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AUSTRALIANS OPPOSE PIECE WORK PLAN KANSAS MINERS

Adelaide, South Australia.—Trade Unionists in this state declare that the piece work order by the commissioner of public works is the thin edge of a speed-up system that produced the New South Wales upheaval a few years ago.
"The proposal," says the Daily Herald, "bears a close relationship to the Taylor efficiency scheme, which had its origin in the United States of America, where even now, the workers are engaged in a heroic effort to convince their employers that they are creatures of flesh and blood and not mere dividend-producing machines, with no more soul than the commodity they manufacture. Under such a scheme as that proposed the maximum standard set up soon becomes the minimum allowed and all who fall beneath it are flung on the scrap heap, like many of the commodities which capitalist maladministration sabotages in order to keep up the price of goods when there is a danger of profits descending through over-production."
"But there is absolutely no necessity for such a practice in a government department, except in the direction of providing an iniquitous example for private employers to follow in the direction of imposing harsh and onerous conditions on the workers."
"As is pointed out by those who have gone into the question, in theory, piece work and payment by results are quite attractive systems. But they fall far short of the promise."
"A basis time for a job is fixed, and a bonus offered for jobs completed under this basis time. As soon as the worker promises to draw high wages, the tendency to cut time and prices down commences, until they fall below a reasonable minimum which the trade union assures."
"It is the application of the system by unscrupulous employers that has caused the unions to fight the question of payment by results and similar systems."
"Another factor which has carried great weight with the workers is their fight for a standardized wage is that the bonus system means that while the physical gain might earn a living wage, the weakest employees must go to the wall."

JAPANESE LABOR MOVEMENT MAKING PROGRESS

There is much alarm in Japan at the increasing number and intensity of strikes.
The growing boldness of the workers must be suppressed, says one school of the nation will be imperiled.
Others maintain that out of the turmoil Japan will profit by reaching a mutually satisfactory and advantageous status between labor and capital and, eventually, a more generally representative government.
But at present there is no prospect of a solution. The workers are acting with more and more assurance, becoming more and more threatening. Capital yields reluctantly, and, until recently had been forced to yield scarcely at all.
Of course, the labor movement is still in its swaddling clothes—or kimono—in Japan. But it is kicking and squalling most lustily for an infant, and one who had been spanked and suppressed a good deal, at that.
The most encouraging development to the workers was the recent success of shipyard strikers, in Yokohama. They threatened sabotage, and demanded a 40 per cent. wage increase. They got it. The news stimulated the labor world of Japan as nothing else has. A number of small strikes broke out within a few days. Even the sake workers in a plant near Tokyo were emboldened to walk out, demanding more pay.
"Sake is a rich wine, the national drink of Japan, and a few years ago the idea of workers at the honorable industry quitting their jobs in a huff would have been ridiculously preposterous. It is this spirit of daring, of toppling over traditions, that is so flaming, to everybody except the laboring people themselves."
Public declaration by the Yokohama shipyard strikers of their intention to use sabotage was an unprecedented thing. Those who have watched the labor movement develop with the spread of industrialism in Japan regard it as astounding, and possibly as the presager of many serious future struggles.
Strikes were unheard of in Japan until recent years, although they are almost daily occurrences now. Labor unions, in the American or English sense, do not exist. The development of such labor groups as do exist has been carefully watched and regulated by the authorities. Anything smacking remotely of socialism has been promptly smashed. Socialism has been exceedingly unprofitable in Japan since twelve of its propagandists were hanged, as public enemies, in 1910.
At present the ship and dockyard workers in Yokohama and Nagasaki are the most active and successful strikers. They are staging a sort of continuous performance. When the employees in one plant win, those of another walk out. With the pro-

pective rice shortage and consequent increase in the already very high cost of living, the movement is expected to spread. Already in some manufacturing plants demands have been presented for a graduated wage increase contingent upon and proportionate to the increased price of rice.—Clarence Dubess.

FRENCH WORKERS TAKING SIDES

Paris.—The split in the French trade union movement is growing wider.
Already there are two Federations of Railway Workers, one "Red" (or revolutionary) and the other "Yellow" (or Reformist). The Reformist minority of the northern railway systems have now decided to secede from the union, which is affiliated to the revolutionary body, and to form a rival union.
In other industries where the Reformists are being expelled by the Revolutionaries.
The revolutionary minority in Paris is the dominant one of the General Confederation of Labor to urge the convocation of a special National Congress to consider expulsion and the question of trade union discipline.
It is possible that if the C.G.T. Executive refuses to intervene against the Reformists, the minority itself will convene a conference.

BOSSES IGNORE LAW

Denver.—The Pikes Peak Consolidated Fuel Company and the Keystone Mining Company of Colorado Springs are so accustomed to forgetting the laws of the state and nation that they overlooked a hearing set by the state industrial commission to consider their miners' wages 30 per cent.
The state law provides that the companies must appear before the commission before they can reduce wages. The miners were unorganized when the cut was made, but they have since joined the United Mine Workers of America, and announce that they will endeavor to compel the companies to pay \$18,000 back wages under the terms of the government's bituminous commission, which has been ignored by the companies.

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ONTARIO BOARDS OF TRADE ON UNEMPLOYMENT

As a solution for the unemployment problem, the Associated Boards of Trade of Ontario, which held their eighth annual convention at Brantford, Ont., will suggest to the Dominion government the working out of some big national scheme, to be shared by all the provinces, cities and towns, and municipalities interested, by which industrial activities would be reopened and public works would be undertaken, with a view to spreading the work over the Dominion evenly; in such a manner that the greatest amount of employment would be given in those localities where the unemployment problem is the most severe. At the same time, the members of the 56 boards of trade went on record as being opposed to the dole system of handing out charity.
It was felt that some systematized method of investigation should be carried out.
The matter was brought to the attention of the convention by Frank Cockshutt, of this city, who pointed out that Brantford has recently put into operation a charity board which holds regular sessions, before which all cases for relief are brought for investigation, and he had confidence that this scheme for solving the unemployment problem would work but successfully, if speedy steps could be taken to bring the big national organization into existence.
As an organization, the delegates went on record as favoring the electrification of such branches of the Canadian National Railways as could be operated in this manner efficiently and economically.

STRIKEBREAKER ON TRIAL
Richmond, Cal.—J. C. Emerson is on trial for setting fire to a warehouse owned by the Associated Oil Company. Employees of the concern were on strike at the time and Emerson was employed as a watchman. When the fire was discovered the accused said he saw a man escape in a boat. The company offered a reward for the fire bug, but when Emerson was arrested the authorities were amazed when they discovered that no one connected with the company would swear out a warrant against Emerson. The grand jury was convened to probe the matter and an indictment was handed down against the alleged "watchman."
Recently Emerson was arrested in Stockton with a suit case filled with dynamite.

RAIL INCOMES GAIN

New York.—Railroad incomes are increasing; ditto railway road poverty is being banished. The September net operating income of 197 of the class 1 roads amounts to \$82,707,607, an increase of 11 per cent, compared with \$74,493,573 reported for September, last year.

TEACHERS ARE ENJOINED
New York.—A sweeping injunction has been issued against 12,000 striking milk wagon drivers, who are enjoined from getting along lines that would be considered legal if no strike existed. The strike is because of wage disputes. The companies have refused the men's offer to arbitrate, which is urged by City Health Commissioner Copeland. The companies are demanding the anti-union shop and are attempting to make a concession to the spirit of the age by organizing company "unions."
The increase in child mortality is charged to "the lack of milk and possibly to the lowered standard in the quality of milk" by Commissioner Copeland.
"The milk companies are running true to form," he said, "just as they always hit upon the same form of employment contract. There is something remarkable about the mental processes of milk dealers. They invariably reach identical conclusions. Mr. Horton (president of the Sheffield Farms Company) has turned down the appeal of the men. His company has determined upon the anti-union shop and to deal with the individual alone. Collective bargaining is scrapped and employment is based on the most covered records of Mr. Horton's time as a milk driver."

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