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THE SILVER LINING

At this day when a whole great city is at a standstill through the command of Labor; when commerce and trade and industry to a lesser degree stop in other places; when the industrial horizon is overcast, a silver lining appears. National consciousness is aroused to the realization that industrial disputes are an affair of the nation. Too many people are affected to permit an employer or group of employers to so dispute with his Labor that the whole industrial fabric is upset and society as a whole made to suffer.

If two men or a group of men engage in altercation in a public place, a peace officer stops them and their differences are adjusted in courts of law provided. Wrong is righted. Justice usually prevails. When employers and Labor dispute it usually has been a case of fight it out. So long as these disputes were restricted to isolated bodies, little public concern was given. Regardless of wrongs or indignities suffered, Labor fought its own battles and alone.

Recognizing this, Trades Unionists united more solidly. Today they are able to stop the wheels of commerce and trade and industry that public cognizance must be taken of the altercation. With this cognizance must come enquiry into the merits of the case to the end that wrongs be righted. Had metal trades alone gone on strike in Winnipeg, there would have been no echo in the halls of parliament. No cabinet ministers would have left the seat of government to go to the scene of trouble. The strikers might have starved and rotted before such concern was shown. Yet no greater principle would have been at stake; no greater wrongs endured. Because constantly justice and right have been refused for justice's sake, Trades Unionism command attention to its case by the use of the weapon of last resort—the strike.

Until Trades' Unionists had amassed strength to put up a sufficient fight to affect the entire community the struggle was against odds. But with industrial disturbances becoming an affair of magnitude that affects the country, the country necessarily must see to it that adequate laws are made which will guarantee that justice and right shall prevail. Awakening of a national realization of the demand for such provision is the silver lining.

RIGHT MUST PREVAIL

Why should Labor and the Employer of Labor fight and struggle? Something and somebody must be wrong. Has the world not fought and killed for four years to establish Right? Is not the world today seeking to adjust international relations that Right shall prevail? While these efforts continue to enshrine Right without, within each nation Wrong stalks throughout the land. Can there be peace without and discord within?

Unsatisfactory conditions among nations precipitated the war. Yet conditions most unsatisfactory prevail within the nation. It is no more right that one section or class of people within a nation unjustly handle and tyrannize another section, than it is right for one geographical division to wrongly treat another geographical division. Violations of the rights of nations, organizations for supremacies by armed and economic forces improperly and wrongly used caused war. Practices of those same tactics within a nation can be no more right than among nations.

WHO BREEDS BOLSHEVISM?

When Labor and Employers of Labor fight it is because something is wrong. Until Wrong is replaced by Right there can be no peace.

It should not be too difficult for that nation really wanting to establish Right and Justice and peace within to do so. Refusal to attempt to establish Right within causes radical reformers to lose faith in the sincerity and practicability of our national institutions. Colossal combinations in contravention to Law and Right; enormous exploitations of natural resources and Labor; competitions until there is no proper return for Labor—these things drive men mad who suffer from them. And eventually that madness finds action. If there be Bolshevists in the nation, who has bred them? No nation will run riot unless driven to the extremity. Bolshevism cannot exist in a nation where Right and Justice prevail.

ANXIOUS MOMENTS FOR STRIKERS

Men throughout the country on strike today, do not enjoy the fight. The great majority of them have wives and babies at home, and little credit at the corner grocery. These are anxious moments for them. When this period of idleness ends, each will have suffered financial loss which any increased pay will require many months to make up. These men are thoughtful citizens who are fighting for the principle of an eight hour day, and for a wage they consider only fair and adequate.

FIGHT FOR THE MASSES

Did you, who are unorganized, yet who work for a wage or salary, ever stop to think that the Trades' Unionists fight for you? Every time a Trades Union brings about better wages and better working conditions that you are benefitted thereby? Had it not been for the fighting and suffering of Trades' Unionists you would be working 12 or 14 hours daily. You would not be enjoying six o'clock closing, a half holiday this Saturday, nor the wage that you do receive, whether it be large or small. It has taken a good many years of struggle. You, who work for wages, you owe much to Trades Unionists.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Many people in sympathy with a body of workers forced to strike to relieve wrong working conditions, withhold moral support to men and women who lay down their tools in a sympathetic strike. In most cases a man is admired for helping a fellow man in distress. That is taught in the lesson of the Good Samaritan. A sympathetic strike is nothing more nor less than practicing that lesson.

Trades' Unionism has learned by sad experience that it behooves all union men to stand by one another. Isolated they are easily and quickly struck down by their adversaries. Also every wrong righted assists in righting other wrongs. Regardless of what may be the merits of the individual case, the motive that prompts sympathetic strikes must be commended. It is prompted by that Golden Rule: Do unto your brothers as you would have your brothers do unto you.

FIGHT FOR HUMANITY

Knights of old buckled on armor and fought for the principles of Right and Justice. They are honored until this day. Abolishment of child labor; elimination of unsanitary working environments; increase in low wages breeding immorality, squalor and misery; hours of labor in proportion to physical and mental possibilities and welfare—these are principles which churches, welfare societies, humanitarians, philanthropists and all forces seeking social betterment are preaching. These are the principles Trades' Unionism stands for. For these same things Trades' Unionism has fought and starved and suffered. And Trades' Unionism has done more to bring about a realization of these principles than any other force, or all forces combined. Is it not to be commended? Too often Trades' Unionism has been persecuted, boycotted, browbeaten and discriminated against for its efforts toward bringing into effect those same things for which most people preach.

TRADES' COUNCIL IN BUSY MEETING

Meeting of Executives of All Unions of City Ordered Called

For the purpose of considering the Winnipeg strike situation, the Trades and Labor Council, Monday night issued a call for a meeting of the executive of all the affiliated unions to be held at the Labor Hall, Wednesday evening.

As a protest against the unseating of the delegates advocating the One Big Union movement, the Street Railwaymen's Union had a letter before the Trades and Labor Council, announcing withdrawal from the Trades and Labor Council, pending such time as the delegates were reinstated. As a matter of fact the Street Railwaymen's Union were in arrears of dues for eighteen months and its affiliation was therefore automatically cancelled several months ago.

Del. Cairns of the C.N.R. Federation of Shopcraft, presented a copy of a resolution passed on the previous day by the local branch endorsing the strike action of the unions in Winnipeg and authorizing the committee of the local branch to take such action as it deemed best to further the objects of the strikers in that city. He then moved, seconded by Del. Green that this action of the Federation branch in Edmonton be endorsed by the Trades and Labor Council. The motion carried unanimously.

The Plumbers and Steamfitters of the city wrote to inform the Council that their union had decided to vote to take no action in connection with the voting on the One Big Union throughout the province.

Secretary Farnilo, in reporting on organization work since last meeting, said that the power house employees were lined up and were now awaiting the arrival of their charter. The bakers were progressing very well towards completing formalities. The teamsters were now organized, some 200 members already forming their union, and their officers would be installed on Friday evening next in the Labor Hall. Some movement towards perfecting organization was on foot among the retail clerks and there was to be a meeting on Tuesday evening in connection with this matter.

Del. Wright of the Carmen's Union stated his objection to the Saturday half holiday, stating that the motion in favor of that day had been put through his union without due consideration. It was impossible, he claimed, to keep beef over from Friday to the Sunday without refrigerators, and he for one could not afford to buy a refrigerator. The discussion that Del. Wright started on the half holiday problem ran a short course ending in the conclusion that the general feeling was in favor of the Saturday half day off.

In reference to the new official newspaper of the Trades' Council, it was suggested by Del. Cairns that each union should levy an assessment on its members for paying the cost of subscriptions. It was urged by Secretary Farnilo that everyone should take a personal interest in the paper. Reports of meetings, news items of a personal character might well find a place in the columns of the Free Press. All contributions could be dropped into the letter box just outside the secretary's door.

Del. Findlay pointed out that no mention had been made to the Industrial Commission while in session in Edmonton of the very bad conditions under which men on the repair tracks in the railway yards had to work. Acting on the suggestion, Del. Wright moved, seconded by Del. Porter, that the great need of car sheds on the repair tracks be included in a written statement and forwarded to the chairman of the Mathers' Industrial Commission.

Considerable complaint was made re the water delivery of the city from wagons. Accordingly a committee was appointed to take up the matter with the proper officials.

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CONVENTION OF BARBERS ON SEPTEMBER 9TH

On Tuesday, September 9, 1919, the J.B.L.U. of A. will meet in annual convention at Buffalo, N.Y., pursuant to decision of last convention naming that city as place for the next gathering. Each local of barbers is entitled to vote at the convention when membership of said local is not in excess of 150 members. If membership exceeds 150 an extra vote is granted. Proxies will not be recognized. No member is eligible to be a delegate unless he has been a continuous contributing member of the International union for one year prior to the month in which delegates are elected, except where the said local has not been in existence such length of time. Expenses of delegates shall be paid by the International Union and shall be \$9 per day from the time he leaves until return, together with railroad fare by the shortest schedule. Local unions shall advance the expenses of the delegates to the convention, said expenses shall be returned by the International.

VICTORY AFTER BIG STRUGGLE FOR 15 YEARS

Results of Co-operative Effort of Union Crafts Are Shown

CONDITIONS ADVERSE Every Influence Brought to Bear By Operators to Defeat Measure

The union coal miners of Arkansas won a fifteen-year fight against the operators when the Arkansas legislature which has just closed passed in original form and without the slightest change a bill providing for wash houses at all coal mines in the state employing ten or more men. The measure has been approved by Governor Charles H. Brough and is now a law.

The bill was passed under extremely adverse circumstances. It was first introduced in the senate, where the operators succeeded in amending it and placing the burden of equipping and maintaining the wash houses on the miners.

Passed After Hard Fight The measure was then introduced and passed in the house after a hard fight and was transmitted to the senate.

Instead of sending the bill to the senate committee on mines and mining, which dealt the death blow to the first bill, the miners rallied sufficient help to have the house bill referred to the committee on public health.

The bill came out of the committee without amendment, but when it was called up for final passage a number of changes were proposed.

However, they were all defeated and the bill passed in its original form. Accomplished by Organization Passage of the wash-house bill is a shining example of what organized labor can accomplish when organized crafts co-operate in fighting each other's battles.

Every known influence was brought to bear to defeat the measure which the miners have clamored for since 1904. The various legislative committees representing labor at the capital combined their forces and met the opposition with such resistance that the bill eventually passed.

FREE RATES TO BE CANCELLED AFTER JUNE 16

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture for the Province has received notice from the Live Stock Branch at Ottawa that cattle that were moved north last year on account of the scarcity of feed in the south will require to be loaded and shipped on or before the 16th day of June in order to get the free rate for return to the south.

Words worth while, spoken in candor, carry conviction; words in explanation and evasion are worse than useless.

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\$10.00

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\$12.00

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