

## Western Clarion

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### A CURE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

**T**HE unemployed problem has been tackled by many organizations in these recent months and the call goes forth for practical effort in its solution. Socialists are quite used to being termed impractical folk in a practical world full of present day problems. So therefore, being aware that in these parts, to say nothing of the rest of the world, men, women and children are in many cases hungry and in need of the usual bare necessities of life that wage slaves are used to when employed, when we see what is supposed to be a document of practical import calling for co-operation to cure present unemployment, we are quite interested. The document in question is a circular letter issued, presumably, to working class organizations in B. C. by the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council (A. F. of L.) The letter says that up to April 15th the City of Vancouver had spent \$280,000 for relief due to unemployment, while approximately 4,500 were registered as unemployed at the offices of the Employment Service of Canada on April 23rd. Many of the men registered are ex-service men, and some 800 are handicap cases.

All of which, as statistical matter relative to registered unemployed men, is no doubt quite true. But now we look for the opinions of the practical men; and here they are.

"Our opinion is that the time has arrived when the citizens must draw the line more closely between our own nationals, and the aliens from other countries, and particularly those from Asiatic countries with a lower standard of living, by replacing these men by returned men and citizens generally, with special regard for those who are suffering from handicaps incurred in the war.

"Many of the basic industries of this Province are exploiting the natural resources of the country, and are manned almost entirely by Orientals, and a large number are employed in household work, gardening, janitor work, and in the hotel and restaurant business. In the last named there are 638 Chinese and 75 Japanese employed in the city of Vancouver alone, being 50 per cent. of the total employes."

Just think of a labor organization composed of men whose business in life is to make profit for a boss talking like that! It sounds quite important when you read it aloud: "... must draw the line more closely between our own nationals and the aliens from other countries," "Basic industries ... manned almost entirely by Orientals."

We recollect being at a meeting of the unemployed not so very long ago when a resolution was introduced proposing to take away the job from the Oriental now employed, and let it out to white men. The resolution was contemptuously thrown out by the unemployed men themselves. Starving men have a brotherly feeling, and we know that an empty Oriental stomach is just as painful for its owner as a white man's stomach is to him when his belt is loose. And if the question of "rights" is introduced, the Oriental engaged in wage-labor has quite as much "right" to have a full stomach as a white wage-laborer. In fact, the white man's "right,"

stated in monetary terms, in recent months amounted to sixty-five cents a day, and surely not even the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council will in this respect deny the Oriental equal "rights," and welcome.

Just think of an organization of wage-laborers whose eternal enemy is the employer of labor, issuing this:

"If the present unemployment is to be cured and a repetition of last winters condition in this city prevented, we feel that all public organizations will have to get together and begin a drive for the employment of the citizens of this country in preference to all others, and it is for this programme that we request your co-operation and support.

"We will be obliged if you will give this question your attention and advise us if we can rely on your assistance in extending the slogan of the B. C. Manufacturers' Association "Made in B. C." to "MADE IN B. C. BY CITIZENS OF CANADA."

Now, we have never heard that it is the essential attribute of any commodity that the labor embodied in it must be "citizen" labor. They knew about that in Aristotle's day. To the master and owner of slaves and commodities the slaves' labor must be productive and for the commodities there must be a market, not a need, mark you. "Citizens!" What self-respecting capitalist booming "Made in B. C. Products" cares whether they are made by citizens or not? "Our own nationals!" Give them a job in household work, gardening, janitor work, sawing wood,—anything. Just because they're citizens! Who wants to be a citizen anyway? And maybe, if the Orientals are shipped back to the land whence they came they'll flood "our" country with cheap goods! From which it follows that the best way to protect "our" country and our wage standard is to keep the Orientals employed here. These considerations take us into the realms of imperial council. And from what we have learned of the effect of imperial council on some folk, they have lost their hair and gained nothing but scholarships in arithmetic—counting the cash—in the abstract.

Sure! We'll give one more industry an advertisement as made in B. C. The cure for unemployment, propounded by the Vancouver Trades and Labor Council—citizenship. Bosh! The heads of these wisecracks appear to be about as empty as the stomachs of the hungry. "Our" industries, "our" country, "our" natural resources! Maybe by next winter our friends will begin to see that when there's a job to let the employer worries but little whether the man's a "citizen" or not who occupies it. So far as we are concerned we will never try to oust anybody from a job, not even our friend the Oriental.

If we undertook to be jealous of anybody's job we would cast our eye on the boss. He owns everything in sight. His favorite word is property. Maybe, if the council will take time to look into the question they will see that as wageworkers their interests lie with those Orientals and against that boss.

### WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IN SOVIET RUSSIA.

In spite of the fact that Russia had been completely isolated for a period of two years, and in spite of the fact that the blockade cut off our specialists from contact with the technical science of the West, Soviet Russia made enormous progress in the field of wireless telegraphy.

Previous to the October Revolution, the wireless apparatus was under the supervision of the Ministry of War, and was employed exclusively for war purposes. Following the October Revolution a special decree of the Council of Peoples' Commissaries was issued providing for the transfer of all radio stations excluding portable ones into the hands of the Peoples' Commissariat of Postal and Telegraph Service. The latter augmented the number of these stations and introduced considerable improvements in their technique.

Beginning with that period, the application of wireless telegraphy was put on a basis utterly unknown in former times. Taking cognisance of the

supreme importance of the political education of the wide masses of peasants and workmen, the Peoples' Commissariat of Postal and Telegraph Service made it its business to install a widely spread system of radio stations embracing vast areas of the country. For this purpose all the radio equipments that were transferred to the Commissariat of Postal and Telegraph Service were made use of. Wireless operators were sent out to all the provincial towns and the work of installation was carried on at full speed under the direct supervision and guidance of the central authorities and the sympathetic co-operation of the Wireless Operators' Union. The larger towns were provided with radio stations first, then came the smaller towns, and towards the middle of the second year of this work of construction we find radio stations installed even in the villages.

Proceeding at this pace, the Commissariat for Postal and Telegraph Service has reached the following results:

All through the territory of Soviet Russia we have today 250 receiving radio stations and in addition 47 stations belonging to the War Department, but put at the disposal of the Commissariat for Postal and Telegraph Service. This makes a wireless system of about 300 units which is the most powerful information agency on the Continent. The number of transmitting radio stations excluding those on steamers equals 47, which puts us first on the list of European countries in this connection.

All the powerful transmitting radio stations which we inherited from the Kerenski Government have been repaired and put into an excellent state. With the assistance of the Central Committee of the Transport Workers' Union, a staff of operators is now being trained to man the newly built radio stations.

Thus radio telegraphic tentacles are now reaching out from the centre to the most distant and remote corners of the Republic. The untrammelled wireless telegraphy afforded the possibility of maintaining close communication between the cities and provinces surrounded by the enemy, where the encouraging messages coming from the centre and carried through the air waves all over the vast area of Russia, was spread through the local press and the posters of the Russian Telegraph Agency imbuing confidence, enthusiasm and strength into the hearts of the fighters.

During the civil war a wireless telegraphy thus reconstructed did excellent service. It enabled us to keep in constant touch not only with Tashkent, Uralsk, Baku and the Ukraine, but also with Soviet Hungary and with Germany, and afforded the opportunity of intercepting wireless messages from the hostile camps of Paris, England, Italy and Constantinople.

Wireless telegraphy thus reconstructed on a new basis and brought home to the wide masses of peasants and workmen became a powerful agency for propaganda and agitation in the hands of the Soviet Government. The installation of wireless stations and the development of wireless communication would proceed even at a greater speed if it were not for the necessity of diverting the most skilled workers and most of the equipment for the needs of the war, and were it not for the fact that the production of wireless equipment does not keep pace with the work of installation.

The present abnormal conditions when the workman holding the hammer in one hand must grasp the rifle with the other, are of course, unfavorable for constructive work. But the Council of Labor and Defence nevertheless issued a decree providing for the extension of the wireless stations. The Peoples' Commissariat for Ways and Communications was ordered to institute a number of powerful transmitting and receiving wireless stations in the centre and in the provinces. Of this number one station is already in the process of construction. The station will rival the most powerful wireless stations in the world. The Transatlantic wireless station built in the vicinity of Moscow will have the capacity of sending out waves all over the globe. It possesses an alternator of a new type of very high frequency—twenty thousand original motions a second—apart from its wide possibilities as an agency of information it will also produce extensive reforms in the matter of measuring longitude for pur-

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