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Lack of Means Keeps Down Desirable Immigration

MINERS STRIKE IS BEING CONDUCTED COMMUNISTICALLY

Reply to Labor Minister District Secretary of Miners in Edmonton Field Says Only Methods of Organized Labor Employed.

Calgary, Alta.—Officials of district United Mine Workers of America, never used Communist tactics in trying on the Edmonton strike, as alleged by Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, but always had used methods of organized labor, Roscoe Peacock, district secretary, said last night. Mr. Peacock denied the allegations of the Minister of Labor that the miners' officials were handling the strike in a manner characteristic of the so-called Communists.

Miners officials would reply to Mr. Murdock's statements he said.

Regarding the telegram which the Minister of Labor is sending to President John M. Lewis, Mr. Peacock said the miners' had full knowledge of the strike at Edmonton and that they had received authorization from Murdock's decision.

Ottawa.—Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, is of the opinion that friends of organized labor are behind the Edmonton miners' strike, he further says that he believes the miners in the strike "are merely trying to further the interests of the Communist Party in Canada." He said in the statement in a series of questions passed between his department and J. L. Lewis, president of the U. M. W. of A., and Joseph A. Clark, Mayor of Edmonton. He tells Clark that the strike is in direct violation of Canadian law. In his answer to Mr. Lewis he asks him to give his opinion as to the legality of the strike.

President's Views.

Calgary, Alta.—William A. Sherwin, president of district 18, United Mine Workers of America, in an interview with the Canadian press today emphatically denied that there was the least truth in the statement made by James Murdock, federal minister of labor, that Communism was behind the strike of the coal miners at Edmonton.

The minister shows a lamentable lack of knowledge of the efforts of the United Mine Workers in its fight against Communism two or three years ago. It is just in line with his policy of dealing with labor unions, however," said Mr. Sherwin, "and I should have been sure if he had adopted any other policy."

Officers Elected.

Calgary.—R. McDonald, of Blair, has been elected international member of district No. 18, United Mine Workers of America, representing southeastern British Columbia and Alberta, according to an official announcement made. He succeeded Robert Livett. William A. Sherwin has been re-elected president by ballot. William Ryan, vice-president, and Robert Peacock, secretary, were returned to office.

"SOVIET AMERICA" IS ACCLAIMED

The second annual convention of the Workers Party of America closed in New York amid cheers for "Soviet America" with the signing of the International.

One of the final acts was the sending of a cablegram of greeting to the Communist Internationale of Moscow in which it was said that the move to communize the U. S. had gained new impetus. A resolution passed urged the recognition of Soviet Russia by the U. S. A. proclamation urging all the workers of the U. S. to join in a special revolution was enthusiastically endorsed.

The cablegram sent to Moscow Internationalist reads:

"Second national convention sends greetings to the Communist Internationale. Convention reports with joy absence of all factionalism. Convention devoted itself to constructive work of building a powerful revolutionary movement in America. All reports indicate greater influence of party in actual struggle of workers. We go forward with new strength and enthusiasm. Long live communism and the Internationale."

A significant step taken by the convention which was taken to mean the launching of an intensive propaganda among farmers and farm laborers was the authorization of a national agrarian organizer for the party.

Rose Peter Stokes, described as "out of town" and a noted Communist agitator, was one of a number of members elected to the central executive committee.

UNEMPLOYMENT DECREASES IN THE PROVINCE

Provincial Labor Bureau Report 2,000 Less Idle Than at This Time Last Year.

Calgary.—Continued improvement in the unemployment situation throughout Alberta is reported by officials of the provincial government labor bureau. At the present time there are 2,000 less unemployed registered than at this time last year. During the week ended December 23, 1922, 3,181 unemployed were registered, compared with 1,197 registered up until Saturday evening last. Officials of the bureau state that a gradual improvement in the situation will continue as long as the warmer weather lasts. Increased activity in the lumber camps is also reflected in the employment figures this week, no less than 114 lumberjacks being placed in positions.

EFFECTS OF WAR IMPOVERISHED PEOPLE OF EMIGRATING CLASS. FEW EXPECTED

SEVERAL HUNDRED HIGHLAND SCOTCH MAY BE ASSISTED TO GET TO NOVA SCOTIA

Ottawa.—That very little immigration to Canada need be looked for during the coming year or, indeed, until the economic condition of the world begins to come back to normal is the impression received from inquiries in the highest official quarters here. All the information which the Department of Immigration has acquired, both in Europe and in the United States, indicates strongly that there are large numbers of persons on both continents who would be willing to come to Canada to settle if they had the means. But unless Canada is to embark on a great scheme of assisting immigration such as Australia has undertaken, involving the expenditure of many millions of dollars, it will likely be several years before we see anything of that great volume of immigration which so many different quarters advise the government to bring here.

Assisted Immigration.

The war, and economic conditions following the war, have left the people from which the immigrant class is drawn so impoverished that they are unable to finance a venture to this far-off land, to say nothing of establishing themselves after they get here.

The government has been urged from many quarters to accelerate the flow of people here and recognize the necessity of the increased population and increased production. The agents of the Immigration Department abroad, and even in the United States, report that they could get thousands of people willing to come here if they had the means—but unless the country is willing to authorize the expenditure of very large sums the outlook for any great influx is not bright.

Any settlement scheme would require the expenditure of an amount of money which would scarcely be justified in view of Canada's position. The Soldiers' Settlement Board put some 22,000 people on the land at an expenditure of around \$100,000,000, and they were mainly former Canadians who were merely shifted from one sphere to another.

Follow-up System.

A feature of the Soldier Settlement plan, which will likely be emulated by the Department of Immigration, is the follow-up system, which looks after the settler and tries to keep him on the land after he has been placed there. In all immigration brought to Canada, hereafter, this plan will be adopted and when settlers are placed on the land at some expense the Immigration Department will try to see that they remain there.

In the meantime the government is just doubling its activities in publicity in both the United States and the United Kingdom, including both advertising and lecture work, appealing particularly to those able to finance themselves. Some changes in the agencies in the United States are being made, agents being shifted from places of lesser activities to those places where the prospect of obtaining the class of settlers now sought is brighter.

Scotch Want to Come.

A class of immigrant which will be particularly adapted to the maritime portions of Canada is the Highland Scotchman, who alternates fishing with farming on a small scale. A considerable number of such has been endeavoring to get to Nova Scotia and are asking for some assistance on their passage expenses. The Immigration Department has arranged, through its representatives in Scotland, to get into touch with these people and some cooperation will probably be effected through private immigration organizations to furnish the assistance desired. Probably 400 or 500 of these immigrants will come out next spring.

COAL MINER WANT NATIONALIZATION ENTIRE INDUSTRIES

United Mine Workers to Present Report to United States Coal Commission Recommending Government Purchase at Cost of \$4,500,000,000.

New York.—Purchase by the United States government of the entire coal industry in the United States, both bituminous and anthracite, at a total cost of \$4,500,000,000, a cabinet place for a Secretary of Mines and the creation of a Federal Commission of Mines and a National Mining Council are proposed in a plan for the nationalization of the coal industry which the United Mine Workers will present to the United States Coal Commission this month.

By 50 votes to 11 St. Pancras Council (London, Eng.) resolved a resolution—passed when Labor was in a majority—that all employees of the Council be members of a trade union.

While the Council discussed the matter a demonstration of several hundred was held outside the Town Hall, and speeches were made by local Labor leaders.

The Council, before coming to its decision, received a deputation representing the National Union of General Workers.

Mr. J. Williams (Municipal Employees Association) urged that the original motion should stand. (If the Council decided to rescind it, he said, it would be a deliberate challenge to the whole trade union movement.)

In answer to a question, he said the opinion of his committee was that if the resolution to rescind was carried, there would be friction between the Council and its employees, and a strike might conceivably follow, for the union men were thoroughly determined not to tolerate non-unionists.

In the Council discussion Councillor Garney, who moved the rescinding motion, declared that the M. E. Party was in no way departing from its policy of trade union rates and conditions.

Councillor Leach Williams leader of the Labor Party on the Council, said they held that all who benefited by trade union conditions and wages should pay for them.

He declared, amid shouts of "Shame" from the opposite benches that when they returned to power in the Council, they would at once discharge any man who had thrown up his ticket because of that resolution.

"Jim, I see that your mule has been branded on his right hind leg. I suppose he was an Army mule and belonged to Uncle Sam!"

"No sub—dat U. S. don't mean nethin' 'bout no Uncle Samuel. Dat's jess a warnin'." Dat U. S.'s jess stand fo' 'Un Safe—'at's all."

HARDING MAY CALL NATIONS' MEETING

Disclosed in Senate That United States President is Negotiating Toward Conference on European Economic Problems.

Washington.—The first official disclosure that President Harding is negotiating towards an international conference for the consideration of European economic problems was made by Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, Republican floor leader, during the opening debate in the Senate on the proposal of Senator Borah, Republican, Idaho, for the President to call an international conference to discuss economic conditions and disarmament.

In opposing the Borah proposal, which is in the form of an amendment for the naval appropriation bill, Senator Lodge urged that the President be not embarrassed "in the efforts which he is now making as a matter of fact."

Senator Lodge in the course of an hour's address against the Borah amendment as presented, did not oppose the calling of an economic conference, but said it should be carefully and strictly defined, with such questions as reparations, Allied debts and immigration specifically excluded from discussion. It was learned today that President Harding was considering seriously transmitting a letter to the Senate giving information on his negotiations and at the same time deploring any intervention from Congress which might operate to hinder his efforts.

It is understood that through the state department the President has been "sounding out" several powers regarding the desirability of holding an economic conference. The Borah amendment was discussed for four hours in the Senate. No action was taken on the question and further debate went over until tomorrow.

FISHERMEN TO ORGANIZE AND SELL AT HOME

Would Keep Canadian Fish for Canada Instead of Selling All to the United States.

Quebec.—Hon. Mr. Frenault, minister of fisheries announced in the assembly that it was the intention of the government to help the fishermen of Quebec organize so that they could dispose of their catch in this country and not be compelled as at present, to send practically all to the United States.

He stated that the fish industry was nearly entirely with the United States. This was so true that even merchants in Quebec city bought their fresh Gaspe salmon from the wholesalers in Boston instead of getting it from the fisheries in the province.

YOUTH BANKRUPT IN INDUSTRIES

Says Writer in Labor "Herald," London, England.

The most noticeable feature of the unemployed professions is the great number of young men who have come to swell the unemployed ranks.

They can be divided into two classes; those who have not yet found a way open to start a career, and those whose career has been shattered by the war. The latter class is chiefly composed of boys hauled up for military service in 1918.

Industrially bankrupt, these young men have a gloomy prospect before them. The small knowledge they had of particular trades before they enlisted was practically snuffed out by military training, and now they are too old to start learning a skilled profession. The only hope they have of bridging the chasm of the war is to find some generous employer who will make allowance for loss of experience arising from military service. As the tendency is to cut down rather than to increase numbers, it is doubtful whether any of these youths will have the chance to pick up the threads of a skilled occupation.

But it is not too late to save the growing army of bankrupt youth. Instead of paying millions of pounds out in doles it would be a more profitable investment to extend the system of training schools and to make it obligatory for employers to draw on their supplies. If knowledge and experience are the only credentials that weigh with employers then the least the country can do is to restore efficiency to that youth which up to the present has paid a heavy price for its patriotism. It is not the dole that is demoralizing so much as the enforced idleness and policy of drift it entails.

Advocates of economy would do well to realize that the most uneconomic method of dealing with the unemployment problem is to allow a big section of youth to rust on the industrial scrap-heap.

DRURY SEES MENACE IN RURAL SITUATION

Premier Claims Solution Needed To Save Country From Bankruptcy.

Toronto.—That the rural situation as existing in Canada today constitutes a very real problem, and that only a satisfactory solution of it will save this country from bankruptcy, was the strong contention made by Hon. E. C. Drury premier of Ontario, in addressing the first national conference of Canadian students. This rural problem was presented by alarming exodus of young men and women from the country to the city, due, Premier Drury claimed not to any false glamour of cosmopolitan life, for the majority of these young people were leath to leave the country, but due entirely to economic conditions.

"Our rural people are lagging behind in agricultural development," he declared. "Farms houses do not contain sufficient comforts. Rural schools and churches suffer from lack of support because of small population. Why has agriculture gone behind? Because 40 years ago we in this country adopted a policy of protection. The protective tariff when it was introduced, was a blunder. It is a national crime. This is the root of our rural problem. The last justification for it is gone. I don't care what you call the process, whether it is bolshevism or protectionism; and these two are very much alike. When the members of the rural population can obtain comfortable livelihoods, then our churches and schools will find it favorable to do their work; when this occurs we will have better city conditions also, and we will have a movement both ways, from the town to the country, as well as from the country to the town. The problem must be solved if Canada is to proceed along sane lines in the national development of her people."

NO UNION TICKETS IN ST. PANCRAS NOW

By 50 votes to 11 St. Pancras Council (London, Eng.) resolved a resolution—passed when Labor was in a majority—that all employees of the Council be members of a trade union.

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COURT CONFIRMS COAL MINE CASE

Judgment of public interest was delivered recently at Fredericton by Mr. Justice Grimmer in the action of James Young against Hon. C. W. Robinson, as Minister of Lands and Mines, and Alexander G. Robinson, and C. D. Richards, of Fredericton. It involved the right of a lease of a coal mine in Queens county, N.B. It is alleged that Mr. Richards held a license to work the area in question, which lease expired on Sept. 29, 1921. Before that day Mr. Richards informed the Crown land office that he desired a lease of the property, but made no formal application in writing. On the morning of Sept. 30 of the same year James Young applied for a license to work the mine on the ground that the proper license had expired and that no application for a license had been made on behalf of C. D. Richards. The Crown land office concurred in this view and a license was issued to Mr. Young.

A consequent inquiry was held and it was shown that Mr. Richards, through his development of the area in litigation, had satisfied all conditions imposed on licensees and the license of Mr. Young was ordered cancelled, and the lease was returned to Mr. Richards.

Mr. Young brought action then for declaration that he was entitled to a license for the area and that the lease to Mr. Richards had been illegally granted.

Mr. Justice Grimmer held that no particular form of application for a lease is prescribed in the Mining Act of New Brunswick and that Mr. Richards' intimation to the Department of Lands and Mines that he desired a lease was sufficient under the law. He, therefore, confirmed the application of the minister and declared the lease issued to Mr. Richards as valid.

U. M. W. OF A. PROPAGANDA

Edmonton News is Handed Out by Interested Parties in Calgary.

It all depends on how a thing is said.

Calgary sends out a despatch from U. M. W. of A. headquarters stating that two miners in the Edmonton field have offered to recognize the U. M. W. of A. and to enforce the closed shop, if they are allowed to operate at the present scale of wages until 65 per cent. of the operators have agreed to recognize the union.

The fact is that the U. M. W. of A. have made such an offer to several of the Edmonton operators; thereby discrediting any claim that they ordered the strike to promote either higher wages or improved working conditions.

Whether any of the Edmonton operators will accept the offer of the U. M. W. of A. depends on how far they believe they can trust the organization—written or verbal—of that organization.

In any case, the offer proves conclusively that the strike order came from Indianapolis and not from Edmonton, and that the purpose is to tie up the Alberta coal field under the same organization that controls the rival Pennsylvania field.

The despatch mentions the Premier and the Humberstone as the two miners who are expected to surrender to the U. M. W. of A. The Premier is a strictly local mine without railway connection, that was opened last year. Its normal working force is from seven to twelve men. The Humberstone is a large mine of the district; but the coal on its property is approaching exhaustion, and the mine may not be operated longer than the present season in any case.

Action taken by the Premier or the Humberstone would not necessarily affect the action of the other mines of the district.

It may be said that the despatch states that the mines mentioned have "offered to sign up" not that they have signed up. It also mentions that the organization may not accept their alleged surrender on the terms stated. It would not be fair to assume that the statement made by Robert Livett, representative of district 18, in the U. M. W. of A. organization, who is given as the authority for the despatch in question, was any nearer the truth when he gave it out than he generally is when dealing with U. M. W. of A. subjects.

TOM MOORE CALLS BROTHERHOOD HEADS

Tom Moore head of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, who is also a director of the Canadian National Railways, particularly as a representative of labor, believes in consulting the men he represents. He has called for Friday next here a conference of the chairmen of committees of the different brotherhoods and unions of the Grand Trunk and Canadian National Railways.

"I have no specific purpose in view" stated Mr. Moore, "except my wish to meet the particular class that I have been selected to represent on the board."

The railway men when asked what Mr. Henry Thornton, president of the system.

A West Indian reader sends us this story:

The colonel of the regiment was a bit of a rip, and what he didn't know about the women of the island, white, black and mulatto-butter, didn't amount to anything worth knowing.

Now, the laundry for the mess was done by a strapping, handsome quadroon. One day she had a row with the mess-man, and while it was at its height in stalked the colonel with his adjutant and some other officers.

"What's all this noise about?" he rasped out in his best parade voice.

"And who, my good woman, may you be?"

"Who may I be?" retorted the washerwoman, with a toss of her head.

"You know blooming well who I am, george!"

CROPS INCREASE

New Brunswick provincial Department of Agriculture has issued figures which indicate that the last year in farming was characterized by increased acreage, and particularly in the growing of oats and corn.

There were increased yields in all crops except potatoes.

In the season of 1922 the spring favorable conditions for seeding were completed in good time. The acreage under crop was greater last year. The increase is attributed to the larger acreage sown, and to the greater acreage sown on which, at prices prevailing, the hay crop considered not the cutting in 1921, yielded a crop this year.

Exceptionally heavy rains occurring at June, caused considerable loss to crops, particularly in the St. River Valley district, where flood conditions existed, the water being covered to a depth of feet for several days in some places.

Haying was spread out over a considerable period on account of wet and heavy rains during August and potatoes also suffered considerably. The fall months remarkably mild, dry and frost permitting a large acreage of ploughing to be done.

WELSH MINER IS WORTH \$500,000

London (Dominion News Service).—John Charles Gregory, a collier, of Cwmgors, Montgomeryshire, has, it is stated, definitely established his claim to the fortune of \$500,000 left by Ephraim Gregory, who died in New Jersey, U. S. A.

Ephraim Gregory was born and lived for some time at Westbury, Wiltshire. One day, leaving his wife and family behind him he sailed for America, and until after his death nothing more was heard of him by his relatives. Then reports came from New Jersey, U. S. A., that he had left a fortune of \$500,000, and the hunt at once started for his heirs.

Reading of the search in the "Daily Chronicle," a friend showed the report to J. C. Gregory, who announced that the particulars given of Ephraim coincided with the known details of his father's life.

"I did not know that I had any relatives until this fortune business came along," said J. C. Gregory, "but now I find I have relatives all over the world—hundreds of them."

NEW REVOLUTION REPORTED UNDER WAY IN ATHENS

Malta.—Information just received here from a reliable source in Athens is to the effect that trouble is brewing there, with unmistakable signs of a big counter-revolutionary movement.

The population of the Greek capital is said to be at a highly nervous pitch with many of the prominent participants in the late revolution leaving the country.

The movement, it is said, is not against King George, who continues in popular favor, but against the militarists.

Malta is the cable station first receiving cable dispatches direct from Athens to outside points, and is in a position to be well advised concerning developments at the Greek capital.

DAIL DISCUSSES THE GOVT. POLICY ON RAILWAYS

Minister of Labor Explains Guarantees of Expenses, But no Responsibility for Dividends. State Purchase Out of Question.

Dublin.—Railway difficulties were the subject of debate in the Dail Eireann, which reassembled on Wednesday. Joseph McGrath, minister of labor made a statement of the government policy, which is the bringing under government control all railways unable to maintain existing rates of wages, the government to guarantee working expenses, but not to be responsible for dividends.

The minister said he had advised the companies to carry on and enter into agreements with the men. He admitted that military operations and attacks on the railways had greatly aggravated the situation, but argued that the companies were not justified in forcing the reduction in wages, instead of setting their own house in order. They had been warned that unless they adopted some system of unification or groups within three months, the government would introduce legislation for compulsory unification or grouping.

Keeping Up Railway.

The Great Southern and Western line, added the minister, was operating with a weekly deficit of nearly £11,000, and had given notice that it would cease operation next week. The government, however, had decided to find the money to keep the line going and would exercise whatever control was necessary.

Tom Johnson, in behalf of the Laborites, protested against the railways being subsidized at the expense of the workers. He declared that if the government paid dividends it must be by raising rates and not reducing wages.

During his speech, Mr. McGrath made the announcement that he regarded the purchase of the railways by the state as out of the question under existing circumstances.

Items of Interest From Overseas

Population of Greek Capital in Highly Nervous State, Many of Those Prominent in Late Revolution Leaving Country.

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