



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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G.W.V.A. SUPPORTS LABOR. THE Dominion executive of the Great War Veterans' Association of Canada has made a declaration of principles in which there is extended to Labor the good Right Hand of Co-operation. The following items, taken from the G.W.V.A. memorial to the Government, are of interest to Trades Unionists at this particular time:

- 1. We stand unalterably opposed to the introduction of the doctrines of Bolshevism and anarchy in this country, and we are not in accord with the underlying principles of the "one big union" which expressed itself as being in full accord with the Russian Bolsheviki and the German Spartacists, and whose principles seek by "massed action" of labor to enforce their power upon the majority of the people, and have as one of its possible results the menacing of our institutions of Government, and the threat of their replacement by soviet rule. 2. We desire, and will endeavor to ensure that all members of our association will, whenever occasion demands, lend active assistance in upholding constitutional authority, the laws of the country, and good order. 3. We recommend that a round table conference be held comprised of progressive representatives of labor, employers, farmers, returned soldier citizens and women, to consider a solution of the present ominous industrial situation. 4. We endorse the nine principles respecting labor as adopted by the peace conference. 5. We advocate progressive legislation as an antidote to unrest, and suggest to that end that serious consideration be given the enactment of laws respecting the following subjects: (a) A minimum wage. (b) Insurance against old age, illness and unemployment. (c) Suitable housing for all. (d) Reduction of the cost of living by the principle of co-operation limiting the operations of the so-called middleman, regulations governing the holding of perishable products in cold storage plants, and otherwise as deemed possible. (e) Stringent restrictions upon immigration and naturalization. (f) Suitable and equal opportunities for the children of both rich and poor, permitting them to attain the general and higher forms of education with Government financial assistance and scholarships; such education to include instruction in governmental problems and citizenship; an extended scope to attain greater agricultural and artisanship education, and thus raise the dignity of labor to a proper level, which would induce more Canadian people to engage in the pursuits of artisan labor. (g) The support of the general principles of the voice of labor in industrial management as exemplified in the report of the Witley council of Great Britain. (h) Proportional representation to more properly reflect the opinion of the country.

CO-OPERATION, NOT COMPULSION.

THE forces behind the One Big Union idea are evidently composed of men who are impatient of the gradual but sure progress being made by the trades unions of this continent, and expect to gain everything, or nearly everything, by one big, grand, swift swoop. Things worth while are not gained that way. One of the most memorable failures of that kind of an idea was the failure of the once famous old man Hindenburg. Old Hindy, the Dictator, staked everything on one big, swift, tremendous action—and he lost. His One Big Union move was a military one—and it went to smash on the co-operative tactics of the International Unionists, Messrs. Foch, Haig, Pershing and Diaz.

It is a big thing and a strong thing for Canadian Trades Unionists to have the financial and moral backing of millions of Trades Unionists in the United States. The men behind the One Big Union idea wave aside this benefit that has been employed and enjoyed for years. They claim that they do not need this backing and support because they will have swift success. Remember that was what Hindy said when he was told that he was losing the sympathy of the world at large.

The O. B. U. plan seems to be to herd all Canadian Labor into one group—then call a general strike—paralyze and pulverize all Canadian industry and commercial activities—then dictate terms and force acceptance. This sounds like a dictatorship of the men who lead—or mislead—the people. It doesn't sound good to people who have just fought to abolish dictatorships of all kinds.

The O. B. U. platform is very different from that of Trades Unionism. The O. B. U. seems to rely on force and compulsion to gain its ends, while Trades Unionism conquers by means of Fair Play for all. Co-operation, Organization and Education.

Choosing between the two platforms we are convinced that the real future of Labor rests on Co-operation and not in Compulsion.

HONEST JOHN SAYS.

HONEST JOHN says if you measure the day's work up with the "Golden Rule" you get some interesting results. For instance the long-sighted employer gives Short hours—and the Short-sighted employer insists on Long hours.

WINNIPEG'S EMPLOYERS' COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ENDORSED.

After a conference lasting all day Sunday the following statement as to collective bargaining has been handed out for publication jointly by the international officers of the six great railway brotherhoods, the officers representing all the railway companies having headquarters in Winnipeg, the Minister of Labor of the Dominion, and the representatives of the different iron and metal trades gathered around whom the sympathy of the workers in the past four weeks in Winnipeg:

"To the citizens of Winnipeg: The undersigned learn that certain railroads in the sympathetic strike, using as justification for their act the claim that the metal trades employers have failed to properly recognize and concede the principles of collective bargaining to metal trades employees. We believe that there is and has been material misunderstanding in connection with our recognition of the principle of collective bargaining, and in an endeavor to once more place the position of the metal trades clearly before all interested we make the following statement: 'That all employees have the right to organize in trade unions, and this right shall not be denied or interfered with in any manner whatsoever, and through their chosen representatives should be permitted and encouraged to negotiate with employers concerning working conditions, rates of pay, or other grievances.'"

"The above quoted portion of the Federal Government's defined policy on this question, we believe, should be accepted by those interested, and our desire has been to recognize and concede the principle of collective bargaining to our respective plants. We have endeavored on several occasions to place concretely in writing our intent and desire in relation to the principle of collective bargaining, but evidently we have failed to clearly outline our views and desires in that connection, and we have the hope of clearing up any entirely any misunderstanding on the part of our employees and on the part of the general public and the very much interested citizens of Winnipeg, we submit the following as our declared policy on the question of collective bargaining:

- 1.—Employees shall not be discriminated against by employers or other employees on account of membership or non-membership in any craft or organization. 2.—The members of the various trade organizations employed in the undersigned metal trade shops shall have the right to present and negotiate schedules covering wages, hours and working conditions, with individual employers or collectively with the employers of the metal trades. 3.—The employees who are members of the various metal trade organizations in the contract shops (not including railway shops) shall have the right to elect representatives from among the employees of the firm or firms involved. 4.—After agreement have been reached and schedules signed as by the above mentioned method grievances or differences that may arise shall be taken up as follows: (a) All complaints and grievances to be adjusted, if possible, by the superintendent in charge. (b) When adjustments cannot be made between the superintendent and the craft directly interested the matter will be taken up with the company by the committee representing the firm or firms concerned will meet and try to bring about an adjustment of such differences or grievances. (c) In case of failure on the part of said representatives to effect a satisfactory settlement of any schedule, negotiations or grievances with the firm or firms concerned the duly accredited international officers of the metal trades organizations shall be called upon to assist in effecting a settlement. (d) During the period of negotiations conducted as outlined above there shall be no lockout on the part of the employers or strike on the part of the employees concerned. (Signed) Vulcan Iron Works, per E. C. Barona; Manitoba Bridge and Iron Works, per H. B. Lyall; Dominion Bridge Co., per N. W. Warren.

The Railway Brotherhoods stated: "The undersigned representatives of the train service organizations, being familiar with the method of collective bargaining as practised by the organizations we represent, do endorse the policy of collective bargaining as outlined by the metal trades employers in their announcement of this date, being in principle and effect the same as that enjoyed by these organizations. (Signed) Ash Kennedy, Asst. Grand Chief Engineer, Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; Geo. K. Wark, Vice-President, Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen; Jas. Murdoch, Vice-President, Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; H. E. Barker, Gen. Chairman, Order of Railway Conductors; D. McPherson, Gen. Chairman, Order of Railway Telegraphers; A. McAndrews, Acting General Chairman, Maintenance of Way Employees."

The Minister of Labor stated: "I have been handed a copy of the declaration of policy issued to the public by the Vulcan Iron Works, the Manitoba Bridge and Iron Works and the Dominion Bridge Company, respecting the recognition of the principle of collective bargaining in their several plants. The policy outlined is a full and complete recognition of collective bargaining as generally interpreted and applied, and is entirely in accord with the established practice on our Canadian railways. It should, in my opinion, be accepted as satisfactory to labor."

The railway companies stated: "The undersigned have read the letter dated June 15th, 1919, addressed to the citizens of Winnipeg by the Vulcan Iron Works, the Manitoba Bridge and Iron Works and the Dominion Bridge Company. In our opinion the proposals contained therein provide for the application of the principle of collective bargaining in exactly the same manner as that principle is applied in agreements between the railway companies and the various bodies

IF BOLSHEVISM COMES TO CANADA IT WILL DO HERE WHAT IT HAS DONE IN RUSSIA, AND WHAT IT SEEKS TO DO IN GERMANY.

LIBERTY will be destroyed, because Bolshevism means that one class shall rule over all other classes. PROPERTY will be confiscated without payment to its owners. Your house, your household belongings if you do own a house, your savings in the bank, your Victory Bonds, you will lose all these. FOOD will be put beyond the reach of all except those who can seize it by brute strength, for Bolshevism takes the farmer's land, eats the food that is in sight, and makes no provision for tomorrow. LAWS will be annulled, and the whole social system thrown into chaos. There will be no courts to adjust wrongs; no punishment for wrong-doers. GOVERNMENT will be transferred from the elected representatives of the people into the hands of committees, or soviets, without any central authority, without a Parliament. WOMEN AND CHILDREN will be the property of the State. One of the soviet which set the fashion in Russia—the soviet of Vladimir—has already decreed that all women over 18 must register at a bureau of free love and there hold themselves subject to the will of any man who may order them to follow him. RELIGION will vanish when respect for law and women and children vanishes. Bolshevism worships not the God of our fathers, but License. Russia after her months of Bolshevism is almost a desert, with millions of her people dead and other millions dying of famine; her industries paralyzed; her Government in the hands of ruthless assassins; her law-abiding men and women either murdered or living in hiding, stripped of everything they possessed. The Bolshevist idea guarantees every man a free and open opportunity to share in prosperity and happiness, and Canada's greatest bulwark against Bolshevism must be the intelligence, thrift and patriotism of the Canadian workman.—The Montreal Herald.

THE UNION LABEL A FACTOR IN COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

One of the big things developed by the war as a stabilizer of industrial conditions was the need for a more extended adoption of the principle of collective bargaining. The use of a union label, shop card or working button to designate the product of trade unionists and their employment in an establishment is predicated upon a trade agreement carrying with it the collective bargaining principle, with all that this implies. When an appeal is made to give preference to the purchase of commodities bearing the union label or a shop where a card is displayed a button worn to distinguish membership in a trade union, it is a request to recognize a fundamental principle of the trade union movement, the trade agreement. Under the trade agreement the workers have a full and equal opportunity to regulate their hours of labor and wage scale, as except this measure of justice is accorded them, there can be no union label, shop card or button agreement with any employer. Justice and equity are therefore guaranteed to those who use their purchasing power in favor of the trade agreement, as exemplified by the Union Label, shop card or working button, as well as high

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNIONS WILL PREVAIL.

J. A. Walsh, of Montreal, fraternal delegate to the A. F. of L. from the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, in his address to the convention said that in addition to the International Trades Union movement in Canada there were two extremes, an ultra Conservative National Catholic Association in the East, and the ultra radical one big union in the west. Personally, he felt the International Trades Union Movement would continue to prevail.

A sailor had been showing an old lady over a large liner, and after thanking him she suddenly remarked: "I see that according to ship's orders tips are forbidden." The sailor then turned to the visitor, and with a knowing look remarked: "Why, bless yer, ma'am, so were apples in the Garden of Eden."

POLITICS and PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

Labor questions have loomed large in the debate on the budget which has been in progress in the House of Commons during the past week. Most members have given the high cost of living as the chief cause of the labor unrest, but Hon. Mr. Rowell thought this was a superficial reason. He said the reason was that the workman in all lands is determined that so far as he is concerned he is going to have a better deal than in the days before the war. Mr. Rowell declared that a reduction in the cost of living would not solve the problem of industrial unrest. Mr. Rowell said that there are two currents of thought in connection with labor at the present time. One believes in co-operation between labor and capital, and that by such co-operation the best interests of both can be secured. The other believes that there is inevitable and irreconcilable conflict between the two and that there can be no peace until capitalism is destroyed and a dictatorship of the proletariat established. One school is pointed out believed in the right of private property regulated and controlled by the state so that the workman and citizen may own his own home and the farmer his land. The other school of thought believed that private ownership of property must be completely and forever destroyed. One believed in democracy; the other did not believe in democracy. One believed in constitutional methods and the other

reputed constitutional methods and demanded direct action and the use of force. "The one stands for law and order under constituted authority," said Mr. Rowell, "the other for the overthrow of the existing form of government and the substitution of a dictatorship of the workers, as in Russia. One is Anglo-Saxon in its origin, democratic in its outlook, the result of the development of the labor movement under Anglo-Saxon and democratic institutions. The other is German in its origin and in its spirit. Its leaders are the disciples of Carl Marx, and proclaim economic and social theories developed under the blighting influence of German autocracy. Lenin and other disciples of Carl Marx proclaim the gospel of force and that might means right just as unblushing as either the Kaiser or Bernhardi." Mr. Rowell in closing said that they must meet the labor situation fairly and squarely. They must do justice and more than justice to the legitimate demands of labor if they were to put "the honest, patriotic, public-spirited labor leaders in a position to successfully combat the extremists in their own ranks by showing that the Government and the people have dealt fairly and squarely with them." Mr. Rowell thought this problem of labor was much more important today than the tariff. On the view and patriotic solution of the problem depended the hope for the peace, progress and prosperity of the country. He made no suggestion, however, for the solution of the problems. It is understood, however, before the session is over there will be labor legislation introduced.

There was a thoughtful speech on classes in the old world to look at this situation from that point of view. They have been in the habit of thinking that they were the "best of the earth," and the rest of the population was what was left in the bottom. There is nothing more true than the statement that President Wilson made, and there is little doubt that his statement has left a lasting impression.—The Seaman's Journal.

THE FOUNDATION OF SOCIETY.

President Wilson in his address in Italy caused some surprise by his statement to the effect that "the working classes of the world are the foundation of society." It has not been the custom of the "upper"

BALLOT WILL BRING REFORM

At the thirty-ninth convention of the A. F. of L. Secretary Wilson

referred to the "Bolshevists of the United States" who, he said, were allied with the I. W. O. and for whom the workingmen of America had no sympathy whatever when they understood the Bolshevist creed. Bolshevism, the Secretary said, essentially created obligatory labor, or virtual slavery, and all workingmen had been fighting against slavery since the day of Moses. Reconstruction problems, the Secretary added, can be met by evolution rather than by revolution. The power of the ballot, he said, will enable labor to secure any reform it desires.

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