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**SCHEME OUTLINED FOR MINE CONTROL BY THE WORKERS**

**SCHEME OUTLINED FOR MINE CONTROL BY THE WORKERS**

**Miners' Federation Bill In England Would Put Mines Under National Ownership**

(By Frank Hodges in Western Labor News)

I think for the first time in its history there is a scheme which makes provision for complete governance of the industry by the people engaged in it. I do not know of any other industry that has yet evolved so complete a scheme. It is true the scheme has not been accepted by the government. The scheme suggested by Mr. Justice Sankey is by no means as complete as the miners' scheme, although it is a step towards it.

The scheme outlined in the Miners' Federation Bill, is a scheme which divides the industry up into parts, with a view to removing it entirely from the domain of bureaucratic influence. The industry is national in its character, and, therefore, the machinery for its governance must also be national.

It is suggested that the industry, in the first place, should be treated as a national asset, owned by the nation. The government has already decided that minerals shall be owned by the nation, presumably because that did not conflict with the capital interests existing in the industry. If it had it is doubtful whether the government would have been quite so ready to nationalize other people's property. But they have rejected the scheme for the national ownership of the industry as an asset on the productive side. That is the basis upon which the whole of the miners' scheme rests—that the mines as well as the minerals must be national property. Unlike the syndicalist proposal, it is not intended that the industry should be owned by the people engaged in it. That method is anti-social in character, and, if effected by force, would sooner or later break down.

**The Futility of Syndicalism**

For syndicalism the majority of British workers have no desire. If the workers exploited the national need of such a particular commodity as coal for the purpose of holding up the community and smashing the industrial system at one stroke, the result would be that some substitute commodity would be found. The workers prefer a series of steps leading towards a definite goal to a catastrophe that would cause universal suffering. The social aspect of the miners' scheme is founded in the fact that the industry and the coal—the raw material—must be treated as national assets, but the production must not be controlled and determined by the government. On the contrary, the government will have by no means a controlling voice in the industry. The miners suggest that one-half of the National Mining Council

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**"EDMONTON IN 1921" WILL BE SLOGAN OF DELEGATES**

(Continued from Page One)

and carpenters in the city. It was stated that the bricklayers were now fully organized internationally, and that the union had a membership of 70. The carpenters, also, were in similarly fine circumstances, having added 40 new members to their rolls in the last two weeks. All the big jobs in the city in these trades were now under union control.

The opening of a co-operative store in the city was referred to by Del. Campbell, who reported on behalf of the co-operative association. The store is located at the corner of Whyte avenue and 109th street, and at present is carrying only a stock of groceries. It is hoped to extend the operations of the association very shortly by opening a store on the north side in a central place, and Del. Campbell appealed for the support of the wage earners in advancing the undertaking. Shares are fixed at \$10 each, with a minimum subscription of two shares.

**Aid for Ottawa Carpenters**

A communication was received from the Brotherhood of Carpenters, Ottawa, intimating that they were on strike for higher wages, and soliciting financial assistance. Delegates Farnilo and Cairns proposed that the matter be referred to the executive for further enquiry as to what authority there was for the strike, and if satisfactory to contribute \$50 to the strike funds. This was agreed to.

**Want Post Office Boxes**

Several delegates voiced their objection to the proposed change in post office regulations by which lock boxes were to be done away with. Del. Latham thought that the council itself might profit by the change if it installed boxes in the labor hall for the use of all the unions, to which the letter carriers could deliver the mail, and then the council could charge a fee. But beyond raising a laugh, the proposal got nowhere, for the question was referred to a long-suffering executive to deal with as was found expedient.

Fresh air in the street cars, even in the lobbies where the smokers gather, was something delegates demanded, and it was wondered why the windows there were raised only half-way. It was pointed out that this was done to prevent boys or other persons from falling or climbing out of them; so this should be met, delegates thought, by putting wire screens on the ends of the cars as well as the sides, and the secretary will write the street railway manager about this.

To wind up with, Del. Roper moved a resolution of protest against the kidnapping of Christophers the other day, in connection with O.B.U. activities. Del. Pool seconded the motion, both delegates speaking in strong terms against such methods of force, or rule by mob.

**AVERAGE SHOP WORKER CAN STUDY ECONOMICS**

**No Need For the Study of Economics To Frighten The Worker**

(By Charles Sehl, of Lodge 217, I.A.M.)

If the working men and women, and especially those connected with the organized labor movement, expect to present an intelligent argument in answer to the many plans and schemes the employers are trying to put over so that they may prolong their life as the exploiters of the human race, then they must have a fairly good knowledge of economics.

The study of economics may sound a big bug to the average worker and he will at once become frightened and feel this is no subject for him to handle—that such a study is only for college men. But I want to assure those of this opinion that this is not in the least true. The average machine shop worker can study and understand economics just as easily as he can master the many interesting phases of his trade.

I want to point out just what it is the worker sells to the boss when he finally lands a job.

If you have the slightest knowledge of a mill, mine, or a factory, you know there are generally two kinds of power necessary to operate these industries and turn out their products. There is the steam, electric or water power necessary to drive the machinery. And then there is the labor power furnished by the working men and women employed in these industries.

When a capitalist starts out to manufacture any article or commodity for sale, he first builds or rents a factory, then he buys his machinery, then he puts up a power plant of his own, or he contracts with some power supply company. And to be sure, he will look around and see where he can purchase all these requirements as cheap as he possibly can; but after he has bought all these things and is about ready to start his plant, there is still one more thing he needs—one thing which no industry can run without and one thing which has been necessary throughout all the ages to produce the things people require to satisfy all their needs, that is Labor Power.

Today this employer would place an advertisement in the papers which would read, "Men Wanted." To be sure he would not buy these men and women outright, as was the custom in the days of chattel slavery. Oh, no, the

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**FORCED IDLENESS RESPONSIBLE FOR ECONOMIC WASTE**

**Statement of Dr. Meeker, U. S. Commissioner of Labor Statistics**

Forced idleness is responsible for more industrial and economic waste than any other single factor in the industrial world today. It is common to hear people argue that the waste caused by strikes of workmen are in blame for all of the loss in industry, but the fact is that if the losses caused by strikes were placed alongside the losses caused by enforced idleness they would be as a mole hill compared with a mountain. In a recent issue the New York Times said:

Strikes are insignificant in causing stoppage of work in comparison with unemployment due to dearth of raw materials, lack of order for output, inefficient transportation, lack of properly balanced organization of industry, lack of intelligent employment policy for hiring and handling men, failure to make use of the tremendous latent creative force lying dormant in the workers.

The Times based its expression on an article written by Dr. Royal Meeker, United States Commissioner of Labor Statistics, published in the Labor Review of the United States Department of Labor. Discussing the prevalence and the cost of unemployment, Dr. Meeker says:

"Strikes and lockouts have contributed their thousands to the ranks of the out-of-workers, but irregularities and failure in supply of raw materials, transportation, and demand for commodities produced, and lack of proper organization in transportation, have contributed their millions. No statistical statement is possible, for no accurate information exists as to the time lost by reason of strikes, to say nothing of our almost 100 per cent ignorance of the time lost due to other causes. We do know in a general way that unemployment has existed during prosperous conditions of industry to an appalling degree.

"The cost of unemployment in terms of product unproduced, services rendered and capital goods lost or deteriorated in vain, would amount to more than half the value of the yearly product of all our industries," says Dr. Meeker, adding: "This means that we are operating our industries on a 64 2-3 per cent efficiency basis and are losing by not producing something like \$45,000,000,000 at a single bound."

Dr. Meeker's statement furnishes food for thought, because of the bold manner in which he attacks the question of unemployment. When he seeks the real causes of waste and loss in industry he goes outside the beaten path and tries to find the real cause. He does not overlook the loss caused by strikes, and it must be admitted that losses do occur from that cause. But he shows that losses from strikes are insignificant and unimportant. There is a greater cause of the losses that affect industry.

Labor has said the same thing for years that Dr. Meeker now says. It has pointed out the fact that if labor were given steady employment industry and business would not suffer as it does now. There is a sufficient number of workers in this country to make or produce everything that could be asked for, if they were permitted to do so. This is true of the coal industry as well as other industries. But the miners cannot produce coal when conditions in the industry over which they have no control prevent them from working steadily. There are enough carpenters in America to build houses faster than the people could occupy them, but the carpenters cannot do this when railroads fail to transport lumber and building material is with which to construct the houses. Ironworkers cannot produce finished products and build machinery and structures as long as the great steel trusts keep the price of materials so high that the people cannot afford to buy them. And so it is all down the line. When conditions are wrong labor is idle and this means a heavy loss not only to labor in wages, but to the public in general.

Labor desires steady employment. It does not court strikes and idleness.

When business is dull the merchant complains that he loses money. He says he cannot make expenses under such circumstances.

The laborer is just like the merchant. When work is slack and he is idle he justly complains that he is losing money. The laborer cannot make a living unless he works.

Enforced idleness, no matter what may be the cause, is an economic and industrial waste and loss.

Instead of attempting to place all of the blame for such losses on labor and charging them up to strikes, as many persons do, the people should look a little farther and discover the real cause. And when they have found the real cause they should set about to stress a chance eliminate it and give industry and business a chance.

A shop at Twickenham bears the notice, "Shaving while you wait." This overstates the inconvenience of leaving one's chin at the barber's over night.

Join the Labor Party.

Pittsburg, Kan.—Because they refuse to recognize or appear before Governor Allen's industrial relations court for examination, six Krnsax miners have been jailed for contempt by District Judge Curran.

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**CO-OP OPENS A STORE ON THE SOUTH SIDE**

The Edmonton Co-operative Association Ltd. had its beginning in March, 1919, among a few of the employees of the Canadian Northern and Grand Trunk railways. They met together to discuss the advisability of making an effort to establish in the city an association working along co-operative lines.

As a result of their deliberations it was decided to form an association and for the purpose of incorporation a number of names were given who would act as the directors pro tem, so that the association might become incorporated and obtain registration from the provincial government.

After so doing the question arose as to how they might carry out propaganda work and secure shareholders. It was decided to visit the various labor organizations and place the scheme before them and seek support. Many unions were visited but progress was very slow, and at times the members felt very discouraged and almost at the point of despair.

In September, 1919, a general meeting of shareholders was called and the meeting was held in Room 412 McLeod block, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Clark, who is a member of the association. At that meeting the first regular board of trustees was elected, and they at once began to cast round for the best means of making the aims and objects of the association known. The winter approaching, the trustees decided upon starting a coal business as a means of meeting a need and at the same time getting the association before the public with little cost to the shareholders. The venture was successful inasmuch as it gave publicity to the co-operative movement and got certain people interested who had previously shown no interest. The result was, that when we closed down the coal office in March, 1920 we had a balance to the credit of the association and the public mind had become somewhat alive to the Co-operative Movement and its aims. Suddenly an interest was aroused in the Civic block and by the

**NO SHORTAGE OF LABOR ON WESTERN COAST**

Washington.—A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison has received this telegram from the executive board of the central labor union, San Pedro, Cal.:

"We desire to refute statements issued to a shortage of labor here. A recent report of the labor bureau bears out our contention. Thousands of men are coming into this district only to find no employment, high living and no housing. Shipyards in this vicinity are concluding government work and laying off men. Please notify all organizations and give this matter as much publicity as possible in your trade papers and to flag island (ship yard) men."

The Literary Digest offers each week a prize of fifty dollars for the best argument in compact form for better salaries for teachers. The editor of The Reporter humbly submits to the editor of The Digest this bit of pathos:

"What shape, madam, was the pocket-book you lost?"

"Flat. I'm a teacher."—Chicago Principals' Club Reporter.

Join the Labor Party.

joint effort of some two or three lone spirits their shares were sold, which amounted to some \$500 in about two weeks. From that time on we were able to look forward to that which we had longer for, with somewhat of an assurance of success.

Many sites were spoken of for a store, but at last on account of our limited capital we decided to open the first store on the South Side.

A committee having brought in a report of a very advantageous offer, which we had on the South Side, it was decided that the store should be rented and the stock purchased.

This was at last done on July 1st, and the store situated 100 08 82nd avenue, occupied for many years by Mr. Moran, was opened as the South Side Branch Store of The Edmonton Co-operative Association Ltd., and we believe that this is only the 1st of a number of similar stores which we hope to open in various parts of the city, with a large central store somewhere in the heart of the city.

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