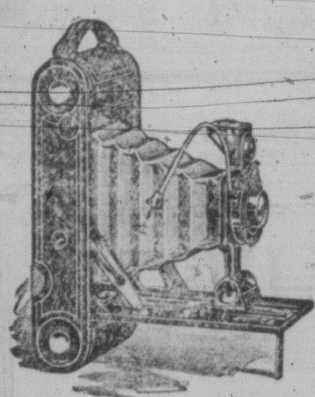


EDMONTON FREE PRESS
 Published at Edmonton, Alberta, every Saturday
 Phone 5595 HENRY J. ROCHE, Publisher 101 Purvis Block
 VOL. 1, No. 12 JUNE 28, 1919



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NOT FOR GOD, BUT STOCKHOLDERS

"We are not in business for the glory of God, or anybody else, but for the benefit of the stockholders," declared a wartime profiteer testifying before the Commons Committee "investigating" the high cost of living. The company manufactures tweeds. Herein lies the tragedy.

The only purpose of clothing is to cover the naked; the only purpose of food is to feed the hungry. Food and clothing are prime necessities of human life. He who withholds food and clothing from the hungry and unclad visits suffering and misery upon his fellow-being. He who withholds the two prime necessities of life from society is a detriment to humanity, an enemy of the race, guilty of barbarism, a sinner against God and man. He should be restrained or eliminated.

Men engage in providing food and clothing, as a business. And most frankly they declare that the objects of their activities are not to provide food and clothing for people, but to provide 72% and 300% profits to their stockholders. When such is the prime purpose of those engaged in supplying prime necessities of the race, the foundation of the social structure is rotten, is unjust, is wrong and must be corrected.

Gamblers on the stock market cornered wheat and so manipulated prices of foodstuffs that the people suffered. The practice had to be restrained. Their operations worked to the detriment of society. By combinations, trusts and organizations of various kinds, all interfering with the legitimate law of supply and demand and thereby dictating the prices, men are literally starving humanity in a land of plenty and rendering people destitute of essential clothing. It is all with the full knowledge of, the approbation and the assistance of the government of the land. Like Wallingford the law is the best friend of the criminals. Some of the most conspicuous politicians are part and parcel of the system, they being in some instances, the stockholder for whose benefit the concern is being run in preference to the glory of God.

Quite true that profit is the incentive to enterprise, even though that enterprise be supplying of food and clothing—the two prime necessities of a human being. There is a wide margin between an avaricious profit, even, and 300%, or even 72%.

When any section of a community has in superabundance that for which another section of the community is suffering and is in misery, and the section which has practiced extortion, yea, demands the very birthright for a pot of porridge, justice is trampled, and a crime against God and man is committed. The lesson should be taught thoroughly by now that might does not make right.

CHANGE THE AUTHORITY

Incompetent, unjust, unfair, and dishonest as to motives and conduct as it may be, everybody might as well concede that constituted authority in this country has to be recognized, and its mandates obeyed. If Canada were not a democratic government in form—even if its democracy in fact be questioned—there would be an excuse for the people rising up as was done in Russia, unseating officialdom and setting up a new and really democratic government. In Canada the means of changing the personnel of said distasteful constituted authority is at hand. Organized Labor, the United Farmers and the rank and file of unclassified social strata, are nauseated. The farmers all over the country are refusing to be flimflammed by party politicians longer. Organized Labor is dabbling in politics with the Dominion Labor party, while the O.B.U. has been trying to precipitate a revolution.

All these forces wanting a radical departure in government policies need to do but one thing and one thing only to get whatever is wanted. Let these forces unite, move into one or both of the political parties, take possession of the machinery of said parties, and run said parties to suit themselves. Primaries and conventions are being held throughout the country. Organized Labor in the city, the farmer in the country, need only to step out and choose their own delegates to conventions, elect their own candidates and control the entire show. A farmer, Labor and real house of sure enough commons would be elected. The persons then objecting to constituted authority would be individuals like the Triple Alliance, the Winnipeg Committee of 1,000, and such like.

With all the constitutional machinery at hand, with a form of government that permits of the affairs of the nation being wrested from servants of big interests whenever the people as a whole take a notion to do it, there is no need for Bolshevism.

THE SILVER LINING

All Canada will rejoice that the Winnipeg general strike has been called off. Thereby strikers in other cities will return to work, as action in these cities was to give aid to the struggle of the strikers in Winnipeg. It is to be hoped that throughout the country no discrimination will be suffered through the recent disturbances. Whether or not there was justification of sympathetic strikes, it must be remembered that these are trying times, and that under any other circumstances such a condition could not have been precipitated. The too numerous sins of the national government are conceded to have been primarily responsible for the strikes by creating and tolerating conditions nauseating to the entire nation. The Winnipeg affair was merely the immediate incident that brought about a demonstration of protest.

Unfortunate as the strike may have been, it has served a purpose and promises to result in beneficial results. The entire nation has been awakened to unsatisfactory conditions of the country in no uncertain manner. The nation has been aroused thoroughly. The injustice suffered by Labor and the masses of the people generally have been fairly well presented to the public. Principles of Organized Labor have been placed before the public. Efforts of Great Britain and other countries to correct evils of economic and social conditions have been made known. Collective bargaining is understood by most people. The O.B.U. agitation, Bolshevism and purposes of extreme radicals have been uncovered and such propaganda will meet with little sympathy hereafter. It is indeed an ill wind that blows no good.

THE EDMONTON STRIKE

With the strike at an end in Edmonton, Organized Labor in this city doubtless is convinced that the Direct Action promulgated by the O.B.U. is unsound from a practical point of view. Practicability is the prime essential to any method. Regardless of the soundness of its logic, regardless of merit or demerit of the procedure, regardless of all else, any method that is not practical, should not be adopted. Edmonton Organized Labor is composed of good citizens. The chief of police of the city without hesitation emphatically commends Labor for the orderliness of conduct during the entire time. It would be difficult to imagine Edmonton Labor men conducting their affairs any other way. It would be a severe provocation that would result in anything but commendable procedure. And at any event it would not be Edmonton Organized Labor that threw the first stone.

FARMERS TO BE COMMENDED

Farmers of Canada are entering politics. Heretofore they have been content to pass resolutions, indulge in platitudes and elect by their votes men to public office too often servants of big money interests. Today they are drawing platforms of their own and choosing candidates whom they are satisfied will not sell them out; candidates whose chief concern will be to promote the interests of the agricultural section of the community and the masses of the people generally. They are resorting to Direct Action. It is not the Direct

Action meaning unlawful overthrow of constituted authority but overthrow of constituted authority by constitutional means. There can be little doubt that candidates nominated by the farming element will be given pretty general support by the rank and file of people generally.

Organized Labor can take a timely lesson from the farmers. There is no reason why Labor and the Farmer should not co-operate in this movement.

There are many men in every constituency who could be truly representative of the Farmer and of Labor. All required is a little united effort in bringing them forward, supporting them solidly. The activity of Farmers and Labor in Direct Action politics is causing old line party politics more concern right now than strikes, Bolshevism, high cost of living, and all other elements perturbing the country put together. The most effective method of getting beneath the hide of public servants is to take steps to put them on the shelf.

UNFORTUNATE TO SAY THE LEAST

Disturbances at Winnipeg are unfortunate. That the strike was conducted so long before disorders prevailed is due to the efforts of the strike leaders. From the onset the strike committee constantly urged the strikers to refrain from unlawful acts and to take every means to avoid disputes and trouble. Had the Citizen's Committee been as active in preventing trouble as were the strikers it is quite likely bloodshed would have been averted. Until all the facts are presented from all sides it is premature to pass judgment on the action of the police. It is also a question if the strikers were disobeying the strict letter of the law in congregating en masse after all parades had been banned. It must be admitted that destruction of property in the shape of a street car was violation of law and order. Throwing missiles at mounted police officers also was certainly a breach of the peace.

SETTLE THE DISPUTE

Justice is all that most people want and all any can demand. Why not have the coal miners' strike settled? The points at issue are not such that an amicable adjustment could not be arrived at. The situation is not complicated. It is merely a question of agreeing as to the working conditions of a few men working above ground. If both parties want to settle this strike, it seems that they could do so. If the parties directly concerned are not anxious to adjust these differences, the people of Alberta and British Columbia are anxious to have them adjusted. Not only would it be to the best interests of the operators, and the government to have this strike settled, but to the best interests of the miners' themselves. It would also be to the best interests of Organized Labor generally.

PLASTERERS OF N.Y. CITY ADOPT EXTREME MEASURE

Employers Fail to Live Up to Agreements So Work Held Up in Other Cities

EXECUTIVE BOARD MUST SUPPORT THE RULES

Agreement Contains Clause Giving Both Sides Powers of Discipline

Discipline of foremen is the main contention in the dispute between the Operative Plasterers and Cement Finishers' International Association, Local No. 90, and the contractors of New York City. This dispute has been going on for the last three months and orders were issued to stop all members working for New York contractors and builders in a number of cities.

An agreement entered into on November 13, 1915, and endorsed by the O.P. & C.F.I.A. Executive Board, contains the following clause: "Under no circumstances shall either association waive the right to discipline its members, provided they in no way violate the intentions and provisions of this agreement." Also "No foreman in the employ of the Employing Plasterers' Association shall be suspended or taken from such employment until his case has been submitted to the Arbitration Board and its decision rendered."

While it may appear that both sides could discipline their own members still the rule was so construed that Section 127, O.P. & C.F.I.A. Constitution was nullified. Section No. 128 of the Association's rules reads: "No agreement can or will be entered into by any local of this Association which in any way restricts or abrogates the rights of its members or which conflicts in any way with the principles of the Constitution and By-laws of this Association. This is to apply to all agreements, present and future. All agreements must be submitted to the Executive Board for approval before being signed." A portion of Section 26 reads: "All decisions rendered shall be in conformity to the O.P. & C.F.I.A. Constitution."

Thus it will be seen that the Executive Board has no alternative but to support the rules. On May 15, the employing plasterers of New York practically declared for open-shop conditions by employing non-union plasterers and opened an employment agency. The Board convened in New York May 20, and after reviewing the situation, decided to enforce Section No. 122 of their Constitution, which reads as follows: "No member of any local shall be allowed to work for any employer or builder who is employing non-union men in another city, where a subordinate association exists, nor shall they be allowed to work for any firm or corporation after the Executive Board has decided said firm or corporation unfair."

So orders were issued to stop all members working for New York contractors and builders in the following cities: Boston, Lawrence, Providence, Chicago, Camden, Philadelphia, Washington, New Orleans, Watertown, St. Paul, Brooklyn, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chester, Erie, Niagara Falls, Long Island City, Jamaica and other cities will be called on to respond as occasion requires.

Toronto policemen's union have been having some trouble with the Police Commission relative to the union's retention of its charter.

ENGINEERS ARE UNDECIDED WHAT COURSE TO TAKE

Members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers who are in triennial session at Denver, Colorado, are undecided what action to take in regard to members of their organization who took part in the Winnipeg strike. Brotherhood members who joined in the sympathetic strike were bitterly assailed and as warmly defended in the discussion that took place. It was finally voted to postpone further discussion until the arrival of George K. Wark, vice president for Canada, who remained away from the convention to handle the strike situation. Mr. Wark is expected to arrive in Denver soon, in view of the fact that the Winnipeg strike has ended.

STRIKERS SHOW DISSATISFACTION OVER DECISION

Dissatisfaction is shown throughout the strikers in Winnipeg over the decision of the strike committee that the strike be declared ended, and less than half of the men are back on their jobs. It is stated that the railroad trades are holding out to a man, and declare they will not return to be subordinate to those who had been engaged during the strike.

Mayor Charles F. Gray announced Tuesday to all civil employees on strike that neither Judge H. A. Robson, who is appointed as special commissioner to the Board that knowledge of the properties of the dominion government will have any power to compel the city to re-instate all its staff members who walked out. He declared that any employee who wishes to resume work must sign the civic re-instatement pledge, in order to prevent a recurrence of the sympathetic strike amongst civic employees.

PAINTING NOT A BASIC TRADE, SAID MACY BOARD

A discrimination between the painters and the carpenters, plumbers and other trades with whom the painters are associated, was made in the wage award by the Macy Board. It was attempted to justify this discrimination on the ground that painting is not a basic trade. Efforts to convince the Board that knowledge of the properties of the materials used and of the method of application is necessary to a good job of re-loading, fell on deaf ears.

The Macy Board has now passed out of existence. To avoid delay in the completion of the ship-building program and to maintain something like uniform conditions in the industry, the Emergency Fleet Corporation has suggested that agreements be entered into between the shipyard owners in the different districts and the international unions. In connection with this movement General President Hedrick and General Vice President Kelley interviewed the Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and Chairman Jenkins of the Emergency Fleet Corporation. These gentlemen frankly expressed the opinion that in any agreement that might be entered into painting should be classed as a basic trade.

This recognition of the justice of the painters comes rather late but it is gratifying and will insure their proper consideration in future agreements to govern wages and working conditions in the ship-building industry.

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MINE WORKERS PROTEST ACTION DOM. GOVERNMENT

Sydney, Nova Scotia Mine Workers are debating on the advisability of a general strike against the action of the Dominion government in connection with the Winnipeg strike, and setting a date in August for a five-day week. On account of the importance of the question it is quite likely that a general holiday will be declared early in July at which a mass meeting will determine the attitude of the rank and file on these questions. Recent pollings show an overwhelming vote in favor of the five-day week.

CANADA IS NO LONGER NATION OF DEMOCRACY

Pro-strike returned men in Winnipeg, it is stated, are circulating a petition to the effect that they wish the government to deport them to their home countries because Canada is no longer democratic and therefore not fit to live and work in. They believe this petition will affect immigration to Canada. "It will reduce the quantity of unemployed men in the country and therefore the number of 'scabs' waiting for our jobs when next we call a general strike," said one of the heads of the meeting.

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