

Labor News From Coast to Coast

"OUR OVERSEAS COLUMN"

Fenner Brockway Is Gaining

Labor Active in Westminster Contest, Latest Anti-Socialist "Turns"

(From The Daily Herald)
Mr. Fenner Brockway (Lab.)
Mr. O. Nicholson (Con.)
Mr. Winston Churchill (Ind.)
Mr. Scott Duckers (Lib.)
Polling—March 19.

Previous result (November 1922):
Con., 13,620; Lab., 2,444; Ind., 1,950—
Con. maj. 11,176.

By Our Social Representative
Mr. Churchill's frenzied desire to be always before the public's gaze is still well in evidence.

One of his "turns" before the public yesterday was the delivering of a speech at a popular restaurant in Soho—the Rendezvous.

Has he by doing this violated electoral law?

If he has, he will have to seek relief in the Courts under the Corrupt Practices Act for this lapse.

Mr. Winston Churchill's supporters yesterday also staged political melodrama at Drury-lane and vaudeville (with Mr. Lupino Lane as "star turn") at Covent Garden.

They are looking to showmanship and theatrical Press agency tactics to do what normal, well-reasoned political campaigning can never do—for Mr. Churchill's record and Mr. Churchill's inconsistencies could never get him back to the Commons.

Unmistakably Headway

There is no doubt whatever that Mr. Brockway's poll is going to provide a big surprise. In the last day or two he has made unmistakable headway, and he is gaining fresh support almost hourly.

I met Miss Annie Somers last evening. She is in charge of the women's organization, and she was able to show me a double handful of written pledges from women to vote and work for Mr. Brockway.

These had been collected in a very short time at the Caxton Hall, where a couple of election meetings had been held.

One of these meetings had been on behalf of Mr. Churchill. An elector tells me he counted 21 people present. The other meeting, attended by more than a hundred women, was on behalf of Mr. Brockway.

Unwavering Record

Mrs. J. E. Clynes, who presided here, revealed Mr. Churchill's record of defeats—he was beaten as a Conservative in 1906 at Oldham. He was defeated as a Liberal in 1902 at Manchester. As a National Liberal he fell in 1922 at Dundee, and as an ordinary Liberal he was rejected at Leicester last year. This time, said Mrs. Clynes, the women must see to it that he was defeated as an Independent at Westminster.

The gathering was addressed by the candidate and Mrs. Brockway, Miss Somers, and Mrs. Charles Trevelyan, wife of the Minister of Education.

Mrs. Trevelyan said the Government's first six weeks in office had proved it to be a Government of action with determination to go forward.

Mr. Fenner Brockway, replying to questions, said with regard to emigration, that he would work for such improved conditions that the whole-sale emigration of our young people would become unnecessary.

"Wild Men" Bogy

Piquancy was added to the fight last night by the appearance on Mr. Brockway's platform at a crowded meeting in the St. John's Institute, of Mr. Petibick Lawrence, M.P., who defeated Mr. Churchill at Leicester.

Needless to say, Mr. Lawrence gave the "Anti-Socialist" candidate a good trouncing.

"Mr. Churchill," he said, "was always prophesying that the cunning of the Labor Party would spell disaster to the country."

"Now that Labor is in office, Mr. Churchill is in a hole to justify his prophecy. So he is saying, 'Ah! This is only the front bench! Behind it are the wild men.' (Laughter.)"

\$1 an Hour Is Aim of the Carpenters

Negotiating Committee Instructed to Secure This as Wage Scale

Toronto.—One dollar an hour is the rate of wages which members of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners will ask their negotiating committee to secure for them from the Builders' Exchange for the coming season. It was announced recently following a meeting in the Labor Temple, presided over by David Dickson. The negotiations will be opened shortly.

The meeting was well attended. Other matters submitted to the meeting included the proposal that the

"Well," continued Mr. Lawrence, "I am one of the men who sit behind. And I, with others, can say that we approve of what our Front Bench is doing."

"If some catastrophe should remove the greater part of our Front Bench, we would replace it by others who would take up the same English, Welsh, and Scottish attitude." (Applause.)

Churchill's Interruptions

Mr. Brockway had an enthusiastic reception. Replying to a question, he declared there was no "organized importation" of any people to break up Mr. Churchill's meetings. If Mr. Churchill was interrupted, it was by people who were indignant at Mr. Churchill.

Seven Labor M.P.'s were among the speakers at open-air meetings in support of Mr. Fenner Brockway last night.

A correspondent calls attention to a statement that Mr. Churchill is to have the support of Mr. James Seddon, an ex-president of the Trades Union Congress, and "a large body of trade union speakers," in his election campaign.

"Surely," says our correspondent, "trade unionists will vote for the Labor candidate, and not for the man whose hobby is to gamble with workers' lives (as soldiers), and then term them 'Bolsheviks' because they (quite rightly) refuse to return him to the House of Commons?"

The Government and Rents Bill

Many Questions to Mr. Wheatley—Municipal Banks

(From The Daily Herald)

A series of important questions were asked in Parliament yesterday, concerning the progress of the new Rents Restriction Bill, the establishment of municipal banks, and the progress of the Government's unemployment plans.

Mr. Wheatley (Minister of Health) told Mr. E. T. Palmer (Lab., Greenwich) that the Government was generally in favor of the Rents Restriction Bill, and added that future action would depend on the progress made and the form in which it emerged from Committee.

Sir Kingsley Wood (C., Woolwich W.), asked why the Minister did not come down to the Committee to assist the Bill if the Government was in favor of it.

Mr. Wheatley: Because there are many things which the Government favors which are not Government business.

Sir P. Lloyd-Greame (C., Hendon). "Are we to understand that a responsible Government can come down to the House and support a Bill, and then leave it unattended in Committee?"

Mr. Wheatley: "On a private member's Bill a member of the Government may exercise his privilege as a member of the House in supporting a Bill when it is before the House. I did so, and I intimated that the Government is generally in favor of the principle of the Bill, and hoped it would have a second reading."

Municipal Banks

The Prime Minister informed Mr. E. Harmsworth (C., Isle of Thanet) that the question of legislation to enable municipal banks to be carried on was under consideration.

Unemployment Insurance

Mr. Shaw told Mr. Trevelyan Thomson that it was his desire to introduce a comprehensive measure of unemployment insurance. Failing the possibility of such legislation, steps would be taken to introduce a stop-gap.

Sir W. Mitchell-Thomson (C., Croydon, S.) said that, in order that there might be no question of a snap division, the House would be asked at the first Parliamentary opportunity to condemn the Minister of Labor's action in granting unconvicted unemployment benefit to enemy and other aliens.

society should purchase a building for its use, and it was decided to leave this with a committee of two members from each local branch, would present a report to several general meetings of the various branches of the society.

All members of the society were asked to refuse the invitation of the International Brotherhood to attend a general meeting on Monday night in the Labor Temple, at which officials of the brotherhood would present their offer to members of the Amalgamated Society to become members of the brotherhood. It was claimed none of the officials of the brotherhood placed their offer before the Managing Committee of the society.

Baldwin Challenges Labor Government

To Disclose Its Policy With Respect to Remedy for Unemployment

London.—The debate in the House of Commons recently provided interesting incidents. Conservative members challenged the Government on the vote for the civil service estimates to disclose its policy with respect to a remedy for unemployment. Stanley Baldwin, the late Premier, declared that the unemployment question had killed his Government and would kill any Government that failed to deal effectively with it.

The Labor Minister, Thomas Shaw, in reply, made a spirited opening declaration that unemployment was a national responsibility which the nation must shoulder to the fullest degree, even if it meant heavy payments on the part of those possessing means to pay.

Arguing that the Government had been in office only six weeks and could not be expected to produce a definite scheme as yet, the Minister advised his challengers to "wait and see." He then proceeded to outline a number of tentative proposals that bore such a strong resemblance to the proposals previously made by Mr. Baldwin's defunct administration that the Opposition burst into ironical cheers and laughter, which provoked Mr. Shaw to exclaim:

"Does anybody expect that after six weeks we can produce schemes like rabbits out of a hutch?" This also evoked ironical cheers.

Other interesting incidents were the maiden speeches delivered by the sons of Lloyd George and Hall Caine respectively. Mr. Lloyd George was sitting two seats away and watched his son's performance with intent solicitude.

Hall Caine, Jr., in opening his speech, said he would like to congratulate his "fellow-maiden speaker on his very excellent speech, which showed signs that the younger Lloyd George would follow his very distinguished father."

The former Premier was evidently proud of his son's effort and shortly afterwards beckoned to him and the two left the chamber together.

Taxi Drivers Air Their Grievances

Complaint is That Taxicab Company Refuses to Allow Drivers to Join Protective Association

Montreal, Que.—Grievances of the Montreal Chauffeur's Protective Association against a certain Montreal taxicab company which, it is charged, refuses to allow its drivers to join the association will be aired in the Dominion House of Commons during the present session, according to information received from an authoritative source today.

One of the local members will deliver a speech from the floor of the House, it is understood, and will ask the Department of Labor to go into the matter.

During the last session of the Quebec legislature a delegation of chauffeurs laid a memorandum before Premier Taschereau, who listened to them and promised to go into the case. Mayor Martin and the aldermen have also been approached, and it is believed the council will take some action.

The memorandum presented to the Provincial government covers the organization of the association and tells of the antagonism of the company in question. The organization was first formed in 1922, when the taxi company posted notices forbid-

ding its drivers to join, on pain of dismissal, the statement recites. A number of them actually were dismissed for affiliating with the association.

Company's Views

A representative of the Department of Labor investigated, and he was told by the company that "we are not opposed to the principle of labor unions and we do not oppose any organization which in our judgment tends to the real benefit of our employees."

"As will be noted," continues the circular, "the company assumes the right to exercise its judgment as to what it considers the proper organization for its employees to join. This is an arbitrary and unwarranted interference with the rights of its employees, and something which any group of self-respecting men will not tolerate."

The organization, disheartened by the company's opposition, went out of existence, to be revived last fall, when the same opposition developed. The present body is in no sense a labor union, but a protective association for the occupational, social and moral welfare of its members. The company posted notices forbidding its workers to join the association, and the chauffeurs again wrote to the department of labor. The Hon. James Murdock, Minister of Labor, replied to the effect that: "It is inconceivable that employers in this present day and age, and with post-war experience and conditions confronting them, could hope to deny to their employees the same rights to organize or maintain associations for mutual benefit, that employers in all branches of industry, and commerce regard as their right."

Objects of Association

The petition recites the objects for which the association was formed, saying that they are in every way commendable, since they impress upon the chauffeurs and taxidrivers the necessity of becoming competent in their calling and at all times being courteous to the general public.

In asking for an amendment to the Quebec Motor Vehicle law to cover the situation, the memorandum quotes from the contract of the city of Montreal with the Montreal Tramways company which says: "The company shall not directly or through any other person do anything to prevent its employees from organizing a labor union, authorized by law. Each class or category of employees may form a separate union."

The men claim that taxicabs are common carriers, and therefore the government is justified in affording protection to the drivers.

I.W.W. Leaders Call Off Strike

Two Months of Idleness Has Resulted in Heavy Loss of Wages

Cranbrook, B.C.—After two months of idleness on the part of Industrial Workers of the World, the strike in this and the Golden Lumber camps, the strike which has been brought about by the activities of the above outlaw organizations, was called off, and the strike will be carried on the job. This attitude will result in few of the I.W.W. men being employed in any of the camps. Contrary to street rumors, the strike was called off by the men themselves and was not in any prompted by members of the Mountain Lumber Manufacturers' Association. At the time the I.W.W. leaders called "Quits," nearly every camp in the district was working a full quota of men.

The lumbermen must use some measure to prevent a recurrence of the

I.W.W. trouble in the district, and no doubt will. The strike of last May and this Spring has caused a tremendous falling off in business of every town in the district, with the possible exception of Kimberley.

A request from "Workman" asking for the Courier's explanation of its opposition to the I.W.W. organization is herewith presented:

No man who believes in a Supreme Being could read the I.W.W. Song Book and have any respect for that body. Converting sacred hymns into Wobbly tunes of a sacrilegious nature is not in the best interest of society or working class interests. For our part we cannot conceive of anybody being credited with remarking "Thank God, the I.W.W.'s have come to town." A more appropriate phrase would be "Thank God, the I.W.W.'s are leaving town." An organization founded on the principle of hatred, with no regard to constitutional government, will receive no support from this sheet.

Read the preamble to the I.W.W. constitution:

"The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few who make up the employing class have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trade unions unable to cope with the ever growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry thereby helping to defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade unions aid the employing class to mislead the worker into the belief that the working class have interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries, if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto: "A fair day's wage for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword: "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Rail Officials Meet Trackmen's Union

Negotiations Continuing May Avert Strike on Canadian Roads

Montreal.—The Railway Association of Canada has agreed to the request of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance-of-Way men for further conference on the subject of wages and working conditions for maintenance-of-Way men of Canada lines, a communication to this effect is being dispatched to the union's headquarters at Detroit with a suggested date of meeting.

Wages and working conditions for

maintenance-of-way men on Canadian railways have been the subject of prolonged negotiations and have occasioned the sitting of a board of arbitration and the taking of a strike vote by the men. The men's demand was for an increase of 5 cents an hour for all grades.

A board of arbitration rendered a report in favor of 2 cents an hour increase for all men earning less than 40 cents an hour. This award the railways could not see their way clear to accept. The taking of a strike vote by the men on the original proposition of a 5-cent an hour increase resulted in a majority vote in favor of stoppage of work, if necessary, to secure the desired increase. The matter then passed into the hands of the Grand Lodge of the union for the determination of the next step. The Grand Lodge decided upon a request for further conference, to which the railways have now agreed.



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