

WESTERN CLARION

The Official Organ of
THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA

Number 811

VANCOUVER, B. C., THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 1920

FIVE CENTS

Progress of the Seditious Cases in Winnipeg

Defence Will Line Up All Its Forces

Will Not Rest Until Russell is Free—
Legal Opinion Sought

Big Convention in Winnipeg on Jan.
18 Will Decide Future Action

(Special to the B.C. Federationist)

ARRANGEMENTS are now being made for the holding of the labor defense convention in the Strand Theatre, Main Street, Winnipeg, on Sunday, January 18, to which all labor organizations, no matter what affiliation they have, will send their delegates. The purpose of the convention is to discover the precise standing of the labor movement in all its aspects, in view of the summing up of Mr. Justice Metcalfe, the trial judge in the Russell case, and the verdict rendered on the seven counts of the indictment charging seditious conspiracy against eight men, arrested as a result of the Winnipeg strike.

Will Have Legal Opinion

One of the best constitutional lawyers in the city of Winnipeg has been

briefed for the purpose of giving his judicious opinion on the matter. Labor men of all shades of opinion are apparently unanimous in that by the decision in the Russell case, all labor's rights have been ruthlessly undermined. Added to the legal consideration, there is also the bitter feeling amongst the members of the rank and file of the organizations that went on strike, that if Russell be guilty for having carried out their instructions, they are also equally guilty, if not more so.

Cement Labor from Coast to Coast

By means of this convention Winnipeg labor hopes to be able to cement together in one vast volume of protest the voice of labor from coast to coast. On all sides can be found the grim determination that the matter shall not rest until Russell is free.

Report to be Published Broadcast

It is intended that the account of the convention shall be published broadcast, so that labor east and west will be able to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest just what this trial means to labor of the country.

the evidence by the judge in his charge to the jury. The question of who is to pay for the prosecution also may be argued. The defence alleges that the prosecution also may be argued.

The defence alleges that the prosecution is not being paid for by the

provincial government, therefore it is illegal.

The question was raised by the defence as it closed its case before Mr. Justice Metcalfe. At that time Hon. Thomas Johnson, attorney general was not allowed to answer questions put to him by Mr. Cassidy.

Nemesis, The Terror

From "The Industry," Wash., D.C.

EDITOR'S Note—To the average man, either professional or workman, the value of the dollar simply means the number he can earn and what he can purchase with it. Economists and nations, however, see a much more important significance, especially in its relations to international trade and commerce. "Ways and Means," an English publication, calls attention in a recent issue to the grave danger confronting the finances of the world from the tremendous changes in the movement of exchanges. The attention of our readers is called to the following statement by that publication.

The overshadowing danger of the moment is the possibility of the breaking down of the money machine. Words are incapable of expressing the universal calamity that would follow such an event. The worst horrors of the war would be multiplied a million-fold. Famine, disease, pestilence and death would be brought right home to each one of us within an incredibly short time.

Very little purpose would be served by painting so harrowing a picture for the benefit of the ordinary reader unless some suggestion could also be offered as to how such a reader could do his share towards averting such an unspeakable catastrophe. The imminence of the danger is obvious to all, although most of us do not take the trouble to look at it. It is shown in the daily records of the movement of exchanges. With the mark at 200, the franc at 39, the lira at 55, and the pound at four dollars, we have the whole story in front of us.

We are approaching very near to the point when it will be impossible to exchange goods as between nations, and if the point arrives it will not be long before the next stage when it will be impossible to exchange goods as between members of individual nations. What are the remedies? The first, of course, is production coupled with economy. We pass that, however, as, at once the most obvious and the most difficult, but on the other hand, the one remedy which each and everyone can apply. The second is a relentless, ruthless and drastic cut-

ting down of public expenditure everywhere and by everybody. Some means must be found of making the public realize this outstanding need. Somebody must be discovered who can translate Lord Fisher's dictum into words which will appeal to the masses, not only here, but in every country of the world, and we must sweep away the staggering burden of Governmental artificiality which is rapidly exhausting the last remnants of economic endurance. And this leads us to the third and easiest and simplest of the urgent things which require instant action.

A simple illustration may help the argument. The American Chamber of Commerce within the United States have met and decided to initiate a campaign for the purpose of persuading the American public to buy British goods. No more remarkable phenomenon ever occurred in commercial history. American manufacturers and producers in solemn conclave with all the facts before them, deliberately appeal to their best customers to buy the goods of their competitors. The American business man, thanks to a system of university education which does not ignore business and economics, realize that the money machine is in danger of breaking down, and if that happens he has lost everything.

With that illustration before us, a study of the exchange figures quoted above helps us to see the simple world movements which are essential to restore the balance so rudely shaken at the moment. To get the pound back to parity, British goods must go to America. To get the mark back to a condition when it becomes a workable factor, German goods must come to us and others. To re-establish the rouble, the worst of all the money tokens, Russia must be started again in the exporting business. These are the big things, the life and death things which must be done. It is incredible that with these facts known to them, with the situation open to them, with advice and experience at their disposal, Governments should be so blind to realities as to deliberately frame their policy so as to accentuate rather than palliate the ill that threatens us.

Russell Case before the Manitoba Appeal Court

WINNIPEG, Man., Jan. 8, 1920—The appellate court upheld the crown in the appeal case of R. B. Russell today, in so far as count one is concerned.

Chief Justice Perdue said he could see nothing vague in the first count of the twenty-eight page indictment against the strike leaders, which Mr. Cassidy contended was general and not specified because it mentioned seditious contention without attributing it to anyone. Indications point to several days of argument, because the defence had only begun its first point when the court adjourned for the noon recess. Arguments are largely on technical points of law.

Reasons for appeal; The indictment is general and not specific. The eight men should have been tried together, because they were indicted together, this would give the defence thirty-two challenges, four for each accused. With the trials split Russell should have been given twenty-eight challenges, four on each of the seven counts in the indictment. Prospective jurors should have been allowed to say whe-

ther the general strike last Spring caused them any monetary loss. Documentary evidence produced against Russell which had no association with him. Accused was not permitted to put in evidence to show that the strike and its continuance were not intentions of the accused, but that on the contrary he tried to stop it. Evidence of the strike and alleged unlawful acts committed during its progress should not have been admitted against accused. Overt acts were put in the form to lead one to suppose they were the substance of the charge. Mr. Justice Metcalfe's instructions on this point after his long dissertation to the jury would have been alright if they had been made at the beginning of his charge.

Resolutions, speeches and acts in the labor organizations' meetings come under the protection of the law as they are the result of a lawful trade combination as defined by statute. Evidence of public meetings which was entirely irrelevant to the charge was admitted. Wrong interpretations were placed on some of