

British Labor Party and The Ruhr Conflict

The publication of the recent German note concerning the Ruhr question has evoked from the Parliamentary Labor Party the following suggestions for the solution of the questions at issue.

(1) That no settlement can be reached which proceeds upon the assumption that Germany should be dismembered still further, that German sovereignty over German territory and people should be limited by outside authority, that it should be kept permanently in a state of economic vassalage.

(2) That the immediate need is a definite fixing of German financial responsibilities, to be followed at once by the flotation of international loans secured upon German resources so as to enable restoration payments to be made without further delay to France and Belgium.

(3) That a special session of the League of Nations should be immediately summoned to arrange for the admission of Germany as a member and to proceed to settle conditions of national security in Europe, the Allies and associated Governments concurrently negotiating final agreements regarding debts and the distribution of indemnities and other assignments under the Treaty of Versailles, in the event of this complete settlement being negotiated, and in order to give Europe a fair start in peace and reconstruction, the party declares that this country should be prepared to take a generous attitude regarding debts, mandates and forfeited property, not only because such an attitude is morally required, but also because continued unsettlement and a sense of injustice are ruinous to trade, provocative of war, and dangerous to civil liberty and constitutional reform.

(4) The Party, without committing itself to all the details of the proposal of the German Government, believes that it affords a basis for negotiation between the German and Allied Governments, and urges upon the British Government to issue a statement at once to the above effect and to promote a conference between the parties concerned.

(5) The Party also considers that the time has now come for a complete withdrawal of the troops of occupation, and that if that is not agreed to by the Allies our Government should seriously consider the immediate withdrawal of the British troops.

regiments—one for each commune. The active army comprises all Fascists between the ages of 18 and 30 years who express the wish to take part in it, as well as ex-soldiers of all ages.

The reserve army comprises all Fascists who do not form part of the active army.

Whoever desires to join the Fascist army must take an oath. The soldiers of this army receive a badge and an identity card.

The above particulars have been obtained from "Le Railement," the journal of the Belgian National Union of Railwaymen which takes great trouble to keep the workers informed concerning the activities of the masters of brute force.

In reporting the creation of the "Fascist force," Le Peuple, the socialist daily, does not manifest any great anxiety. But it adds: "It is as well to know people who aim at importing into Belgium the manners, tendencies, practices and procedure of black-shirted jowls of Italy . . . however, amusing their parody may be, it behoves us to watch these swashbucklers . . . whose noses we may some day have to tweak."

Workers in the Food and Drink Trades

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Workers in the Food and Drink Trades was held at Basle on April 22nd and 23rd.

The Executive of the International Federation of Trade Unions was represented by Comrade Finmen.

The report on the work done by the Executive Committee stated that as a result of the connections which have been established with the workers in English-speaking countries the International has increased its sphere of influence. At the present moment the Federation is in touch with all organizations of workers in the Food and Drink Trades throughout the whole world. It is expected that a number of these organizations will affiliate in the near future. At present 27 Unions with a total membership of 570,000 are affiliated. During the year under review the Italian and the Jugoslavian unions have affiliated.

With reference to the boycott against the firm of E. Remy & Co. in Wygmaal, Belgium, it was stated that the factories belonging to this firm in Belgium and Germany have been closed down because of the difficulty of finding markets. Nevertheless, the firm continues to refuse to accept the conditions presented by the Executive of the International Federation.

The Executive decided unanimously to continue the boycott with all the means at its disposal.

The Executive Committee had also to deal with the question of accepting the affiliation of unions which belong to the Moscow Red Trade Union International. These Unions have been provisionally affiliated up to the present. The Congress must decide as to the definite affiliation of these unions. After thoroughly examining the situation and on the grounds of experience the Executive came to the conclusion that the affiliation cannot be accepted. The conditions under which organized co-operation would be possible are non-existent. The Russian comrades informed the Executive that they regard it as their duty to join with the other Red organizations within the Federation in order to establish a Propaganda Committee, the object of which will be to secure a rupture of all relations with the Amsterdam International. The Executive could not give its support to these disruptive tactics. It was decided to present the following resolution to the International Congress of Workers in the Food and Drink Trades.

"That we do not accept the definite affiliation of the Russian Union or of those Unions which are affiliated to the Moscow Red International.

A Joint Working Agreement should be drawn up with these Unions in order, on the one hand, to secure co-operation in connection with all questions for which co-operation is necessary and in order to render joint action possible, and on the other hand, to create the conditions for real organized unity and future amalgamation."

TUBERCULOSIS IN PORTO RICO

(Continued from page 1.)

pagation of the disease. Black coffee, rice and beans in great quantities, and sometimes bananas, oranges, and plantains complete the list.

Both the housing and the diet are due chiefly to the prevailing economic conditions. A wage of thirty cents to one dollar per day, generally fifty cents, makes it impossible for the laborer to support his family, to furnish habitable homes, and to purchase adequate food. Employers say that the average laborer does not do enough work to entitle him to higher wages; and this may be admitted. But the laborer cannot do better work because he suffers not only from tuberculosis, but also from hookworm and malnutrition. He cannot afford to do what his doctors advise, and in consequence he cannot give his employer better labor. This vicious circle can be broken, but it has not yet been.

A comparative check by name of all the reported cases and reported deaths from tuberculosis in Porto Rico during the last two-and-a-half years showed that sixty per cent of the tuberculosis deaths were never reported as cases. In other words, more than one-half of the death reports supplied the first official intimation that the patient had been ill at all. The illness is probably concealed as long as possible, sometimes until death, and in many cases of the reported cases until the patient was in a moribund state.

Most Porto Rico clinics employ physicians who hold clinics for patients at convenient places and who later visit patients who are unable to come in person. More of these clinics are recommended. Other recommendations are for the establishment of social work, the supplying of free sputum cups, better reporting of cases, increased hospital accommodations, education of children along health lines, and the working out of a wage scale that will give the laborer a chance to preserve his own life and the lives of his family.

The great mass of the workers of the island are employed in the sugar, tobacco, fruit raising, and coffee industries.

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CANAL BOAT CHILDREN

Children living on canal boats form the subject of a survey recently completed by the Children's Bureau of the U. S. Department of Labor. While the number of these children is said not to be large, the conditions under which they are living are declared to present unusually serious problems. The report of the survey, appearing in the latest issue of the Monthly Labor Review and also made public by the Children's Bureau in the form of an illustrated leaflet entitled "Canal Boat Children," states that the canals surveyed represented both the old systems on which barges are drawn by mules, and the new systems on which steam has been substituted for animal power. Altogether, 334 children were found living on canal boats during the year of the study. On all canals the fact that the nature of the work necessitates long periods away from home on shore is an impelling motive to boatmen to take their families with them, although some recently formed transportation companies are forbidding the presence of women and children on the boats.

Many families find it difficult to get a doctor on case of sickness or accident. A number of children had been born on the boats or at lock-houses or other chance stopping places, where the mother had neither friends nor home conveniences. Fresh milk was difficult to secure and most families used it very irregularly. In many cases, especially on the boats of the older canals, sleeping accommodations were entirely inadequate. The lack of social life and the long hours of travel rendered opportunities for recreation very meagre.

The principal difference between life on the old and the new canals, so far as the children are concerned, is to be found in the fact that on the former child labor is profitable while on the latter there is little place for it. On the older canals most of the children worked for long hours driving mules and assisting with other parts of the work. On the new canals very few children were employed at boat work. However, in both cases the children's schooling is interfered with. The boating season on the canals studied ranged from 7 to 9 months in length, and from half to three-fourths of the children whose school records were secured were below the normal school grades for their ages.

International Conference at Amsterdam

The commission appointed by the Frankfurt Conference to negotiate with the Executive Committee of the International Federation of Trade Unions met at Amsterdam on May 3rd, and conferred with the Secretaries of the International Federation of Trade Unions in the afternoon.

The Commission explained in de-

Late Planting of Garden Vegetables

A great many of our vegetables requiring a comparatively short season for development are raised and used only once during the season in the average kitchen garden. Experience has shown that a succession of these crops is both possible and practical, and, although the early vegetables may in a measure be replaced by the later maturing sorts, they are, nevertheless, appreciated if available during the entire season. Spinach is as acceptable during August and September as in June; crisp fresh lettuce will make just as good a salad in autumn as in the early summer; green peas are a favorite dish at any time of the year; and late garden beets and carrots always seem to come in at the right time.

By correct arrangement and choice of the right vegetables, such vegetables may be made to follow each other, thus making the garden more productive and eliminating the vacant spaces. Late cabbage may be transplanted into the vacant spaces left by early peas; spinach will follow radish and lettuce; and peas will successfully follow any of the earliest vegetables.

On the Dominion Experimental Station at Lennoxville it has been found that the most satisfactory varieties for late planting, and the latest dates at which they may be successfully planted, are as follows:

Spinach, Victoria—August 5th.
Radish, French Breakfast—Aug. 5th.
Lettuce, Grand Rapids—July 15th.
Garden Beet, Detroit Dark Red—July 15th.
Garden Carrot, Chantenay—July 5th.
Pea, Thos. Laxton—July 5th.
Cabbage, Copenhagen Market—June 20th.
Cauliflower, Early Snowball—June 20th.

In all the late sowings the seed requires a deeper covering than if sown in the spring. During the summer months the surface of the soil is often quite hot and usually too dry to permit of germination. Seed planted shallow will, therefore, germinate poorly, and any seedlings that may get started will usually die during the first dry spell as a result of the young roots not being able to reach moisture. Accordingly the depth at

which the seed should be placed is governed by the depth at which moist soil may be found. This will usually be from one to two inches.

For further information on this subject write to your nearest Experimental Farm or Station.

He that hires one garden which he is able to look after cats birds—he that hires more than one will be eaten by the birds.

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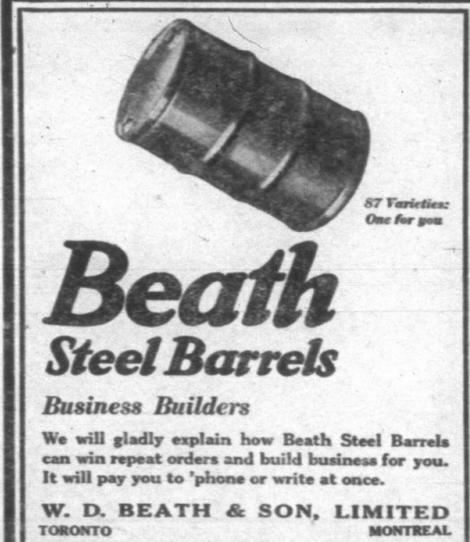
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Little Belgium, who for some time had boasted her "Unions Civiques" of strike breakers, has recently begun to harbour a "faisceau" modelled on the "fascio" of Mussolini. The constitution of the "Faisceau Belge" and its programme are explained in a circular distributed in Brussels and worded as follows:

"Fascism is a political doctrine which places high above all else a patriotism single and indivisible; the fascist is the sincere and disinterested patriot who adheres by oath to fascism.

The "Fascist Belge" has adopted as its motto: order, work, economy; its aim is the re-establishment of the material wealth of Belgium and the conservation of the moral wealth which has been bequeathed to us by our 40,000 heroes slain in the great war. For this purpose it counts upon the co-operation of the manual workers, the intellectuals, the youth of our country, our men of business, etc.

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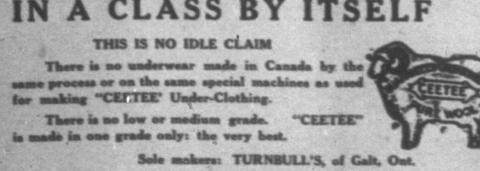
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