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FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 4.

A Spirit of Understanding.

There is a general effort among all

to place the relation between capital and labor on a

basis of reason and with a view to

the elimination of friction. The re-

sults of hostility as demonstrated in

the great war and subsequent events

are sufficient evidence, for sane and

intelligent men that there are better

ways of solving the rat problem than

by burning down the house. The de-

fects of our industrial system have

been becoming more apparent, and

the war, which did so much to reveal

new military principles, has done no

less for the enlightenment of indus-

trial effort. The one thing that comes

out of all these is the necessity for

co-operation.

The plan first suggested by an Eng-

lish M. P., Mr. Whitley, has been very

widely adopted in England, and Sen-

ator Robertson has proposed some

modification of the plan for use in

Canada. There is a greater tendency

to centralization here, perhaps, than

in England, and it must not be for-

gotten that the success of the Whitley

scheme has depended on its adaptabil-

ity to all kinds of local conditions.

If centralization interferes with this

adaptability, then it is handicapped

just to that extent.

The principle of the Whitley plan

is the meeting of employers and rep-

resentatives of the employees on the

same level, with the same interests,

and with joint jurisdiction over the

industry they are dealing with. The

representatives of the men can under-

stand the facts laid before them. They

can understand that the cost of ma-

terial, the overhead, the wage ques-

tion, has to be balanced with a more

or less controlled money market. The

employer may have as great diffi-

culty raising the money for his wages

bill as the employee has in raising the

money for his groceries account. Knowledge of this kind disseminated

thru the ranks of labor must have its

effect, and on the other hand, knowl-

edge of the conditions of their work-

men's lives, their homes, their leisure,

their welfare, their troubles, would

probably do more to help matters

than many strikes. At any rate, it

has been found to work out so in

England, wherever it has been fairly

tried. The experiment of the Stan-

dard Oil Company democratizes that

corporation to an incredible extent,

and the Imperial Oil Company of Can-

ada are following suit. The marine

federation governing the ship trades

of the shipbuilding yards, the furna-

ture factories and others, desire to pro-

ceed on some such plan as that of the

Whitley scheme or Senator Robertson's

proposal offers. If the employers act

in good faith they may be assured of

being met with as hearty a spirit of

co-operation. Cordial relations are to

be the advantage of both parties.

The Scare Artists at Work!

The Canadian people are about fed

up with special newspaper stories of

European Bolshevism, the Reds, Spar-

tanians, and other real or imaginary or-

ganizations supposed to be disrupting

the interior of Europe, and cutting

the throats of each other when the

balance of the population is not near

at hand.

We think that there is considerable

anxiety in Germany, Austria and Rus-

sia and some other countries, but if

the true state of affairs could be

known we believe that the people of

these countries are more concerned in

filling their bellies than they are in

cutting each other's throats. Some of

the Canadian dailies are devoted en-

tirely to these pages to these supposed

extra conditions. Scores of so-called

special correspondents are sending out

daily articles, the continual rehash of

which cannot but have a bad effect

upon our Canadian people. We are

more concerned here in getting down

to business and opening up channels

to employ our returning men

who have done such noble ser-

vice. Let them riot in Berlin and Vi-

enna if they will, and the stronger

they go the quicker will they come

to the conclusion that they had bet-

ter settle down and accept the situ-

ation.

A Soldiers' Adjusting Bureau.

After all the discounts have been

made there remain serious charges

against bureau management in Bri-

tain of military affairs. It remains a

general and unrefuted charge that

the remedying of a grievance was and

still is surrounded by an amount of

red tape that is positively dishearten-

ing to those unfamiliar with the ways

of a crumpled office. Soldiers are

given documents to sign and instructed

how to fill them and do so in good

faith to find out later they have signed

away their rights. Men are shipped

across the ocean with instructions and

expectations and find, on arriving

home, that the reality is quite differ-

ent. Subsequent orders have canceled

what they depended upon, and their

plans are canceled without recourse.

Occasional rectifications are made for

those who have energy for influence

enough to compel attention, but these

are only a trifling fraction of those

who submit because they have al-

ready experienced the futility of pro-

test.

Men like General Gunn have a pro-

per appreciation of the need of cut-

ting red tape and sweeping away all

the official obstacles to justice, but the

adamantine wall of bureaucracy is

at all times difficult to scale and

everyone has not access to the postern

door.

In the big stores they have an ad-

justing bureau, and in big factories

and institutions they have a "compe-

partment." Why can't the army

have some such plan conducted not by

green subalterns or ancient martinet-

ts, but by competent, courteous men

who know every turn and twist of

army methods, King's regulations, and

every line of all the latest orders that

affect a man proceeding towards dis-

charge. In most cases the discharge

proceedings have been admirably man-

aged, but in the exceptional cases

where from one cause or another in-

justice has been done, the sufferer,

sometimes a disabled man, should not

be compelled to chase from pillar to

post until he has to abandon the task

in despair.

A central adjusting bureau with

quick-fire methods would fill a want

which shrieks loud enough at times in

the newspaper offices where victims

resort for redress.

IDA RE SOLDIERS' INSURANCE

By IDA L. WEBSTER.

We have received so many letters

re the soldiers' insurance, and its un-

fairness, that we are publishing with

this article today a sample. The fol-

lowing letter will show you better

than anything we might be able to

say, just what a mess has been made

of the whole affair.

The city has shifted the responsi-

bility of keeping the promise made to

the boys who paid the supreme

sacrifice, by putting the deciding of

this issue on the shoulders of three

city hall officials who are already

weighed down with their own de-

partments, or if they are not, then

they should not find it necessary to

employ so many clerks.

There is no legitimate reason on

earth for the property commissioner

to be appointed to a committee to

pass upon the paying of what

really belongs to the dead men's

estates. It was a very well known

fact that the city had been paid to

half a dozen amendments to make

up the money had been paid to

beneficiaries—certainly you

could not call them dependents, no

matter how far your imagination

would stretch, because there were at

least two different thousand dollars

paid to people who could not and sell

half the citizens in Toronto.

This trick of having a law for one

and another one for another, is not

quite the right thing to do in a

democracy. If there is going to be

democracy, then it must be city

wide, and not just for a few, who

make a fuss, in other words, who

would be able to fight it thru all the

courts in the Dominion of Canada if

it were to.

And at that if this case was taken

before the high court it is altogether

likely that the city of Toronto would

not only be told that the city was

liable because of their smallness, but

that they were to be ordered to hand

over the money to the dependents of

every man who came under the act

as it was drawn up. If this money

was paid, it would only mean a very

few cents more to each taxpayer, and

for that matter a few of the firms

might be cut out on something else.

In any event the thousand dollars

should be paid at once, so that To-

ronto could once more get back on a

footing with regular cities.

"I would like to thank you for the

interest you are taking in the matter

of the soldiers' insurance. I would

like to tell you my experience.

"My husband enlisted in January,

1915, went overseas in June, and was

in the trenches July, 1915. The fol-

lowing June 12, 1916, he was severely

wounded, and died on June 13, same

year. We came to Toronto in Octo-

ber, 1917, and have lived here ever

since. The year before he died we

broke out we bought property in the

township (just twenty-five feet out-

side the city limits) and have resided

there ever since. I appealed to the

mayor, several councillors, aldermen,

etc., but all promised to do what

they could, nothing has ever been

done.

"When my husband was killed his

small private insurance would not

clear the mortgage on my home

(which was left uncompleted), and

we have three children, all at school,

and at the present have a good posi-

tion, but this is only temporary. And

as I am at present, I find it ex-

ceedingly difficult to keep them at

school, and quite impossible to com-

plete the building of house.

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