

STARVING THE TEACHERS

The following editorial from La Patrie, a French-Canadian daily published at Montreal, is but another argument for school teachers to affiliate with the great Labor movement which is ready at all times to assist the teachers in their fight for justice. Unorganized bodies can accomplish nothing. The editorial speaks for itself:

"It is the Superintendent of Public Instruction himself who, in his annual report to the Provincial Government, calls attention to the fact that in this province the average salary of a Catholic male school teacher is \$390 a year, and that of a female teacher in the Catholic schools is \$274, while the average salary of the Protestant teachers is \$1716 for males, and \$558 for females. This comparison ought to need no comment. If, however, it is persistently brought to the attention of our school administrators and interpreted to their shame it will be forgotten the next day, and this distressing practice of starving the teachers will continue. During the past twenty

years the school taxes have been enormously increased, and the people have, without complaining, paid them for the advancement of education. To what purpose have the school authorities employed the increased revenues? They have aimed to construct more magnificent schools, much more costly than the modest school buildings of former days; but they have neglected the essential, which is the betterment of the teaching. The schools have become luxurious, but the teacher has been allowed to remain in the rut. Today we flatter ourselves on the progress we have made in the matter of public instruction by showing that we spend thirteen million dollars a year, which is double the amount spent ten years ago; but this progress is more apparent than real. Education certainly costs the province more, but the educational results have not been developed to an equivalent degree. And the progress will be null, or only minimum, so long as the teacher is paid a salary inferior to the most humble workman."

have her death advertised to the working classes of the United States rather than suffer further hardships at the hands of the Bolsheviks, whom she had believed to be exponents of justice to the workers until she arrived in Russia. Mrs. Schwartz died at Rival on December 28 from the effects of her long solitary confinement and hunger in Soviet prisons, and her husband is returning home alone to give even worse pictures of conditions in Russia than many of the Italian, British and German delegates to the congress of the Third Internationale have painted.

Schwartz, who is a member of the American Federation of Labor, was sent to Russia by Otto Branstetter, executive secretary of the Socialist party of America, to make a thorough investigation, as he spoke the Russian language and knew the pre-war conditions. Describing the early part of his visit, he said: "Everywhere we went we were met by brass bands and crowded waving red flags, shouting for the Soviet government. But we weren't fooled. From the moment we landed in Petrograd we saw misery, dilapidation and squalor there. We suspected that something was vitally wrong, which could not be explained merely by revolution. "I instantly began talking to persons of all classes and broke away from our Bolshevik conductors, who were showing us only what they wanted us to see. I soon found that the shouting crowds had to shout, or their food ration would be reduced or entirely taken away. I can truthfully say that I never talked with a single person, outside of officials, who has a good word to say for the Soviet Government."

"Facts, we must remember, are not truths; they are only the minutes particles of a truth, a splintered chip from the outside edge." — Leon M. Lion.

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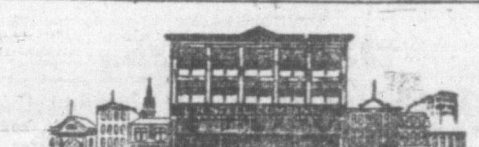
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