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GERMANY COMPLAINS

Germany complains of the peace terms. Naturally. Had they been half as rigid the same complaint would have been made. She protests that the terms ruins her economically and industrially. The chief concern of the remainder of the world is that she be ruined in a military way. Depriving the Central powers of mineral bearing areas and strategic points is not for the purpose of emolument to some other countries as a spoils of war. It is because it is not safe to permit them in German hands. Evidence of this is the disposition of Saar Valley. It is to be under a commission arranged by the Allies for fifteen years and then the people residing in that district are to decide by referendum what shall be their status.

An item in the news column of this paper answers the complaint that Germany is to be ruined industrially. Figures presented show that German Labor prior to the war was in worse than slavery. Labor in other parts of the world had to compete with those conditions. That industrial warfare is as dangerous and further reaching than military hostilities. It not only slaughters human beings but tortures them and kills them by inches. Women and children are not excluded. A country or a community seeking industry on that basis deserves none.

The masses in Germany want no such re-establishment of the country on such economic and industrial basis. The revolution now taking place is declared by competent critics to be an effort to throw off the industrial yoke.

SOLUTION IS SIMPLE

Departments of Education of the Western Provinces have lengthened the training period for teachers from four to eight months. This is done because school efficiency demanded it. At the same time it is found necessary to issue permits for men and women to teach who have had no training whatsoever. This is because the demand exceeds the supply. To improve the too deficient training of teachers duly certified, the same Departments of Education conduct summer schools and offer inducement to attract teachers to take courses offered. Here is the dilemma:

Teachers are insufficiently trained; teachers are insufficient in numbers. Public education has been handicapped by these conditions for years. It is an old story. No material solution has been applied yet. And the solution is simple.

Public education is a business not unlike all others. The supply has been deficient and inadequate for the reason that the price paid is too small. Until an attractive purse is hung up there never will be properly trained teachers and a sufficient number of teachers. The tragedy of the situation is that public education demands have increased two-fold and are increasing daily. The supply is losing ground.

Men and women in educational work throughout the country are doing something to meet the situation by organizing Trades' Unions and by organized effort demanding more pay. But there is a long road to travel yet before much satisfaction may be expected.

OPPOSITION TO UNIONS

When an employer of Labor seeks to prevent that Labor organizing into a Trades' Union, it is purely from a selfish and personal motive. Collective bargaining facilitates the process. It has proved more satisfactory in the end. But Labor organized has strength. Through its representatives it is in a position to talk plainly and squarely with the employer. Labor is in a position to uphold its end in the argument. An army disorganized is at the mercy of the enemy. Labor unorganized to a large extent is at the mercy of the employer. The employers are organized. In order to keep the employees in as weakened position as possible, Trades' Unionism is opposed. These facts have become appreciated so generally today that comparatively little sympathy is awarded an unorganized group of workers in their struggles. Most people are willing to help those who try to help themselves. But to those who know how and could help themselves but refuse to make the effort, no great amount of consideration may be expected. This has been strikingly illustrated in several instances recently in the United States when school teachers have been told frankly by high educational authorities to get out and organize and help themselves.

FARMERS IN POLITICS

With farmers of other parts of the country, the United Farmers of Alberta are purposing to enter politics. Undoubtedly politics will be none the worse for their entering. This action is provoked by continued refusal of present members of parliament to provide redress in removing protective tariffs on machinery and other articles the farmer uses in his business. Despite the fact that Canada is primarily an agricultural country; that it can never have the population to place it among the bigger nations of the world until the land is developed; that it can never develop very materially in a manufacturing way until population is had to provide markets; despite these conditions government concern has been largely centered in providing protection for a coterie of private manufacturing enterprises and interests at the direct expense of actual national development.

Despairing of redress from the hands of either of the old line political parties, or the Union government that is or may be formed, the farmers purpose eliminating as far as possible the professional politician of whatever creed and sending to parliament men who will reverse the old order of things.

LAND SETTLEMENT

Regardless of one's political persuasions, or personal inclinations, few will deny that western provinces and Canada as a whole will benefit materially from the efforts of the Dominion Government to make farming possible, profitable and attractive, to the returned soldier. By this effort alone national and international attention is centered on the possibilities of Western Canada farm lands. Canada is basically an agricultural country. Until it has population to provide a market it can never gain considerable proportions as a manufacturing country. And until it is developed agriculturally it can never have the population. More genuine effort seems to be exerted by the national government now to put people on the land than at any time in the history of the country. Heretofore the energy largely took the form of printers ink and the establishment of a few immigration agencies none too careful as to the class of immigrants induced.

NEW WAGE SCALE

Edmonton Typographical Union has just concluded and signed a new wage scale agreement covering the next six months. Collective bargaining was practiced. Both employers and employees debated the case for a number of days and a satisfactory solution was reached. Men engaged in the printing trades very seldom are forced to quit work because of Labor difficulties. They are thoroughly organized and collectively arrive at agreements with their employers. Hard feelings and personal animosities between employer and Labor is not known. What Trades' Unionism has done for the printing trades it can do for all trades and callings by following the same procedure.

EFFORT IS COMMENDED

Several industrial concerns of Edmonton are making an effort to adjust and better the working conditions of employees by profit sharing policies. To what extent these steps are practical and will realize the ends desired is a matter of opinion. Commendation must be awarded an earnest effort. The employer who refuses to do anything is the stumbling block.

PROFIT SHARING POLICY ADOPTED

Northwest Biscuit Co. Distributing Ten Thousand Dollars Among Employees

A policy of profit-sharing, by which over \$10,000 will be distributed to the workers each year, in addition to regular wages, has been announced by the Northwest Biscuit Co., one of Edmonton's progressive industries. The plan was devised to give practical encouragement to the workers who are helping to make the business a success. The bonus applies only to those employed in the Edmonton plant and does not include office executives, stock holders in the company or salesmen. The announcement adds that naturally the continuance of the plan depends upon the efforts and loyal support of the staff and the ability of the company to continue to earn profits. The first bonus was paid April 20th.

The basis on which the profit-sharing plan will be operated is as follows: "Effective March 1st, 1919, all employees receiving a wage of less than eleven dollars (\$11.00) per week, will be paid a cash bonus of ten per cent. of their wage. All employees receiving a wage of eleven dollars (\$11.00) and not exceeding twenty dollars (\$20.00) per week will receive a bonus of seven and one-half per cent, and all receiving in excess of twenty dollars (\$20.00) per week will receive a bonus of five per cent. To those on a monthly wage the bonus will apply as follows:

"Under forty dollars per month, ten per cent. From fifty dollars to and including one hundred dollars per month, five per cent., and over one hundred dollars per month, five per cent.

"The bonus will be paid in cash on the 20th of the following month, covering the number of pay-days in the preceding month, the first bonus payable being April 20th, 1919.

"To piece workers whose wage varies from week to week the average will apply in the same manner as to the monthly basis, taking the number of paydays in the preceding month as a basis."

CO-OPERATION ON SCHOOL PROBLEMS

Edmonton School Board Being Asked to Admit Committee of Teachers

Edmonton school board is being memorialized by the High School alliance and the Public School alliance of the city asking that representatives of teachers sit at the board table at all meetings in an advisory capacity. At a meeting of the Edmonton Public School Teachers' Alliance held Tuesday evening at McKay Avenue school the Secretary was instructed to forward such memorandum to the board. Also the school board is being asked by this body to make sick leave with pay granted each year to teachers who fall ill cumulative.

At the meeting of the public school teachers reports of the annual meeting of the alliance held at Calgary Easter were heard. In compliance with the recommendations of the annual meeting that a provincial wage scale be prepared, the Edmonton alliance appointed a committee to handle this city end of it. The committee consists of C. B. Willis, A. Scott, Misses Lyle, Walker and Bell.

R. W. Hedley addressed the meeting earlier in the evening on costume designing and its practical application to school work.

MEMORIAL HALL TO BE STARTED EARLY IN JUNE

Tenders for the Memorial hall are expected to be called for within the next ten days. Final plans of the first unit of the building were approved at a meeting of the Organization Committee Tuesday night. The plans have yet to be passed on by the trustees. It is expected that work will commence early in June.

Lethbridge civic employees who voted some days ago to go on strike have rescinded such action and have applied for a dominion board of arbitration to settle the dispute.

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