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Editorials

A Wise Decision

IN its announced decision against a buyers' strike for lower-priced chocolate bars, the Sateen Club, representing pretty well Canadian youth of high school age, has shown a surprising maturity, which might put to shame the policies of many organizations composed of older, and supposedly wiser, heads.

To make clear that theirs was not merely a negative attitude, the Sateeners went further in suggesting that school children discontinue their placarding of shops, because it was their opinion that strikes and picketing were not the solution to the problem.

Children are born mimics, and at quite an early age, newspapers, at least the headlines, have become daily reading for most modern youngsters.

It is therefore not surprising that their reaction to a situation which was not to their liking was along the same lines as the reaction in the adult world would be in a similar circumstance.

"We Want — Let Us Strike" is a refrain that has been No. 1 on the hit parade since a large percentage of these youngsters could read and write. They can't be blamed very much for believing that striking and picketing is a good way to get what they want. It seems to work for their elders. Neither can they be blamed for not realizing that by obtaining satisfaction for themselves, they are making the innocent corner grocery man suffer, without getting anywhere near the basic cause of the trouble.

Their adults should have realized by now, though, that most strikes work the same way. Admittedly, labor has grievances, and there are many wrongs to be righted, but making someone — anyone — come across with the extra dollars per day it thinks it is entitled to does not cancel out that error, but merely shifts it over to another spot, leaving as many errors in existence, if not creating more by the shift.

Perhaps now that the natural sequence of rising wages—rising prices — more wages — still higher prices, has become a concrete fact staring us in the face, instead of a theoretical prophecy, the folly of strikes is so self-evident that a new and sounder way of adjusting labor-management difficulties will be sought and found by both parties.

If no improvement comes in the next few years, perhaps by that time these same Sateeners will be ready to come up with a cure.

Prairie Population Lagging

FOR the year 1946 the population estimate of the Dominion of Canada issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics last week should be a matter of serious concern both to the people and the members of the governments of the three Prairie provinces. In comparison with Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia the prairies are far from holding their own.

One angle to the situation is the loss of prestige in parliamentary representation. To illustrate, if the Redistribution Committee of the House of Commons were dealing with these 1946 estimated figures instead of those of the official decennial census of 1941 the number of members from each province would be as follows: Prince Edward Island would have four, Nova Scotia, 13, New Brunswick 10, Quebec 74, Ontario 84, Manitoba 15, Saskatchewan 17, Alberta 16, British Columbia 21 and the Yukon and N.W. Territories one. As compared with its present membership in the House of Commons this is a loss of seven members for the Prairies. And in the next four years to the 1951 official census, the prairies will have to hustle in this respect with the other fast growing provinces or the loss then will be increased. To get back the proportion that is already gone at the moment seems hopeless.

The whole situation might well be the subject of a joint provinces' conference and a study as to possible remedies.

To those who may be interested in the figures from which these deductions are made they are here presented.

The total 1946 population is stated as 12,307,000. Of this number P.E.I. and the Yukon and N.W. Territories account for 181,000. Special legislation protects their five members. Subtracting the latter figure from the total leaves 12,126,000. Divided by 250, the number of members left to be elected, this works out as a quota

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