

*The phrasing of King's
offer was characteristic!*
S.A.F.

144312

Canadian Congress of Labour,
230 Laurier Avenue West,
Ottawa, January 20, 1943.

The Editor,
The Globe and Mail,
Toronto, Ontario

Sir,

Your editorial of this morning on the steel strike contains two points which appear to rest on misapprehensions which I am sure you would wish to have corrected.

(1) You say that the Government's offer (a) constituted "acceptance of the two main points in the Gordon report, a basic rate of 55 cents an hour", etc., and (b) went "nearly all the way in meeting the demands of the men".

What the men asked, and the Gordon report recommended, was a basic rate of 55 cents an hour exclusive of cost of living bonus, and equalization of the bonus at the two plants; ~~in other words, equalization of basic wage rates exclusive of bonus and equalization of the bonus. That the Government offers~~ in other words, equalization of both basic rates and bonus. What the Government offered was 55 cents an hour inclusive of bonus, and no change in the bonus; in other words, a doubling of the differential in basic wage rates and maintenance of the existing large differential in bonus.

Or, putting it ~~in~~ another way: what the men asked at Algoma was a 9½ cent increase in basic wage rate and a 4 cent increase in bonus; what the Government offered was a 4½ cent increase in basic wage rate and no change in the bonus; that is, exactly one-third of what the union asked for. What the men asked at Sydney was an 11½ cent increase in basic wage rate; what the Government offered was a 2½ cent increase in basic wage rate; that is, between a quarter and a fifth of what the men asked.

This is hardly going "nearly all the way"!

(2) You observe: "We have stated on many occasions that we have no use for labour agitators who come in to cause trouble, especially in wartime." The only outsiders who have "come in" on this occasion are two international union officials who were called in by the Government to avert trouble.

Yours truly,

Eugene Forsey
Director of Research,
Canadian Congress of Labour

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