

# THE RED FLAG

A Journal of News and Views Devoted to the Interests of the Working Class

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FIVE CENTS

## AN APPEAL FOR DEFENCE FUNDS

SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA  
Dominion Executive Committee,  
401 Pender St. E., Vancouver, B. C.,  
July 4, 1919.

Comrades:

Funds are urgently needed for the defence of those men arrested in connection with the present strike trouble in Canada. The preliminary trial which was to be held on this date, has been postponed for a week and a further remand is probable.

Three of these men—W. A. Pritchard, R. B. Russell and R. J. Johns, are members of the Socialist Party of Canada. The funds raised, however, will be used to cover the defence of all the arrested men.

The charges against the labor officials are seditious libel and seditious conspiracy. The Federal Government has retained six of the leading legal firms of Winnipeg for the prosecution, and this may be taken as a sure indication that no effort will be spared by them to secure a conviction. The whole Dominion is at present being combed by the police in an effort to discover documentary and other evidence for this purpose.

The loyal support of all the workers is due to these men, because it is for working in their interests and for voicing their needs and aspirations

that they have incurred the enmity of the ruling class.

In addition to the case of the labor officials, a number of foreigners have also been arrested, we understand, under the provisions of the recent Act of Parliament, which the press reported as being rushed through both Houses of Parliament in twenty minutes. This new Act is a "blanket" measure, ostensibly aimed at the advocates of physical force for the overthrow of established authority, but designedly constructed so that very wide and unknown scope of application and interpretation of it is placed within the hands of the bureaucrats of the administration. A conviction of these men under it will establish precedents which will effect thousands of others holding unorthodox economic and political views, and long established and bitterly fought for privileges of freedom of thought and speech, will be swept away.

The attempt to penalize all of these arrested men constitutes a blow at the whole of the working class movement towards a better state of things, which can only be met by contesting thoroughly the validity of the charges in the courts of law.

To do this, finances are necessary. Due to the long continued strike, union treasuries and the strikers individual funds are either depleted or

exhausted. Consequently, it is the more necessary that those more fortunately circumstanced should contribute to their utmost. A large sum of money will be needed. The expenses it is estimated will run into five figures, as every present indication points to it that the trial of these men will be the most important and far-reaching in its consequences, of all the trials which have heretofore affected the labor movement in Canada.

We, ourselves, can only reach a few of those in whom this appeal would find a response. Help the cause of the arrested men and the working class in general, by acquainting others of this need for funds. Please, each one do your very best, and that quickly.

Send all moneys, if possible, by cheque, money order, postal note or by registered letter to the respective treasurers of the following collecting agencies:

British Columbia Agency—Victor Midgley, Postoffice Drawer 879, Vancouver, B. C.

Alberta Agency—A. Brouche, 1203 Eighth Avenue East, Calgary, Alta.

Central Collection Agency—E. Robinson, Secretary Trades and Labor Council, Winnipeg, Man. Contributions will be acknowledged at a later date through the Labor and Socialist press.

C. STEPHENSON.

Secretary D. E. C. Socialist Party of Canada.

## Industrial Relations Report

REPEATED statements have come from Labor sources, that for Organized Labor, collective bargaining as an abstraction has no interest, but that the vital question has always been, is a particular form of it an effective one or not for labor's purposes. Because if it is not, then, the whole machinery, principle and all, of the organized labor movement might as well go on the scrap heap. In addition to this and in spite of the fact that labor in Canada has for the time being apparently been defeated on this matter, labor will decide and no other people, as the best judge of its own particular business, which form of collective bargaining suits its needs the best.

The Metal Trade Workers in Winnipeg demanded that the employers deal with them through their central council. This the employers refused to grant and the Government took sides with them, also the manufacturers' association, the "kept" press of course, and every exploiting interest that could get into the fight, north and south of the line banded together to cloud the issue and break the strike. Still here we have the Industrial Relations' Committee, lately appointed by the Government to bring in recommendations for allaying the social unrest in Canada, handing in its report and not only endorsing the demands of the Metal Trade Workers, but going even fur-

ther, if we read the report aright, and endorsing collective bargaining by industries. We append some extracts:

"The Commission defines collective bargaining as the right of workers to group themselves for the purpose of selling their labor-power collectively, instead of making individual agreements with the employers."

That is a general definition, but in elaborating on it, the further statement of the Commission is clearer and more specific.

"In the case of larger organizations of workers—for example, where a building contractor employed nineteen different classes of tradesmen, all organized in different trades' unions, it has been found mutually advantageous for workers to combine their demands and present them to their employers through the medium of a building trades federation, and thus settle at once the conditions for the entire industry."

(Note that this is stated as a principle already in practice.)

"The employer is justified in knowing that the schedule is presented to him with the concurrence of a fair propor-

tion of his employees, but it does not matter whether it is put before him directly by a commission of his employees or by a direct representative of the trade unions to which they belong, or through the committee of a federation of trade unions of which their particular union forms a part."

Reading that, we are almost of the opinion that the Commission must have become converted to the O. B. U. while in the West. Another week and they would have become raving Bolsheviks, thirsting for the blood of the bourgeoisie. However, it is more reasonable to assume that this matter of collective bargaining would never have given the commissioners a moments thought if the present struggle had not forced their hands. And in any case, they have only reaffirmed an old and accepted practice in collective bargaining. The Mother Country has had it for thirty years. (We say Mother Country, with a reservation, because this country is really owned now by the financial oligarchy of the United States.) It was also affirmed and incorporated into the Paris Peace Covenant. So if the Government makes the show of granting it in Canada, it will be no free gift, but has been fought for and won by the workers.

Gideon Robertson's objection to the Metal Trade Worker's demand that the collection was too big and the Press's parrot like repetition of it, falls to the ground like the rotten fruit of the

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