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INDUSTRIAL DESPOTS CAUSE SOCIAL UNREST

Atmosphere Surcharged With Conflicting Aims, Hopes and Aspirations

INDUSTRIAL REFORMATION Recognition and Observance of Human Rights to Justice Essential

The war is ended, and with the signing of peace, the nations of the world are confronted with an era of reformation in all things that are human. It is now for all those who consider themselves worthy of the name of man to face the issues that confront us with both vision and action tempered with justice. The last great reformation that occurred in human society was an endeavor of mankind to free themselves in a religious manner. Today it is industrial reformation that is required.

If a state of anarchy is to be created with all the evil that disorder brings within its wake, the American Trade Union movement and trade unionists will not be responsible, nor will those employers who deal with the workers as an organization in a spirit of fairness be responsible.

Conflicting Aims
Our industrial atmosphere is surcharged with conflicting aims, desires and hopes and aspirations. Conflicts are impending between those who employ and those who need employment; between those who pay wages and those who receive them; between those who toil the hours of work and those who fill the hours of leisure; between those who possess riches and those constantly menaced by poverty; between the advocates of this compromise and the apostles of that panacea.

The pioneers of the nation to the south of us saw a century ago the light which would lead safely through the labyrinth and into the free air of their political relations of freedom and democracy. So the path of domestic tranquility is in the recognition and observance of the rights of the workers to freedom, justice and democracy in our industrial and commercial enterprises.

Cause for Alarm
It is alarming that there should be in the city of Edmonton, employers who refuse the right of their employees to organize. In these factories, workshops and yards, the employees are among the lowest paid of wage workers.

How long are these employers going to continue to refuse to treat with their workers as human beings? Are not the actions of employers the cause of employees in their desperation, to commit overt acts and excesses on account of having no source to which to look for help? And having had no previous education, or training such as the trade union movement gives its members, and because they have become so belatedly that there is no justice in the land, and the only way they can get redress is by the use of direct physical force.

The Only Hope
Despots in industry and commerce are the real organizers of such conditions. The bona fide organized labor movement is the only and the strongest influence in the country that will operate to protect us from these things.

Let it be not misunderstood that industry, like government can only exist by the co-operation of all. Every edifice, every product of human toil is the creation of the co-operation of all people. In this co-operation it is the right of all to have a voice and a share in the equitable proportion of the fruits of these collective enterprises. As is truly said in recent issue of the American Federationist, "Russia today suffers through the misconceptions and misdeeds of her political and industrial rulers, because of the refusal to recognize the workers' right in determining industrial and agricultural relations, because of the denial of equal participation in fixing the standards and requirements of manufacture and production, and because of the stubborn resistance to the just and fair division of industrial rewards by democratic procedure. Had Organized Labor been suppressed on this continent in the past as so wantonly decreed; had the American wage-earners' hope and faith in the democratic method of collective bargaining been destroyed, we too would find ourselves in a maddening sea of the widest of human passions—like a drowning person grasping in desperation at whatever is nearest at hand, in the hope of life vengeance in death."

May All Co-operate
And may we exert all those who have not succumbed to the lust of power to prepare themselves along with the intelligent workers throughout the nation to co-operate with the end in view of each for all and all for each. Then freedom of action will be ours, and mankind shall have reached that plane in human development, when we will truly say we are brothers in one great commonwealth.

During the war the British lifeboat service saved more than 5,000 lives.

TEAMSTERS' CHARTER NOW HERE; DAIRYMEN ADOPT CONSTITUTION

The charter and all the other paraphernalia have arrived for the Teamsters who will now be able to go ahead. The Dairy Workers met to adopt their constitution last Wednesday. The Warehousemen are still at work perfecting their organization. As a result of the strengthening of this wing, there may be greater effort made to bring the retail clerks into line. They are among the worst paid workers in the city and deserve every encouragement to bring their wages up to the cost of living.

LABOR PARTY WILL HEAR WOODSWORTH

Prominent Labor Man and Social Worker to Visit Edmonton

The Dominion Labor Party received a communication that Mr. Woodsworth, lately one of the leaders of the social work in the Methodist church, was proposing to make the trip through Edmonton. The party is therefore arranging for two meetings or more at which he will be the chief speaker. Mr. Woodsworth has already spoken in the city having come in the interests of town planning some years ago. He is one of the leading orators now in the Labor ranks. He is working as a longshoreman at Vancouver at the present time. All therefore who are interested in Labor matters should try to hear what he has to tell.

SYMPATHY STRIKE FAVORED BY THE TORONTO T. AND L.

Believed Practically Every Union Worker in Toronto Will Join Strike

A vote of all the Trades and Labor organizations in Toronto, on the question of a general strike in sympathy with the striking metal workers, was favored by the Toronto Trades and Labor Council at their meeting Tuesday night. This action was taken at the instigation of the metal trades council of the city, which is urging that a general strike be called within the next eight days.

The district Trades and Labor Council puts it up to each local union to take action, and it is believed by the metal workers that practically every union worker in Toronto will join in the proposed sympathetic strike, unless the employers of the metal workers show a disposition in the meantime to enter into peace negotiations.

BRITAIN TO GET A 48-HOUR WEEK

A bill is being drafted in the British parliament to give effect to the recommendation of the National Industrial Council for a 48-hour week, according to a letter written by Premier Lloyd George to the National Industrial Council which is in session at London. Also, the principle of minimum rate of wage for all industries is to be included in the bill.

LOOK FOR THE CARD

When the union card is hanging in a barber shop it is an assurance that union barbers are employed exclusively, its absence indicating a non-union shop. Assist your fellow-union men by patronizing only the union card shops.

SYMBOL OF TRADES' UNIONISM IS UNION LABEL—LOOK FOR IT

The symbol of trades unions is the union label. Either we patronize the union label or we brand ourselves as hypocrites to the cause. To ignore the union label means that we are full fledged slackers and traitors to the oath we took at the altar of unionism. Unless one is a union man in action, he is not worthy of the organization he has chosen voluntarily. Let us be men of our word which is every man's bond. Co-operation is essential among union men to reach the goal of our progressive movement—fair working conditions, adequate pay and social as well as educational advancement. We should bear in mind that the men and women of all other organizations affiliated with the Dominion Trades Congress and the A. F. of L. merit our co-operation as much as our co-workers in our own movement. For they are striving for the same goal. Their success indirectly aids us; their failure is a setback to every member of the organized labor movement.

An Earnest and Timely Appeal
Every member of our organization should realize how essential it is for our own future welfare to live up to the principles of real unionism and to recognize the need of concerted activity.

The immediate and far-reaching benefits of such unanimous recognition of the principles of unionism and the necessity of collective action, would be greater than could be derived from any financial aid. The unfair employer, who heretofore could see men, measure and conditions with but one eye, would be compelled to exercise both of his optics and thus see both sides of any well conceived demand of his employees. This man, who stubbornly refused to join our organization, will find it advantageous to come into the labor movement. The chain of action for universal good would reach the smallest hamlet as well as the big metropolis.

CO-OPERATION IS KEYNOTE TO DIFFICULTIES

Isolated Efforts Proving Successful When Given Earnest Trial

NEW AGE IS HERE

Inherent Evils of Past Are Made Apparent by World War

In the great world wide movement forward to the ideal state of democracy there has only been up to the present, what may be called isolated efforts at co-operation. The isolated efforts, however, seem to be in every way successful and undoubtedly will bring about the one great whole. How long it will take to consummate the one great whole will depend how quickly the apathy can be quickened to a degree that all who lag behind will line up in the game and realize their responsibility as individuals, not to themselves, but to the masses. The old age of commercialism has outlived itself and in its place we hope to establish something that will take the old world and the old systems by the forelock and push on into a newer and more progressive realm. That speaks a bright today and an ever brighter tomorrow for the world's people.

The war has made manifest the inherent evils of past systems and has been the coronation of democracy and particularly economic democracy. The way must be opened for wage earners who aspire to something better than a life of wage labor to make a good living for themselves on the land, or in touch with the natural resources of this abundantly endowed land. Along with land freedom there must be economic democracy in the control of financial resources of capital and credit, and it will also mean democratization of industry. National ownership of railways, or of any other industry, without representation of workers in the industry on the board of directors, is merely state socialism—the "servile state."

There will be hope only when it is recognized that political democracy without economic democracy is of no avail. We must not forget that the hour is struck for real democracy in both realms. We have no real political democracy today. To attain the chief end of the practical life, as Organized Labor views it, there must prevail that true spirit of co-operation; and that to end we strive conscientiously and uprightly. While on this topic we would refer to a golden opportunity for the solution of one problem. Employers of labor are finding that co-operation works extremely well in solving industrial differences.

It would be good sense for manufacturers and grain growers to try out old reliable co-operation in solving the tariff disputes. Canada is a self-contained nation with room enough and prosperity enough for an ever-growing proportion of agriculturalists and manufacturers. The need of each class should be considered in relation to the welfare of the country as a whole, and this is the attitude of Organized Labor.

We suggest co-operation as a means of bringing content out of contention.

HOSPITAL WORKERS IN CIVIC UNION

The mention of the men working in the hospitals in these columns last week only just anticipated the organization of the male workers in the hospitals into the Civic Service Union. This is an excellent step and should lead to the lifting of the status of this class of work until these men can start at the bottom and rise to be doctors.

LABOR APPRECIATES POSITION TAKEN BY GREAT WAR VETERANS

Inasmuch as we can truly appreciate the G.W.V.A. of Winnipeg not being disposed to act as strike breakers in the present industrial trouble threatened in that city, we can doubly appreciate their attitude in deciding to restrain any activities that may be attempted by the extreme radical element. The veterans have decided to have law and order maintained, and insist that all changes in industrial and economic conditions should come only by constitutional means.

AUSTRALIAN LABOR FEDERATION WANTS NO O.B.U. SCHEME

The Federal Council of the Australian Workers' Union has issued a manifesto to its members stating the council had unanimously rejected the scheme for the fusion of all labor organizations into the One Big Union, which is described as "Camouflaged I.W.W."

EDMONTON FREE PRESS NOW IN NEW OFFICES

The EDMONTON FREE PRESS is now in its new offices at 101 Purvis Block, corner First and Jasper. This central location is headquarters of practically all Organized Labor of the city. The Edmonton Trades' and Labor Council offices are in this building and the great majority of locals hold their meetings here. To keep in closest touch with all Labor activities and be most convenient to all officials and members of Organized Labor the EDMONTON FREE PRESS has moved into its new quarters. The office was formerly at 834 Tegner Bldg.

WIN THREE-MONTH STRIKE

Metal polishers employed by the Lang Stove company of Seattle have raised wages 40 cents a day after a three-month strike.

WIN 44-HOUR WEEK

Machinists and boiler makers of San Francisco have won their fight for a 44-hour week.

WINNIPEG LABOR ON GENERAL STRIKE TO BETTER CONDITIONS

Winnipeg Organized Labor affiliated with the Trades and Labor Council is on strike, the general walkout having taken place at 11 o'clock Thursday morning.

This general strike was called as a necessary sympathetic measure to give strength to metal workers and building trades workers in adjusting unfair conditions under which they have been laboring.

The Metal Workers were on strike because the employers refused either to recognize their union or to negotiate schedules as presented. The men wanted an eight hour day and the bosses refused to consider anything less than nine. So far eight of the smaller firms signed up with the unions but three big concerns, the Vulcan, the Manitoba and the Dominion refused and held up the others.

In the Building Trades the Builders' Exchange recognized the union but refused to withdraw recognition unless their terms were agreed to. The Unions could not accept the terms.

EDMONTON MEN AT CONVENTIONS

Several Labor Unions Hold Conventions in Different Parts of the Country

President Hustyjek of the local musicians is attending the Musicians' International convention at Dayton, Ohio.

President W. B. Allen left the city on Wednesday for Ottawa to attend the International Convention of the Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture operators.

President McCreath and Secretary Knott are leaving for Winnipeg to attend the Interprovincial Western Canada convention of the Typographical Union.

Delegate Neale is going to Winnipeg also to represent the Printing Pressmen.

LABOR INTERESTED IN ALDERMEN PAYMENT

Labor is especially interested in the matter of the payment of aldermen and to a lesser degree in the ward system. It is very difficult to persuade the right men to give their time to aldermanic duties who lose wages for all the time that they have to take off. Consequently by any movement to pay the aldermen for their services will help labor to obtain candidates. And Labor men who win election will not be losing money while in office and will therefore be ready to stand again. Hitherto the richer citizens have had everything their own way largely owing to this very fact. Besides men who are paid will take greater interest in their work and the city should be able to profit on the expenditure of the aldermanic stipend. The alternative seems to be high paid commissioners who would cost as much and be unpopular.

QUEBEC VOTES DOWN O.B.U.

The Federated Council of Trades and Labor of Quebec affiliated with the Dominion Federation of Labor, on Wednesday voted down a request to have local labor men join the One Big Union.

ATTENDING CONVENTION

A. S. Neale of local Pressmen's Union leaves on Monday for Winnipeg to attend convention of Pressmen of Western Canada, with a view to also forming a Western Conference.

ORGANIZED LABOR OCCUPIES STRONGEST POSITION TODAY

The wage-earners and the trade union movement have passed through many trying times and severe tests. The trade union movement has developed and progressed through years by a gradual and practical process. Every advance made and every improvement attained have only been secured by a constant and determined struggle against opposition and barriers which at times seemed insurmountable.

With every forward step organized labor has gained in public favor and influence. Its standing with the public has never been so high as it is today. Its constructive attitude and conduct; its loyal support of the government during the war; its reasonable and humane policies have earned for the workers of heretofore accorded to any movement of the wage-earners.

History here and elsewhere likewise discloses the indisputable fact that wherever revolutionary policies were pursued, wherever passion supplanted reason and good judgment, wherever progressive measures were displaced by destructive methods, invariably destruction, suffering, ruin and chaos followed in their wake; better things to

NEW WAGE SCALE ARRIVED AT BY LOCAL TYPOS

Agreement Made For Period Expiring in October This Year

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Employers and Employees in Printing Trade Get Together Amicably

at Saturday evening, the 10th inst., the Edmonton Typographical Union held a special meeting in the Trades & Labor Hall, Purvis Block, for the purpose of hearing reports of the Scale Committee (newspaper and job) and taking action on the reports. President McCreath presided.

Messrs. Knott and Deeton presented the reports for the committees and also dwelt at considerable length and detail with the arguments advanced by the representatives of the employing firms.

Discussion of about two hours' duration took place and on secret ball ballots the committees were instructed to return and sign up the proposed agreements.

These agreements are not what was exactly expected, but as the agreement is for a short period and in the meantime important developments are expected in trade circles in Western Canada it was thought fair to both parties to compromise in the meantime. This proposed agreement expires in October this year and calls for an increase in pay and Saturday afternoon holiday.

The question of local printing being sent out of town by certain merchants was discussed and a campaign will probably be inaugurated along with the employers.

Unfair offers were taken notice of, and now that the agreements are out of the way these demands will receive some attention.

HONOR TO LABOR NOT TO HIMSELF SAYS S. GOMPERS

Sampel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has been awarded the gold medal of the National Institute of Social Science for his achievements in behalf of humanity during the war.

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WHILE MAKING CHANGE WHY NOT INAUGURATE THE BEST SYSTEM?

Some people are talking as if every little fraction of the city was to win representation under the ward-system. As a matter of fact the number of wards are limited especially if the aldermen are to be paid. The South Side is already a ward claiming three representatives. This leaves seven members for the North Side. For the sake of proper administration it is wise to have men elected for two years that the experienced may assist the newly elected.

Therefore there can only be three wards or four at the most. Calder would still suffer from being in the West End; the centre would be the centre; the East End would probably guarantee a Labor representative. The system might be an advantage over the present method, but proportional representation would be better than either.

OLD FORT UNION HAVE AGREEMENT

Eight-Hour Day and Apprentice System Are Inaugurated

The Old Fort Union has gained a fairly good agreement with the employers. This will improve the conditions throughout the city. The agreement calls for an eight hour day, seventy cents an hour, and the introduction of a proper apprentice system to train real mechanics.

These agreements are not what was exactly expected, but as the agreement is for a short period and in the meantime important developments are expected in trade circles in Western Canada it was thought fair to both parties to compromise in the meantime. This proposed agreement expires in October this year and calls for an increase in pay and Saturday afternoon holiday.

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The union's delegates to the Western Canada Conference of Typographical Unions, to be held in Winnipeg this month, were instructed to support and press for a standardization of the trade, both among the unions and employers of Western Canada.

HARVESTER "UNION" DECLARED TO BE USUAL FRAME-UP

Purpose to Replace Bona-Fide Unionism is Recognized

The International Harvester Company's scheme to adjust differences with employees is the usual frame-up patterned after the Rockefeller "union" and intended to replace bona fide trade unionism.

President McCormick, of the company, explains the scheme, which centers around a works council, composed of an equal number of employees selected by the employees and representatives selected by the company. The official says any employee may present grievances, which will be considered by the works council.

"Matters which cannot be thus disposed of may, by mutual consent," he says, "be submitted to impartial arbitration."

It will be noticed that the African in this wood pile is the innocent appearing words, "by mutual consent." This means that if the company's representatives refuse to arbitrate, no redress for the employee is possible.

The difference between this frame up and a trade union is: If the men were 100 per cent organized they would tie up the plant on a refusal to arbitrate.

Company press agents will string their shop-worn phrases together in defense of this scheme, but the fact remains that these employees are helpless to make a vital change in working conditions or wages until they unite in bona fide trade unions, control their own affairs and stand behind representatives who are courageous enough to voice their demands.—A.F. of L. News Letter.

BARBERS

The barbers are still working 55 hours a week.

PLATFORM OF TRADES' UNIONS COMMENDABLE

All Fair Minded People Can Subscribe to This Doctrine

FOR HUMAN BETTERMENT

Organized Labor Expects to Work Until These Aims Are Realized

Many are the aspirations of the Trade Union movement on this continent. That great body of wage workers who are giving both time and money to bring into effect the following reforms, are frustrated at every turn. But with a clear determination, they will endeavor to have enacted from time to time the following proposals:

1. The abolition of all forms of involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime.
2. Free schools, free text-books, and compulsory education.
3. Unrelenting protest against the issuance and abuse of injunction process in labor disputes.
4. A workday of not more than eight hours in the twenty-four-hour day.
5. A strict recognition of not over eight hours per day on all federal, provincial, or municipal work and at not less than the prevailing per diem wage rate of the class of employment in the vicinity where the work is performed.
6. Release from employment one day in seven.
7. The abolition of the contract system on public work.
8. The municipal ownership of public utilities.
9. The abolition of the sweat-shop system.
10. Sanitary inspection of factory, workshop, mine, and home.
11. Liability of the industry for injury to body or loss of life.
12. The nationalization of telegraph and telephone. Railway transportation.
13. The passage of Anti-Child Labor Laws where they do not exist and rigid defense of them where they have been enacted into law.
14. Woman suffrage coequal with man suffrage.
15. Suitable and plentiful play grounds for children in all cities.
16. The initiative and referendum and the imperative mandate and right of recall.
17. Continued agitation for the public bath system in all cities.
18. Qualifications in permits to build of all cities and towns that there shall be bathrooms and bathroom attachments used for habitation.
19. We favor a system of finance whereby money shall be issued exclusively by the government, with such regulations and restrictions as will protect it from manipulation by the banking interest for their own private gain.
20. We favor a system of United States government postal savings banks.

The above is a partial statement of the demands which organized labor, in the interest of the workers—aye, of all the people of our country—makes upon modern society.

Higher wages, shorter workday, better labor conditions, better homes, better and safer workshops, factories, mills, and mines. In a word, a better, higher, and nobler life.

Conscious of the justice, wisdom, and nobility of our cause, the American Federation of Labor appeals to all men and women of labor to join with us in the great movement for its achievement.

More than two million wage-earners who have reaped the advantages of organization and federation appeal to their brothers and sisters of toil to unite with them and participate in the glorious movement with its attendant benefits.

There are affiliated to the American Federation of Labor 112 International trade unions with their 23,000 local unions; 45 state federations; 732 city central bodies, and 7242 local trade and federal labor unions having no international affiliations.

We have 1,859 volunteer and special organizers, as well as the officers of the unions and of the American Federation of Labor itself, always willing and anxious to aid their fellow-workers to organize and in every other way better their conditions.

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ONE REST DAY OUT OF SEVEN

Cooks and Waiters by Crafts Unionism Materially Benefitted

The cooks and waiters have gained an appreciable rise in wages and also a lessening of hours, having established the rule of one day's rest in seven. They have come into line with the other workers and are working the 48-hour week.

Norway has nearly 400,000 engaged in agriculture.