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THE RED FLAG

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The Sympathetic Strike in Canada

DURING the week since our last issue, the Dominion-wide sympathetic strike in support of the metal trade workers of Winnipeg in their fight for the principle of collective bargaining through the agency of their Trades Council, has developed into still greater proportions. In Vancouver, shipyards, factories, machine shops, etc., have closed down, shipping is tied up and the street cars have ceased to run. Many craft organizations in other cities, which had held back, hoping for favorable developments, have also left their work and more and more are still coming out. The continued arrogant, junker-like opposition of the Government to the principle of collective bargaining decided their action and its refusal to reinstate the postal employees also carried great weight.

What a pretty kettle of fish we have on fry now over a principle which is recognized, with applications of far greater magnitude than is demanded here, in almost every country in the world. How would the picaresque statesmen of Canada like to deal with the heads of the miners' organization, a million strong, in Great Britain; or with some three millions represented by the Triple Alliance. Truth to tell the whole affair appears indeed—fishy.

Considering the stand taken by the Government on matters in connection with this strike, and in connection with the actions of its representatives, Meighan and Gideon Robertson, in commencing to denounce the strike, they were supposed to have been sent to investigate, on the very day they arrived in Winnipeg, we are forced to the conclusion that the Government, in collusion with the employers, has precipitated this strike with malice aforethought. We believe it has been planned to smash the organized labor movement when it was thought to be weak and least able to recover its strength back again, because of an overstocked labor market. We believe they took advantage of the, for the wage workers, unfortunate condition of the labor market, to catch the working class on the hip and throw them down to an even lower standard of living than is at present their lot. We believe this, but we also believe that the conspirators have made a drastic miscalculation, and the consequences may be boomerang-like for them.

These politicians do not realize that while they have been immersed in the filthy and discreditable hugga mugga game of bourgeois politics, that the workers here, as in every other country, have been making away from the old futilities and stale political superstitions of the Grit and Tory schools. This last five years of bitter experience, has so sharpened their insight and broadened their outlook on social affairs, that the ward heelers of Ottawa will find their old bag of tricks of decreasing value, now, and in the days to come. The issues now considered by the workers, center around the very bases of the social structure, and they are questioning the social validity of many things.

And so in spite of the fact that a falling labor

market puts a powerful and hitherto unailing weapon into the hands of those who seek to smash to lower levels the living conditions of the working class, organized labor will make such a fight against this as will surprise, yes, startle its enemies.

The capitalist press, from behind its mask of being the "public" press, continues to publish irritating reports, full of misinformation and glaring misrepresentations, couched in inciting language. It plays the foreigner "stunt." We are also told over and over again with variations, of the prominent citizens with jaws set, who say they will stand no nonsense and that they are prepared to go the limit in the enforcement of law and order, etc., etc. What does such "stuff" mean? It means that the press is trying to foster an impression that violence necessarily accompany strikes and that the workers are a law disregarding class. Both of these insinuations are, of course, dastard lies. The vast majority of strikes have been carried out without violence, in spite of the fact that never a one takes place without incurring the bitter hostility of the press. In those few cases where violence has occurred, it has been fostered by the press in collusion with hired provocateurs and thugs. Moreover, we maintain that the working class, in spite of poverty and other shameful conditions arising from their exploitation by the profiteering class, are the only useful, as well as the most decent and law-abiding class in society. All aspiring religions, idealisms and philosophies have sprung from their ranks or have been inspired by their cause. Who ever championed the cause of the rulers and the exploiters except the paid hireling and the sycophant? These are at work in this struggle. Watch

them! The mark of the beast is on all they do and say.

Fortunately the capitalist press has had its claws elipt somewhat. The local Typographical Union has passed and reaffirmed the following resolution moved by R. P. Pettipiece and seconded by J. Rankin, and passed unanimously:

"That, for the duration of the present strike, the President, who shall give his entire time to the work, and a representative in each of the three newspaper offices, be named by No. 226, to ensure the publication of the strikers' views and that deliberate misrepresentation be prevented, under penalty of cessation of work. And that the newspapers be compelled to publish reports submitted by unions."

Despite the blatant protests of innocence on the part of the publishers, notably the "Sun," its claws have been clipped, and at a meeting held as late as last night by the printers, the resolution was again concurred in unanimously, and the prohibition of "deliberate misrepresentation" will continue. Nevertheless much provocative "stuff" may slip through. Treat it with contempt. Keep in touch with authentic news sources.

Workers, do not let them intimidate you. By virtue of the self-discipline and organization of the workers in Winnipeg, there has been no trouble there, though latest reports indicate that their enemies are organizing it. In Vancouver all is quiet. Nevertheless, we know that the malignants, with the will to disorder, are here, they are but non-plussed for the moment by your quietude. Do not let them irritate and provoke you. The steadfast purpose and iron-will revealed in your organized discipline, is more menacing to them than all the threatening terrors of unorganized and raging mobs. Stand fast!

BOLSHEVIKI CLAIM ROUT OF KOLCHAK

COPENHAGEN, June 6.—The Swedish Socialist newspaper Folkets Dagsblad, which is said to be in close communication with the Russian Bolshevik government, has received a telegram from Petrograd reporting that the forces of Admiral Kolchak of the Omsk Government have been defeated in the south and centre, while the northern front is shaking. The Soviet troops are said to have captured 40,000 prisoners, 100 guns and much war material.

The Estonian offensive against Petrograd, the telegram adds, has been stopped, and the anti-Bolsheviks are retiring in the direction of Jamburg. The telegram continues:

"The British navy attempted to force the Finnish Gulf, but retired.

"The revolutionary movement against the Soviet has broken and the Soviet is stronger than ever."

The Bolsheviks have recaptured Sarapul on the Kama River southwest of Perm, which was one of the important towns taken by Admiral Kolchak's forces in their spring advance, a Bolshevik wireless message claims. The despatch also asserts that the Bolsheviks are continuing to advance in this region.

PARLIAMENT VS. SOVIET

LONDON, June 6.—It will be surprising if, within the next few days we do not see fresh and perhaps serious labor troubles here. If so the issue will be quite clear, viz., Parliament versus Soviet.

For the moment Bob Smillie, the miners' representative, and Robert Williams, transport leader, have received a setback in their attempt to put a pistol to the government's head. They demanded, under threat of a general strike of all miners and transport workers that the government immediately withdraw all British troops from Russia, raise the blockade against Germany, abolish conscription, and release all conscientious objectors in England.

However this attitude precipitated trouble at once for its sponsors. The parliamentary committee of the Trades Union Congress, headed by the front bench labor men, resented this outside interference and dictation from men who themselves failed to secure return to the Commons at the last elections, and are now avowedly seeking to discredit Parliament in the eyes of the workers.

J. Harrington will be the speaker at the Empress theatre, Sunday evening, commencing at 8 o'clock.