

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 1919

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THE STRIKE SITUATION.

There are some interesting further developments in the strike situation. Four of the leaders arrested in Winnipeg have been released on bail, on their undertaking not to take any further part in the strike. The American Federation of Labor has adopted a resolution to co-operate with Canadian unions and "call attention to the influence which are working in Canada to split up organized labor." This is clearly a reference to the One Big Union, to which the A. F. L. is utterly opposed. Protests have been sent to Ottawa from Montreal, Sydney, Moncton and Victoria, by labor unions against the arrest of the strike leaders in Winnipeg. A strike is now on in New Westminster, and a strike of street railway men in Toronto is imminent. Sir Robert Borden has replied to a Toronto protest against the arrests in Winnipeg that "the government intends to maintain the law and to prevent and punish any attempt to subvert the authority of the people as established by their representatives in parliament." It will now be the duty of the government to bring the Winnipeg strike leaders promptly to trial and give the country the facts upon which its action was based. To delay would have a bad effect. The sooner the cards are laid on the table the better for the peace of Canada.

THE PADRE AT THE FRONT.

Following Major Hooper's intensely interesting account at a former luncheon of the chaplain's work among the wounded soldiers, the Canadian Club last evening heard from Capt. Lechery an even more absorbing story of what a chaplain saw with the fighting men at the front. His hearers carried away with them a vivid impression of the soldier's experience at the front, and a stronger feeling of pride in the manner in which all Canadians bear themselves in actual warfare. Here and there in the address a terse sentence revealed something of the horrors of the conflict, but the speaker refrained from going into details, aiming rather to give a comprehensive view of the achievements of the Canadian divisions. It was difficult to realize that this youthful clergyman, talking so quietly, had been through all that horror, had himself been gassed, and for conspicuous gallantry had twice been mentioned in despatches. He was himself of the same dauntless quality as those whose courage and resourcefulness he praised so highly, and whose dangers he shared. He added his testimony to that of others who have told us that when there was a particularly hard bit of work to do the Canadians were not only ready, but their peculiar fitness for daring work was recognized by those in command. Nor did they lack the inspiration and example of such comrades as this quiet padre who made no distinction wherever his services could be of value to a soldier in distress.

ROBINS ON BOLSHIEVISM.

The Canadian people have no sympathy with Bolshievism. It flourishes only where there is intense ignorance as well as great social discontent. True, there are intellectual Bolshievists, of the prior type, but one dose of the real medicine would be enough for them. They see wrongs to be righted, but do not think through the subject far enough to see that to replace one form of autocracy by a less intelligent and more brutal one is not the real remedy. Mr. Raymond Robins, who will be remembered as one of the most eloquent speakers on social reconstruction at St. John audiences have heard, and who has an intense sympathy for all victims of social injustice, spent a considerable time in Russia during the period of the revolution and the rise of Bolshievism. He opposed military intervention in Russia, and at one time at least favored dealing with the Bolshievist leaders. He was for three months with Kerensky and six months with Lenin and Trotsky. He saw the theories of the two last named in practice, and this is what he says of Bolshievism: "There is a menace in it, so much greater, so much deeper than the people with seven per cent brains have seen and told, so much worse than any mere Germanism that I feel we should use every power of civilization to understand and combat it. There has been an attempt made to establish a government based on class hatred. It is economically impossible and morally wrong. The leaders have had in Russia a most extraordinary laboratory for the carrying on of this vast experiment and it has failed. Lenin said to me that it probably would fail in Russia, but he declared they would keep the flame burning there until the world blazed up." And to fan the blaze in Canada the Bolshievists of Mr. Robins' own city of Chicago sent \$25,000 to Winnipeg. It was a waste of money. Canada will not blaze up.

The cables today brought news of the first importance. The German government has fallen, as a result of a disagreement over signing the peace treaty, and a new cabinet is being formed which is expected to meet the demands of the Allies. The news causes a feeling of intense relief, since the keeping of an army of occupation in Germany for a long period could not be contemplated with satisfaction. The cabinet crisis in Italy had also complicated matters, and the news from Germany is the more welcome.

SOLDIERS AND FARMERS.

The Fredericton Mail quotes an article from the Times-Star relative to the sale of farms to returned soldiers, and adds this comment: "Although the farmers are alleged to be making money fast these days, a goodly number of them are apparently very anxious to pass the buck to the returned soldier. Many farms are being listed with real estate agents at inflated prices, and they are not the best farms to be found in the country at that. As the Times points out, the proper plan for the farmers to pursue is to list their farms with the Soldiers' Settlement Board. If this is done and the farms are found to be of such a nature that it will be possible for a man to earn a living on them, they will be taken over at a fair valuation and the agent's commission will be saved. The returned soldier who contemplates settling on a farm is entitled to a square deal, but he will not get it unless he keeps his weather eye open. This is a matter which calls for eternal vigilance on the part of the Great War Veterans' Association."

AN ONTARIO EXAMPLE.

While St. John is solemnly deliberating about a small expenditure to make a beginning in the matter of vocational training, chiefly at present for working boys and girls, the city of Windsor, Ontario, is considering the erection of a technical school at a cost of \$250,000. The public and separate school boards and industrial committee of the board of education are to prepare the plans and five municipalities will be asked to assist. A recent despatch from Windsor says: "The new training school will be given a grant from the Ontario government as soon as the councils of the five municipalities signify their willingness to pay half the bill. The school, which the boards hope to provide by next January, will offer technical training not only to children of the public and separate schools, but also to boys and girls employed by manufacturers. Classes will be given at unusual hours for the special benefit of employed children." Such an institution will be of the greatest value to Windsor and the district around the city. Ontario is a great province because its people are progressive and not afraid to provide facilities for training, developing and employing the younger citizens.

Christian Science Monitor: "Signs of the times indicate that more Americans are coming to understand that the government of the United States is a government of the people as well as by and for the people. And this applies particularly to those who 'waited without acting' to see how serious the officials were in collecting certain taxes. One Boston firm has agreed to pay \$1,000,000 if a jail sentence can be avoided. A New York man is reported to have tried unsuccessfully to evade an income tax estimated at \$600,000. The tax collector of Boston has issued warrants for the arrest of some 500 alleged evaders of the poll tax who face terms in jail. Probably it begins to be plain to these people that it is best to pay what is due the government, for it is evident that the assessments can be collected if the officials simply enforce the law."

Moncton Transcript: "How many days will it be before the St. John Standard will tell an expectant world that it never thought much of the Hon. Frank Carroll anyway? When it announced the appointment of Mr. Carroll to the Dominion government, it used small type, but when it announces his prospective resignation, it requires the blackest and the largest type it can find."

The Methodist Conference and the National Council of Women have denounced the action of the senate on the prohibition bill. It is safe to say that future political platforms will have a senate reform plank.

In Halifax at least half the cost of permanent paving is charged to the owners of abutting property. Until St. John makes that rule effective here it will have poor streets.

The National Council of Women asks the federal government to create a child welfare department of the federal department of health. It is a necessary forward step in national development.

Cabinet re-organization at Ottawa is now an interesting cause of speculation, also the question whether the bolters on the budget will withdraw or be shut out of the union caucus.

If this morning's rain was general throughout the province it would be of enormous benefit to the crops, for it is greatly needed.

If Italy makes trouble for her Allies at this stage they should go the limit to bring her to terms.

Germany may snarl, but if there is any hitting to be done keep your eye on Foch. One budget debate is not yet over. It is that relating to the family budget.

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San Francisco has auto laundries where cars are washed, and rest rooms where customers may wait. The places are not connected with repair shops or garages.

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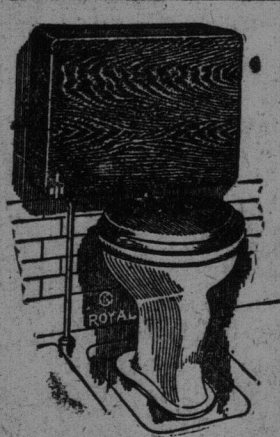
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