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Present Settlement of Strikes Not a Solution

Necessity for complete adjustment of labor and industry.—Threatening Aspect.—Need of Government and Business to Take Hold.

The strike outlook in Canada last week was indeed dismal, threatening in the case of railway employees a serious inroad upon our industrial production. Happily as we go to press the most serious aspects have been overcome and a settlement has been effected. The railway employees have accepted the government's award as have the telegraphers who threatened to tie up the entire wire service of the Dominion. At this writing the strike of the street railway employees and the electrical union of the British Columbia Electric Railway has been settled. How long the cars will continue to run and the cities of Vancouver and Victoria be given reasonable light and power service cannot be fore-shadowed.

With the settlement of present labor troubles it must not be thought that labor is satisfied or, without its present ominous restlessness. The demand of labor for its pound of flesh is present in Canada wherever the wheels of industry are turning. The strike is but the evidence of this determination and labor is only quiescent when it believes it is getting all that is possible. While we in British Columbia are heralded as the worst labor section in North America the middle western provinces and the east are only different in degree and perhaps better off in so far as the problem has been handled in those places.

We believe that a comprehensive handling of the situation by the Ottawa authorities is called for and statesmanship of a high quality in the present government is demanded. That the seriousness of the situation is being enforced upon the Government's attention by the following recent dispatch from Ottawa is certain. It yet remains for the Government to take some drastic and comprehensive steps that the virus of the disease which has so frequently broken out in this province may not tie up the industry of the entire Dominion. The dispatch says:

The government announcement regarding the labor situation is regarded here as a step in the right direction and

a hint to employers and employed that co-operation in all productive work is essential and may be insisted upon if the suggestions now made are not followed out.

"The government has been most anxious not to interfere, but inaction seems to have been misinterpreted as weakness, with the result that production of essentials towards the winning of the war has been curtailed.

"A point not generally recognized apparently is that the whole industrial situation depends on the ability of the country not only to produce material, but to pay for foreign orders placed in Canada.

"If the people of Canada realized that they are now able to establish their position as a creditor instead of a debtor nation, and that every dollar's worth of goods produced now for export is a dollar towards elimination in part of debts and the establishment of financial prosperity, the situation would probably clear itself.

"It is felt that this point is not fully recognized and that, generally speaking, the old adage of making hay while the sun shines is being followed too literally, as, unless more settled conditions prevail, there will be no hay to make.

"It is said that it should be plain to all that the establishment of new industries or the extension of old is impossible if labor simply regards the situation as opportune for raising wages.

"As is pointed out here, if the moment industry of any kind is in full swing the opportunity is seized to hold up the government for more money, those doing so are really holding up themselves.

"Every rise in wages must be paid for by the money collected in Canada for foreign credit. If the money can not be obtained because production is limited by all kinds of restrictions, no orders can be placed.

"Curtalement of production means curtailment of wages. If the government announcement is effective and both employers and employed put their backs wholeheartedly into the necessary work, the country's prosperity will continue, but if the tendency as recently shown prevails, there must be a collapse.

"Orders can not be placed without some guarantee that

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