

THE RED FLAG

A Journal of News and Views Devoted to the Interests of the Working Class

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FIVE CENTS

The Defence Fund

The Following Circular Has Been Sent Out In Behalf of the Above Defence Fund.

B. C. DEFENCE COMMITTEE.

Organized for the defence of the workers arrested at Winnipeg during the General Strike, June, 1919, acting in conjunction with the General Committee at Winnipeg, Man.

Vancouver, B. C.,
July 24, 1919.

Dear Comrade:

A number of men active in the labor movement are now facing trial at Winnipeg, charged with 'Seditious Conspiracy,' as a result of their activity in the general labor movement in this country.

Raids on the Labor Halls and homes of officers of the labor movement have been conducted subsequent to the arrests in an attempt to discover evidence to convict these men, indicating that the government had, if any, but a very poor case when the arrests took place. It is now apparent, from the evidence introduced at the preliminary hearing, that it is the policy of the working-class movement of Western Canada that is to be prosecuted by the government, rather than the individuals who are standing trial.

It is evident, however, from the array of legal talent engaged to conduct the prosecution that no efforts will be spared to convict these comrades of ours and send them to the penitentiary.

Money is needed at once to insure that the interests of the accused will be properly looked after and to care for their families, and a committee representing the organizations whose names are attached has been organized to attend to the collection of funds in this Province.

Owing to the strikes that have been and are taking place in Western Canada, many of the union treasuries are exhausted, and it therefore becomes all the more necessary for every worker to assist in the collection of funds.

We know that these men whom the government are attempting to send to the penitentiary have your sympathy, but if they are to be properly defended and their families cared for, you must give something more material than sympathy.

Give what you can and then take one of the enclosed subscription sheets and collect from your fellow workers and friends.

Take up collections at your union meetings, picnics and at the workshop.

Send all money and make all cheques payable to V. R. Midgley, Defence Fund, P. O. Box 879, Vancouver, B. C.

Issued on behalf of the following organizations:

Vancouver Trades and Labor Council,

Federated Labor Party,

Socialist Party of Canada,

B. C. Federation of Labor,

Ex-Soldiers and Sailors Labor Council.

Collection agency for Alberta: A. Broatch, 1203

Railwaymen in Great Britain Prepare for the Fray

PLYMOUTH.—The National Union of Railwaymen's Congress came to an end today.

Mr. East, Barry, had charge of one of the most important resolutions reserved for the final public session. It ran thus:—

"That this Congress approves the action of the Triple Industrial Alliance in remaining aloof from the Government's Industrial Council.

"Whilst recognizing that arbitration and conciliation may be desirable between great trade unions and the employers' associations, it affirms that no useful purpose is served by col-

lusion with the employers, through the Government, to maintain the existing order of society.

"It, furthermore, instructs the Executive Committee to take the necessary action with the Miners and Transport Workers to strengthen the power of their organizations, and to take all necessary measures to promote a joint policy and programme representing the desires of the members and their organizations."

Capitalists' Last Trench.

The Capitalists' only hope of being able to remain in their last trench, said Mr. East, was by means of some scheme that would take the steam out of Labor.

There could be no conciliation between Capitalism and Labor. Ten years ago they would have had an eight-hour day in Wales if they had not been fettered by the Conciliation Board machinery.

"It would have been a disgrace," he affirmed, "if the Triple Alliance had committed itself to the Government's Industrial Council. In the Triple Alliance there are potentialities for revolutionizing society. The whole world looks to it to use its power. (Cheers.)

"During the war their trust had been betrayed, and today they saw that the only way to redeem themselves was through the power of their organizations." (Cheers.)

The Hour Is at Hand.

Mr. Applin, Taunton, who seconded, believed the hour to be near when the Triple Alliance would have to make its stand for democracy. In holding aloof from the Industrial Council there was no wish to leave the smaller unions behind.

Their hope was that the Triple Alliance would be the means of settling a policy which would be for the good of all.

"We do not intend," he declared, "to go cap in hand for whatever the employers may think fit to dole out. That day has gone. We are going to see that the workers have a fair share of the wealth they produce." (Cheers.)

The vote was unanimous.

The Income Tax Level.

Mr. Black, Covent Garden, proposed a resolution strongly protesting against the imposition of income tax on incomes below the margin of subsistence and instructing the Executive Committee to press the Triple Alliance to take definite action in order to raise the income tax limit to £250.

The mover said the workers were taxed in the interests of those who, while preaching patriotism, bled the soldiers and their families white, and exploited the workers to the utmost.

The time for action had come. They were not going on paying to keep troops in Ireland to fight Russia, to starve German children, to force upon Indian people a Government they did not want, or to bolster up the profiteers. Mr. Henderson, Carlisle, seconded. The resolution was adopted with one dissentient.

THE NICOLSK AFFAIR.

We take the following from the "Christian Science Monitor." It describes incidents which are evidence of the bad blood existing between these Allies engaged in crushing the Workers' Revolution in Russia.

During the allied advance on Habarovsk, an American force was co-operating with the Japanese. Throughout the Siberian campaign, Japan's allies were subjected to constant surveillance and troubles arising from Japanese spying on American troops.

"An American company was on outpost duty. A Japanese was found trying to cross the sentry lines; challenged, he refused to obey, saying he was a Japanese and could go where he wanted. The American sentry then stabbed the Japanese in the leg to stop him.

"A few minutes later, a captain and 50 men advanced with fixed bayonets. The Japanese officer went to the tent of the American commanding officer and protested against the American action, saying that it made no difference what we wanted. Becoming furious, he slapped the American in the face. The latter pulled his automatic, but as there was no shell in the chamber, the trigger only clicked. Before he could pull it again, American officers held him. In the meantime, the American company had quietly assembled about the Japanese, fearing trouble with the intention of killing the Japanese if the latter started anything. Then the major of the Japanese forces came up, and finally the matter was adjusted.

"The Americans, who had been congratulating themselves on their shrewdness, afterward found that they themselves had been quietly surrounded by a force of 2000 Japanese under orders to wipe the Americans out if a shot was fired from their vantage point on the railway.

"Lieutenant Summers of the Railway Engineering Corps was spat on by a Japanese officer at a point on the Manchurian border.

Eightth avenue east, Calgary, Alta.

Central Collection Agency: J. Law, Secretary, Defence Fund, Room 12, Labor Temple, Winnipeg.

Contributions will be acknowledged through Labor and Socialist Press.