

**The Western Federation of Miners, the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees and the American Labour Union.**

It is obviously against the public interest that any body of Canadian workmen should be subject to be called out on strike by a foreign authority over whom neither our legislatures nor courts can exercise any control, and that whether they have any grievances against their employers or not. Whether the wheels of Canadian industry shall run or shall rust ought not to depend upon the decrees of a secret council at Denver. With regard to these organizations we think they ought to be specially declared to be illegal, as their leaders have shown that they care nothing about the obligation of contracts or about the interests of their employers, against whom they are ever fomenting discontent; that they ignore the constitutions and rules of their own organizations whenever it suits them to do so; that they at all times preach the doctrine of confiscation of property without compensation, and that society is divided into two classes, the toilers and the spoilers; that they justify the use of the boycott and the sympathetic strike; that they do not disapprove of violence and intimidation; that they are wholly indifferent to the loss and damage which they inflict upon the public; and that they recklessly allow suffering and privation to befall the families of their misguided followers, with regard to whom they are constantly guilty of deception and concealment.

There is an additional reason in the case of the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees, which is that it is the aim of this body to force all classes of railway employees, from the highest to the lowest, together into one organization, in opposition to the wishes of virtually all of the existing railway unions. The great majority of the railway men have no such desire. They have their own class organizations which contract on their behalf with the company, and with which they are satisfied, as, on the one hand their grievances are passed on by

a committee of their own number who fully understand them, and, on the other hand, they deal directly with those officials of the railway who are in control of the department to which they belong. It is obvious that a committee of car labourers or freight handlers could not deal as intelligently with a trouble arising among the conductors or engineers as the latter can themselves; in fact the latter (who are, according to one of the sympathetic strikers, the aristocrats of unionism) would not submit to have their movements dictated by the former. To allow an organization like the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees to gain any foothold among the employees of a great railway system like the Canadian Pacific Railway, would be to introduce the bitterest dissensions among them, and at the same time make it impossible to carry on the proper management and discipline of the railway, which is just as necessary as in a ship at sea. The best evidence that the United Brotherhood of Railway Employees is not wanted by railway employees as a whole, is that the engineers, conductors, firemen, trainmen, &c., of the Canadian Pacific Railway, although appealed to, refused to come out in aid of, or to render financial assistance to that organization. Moreover, this body has not gained any official recognition from any railway company, so far as we are aware, nor could this be expected, as a glance at its constitution will show that it is not a trade union at all, but in reality a one-man despotism.

**Incendiary and Scurrilous Literature.**

Another reason for parliamentary condemnation of these organizations is that it might serve to stop the distribution of their incendiary and scurrilous literature. As examples of the kind of matter which is periodically put forth in the journals of these bodies, we may quote the following extracts.

In an editorial in the official organ of the Western Federation of Miners, the *Miners'*

*Magazine* for April, 1903, at page 46, the following statement appears:—

Organized labour has been fighting on the industrial field to maintain a wage compensation that enables the human family to obtain some of the necessities of life, but organized labour is arousing from the hypnotic spell of fake leaders, and moving towards the political battlefield where capitalism will be assassinated for once and forever.

Commenting on the statement of the Governor of Colorado that 'If a man wants to work he has a perfect right to do so, and the troops are there to see that everybody's rights are protected', the editor says, at page 10:

These mouthings of the governor convict him as an official assassin of labour's rights, a servile tool who has disgraced the executive chair by turning over to the corporations the power of his office, to be utilized for the aggrandizement of watered stock gamblers.

At page 17 he quotes with approval the following from an editorial in a Denver paper:—

Now, the situation is this: the miners of this state do not propose to submit to such oppression. They are advocates of law and order, and they will not long permit it to be violated even by the state's chief executive. There is a grave danger in pushing oppression too far, and it is certain that the miners are now in a mood to strike back. They will preserve their liberties and retain their rights if it is necessary to pass through the Red Sea of revolution in order to do so. The colonists had less occasion to rebel against the authority of King George than have the miners of Colorado to resist the oppression of Governor Peabody.

Again at page 23:

The man who will scab on strikers will scab on his honour, if it is possible for a scab to have any honour.

Commenting on the following statement of John Mitchell, president of the United Mine Workers of America, 'I do not believe that in our country there should be an irreconcilable conflict between labour and capital. Notwithstanding the fact that I have gone through quite a number of strikes, I have not yet abandoned my opinion that if the representatives of capital and the representatives of labour can be brought together, and if they can sit down in honest conference, if they will look one another straight in the eye and tell one another the absolute truth, I believe when that is done that the day of conflict between capital and labour shall end' the editor says, at page 40:

There can be no reconciliation between the capitalist and the labourer, and no one is in a better position to realize this fact than Mr. Mitchell.

At page 59 appears the following letter, with no signs of disapproval from the editor:

Park City, Utah, March 5, 1903.

Editor *Miners' Magazine*:

The United States government is arming 100,000 more murderers to assassinate labour, and still some toll worn fools sleep on!

Come, ye uniformed butchers to the slaughter your Nereoes prepared for us! We welcome you with bloody arms to the graves your tyrants dig for labour! The star-spangled banner of barbarism that floated over the blue-bellied Hessians in the Cœur D'Alenes hath no terrors for patriots who will die, as they have lived, for liberty.

The army reorganization bill is a notice served on labour that liberty is sentenced to death; and that unless labour prefers peace at the price of chains and slavery, it must arm itself for labour's Gettysburg, and give battle to tyranny for victory or death. The enemy's advance guard is already thundering at the gates of labour's Lexington. Do your pickets sleep and your soldiers dream? Can none of you see the crimson dawn of the American Thermidor, and the stalking phantom of Robespierre? Your laws defied, your rights denied, your last liberties assailed by the Goths and Vandals of plutocracy, and still ye cower in submission to the galling yoke of Cæsar! Peace—with hunger! Liberty—to starve!

Famine for your wives, whoredom for your daughters, slavery for your sons, and chains and bayonets for you! This is the terms of surrender your enemy proposes! Let your answer be the answer of Sumpter to the guns of Bearregard!

SALTAIRE.

At page 68 appears the following:

Then let them march to the polls as free men, not as slaves, and cast their ballots for the emancipation of the wage slave, a ballot that will not disgrace the gubernatorial chair with a despot, who is the willing tool of plutocracy, who, at the beck and call of a corporation hiring sends out his peanut soldiers to awe honest labour into servile subjection for demanding their right to organize and to petition for a little more wages to keep the wolf from the door. A ballot that will banish forever master and slave. A ballot that will not disgrace 'Old Glory' by floating over corruption and petticoat soldiers, who would murder their brother in toil if it would win an encomium from their master. If I had the power of the Almighty I would rather them all up and place them under my heel and grind them into the dust of oblivion.

Fraternally,

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The following appears in the editorial New Year's Greeting in the January number:

We believe that organized labour throughout the west is approaching a crisis. The merging of railroads and coalition of millionaires in the