

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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The Canadian Labor Press

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REGARDING OUR NEW POLICY

On the front page of this issue of The Canadian Labor Press there is announced a new policy to be followed by this paper in the future. A policy based on our belief that better co-operation and understanding between employer and employee should be the paramount thought of a real labor paper, endeavouring to promote and build up a true and lasting bond of fellowship between these two important classes of our country. The Canadian Labor Press will unceasingly take issue with and endeavour to combat the Workers' Party in Canada and all forms of radicalism which has a tendency to disrupt the industrial world.

FALSE DOCTRINE OF THE WORKERS' PARTY

On another page of this issue we reproduce extracts taken from Labor papers which clearly show the ultimate purpose of the Workers' Party and the establishment in Canada of Soviet Government by red revolution.

In dealing with this subject, The Canadian Congress Journal states:

"The Montreal Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada denounced this Party as a tool of the Third International of Moscow and repudiated absolutely its policies. Notwithstanding this warning many workers continue to accept these false leaders, often blinded as to their true purposes by their own sincerity. Under the guise of friendship to the international trade union movement and on the political side to the Canadian Labor Party, they are assiduously working to supplant the present trade union policies by those of armed force, red revolution and the destruction of the present forms of Government and social order.

"Canadian trade unionists stand solidly with their brothers in the United States and Great Britain, in opposition to communist activities. The following statement by J. R. Clynes, Deputy Leader of the British Labor Party and a trade unionist of irreproachable reputation, provides much food for thought for Canadian workers:

"The British Labor Party is quite dissociated from communism. We have from the beginning, as a Party, denounced the communist creed and method. We believe in neither. We have refused the communist party admission to the National Labor Party by overwhelming votes. Can we do more? There are a few Communists in the country, but so much unemployment and distress prevails just now that large numbers of suffering people make some response to any kind of cry of escape from present conditions. In one case, however, of a pure communist who has asked for admission to the Labor party it has been unanimously refused by members. I think the cry of communism comes not from Labor but from the more reactionary factors that are somewhat—well, noticeable in politics just now.

"Canadian workers cannot ignore the clearly drawn line between the communist policies of the Workers' Party and the constructive policies of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. The issue is a clear one. Shall the thirty-nine years of effort and sacrifice by the organized workers of Canada, as exemplified in the accomplishments of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, be thoughtlessly cast aside and untried experiments of theorists and destructionists be substituted therefore?"

President Gompers of the A. F. of L. in a special article written for the New York Tribune declares that "Americans can best stop the spread of communism by the scientific foundation of our own scientific propaganda of recognizing trade unions."

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WORKERS' PARTY ACTIVITIES

The Extracts published below are taken from Labor publications and show the real aim and objects of the Workers' Party.

Special Article by Trevor Maguire in the "Maritime Labor Herald."

New battles will have to be fought in the year 1923. Battles against the establishment of new speeding up, cost reducing, labor sweating conditions; new battles, perhaps, against the power of the State. To prepare for these conflicts the work of the intelligent, thin, red line, that exists in every local should be organized, coordinated and increased so that the class of 1923 will show a solid body of "reds." On with the task of making communists!

The Trade Union News.

New York, Dec. 28.—The Workers' Party of America closed its second national convention at the Labor Temple, 243 E. Eighty-fourth street, by sending a telegram to Moscow notifying the Communist International that it had devoted itself to "constructive work of building a powerful revolutionary work in America."

In support of its program for the establishment of a Soviet government in the United States and the "dictatorship of the proletariat," the convention issued an appeal to the revolutionary elements of the country to rally under the party banner and go forward "to the victory of the American social revolution under the leadership and guidance of the Communist International."

The last business of the convention was the unanimous decision to send the following cablegram to the Communist International at Moscow:

"Second annual convention Workers' Party sends greetings to Communist International. Convention reports with joy absence of all factionism. Convention devoted itself to constructive work of building a powerful revolutionary movement in America. All reports indicate greater influence of party in actual struggles of workers. We go forward with new strength and enthusiasm. Long live Communism and the International."

A. F. of L. Newsletter.

The importance of capturing the trade unions was emphasized at the convention of the Workers' Party of America, which declared for "the dictatorship of the proletariat." Formerly this element expressed their scorn for the unions. Now they cry: "We must have the unions to succeed."

The communists are becoming less daring and are now endeavouring to "legalize" their revolution. The platform adopted is a cautious rehash of "revolutionary" platitudes. The only exception is the urge to capture the trade unions. Formerly they declared "there is no hope in trade unions." The usual denunciation of "reactionary leaders of the A. F. of L." was made by delegates who jollied members of Organized Labor who elect these "leaders." This is the usual policy of "revolutionists," who claim to be masters of logic.

It was declared that "one of the chief immediate tasks" of the Workers' Party "is to inspire in the Labor unions a revolutionary purpose." It is agreed, however, that the day of the revolution is not around the corner, and that "the experience of the workers" has proven that the workers "cannot take over the ready-made machinery of the capitalist government and use this machinery to build up a communist society." It is urged, as the first step towards government control, to establish soviets or workers' councils.

Again and again it is declared that the work of the communists is within the unions and that an intensive process of "boring from within" is absolutely necessary.

Between the injunction judges Garyian and communists, trade unionists will have no excuse to fall asleep the coming year.

Extracts from Constitution as Published in "British Columbia Federationist."

The Russian revolution the first section of the "world revolution." Basing its policies on the international character of the revolutionary struggle, it will strive to make the Canadian Labor movement an integral part of the revolutionary movement of the world. Disillusioned by the treacherous conduct of their own leaders and inspired by the proletarian revolution of Russia (the workers of the world have organized the Communist International. Despite the bitter opposition of the capitalists and their Labor lieutenants the Communist International has grown rapidly and become a world power, the citadel and hope of the workers of every country. The Workers' Party will expose the Second International, which is continually splitting the ranks of Labor and betraying the working masses to the enemy. It will also warn and guard the workers against the attempts of the so-called two-and-a-half-International to mislead the workers. Further recog-

nizing that the Communist International is the only real centre of world revolutionary activities the Workers' Party will strive to rally the workers under the banner of the Third International.

"The general programme of the Workers' Party shall be:

"To consolidate the existing Labor organizations and develop them into organs of militant struggle against capitalism, to permeate the Labor unions and strive to replace the present reactionary leadership by revolutionary leadership.

"To work for the overthrow of capitalism and capital dictatorship by the conquest of political power, the establishment of the working class dictatorship and of the workers' republic.

"Unless the unions begin to understand that the era of conciliation and arbitration in the class struggle is passed and recognize the changed conditions of the struggle between Capital and Labor there is danger that the efforts of the capitalist class will succeed.

Not only, however, is this consolidation necessary, but equally essential in the international organization of all the militant unions of the world. The only force that has proven itself capable of recognizing the needs of the trades union movement imposed by the changed conditions, and capable of rallying all the militant forces of the world Labor movement is the Red International of Labor Unions.

"The membership of the Workers' Party will assist in the consolidation of the Labor unions on militant lines by permeating these organizations with a revolutionary spirit, exposing the reactionary and treacherous policies of the Labor union bureaucracy, stimulating the sense of aggressive rank and file control and resisting to the utmost the expulsion of militants and the splitting up of the unions in general."

Report of Speech of Trevor Maguire, Organizer of the Workers' Party, as reported in the "Maritime Labor Herald."

Some talk about bringing about revolution by constitutional method. The speaker considered this an impossible method. The Constitution of Canada is found in the British North America Act which was framed for the purpose of keeping the power out of the hands of the workers. It is composed of House of Commons, Senate and Governor-General. If Labor captured all the seats of the House of Commons, their legislation would be blocked by the Senate, composed of senators appointed for life. These would block the legislation. Parliament is but one section of government. There are the armed forces.

The workers must build a political machine of their own that will suppress all those who fight it. This form of government will be a soviet form, which means workers' organized councils. The workers look forward to the day when there will be a Canadian soviet government.

Some talk of reforms, old age pensions, mothers' pensions, compensation acts. These are in force in many provinces and more people are unemployed and more people are unemployed and hungry than ever.

WOMEN WORKERS THREATEN STRIKE

BOSTON.—An order for a strike of 3,000 workers in the women's garment industry in this city will be issued at a mass meeting to be held February 7, unless employers agree in the meantime to confer on terms, union heads announced tonight. Formation of an arbitration board is one of the workers' demands.

According to Meyer Perstein, of Cleveland, Ohio, a vice-president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, who is in charge of the union for the workers, the strike will be called primarily to bring about a wage increase of 20 per cent, and changes in working conditions that would do away with so-called "sweatshop" methods.

SPENT OVER \$13,000,000 ON 44-HOUR WEEK

TORONTO.—In its fight for the 44-hour week which commenced in June, 1921, and extended into almost every industrial centre of the United States and Canada, the International Typographical Union, according to a letter from Secretary Frank Morrison of the American Federation of Labor, to an official here, has spent \$13,000,000.

Mr. Morrison said he thought that the striking printers of Toronto, Winnipeg and other points in Canada would be the last to come out of the struggle which the union entered in June, 1921. The assessment which had been at ten per cent, will be reduced to three per cent this month.

The strike roll of the local union was reduced by the employment of fifty local printers last week who went to a city in the United States.

STRIKES SPREAD FRENCH PREPARE TO MEET TROUBLE

Marital Law Is Practically In Effect and More Troops Are Sent In.

DUESSELDORF.—What practically amounts to martial law has been declared in the occupied area. All cafes, hotels, theatres, and cabarets were closed at 10 o'clock tonight, German time, which is 9 o'clock French time. The French tonight were continuing to make arrests in connection with Thursday's rioting, about 20 Nationalist leaders were imprisoned during the evening.

More arrests are likely tomorrow if the Germans carry out their decision to refuse to obey the French. This decision was reached today at a meeting of all burgomasters, the chief of police, prominent state officials, and the directors of the Reichsbank in the Rhine province. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Grunetzer, president of the Province of Rhenish Prussia, who later was arrested but afterwards released after a conference with General Simon, who informed him that he would be rearrested if he remained recalcitrant.

It was explained by the French tonight that Dr. Grunetzer was arrested for his activities against the French, which culminated in a meeting presided over by him this afternoon, attended by all the burgomasters, state officials, and directors of the Reichsbank, at which certain instructions were given those present for carrying out measures against the occupation authorities. It is understood that Dr. Grunetzer, at the conference with General Simon, agreed to withdraw these instructions, and that General Simon informed him that unless such action was taken before 11 o'clock tomorrow morning he would again be taken into custody.

Quiet prevailed throughout the Ruhr today. There was no recurrence of Thursday's clashes, but the temper of the population was more openly defiant in the prevalent depressing atmosphere of hate. New forces of troops came into Dueseldorf today to meet an eventuality that may arise here or in any other part of the Ruhr. The streets of Dueseldorf are under military guard, due to the absence of the German police.

All Workers Quitting.

The miners throughout the Ruhr continue gradually to throw down their picks, and workmen in other industries are also leaving their jobs. Smokeless chimneys are now everywhere in evidence throughout the once prosperous valley of the Ruhr. Locomotives, cold and silent, are stalled in shops, or at stations, many pit heads, from which formerly thousands of tons of coal daily was handled, show no signs of activity. The muddy River Ruhr flows heavy and dull through a land of unemployment, but not of despair on the part of the Germans.

The next move in this great battle will come from Paris, probably early in February, after the Germans have failed to meet their January payment

of 500,000,000 gold marks. Germany must submit to the ultimatum which then will be sent them, or further military operations, the nature of which have not yet been announced, will begin.

The economic side of the occupation of the Ruhr has apparently been a failure, and the belief prevails that it is not likely that the situation will improve with the increasing difficulties in working the industries due to the spreading of strikes. It is understood, however, that France has decided upon a further use of force to bring Germany to terms. It is known that some of the Engineers that came into the Ruhr with the mission of M. Caste, head of the French industrial delegation are returning to France. The mission is marking time until the reparations commission renders its decision at the end of the month.

Monstrous Military Move.

Two additional French army corps are arriving in the Ruhr, and it is reported that the military operation projected is of such magnitude that the mobilization of several of the French classes will be required for its execution. The French here are hopeful that a further show of force on the part of France will cause the Germans to give up their present plan of non-cooperation, and therefore make it unnecessary to force the commission's ultimatum. But they are ready to go through with their plans if the German Government remains stubborn. The visit to the Ruhr of General Weygand is said to have been with the purpose of settling the final details of the proposed operations by French troops.

The arrests made during the course of Thursday's demonstrations tend to show that Labor refrained from participating in the disorders. Out of the 19 persons taken into custody there were 17 state functionaries and shopkeepers. The other two were newspapermen. The labor newspapers especially those of Communist and Socialistic leanings, today openly denounced the manifestation.

But while a majority of the Laborites are inclined to continue work, the effectiveness of the railroad strike gradually is forcing the miners out of the pits and the steel workers from their plants. Navigation on the Rhine is at a standstill, but French crews today succeeded in starting for Strasbourg from Ludwigshafen 14 barges of coal.

Burgomaster Schmidt and Dr. Oxle, director of police at Dueseldorf, who were arrested during the day in connection with Thursday's disorders, slept behind prison bars tonight. They will be tried by court martial at Mayence on a charge of failure to enforce law and order. Dr. Oxle is said to have aggravated his case by being defiant when summoned before General Simon, the military governor of Dueseldorf.

"I gave official instructions to my police to remain on duty, but they disobeyed, I fully approve of their attitude," Dr. Oxle is quoted as having said.

When informed that he was under arrest, the chief of police is reported to have said to General Simon: "You French will find the Ruhr a tough morsel to digest, beware of Ruhr in digestion."

The train for Paris, by way of Cologne, left on schedule time today, manned by a French crew. The French are insuring their lines of communication for service supplies by way of Neuss Junction, a few miles southwest of Dueseldorf, eliminating passage through the Cologne bridgehead, where the British are. They have been unable to handle trains bringing food into the Ruhr for the civilian population, and have so informed the Reich president. They are placing the responsibility on the German railway men should a famine ensue.

The railway workers at Dueseldorf tore up the railway lines, and Ruhr main line traffic, says a dispatch from Dueseldorf. The French organized convoys of motor lorries, some 400 of which, their way through Neuss with their supplies for the troops. Neuter's Essen correspondents state that the French have no troops have been ordered to fire any assembly exceeding 200 people.

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