in history.

There was a good discussion following Mr. Newlands' address, in which Rev. P. E. Mercer, J. W. H. Williams, E. E. Roper and J. W. Barnett took part. Mr. Mercer criticized the Russian system which he claimed was not democratic because of elaborate methods of choosing the administrators. He was inclined to favor a governmental parliament elected on geographical lines, in addition to an industrial parliament elected by industries to advise on industrial administration. E. E. Roper favored a legislative body elected by proportional representation from geographical constituencies. Industry would be, as far as possible, self governing with parliament protecting the interests of the community. In reply, Mr. Newlands stated that he did not intend to infer that the soviet system was perfect, but that the principle of combining economic or industrial and political interests was the best possible method of administering the affairs of government.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Newlands for his splendid address which was thoroughly enjoyed by those present.

IS HE AUTHORITY ON TRADE UNIONISM AND ITS POLICIES?

Can Charles M. Schwab be considered an authority on trade unionism and its policies?

In an address to college men in Princeton, N.J., the Bethlehem steel official said:

"A good workman is entitled to more pay than a poor one and wherever possible my men are paid for the work they do and proportionate to it. This is opposed to union principles I know, but it is the proper economic basis and the theory on which all my establishments are run."

LOW WAGES CLOSED 18,279 SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES

Failure to provide adequate wages for teachers has closed 18,279 schools in the United States, reports the United States bureau of education. This condition existed on February 13 last, and is based on returns from state school officials. In addition 41,900 schools were being taught by teachers characterized as "below standard, but taken on temporarily in the emergency." Greater shortages are shown to exist in southern states.

HAMILTON TEAMSTERS ASK NEW AGREEMENT WITH WAGE INCREASE

A new wage agreement, effective April 1, has been secured by Local 686, Teamsters', Chauffeurs', Stablemen and Helpers' International union at Hamilton. The rates asked are as follows: Singles, \$25; teams, \$27; yardmen, \$25 per week; pieceworkers, \$1 per ton, and eight-hour day and Saturday afternoons off the year round. This is a large local, nearly 200 members attending a recent meeting.

FACTORIES ACT TO BE AMENDED AT THIS SESSION

Will Include Provision For Minimum Wage of Women Workers

(By Our Own Correspondent)

The Factories Act will be amended this session to include a provision whereby the wages of women employed in stores will be regulated. The amendment is very similar to the minimum wage bills of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

The minimum wage in Alberta is at present established by statute and is hopelessly inadequate. The amendments aim at making the minimum more elastic. If the spirit of the amendment is carried out the minimum will at least bear some relation to the cost of living.

A commission of five persons will be appointed, the function of the commission will be to make a thorough investigation into the cost of living, the conditions of employment in the four cities in the province, then make recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, who will advertise the recommendations in the Alberta Gazette for a period of thirty days. At the end of that period the recommendations must be adopted by the employer.

The penalty clause for refusing to comply with the provisions of the Lieutenant Governor in Council's proclamation is the same as that in the Factories Act. The amendments will have the effect of setting up a provincial minimum wage as well as a provincial standard of hours for employees in stores, hotels and restaurant employees; girls employed in public rooming houses and theatres are also included.

The only difference between the other minimum wages bills in Canada and the one proposed in Alberta is that the commission's decision in Alberta is not final; all the reports of the commission must be submitted to the government.

We fail to see why the Alberta government should insist on retaining the right to veto a report of a commission which will be made up of representatives from employers and employees.

POST-WAR GROWTH OF BELGIAN TRADE UNIONS NOTABLE

Most Striking Expansion Is In Miners' Case—New Bill Is Under Consideration.

The latest report of the Belgian trade union movement shows the very considerable extent of the post-war growth. The membership in 1913 was 126,000; during the war it sank heavily; but it has now reached a figure of 613,000 for 1919. The most striking expansion is in the case of the miners, who have grown from 18,546 to 117,000. The movement has been, however, a general one, and covers many trades which were only weakly or not at all organized before, including workers in foodstuff factories, hotels, theatres and orchestras. One of the devices by which this expansion was secured was the inauguration immediately after the armistice of a programme for all workers of a universal eight-hour day and a minimum wage of one franc an hour. This appeal, combined with the promise of financial help to workers who declined to work for more than nine hours a day or for less than one franc an hour, brought in large numbers to the unions.

A new Trade Union Bill to establish the legal position of trade unions is at present under consideration in place of the unsatisfactory previous Article 310 of the Constitution. This Bill provides for liberty of association and of industrial action in accordance with the constitutional rules of the trade union; but lays down penalties for any attempted action against non-unionism. The Bill which is felt to be an advance from the point of view of Belgian labor, is expected to go through with general consent.

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS AFFILIATE WITH T. & L. COUNCIL AT HAMILTON

The Locomotive Engineers have affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council at Hamilton. "Welcome Brothers to our city," says the New Democracy.

EASTERN CANADA IS SOLIDLY FOR INTERNATIONAL

This Section of Dominion Has No Use or Sympathy With the One Big Union

Vice-President John Barrett of the Iron Molders' International Union, who has just returned to Toronto from a successful tour of the Maritime Provinces, and is greatly pleased at the way in which things are working out in the Maritime Provinces insofar as his particular organization is concerned.

He reports that in Halifax, where the local union ceased to exist as a result of the great catastrophe in that city, it has been revived and is now a 100 per cent organization. In such industrial centres as Amherst, Sydney, and Halifax, in Nova Scotia, and Sackville and Moncton, in New Brunswick, strong organizations have also been built up and straight union agreements have been signed in each of them with the employers, who conceded to all union demands.

St. John, N.B., is indeed the only north-western centre in the east that is not now solidly organized under the I. M.U. Mr. Barrett says that other international organizations in the east are also doing splendidly. This section of the Dominion is solidly for International Unionism, and has no use or sympathy with the One Big Union.

IRON WORKERS AT TORONTO GRANTED WAGE INCREASE

Manufacturers Had Formerly Refused to Meet Representatives of the Union

The employers of the Bridge and Structural Iron Workers at Toronto, have granted their employees a voluntary increase in wages of ten cents an hour. In some cases the increase will date back to March 1st. This increase will not affect the new agreement that the union proposes to submit to the employers.

Up to the present the big bridge and structural iron manufacturers have refused to meet or receive representatives of the union, and a very acute situation has arisen. It was feared that because of this attitude upon the part of the employers operations in the building trades might be held up in the coming spring.

The action of the manufacturers, it is hoped, will be the beginning of the recognition of the fact that the principle of collective bargaining cannot be denied, and that in the negotiations that the union now proposes to open up, the employers will manifest a more liberal policy and conciliatory spirit than they have done up to the present time.

LATHERS' WAGES INCREASED TO \$7 PER 8-HOUR DAY

Effective May 1, the members of Local No. 145, Lathers' Union at Hamilton, Ont., will have their wages advanced from \$5.50 to \$7 per day of eight hours. Foremen will receive 50 cents more. Pieceworkers' rates will increase from five cents to six and one-half cents per hour. The local now has a ninety-five per cent membership.

HAMILTON ELECTRICAL WORKERS ASKING FOR ARBITRATION BOARD

Having refused to accept the Hydro Commission's compromise wage increase offer for operators and linemen, the members of Local No. 105, Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Hamilton, have decided to ask Hon. Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor, for a Board of Arbitration to adjudicate the wage question. With a view to increasing the membership, this local has decided to appoint a business agent.

SEATTLE CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL ASKS HIGHER RATES

The Central Labor Council at Seattle has protested against the decision of the state industrial welfare commission that \$18 a week is a sufficient minimum wage for women workers engaged in "public housekeeping trades," such as waitresses, hotel workers, laundry workers and others. The unionists demand that the minimum be increased to \$25 a week.

Prices are not coming down, but our profiteers do not betray the least sign of discontent. What self-control—Toledo Union Leader.

The paper situation is becoming so acute that at any moment we may have no shoe soles.—The Leather Workers' Journal.

(Continued on Page Four)

In the Legislature

An interesting and exclusive feature contributed to the Free Press by Mr. Alex. Ross, M.L.A. for Centre Calgary.

The Municipal Law Committee were entertained to an exhibition of intolerance, if not of shady tactics, on Friday morning of last week when the amendments to the Medicine Hat Charter were discussed. The amendments as submitted in the original bill were of a non-contentious character but without warring a number of charter amendments of a more contentious nature were foisted on the committee. The amendments consisted of a request for permission to levy a poll tax of ten dollars, a rental tax of ten per cent on householders, also increase the business tax by three per cent.

The Garbage Tax

Last year the Medicine Hat council gave permission to levy a tax on householders for the purpose of paying for the collection of garbage. Alderman Heekvale, the gentleman from the Hat who explained the charter amendments facetiously remarked that since the imposition of the garbage tax Medicine Hat was now the cleanest city in the province. Whatever may have been the effect of the said garbage tax on the external appearance of the city it evidently had an adverse effect on the morals of some of its citizens.

Medicine Hat can now impose a poll tax, rental tax, garbage tax, and a small business tax, not to mention the other taxes all equally designed to relieve those who ought to pay the taxes. Medicine Hat as a city is best known throughout the west, as the home of Mayor Brown, an ingenious financier, whose hobby is industrial development. His scheme of industrial development is to invite industries to the Hat, exempt them from taxation, supply them with cheap gas before and after they are established, then make the employees pay the taxes. Naturally this system of taxation is endorsed by those who do not create any wealth in the city, but who live from the efforts of somebody else.

Protest From Citizens

The citizens of Medicine Hat are not all enamored with the mayor's industrial development schemes, with the result that a petition signed by a large number of citizens was presented to the committee by a Calgary member protesting against the imposition of such taxes. Tuesday the 23rd was the day originally intended for the discussion of the bill, but the member for Medicine Hat arranged to have it changed to March the 20th. The date was changed so suddenly that it was impossible to notify the petitioners in time to enable them to send up a deputation if they so desired. The Calgary member handling the petition endeavored to have the contentious amendments held over until Tuesday, the original date, in order to give him time to notify the petitioners which is a common custom. But no, the gang were well organized. A vote was called for; there was no quorum at this stage, but the provincial treasurer who is still interested in Medicine Hat, the speaker and Spenser rounded up their forces. The vote was lost so the committee proceeded. It was soon evident that the whole coup-d'etat was planned by the Medicine Hat trinity, Spencer, Pingle, Mitchell, the only opposition being Mrs. McKinney, Stahley, Pearson, Davidson and Ross.

The Poll Tax

The ten dollar poll tax was first considered. The virtues of the poll tax was first considered. The virtues of the poll tax were extolled by Mitchell, who pointed out that the people who work in the Medicine Hat industries are all drawing fine big salaries but contribute nothing in the shape of taxes. Therefore they should be compelled to pay a poll tax. Pingle and Spenser loudly applauded. Hon. Mr. McKay, a liberal of the old school, who sometimes entertains his audacious as well as the members with stories about the principles of liberalism, also agreed. It was only the day before that both McKay and Mitchell were opposed to an income tax being levied in Edmonton (both live in Edmonton) however they were very much in love with a poll tax for Medicine Hat. What is the use of a poll tax if you cannot collect it? The Medicine Hat Council overlooked nothing. A thirty days imprisonment clause for non payment was asked for, but the Medicine Hat trinity were by this time ashamed of themselves, so that clause was withdrawn.

Rental Tax Ingenious Scheme

The tax on rentals was also approved. It was explained that the beauty of this tax was that the more rent you paid, the more you would have to pay in taxes. It soon became apparent that an unlimited supply of cash could be accrued from this source. All the Medicine Hat Mayor needs to do when a non-paying industry locates there is to call a meeting of the landlords union of the Board of Trade, persuade them to raise the rents which automatically increases the householders tax. The

NEW ZEALAND LABOR PARTY HAS ADVANCED

Increased Representation in Parliament From Four in 1914 to Eleven in 1919

(By Federated Press)

Reviewing the labor position in New Zealand, Harry E. Holland, leader of the New Zealand Labor party, states that labor has made a considerable advance in that country during the war. In 1914, labor polled 45,987, and in 1919 the vote was 125,970—an increase of 79,983. Labor's standing in the New Zealand parliament was four members in 1914, and today it is eight straight-out labor, and three Independent Labor members. Had the elections been conducted on proportional lines, they would have had 19 members.

The attitude of the New Zealand Labor party is to be one of no compromise. It will be a fighting party in every sense of the word, and will make its presence felt in the new parliament in that country. The victories won by the party are undoubtedly victories for labor, socialism, and anti-militarism, and the party now enters upon its great work of education and organization, relying on the soundness of its principles and its ability to educate the people in those principles for their ultimate victory.

RAILWAYMEN IN BRITAIN WANT CONTROL

National Union in Conference Agree to Re-affirm Demand for Nationalism

(By the Federated Press)

London.—The recent conference of all the district councils of the National Union of Railwaymen, held here, came to important decisions on nationalization and control of the railways.

It was unanimously agreed to reaffirm the demand for the national ownership of the railways coupled with control by the workers, and, in addition, to recommend all branches of the union to instruct the executive committee at once to inaugurate a national campaign in order to secure the support of all sections of the community for all alteration of the ownership and control of the railway system.

The district councils appointed a committee of nine to go into the whole question of control, and to prepare a scheme of railway democratization for submission to the branches.

Further steps were taken towards securing closer unity of action during a national strike on lines. It was decided that every district council should formulate a scheme for securing more effective cohesion and communication during times of crisis.

IRON MOLDERS WIN ANOTHER SHOP AT HAMILTON POUNDRY

Another shop has been won by the striking molders and coremakers, who have been on strike since last May. Last week the men returned to work at the Hamilton Foundry, the firm having "come across" with the eight-hour day and 75 cents per hour. It is said that very soon the Grand Trunk shop and Steel Company of Canada will fall in line. The members of Local No. 28 Iron Molders' Union are firm in demanding that strike-breakers be "let go."

HAMILTON BARBERS ARE CONSIDERING A RAISE IN PAY

The members of Local No. 131 Journeymen Barbers' Union at Hamilton, Ont., are considering a raise in pay. At present they get \$20 per week and 50 per cent extra of all receipts over \$23 weekly. The present wage agreement terminates in May. The union is 100 per cent organized.

WORCESTER, MASS. ENDORSES ROCKDALE CO-OPERATIVE PROJECT

The Central Labor Union at Worcester, Mass., has endorsed a co-op. project based on the Rockdale system, which sells goods at the market price and returns savings on the basis of money spent at the store, rather than on the amount of stock held.

Shares will be sold at \$11 each, \$10 of which is to go into capital stock and \$1 for organization purposes.

Dishonest kings used to debate the question so that it lost its purchasing power, and it took a lot more money to buy clothes and food. We just happened to think of this. We don't mean anything in particular by it.—Toledo Union Leader.

FAIR PRICE ADVISORY BOARD OF D. C. FIXES FAIR PROFIT ON SHOES

The fair price advisory board of the District of Columbia has concluded that \$3.50 is a fair profit on a \$10 pair of shoes. It has been found that some dealers have been charging what is termed "exorbitant" profits and this sale has been agreed to: 35 per cent profit on ordinary grades of shoes; 40 per cent on shoes selling at over \$12, and 31 per cent on children's shoes.

DEFENSE COUNSEL QUILTS FOLLOWING WORDS WITH JUDGE

Judge Objected To Defense Quoting Article on Socialism From Encyclopedia Britannica.

(By Gordon Cascadden)
(Special to The Free Press)

"We seven men are not on trial but the movements of men." This was the declaration of John Queen, Winnipeg alderman, in his address to the jury in the trial of the labor spokesmen for alleged seditious conspiracy in connection with the big 1919 Winnipeg general strike.

Queen spoke for nearly a day and a half, following W. H. Truman, K.C., who opened the case for the defence, which did not call any witnesses. When about half way through his speech, western Canada's most eminent constitutional lawyer, who was defending Alderman A. A. Heaps, suddenly quit, following a heated discussion with Judge Metcalf.

Handfuls of the seized documents put in as exhibits deal with Socialism and Labor economics. For this reason Truman wanted to quote from the article on Socialism in the Encyclopedia Britannica. The judge objected, declaring the only kind of Socialist discussion he would permit was that which can be brought about by the ballot.

Night sessions are being held, court lasting from 10 o'clock at night with intermissions for lunch and dinner.

This arrangement, however, was put into effect only after A. J. Andrews, E. C. chief crown lawyer, had finished his speech, the accused thereby being put to a greater physical and mental strain. The crown prosecutor who represented the so-called "Citizens' Committee" during the strike, spoke for nearly three days and a half.

Queen, in his address, read from evidence introduced by the crown and charged Andrews directly with representing the so-called Citizens' Committee aggregation at a meeting of the city council during the strike, when it was decided to issue permit cards. The government has made one of its most serious charges against the accused in its declaration that labor usurped the powers of civic government by establishing a Soviet.

Queen also showed that three other lawyers who have assisted in the prosecution from the very start actually were members of the so-called Citizens' Committee.

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CAN. ELECTRICAL WORKERS WILL PAY DUES IN CANADA

On Account of Exchange Rate All Remittances Will Be Sent To Winnipeg.

The International Executive Council of the Electrical Workers being anxious to provide for a system of remittance and disbursements which would provide a more satisfactory arrangement for Canadian business instructed the International Secretary, International Treasurer and J. L. McBride, member of the International Executive to devise a workable arrangement. The following method has been adopted and is to become operative April 1st.

The secretary of the local union will forward his report to the international office the same as heretofore. His remittance he will forward direct to J. L. McBride, 165 James street, Labor Temple, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Brother McBride has been designated as agent of the International Secretary for the purpose of receiving funds, and will in turn report the remittance in amount thereof direct to the international office.

One great reason for the change in administration is the fluctuation of exchange between Canada and the United States.

Of course, after all, the best way to lick the "reds" is to give humanity a better principle than Lenin can offer.—The Progressive Labor World.

Heredity counts for much in life, environment counts perhaps for more. What ideals are you holding up to your children to influence their lives. Its worth pondering over.—The Western Independent.

AN AMERICAN VIEW OF BRITISH LABOR METHODS

Federated Press Writer Compares British Situation With United States.

(By Felix Morley)
(Staff Writer the Federated Press)

ARTICLE I—THE SITUATION TODAY

London.—Underneath its present orderly exterior, in a slow but sure, though going British manner, England is now being steadily transformed into a state completely controlled by productive labor. The upper class opposition is very strong, and the ignorant enervation of large sections of the workers an obvious drawback. Yet month by month unmistakable and permanent progress towards a new era is being achieved, and the goal now well in view is something sufficiently advanced to make the economic outlook of Gompers and Gary seem identical by contrast. Ruthless as is the present policy of British militarism in the subject countries of Ireland, India and Egypt, it is now just as important for American labor to appreciate the growing power of Socialism in England proper as it is to condemn the effects of a dying imperialism in her forcibly held dominions. With the exception of Russia, and perhaps Italy and Germany, England has more nearly outgrown capitalism than any other great nation. She is incomparably ahead of the United States in this respect.

Three things about the present labor movement in England impress themselves immediately upon the visitor from America. They may be summed up by saying that in spite of the greater pressure of the war, more liberty, justice and common sense have been left alive in England than in the United States. There is first a far greater measure of freedom of speech and press on this side. For instance it is difficult to find either a labor mass meeting where the proceedings are not closed by singing the Red Flag and cheering the Russian soviet republic, or a reputable newspaper which characterizes such outbursts as seditious, un-English, anarchistic, and the like. As for police and secret service raids, suppression of radical newspapers, imprisonment and deportation of agitators—such things may be common in Ireland and the United States, but they are virtually unknown here. If an alleged labor paper is so extreme as to be ridiculous nobody buys it. If an agitator prattles of impractical tactics he is laughed at. This keeps everyone in good humor. There is no cessant terrorism, no bomb plots by anarchists or capitalists, no underground discontent, no imitation of czarist-Russia.

The result is no danger of revolution from the standpoint of the government, no wasted time for the workers in having to struggle for the most fundamental of rights, and real and rapid progress along lines of radical social evolution. There are many elements in this situation which cause grave anxiety to the traditional governing class, but all efforts to check the tide only result in an increase of the power and solidarity of organized labor. A point for America to realize is that the present state of affairs in Ireland and other subject countries will very soon be altered in accordance with the principle of self-determination, when labor gains control of the government. The British Labor party is working as hard in behalf of Ireland as is Sinn Fein.

A second striking difference to the United States is found in the English labor leaders. The majority of them are real leaders, men of vision and ideals, democratically chosen, graduates of factory and mine who make it their business to encourage rather than re-

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LABOR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Tuesday, March 30th
Old Fort Machinists No. 1266.
Thursday, April 1st
Machinists No. 559.
Friday, April 2nd
United Brotherhood of Carpenters, No. 1325.
Printing Pressmen No. 255.
Saturday, April 3rd
Typographical Union No. 604.
Bakers and Confectioners No. 276.

LABORATE SCHEME FOR ARBITRATION OF LABOR DISPUTES

An elaborate scheme for the arbitration of labor disputes is provided in a long promised bill introduced in the Chamber of Deputies at Paris by Deputy Jourdain. Under its terms arbitration is obligatory and cessation of work is forbidden in employment considered necessary to the public convenience and the stopping of which would endanger health and the economic and social life of the country.