

**GENERAL STRIKE TO AVERT WAR**

Toronto, Sept. 10.—"So strongly do we of the Labor party feel on the matter of war that we are now engaged in an effort to organize the working class feeling in all countries to such an extent that if every means fail in averting war we are prepared to organize a revolutionary general strike which would necessitate the presence of the armies at home and prevent them being sent out to slaughter each other in a quarrel which is not their's."

Roundly denouncing the jingoists and the manufacturers of the German war scare, Mr. James Keir Hardie, leader of the Labor party in the British House of Commons, who was in Toronto yesterday on his way to the Dominion Trades Congress at Guelph as the fraternal delegate from the British labor organizations, expressed himself in the foregoing language.

"I will lay special emphasis on the need of Canadian workmen being on their guard against being drawn into the maelstrom of militarism. Several of my colleagues in Parliament, I have observed from the press, have been endeavoring to extend to Canada the alleged antagonism between Germany and ourselves, which has led to such tremendous expenditure on naval matters on both sides of the North Sea."

**Promoters of War Scare**

"I know Germany pretty well, being a frequent visitor to that country," continued Mr. Hardie, "and I know our own country and its feelings as well at least as any man living, and I say in a most emphatic manner that outside the vested interests and our bankrupt party politicians there is no desire for war in either country. In both countries there are certain neurotics who see everything red. They usually style themselves Imperialists. They are so very active, but occupy quite an insignificant position in the community. Behind these are the great concerns, which stand to make millions of pounds sterling out of naval programs. These own and control newspapers, which, of course, are used to inflame the public mind and promote war scares."

"All these, however," said Mr. Hardie, "would be quite powerless but for the exigencies of party politics. Three years ago the Conservative party at home, being utterly destitute of either ideas or principles, succeeded in working out a naval scare by allegations of bad faith on the part of Germany."

**Reasons for German Action**

"The ground for this rivalry between the two nations is a little bit mixed, but it is based mainly on two principal reasons," continued the labor leader. "The overseas trade of Germany has been developing very rapidly, and at The Hague convention some years ago a proposal was made to make ships of commerce not carrying war supplies immune from capture on the high seas. The law applied to commerce on land during war, and the object of the proposal was to extend the law upon land to commerce at sea. The British government opposed the proposal and thus secured its defeat. The fact was thus driven home to the commercial classes in Germany that without a navy their whole overseas trade would be at the mercy of the British navy if the two nations should unfortunately become embroiled in war. In this fact there is a perfectly obvious reason why Germany should desire a navy, but there is a further and far more serious fact. Ever since Sir Edward Grey became Foreign Minister he has steadfastly pursued an anti-German policy. In the interests of what he calls high diplomacy he conceived it to be necessary to form alliances and to come to agreements with most of the great European powers, especially France and Russia, and to ostentatiously exclude Germany from these. The Morocco case illustrates this best perhaps."

"We of the Labor party," Mr. Hardie concluded, "have on several occasions sent deputations to Germany to assure the working classes of that country that we have no ill-feeling towards them, and have received similar deputations and assurances from them. What I have feared, however, is this: that if the Dominion of Canada and the other overseas Dominions lend themselves to the jingoism of the scaremongers and the vested interests it will perpetuate the existing conditions and probably make war inevitable."

**TO INVESTIGATE RANCH LANDS**

Ottawa, Sept. 19.—A commission of unusual importance to the live stock and ranching industry of Western Canada has been appointed, consisting of E. E. Taylor, chief ranch inspector at Calgary; George H. Pope, Winnipeg, and Clarence F. Graham, Winnipeg, which will investigate the whole question of the grazing leases in the West, and will establish what lands can be set aside as suitable only for grazing purposes. More permanency will be given to the leases. The Minister of the Interior, by the appointment of this commission, hopes to be able to assist in reviving the declining stock industry of the West.

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