

and Alaska together, she is a vast reservoir of raw material for which the world hungers and cries out. The conversion of these resources into marketable products and their sale will soon create a vast trade, and only by the creation of this trade can we effectually carry the financial burden which the war has placed upon our shoulders. This, however, is dependent upon industrial peace. Industrial peace can only be obtained by legislation and regulation in a remedial way for the protection of the worker, the creator of all real and true wealth.

This was recognized by the great powers in the Peace Conference, and incorporated in the Treaty.

At page 193 of the Treaty, being part XIII relating to labour, the preamble reads:

Whereas the League of Nations has for its object the establishment of universal peace, and such a peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice;

And whereas conditions of labour exist involving such injustice, hardship, and privation to large numbers of people as to produce unrest so great that the peace and harmony of the world are imperilled;

And an improvement of those conditions is urgently required; as, for example, by the regulation of the hours of work, including the establishment of a maximum working day and week, the regulation of the labour supply, the prevention of unemployment, the provision of an adequate living wage, the protection of the worker against sickness, disease and injury arising out of his employment, the protection of children, young persons and women, provision for old age and injury, protection of the interests of workers when employed in countries other than their own, recognition of the principle of freedom of association, the organization of vocational and technical education and other measures;

Whereas also the failure of any nation to adopt humane conditions of labour is an obstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve the conditions in their own countries; etc.

To this declaration Canada is a consenting party. The general principles embodied in this part of the treaty are the result of the work of the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden. His was the mind which conceived this portion of the treaty; his was the hand that wrote the words, and too great credit cannot be given him for the work that he has done along these lines.

The motion of the Prime Minister which put into effect these principles at the Peace Conference is incorporated in the treaty as Article 427, which is to be found at page 204. It reads as follows:

The High Contracting Parties, recognizing that the well-being, physical, moral and intellectual,

of industrial wage-earners is of supreme international importance, have framed, in order to further this great end, the permanent machinery provided for in section 1 and associated with that of the League of Nations.

They recognize that differences of climate, habits and customs, of economic opportunity and industrial tradition, make strict uniformity in the conditions of labour difficult of immediate attainment. But, holding as they do, that labour should not be regarded merely as an article of commerce, they think that there are methods and principles for regulating labour conditions which all industrial communities should endeavour to apply, so far as their special circumstances will permit.

Among these methods and principles, the following seem to the High Contracting Parties to be of special and urgent importance:

First: The guiding principle above enunciated that labour should not be regarded merely as a commodity or article of commerce.

Second: The right of association for all lawful purposes by the employed as well as by the employers.

Third: The payment to the employed of a wage adequate to maintain a reasonable standard of life as this is understood in their time and country.

Fourth: The adoption of an eight hours day or a forty-eight hours week as the standard to be aimed at where it has not already been attained.

Fifth: The adoption of a weekly rest of at least twenty-four hours, which should include Sunday wherever practicable.

Sixth: The abolition of child labour and the imposition of such limitations on the labour of young persons as shall permit the continuation of their education and assure their proper physical development.

Seventh: The principle that men and women should receive equal remuneration for work of equal value.

Eighth: The standard set by law in each country with respect to the conditions of labour should have due regard to equitable economic treatment of all workers lawfully resident therein.

Ninth: Each State should make provision for a system of inspection in which women should take part, in order to ensure the enforcement of the laws and regulations for the protection of the employed.

These are the principles laid down by the conference in regard to labour and included in the Peace Treaty. I say that labour should have no fear of the mind that conceived these principles; labour should have no fear of the hand that wrote the words embodying these principles; labour should have no fear of the personality that brought these principles into being. On the contrary the foundations laid by Sir Robert Borden at the Peace Conference will be the beginning of a new era for labour in Canada—the Prime Minister's work on these lines, when brought into effect in Canada by legislation, as I feel sure it will be shortly, will, to my mind, be the saving of our country from industrial unrest.