

## LABOR'S PUBLIC OWNERSHIP POLICY REVEALED

### BRITISH RAILWAY WORKERS' LEADER DENOUNCES "WORK TO RULE" WEAPON

Ignore Your Public Obligations and You Will Speedily Find Community More Powerful Than Any Section Of It, Says Thomas.

There was unrest in the railway world, said J. H. Thomas, M.P., and head of the railway workers in Great Britain, speaking to a large audience of railwaymen at Derby recently, and there was always likely to be unrest while no regard was paid to the relationships of one industry prejudicially affecting other industries.

As a result of the unrest certain sections of the men were attempting to "slow gear," or working to rule. There were many rules which were obsolete or needing amendment. The object of the movement, however, was not to amend them, but to enforce the wage claim.

"War on the Community." The first to suffer from such a policy would be the workers themselves. It was the one certain method of further increasing the cost of living.

Against whom was the policy directed? Not the railway companies. They were guaranteed, and would not suffer a copper of loss, whatever the consequences. Not the Government. It could call upon the taxpayer to make good any loss.

It was nothing short of a war on the community, and had all the elements of poison gas.

But there was another effect. Great masses of the people who in the past had not been sympathetic towards Labor were now ready to support both a Labor Government and a sound Labor policy, and they were entitled to ask: "Is democracy the interest of both producer and consumer? or is it the interest of a method such as 'work to rule'?"

There was no trade union in the country whose rank and file had greater power than had thousands of the National Union of Railwaymen.

The Executive Committee has not sanctioned this "go slow" policy," declared Mr. Thomas. "If its members do not reflect your views get rid of them. If you do not trust them choose others. But, in any case, distinguish between anarchy and democracy."

He knew all too well that there were men who, smarting under a sense of grievance, might honestly feel that they were helping their cause by this method, but he was equally certain that they were injuring it.

The N.U.R. was a great and powerful organization yielding a power that compelled the public to respect it. Any demand for a fair deal and justice for the railwaymen would, he was sure, get the support of the public.

But once show that you ignore your public obligations and you will speedily find that the community is always greater and more powerful than any one section of it.

He advised the railwaymen not to be misled into this method, and not to be influenced by those who merely lived for today, forgetting tomorrow. Let them fight for the future and not resort to anti-British methods.

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### Workers' Public Ownership Policy

At the annual convention of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario, held at Brantford on Victoria Day, the workers' policy in regard to public ownership was defined as follows:

That whereas the principle of Government ownership is being applied increasingly to public utilities as a means of more equitable administration of the interests of both producer and consumer; and whereas there is great need for a clear declaration from the workers as to the fundamental difference between private or corporate ownership and public ownership in principle of administration:

Therefore be it resolved that this annual convention of the Ontario Labor Educational Association do hereby declare in favor of the administration of all great public utilities and such other utilities as may in the future be publicly owned and operated on a view to secure the best of living and social conditions.

1.—To allow the workers involved in construction operation and administration;

2.—To produce the maximum of efficiency of service at a cost based upon the lowest proper provision for reserves necessary to cover depreciation, renewals, etc., and

Therefore be it further resolved that the workers extend every effort through the constitutional means within their power to obtain the appointment of Labor men as public service commissions, and all public bodies having the power to appoint such commissions.

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### LABOR EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION FORMULATES MANY DECLARATIONS

Jos. T. Marks, of Toronto, Appointed Permanent Secretary—President Jas. Marsh Again Re-elected—155 Delegates Attend.

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### LABOR EDITORS WILL CONVENE AT MONTREAL

International Labor Association's Annual in June.

The International Labor Press of America is to hold a convention in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on June 6th, when addresses will be delivered as follows:

Welcome address, Gus Franca, Labor World, Montreal; reply Matt, Well, president, I.L.P. of A. "The Labor Paper's Duty to the Community," R. G. Stewart, Tribune, Cedar Rapids, Ia. "The Community's Duty to the Labor Newspaper," B. E. Brown, "Labor Press," Hamilton, Mo. "Advantages of Advertising in the Labor Press," Harry Sample, Trade Union News, Philadelphia, Pa. "Privately Owned Labor Papers and Central Body Organ," H. Bassett, The Union, Indianapolis, Ind. "News Print with the Labor Label," E. L. Alden, The Artisan, Holyoke, Mass. "The Labor Paragrapher's Sprightly Art," A. L. Woods, Labor Journal, San Bernardino, Calif. "Subscriptions at 12 a Year (Shake before Taking)," Claude Taylor, The Observer, Grand Rapids, Mich. "Putting the Labor Press on a Sound Business Basis," E. J. Hines, Labor Bulletin, Denver, Col. "Why the Labor Press should support the Non-Partisan Political Program," Ellis Searles, Mine Workers' Journal, Indianapolis, Ind.

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### MISSIONS TO SOVIET RUSSIA

TO SEAMEN CONFERENCE IN ITALY

Soviet Government Practically Refuses League's Request.

It is altogether probable that the proposed mission to Soviet Russia from the International Labor Office and the League of Nations will not visit that country for some time. The secretary of the League of Nations has on various occasions been in wireless communication with the Soviet Government at Moscow and the last reply to the league's note was practically a refusal to allow the mission to visit Russia.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the League of Nations a reply was sent to the Russian Soviet Government as follows:

"The League of Nations regrets that after a long delay the Russian Soviet Government has made the condition of an investigation by the league practically equivalent to refusal. The Soviet's endeavor to discriminate between delegates from the league's member nations.

"The league is an international organization aiming at justice and peace. Its delegates represent the league, not single states.

"The league still hopes the Soviet Government will modify its reply. If, before June 15, the Soviets do not accept the league request as formulated March 13, the council will throw upon the Soviets full responsibility for frustrating an effort inspired only by a desire for better international relations.

"The notes of March 17 said that while the Soviet Government would welcome a league investigating commission, it could not allow any commission to cross the borders on which were representatives of nations at war with Russia, such as Poland. Since Poland is a bona fide member of the league, the league would thus bar Polish delegates from the investigating commission, a condition the league evidently felt it could not accept."

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### ASK CHAIRMAN FOR JOINT LABOR BOARD

Result of Conference Held at Hamilton Yesterday.

Unique in the history of conferences between representatives of employers and employees was that in Hamilton yesterday when Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and Mr. J. P. Anglin, president of the Association of Canadian Building and Construction Industries, presided jointly over a meeting of committees from the International Union of Building Trades and the contractors' organization. With a view to eliminating losses through stoppage of work by industrial disputes, in the building trades, it was proposed to organize a National Joint Conference Board, composed of five members representing the employers and five representing the men, with a chairman to be appointed by the Labor Department.

In the first instance the board's function would be educational and advisory, but it is hoped that it might develop into a permanent conference on all difficulties arising in the building trades from time to time.

Mr. Tom Moore and Mr. Hugh Graham, who attended the meeting, will not return home till the end of the week.

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