

EDMONTON FREE PRESS

Published at Edmonton, Alberta, every Saturday

Phone 5595 HENRY J. ROCHE, Publisher 101 Parvix Block

VOL. 1, No. 11 JUNE 21, 1919

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SITUATION IS DELICATE

The strongest ally of the Red element in Canada is the Dominion Government. The greatest restraining force to Bolshevism is Organized Labor. Orthodox Trades' Unionism is and has been doing its utmost to hold a steady hand and head during these most trying times. There was never such a critical time as now. The national government is primarily responsible for it. And the same national government continues to be the most aggravating factor. Ignorance of what to do, and disinclination to do as well as it may know, provide the tragedy.

Legalizing of collective bargaining at the onset of the Winnipeg strike would have immediately lifted every sympathetic walkout. An earnest attempt at eliminating profiteering and consequent reduction in the unwarranted high cost of living would have stabilized all ranks of society. In short evidence of representing the human being instead of the dollar would have redeemed in measure the rottenest government since Confederation. In last analysis the whole social disorders of today are a protest against corrupt governments in general and the present one in particular. At any other time and under any other circumstances present conditions could not have come to pass.

While the great majority of Trades' Unionists throughout the country are withstanding assaults from the Reds both from within and from without their organizations and stabilizing the whole structure, the national government walks roughshod through the foreground, kicks Organized Labor in the face with hobbled boots by locking out postal employees, and otherwise assailing positions which Organized Labor as a whole will never evacuate.

The grave danger to the whole situation is that constituted authority will be misused, and self constituted authority in the committee of 1,000 at Winnipeg, and similar organizations in other places will follow a procedure so unjustifiable, that the whole rank and file of Organized Labor will find it necessary to defend itself. In short it is quite possible that the effort to suppress a few Reds will be carried to an attack upon Trades' Unionism. There are orthodox Trades' Union differences involved at this time. It has almost come to that now when lockouts appear to be the order of the hour.

SOLUTION IS APPROACHING

A national election is approaching. There is nothing which frightens a government like the ballot. There is every evidence that Labor, organized and unorganized, the small business man, the farmer, and in short the rank and file hope to make a clean sweep of the political landscape at the first opportunity. The time to start is right now. It is too late to begin after primaries are held, conventions have been called and candidates nominated. The rank and file have it in their power to nominate in every party candidates of their own kind and to their own liking. With favorable candidates nominated in all parties it would be impossible for the people to lose. If organized and unorganized Labor would move into the old party camps bag and baggage, both of them would be controlled. When the O. B. U. and I. W. W. found it impossible to make headway outside of Trades' Unionism, they moved in. And they certainly have been making things lively within. But what the Reds have done to Trades' Unionism would be nothing as compared with the commotion in, high places that would result if Labor moved into the camps of the old line parties and became as active as O. B. U. elements are in Trades' Unionism. Furthermore Labor would find the great majority of citizens ready to join hands with them in a general clean-up of those politicians who represent a dollar bill instead of human beings. The name of a political party amounts to little. The chief concern is its platform and the character of individuals elected by it.

CONTRACTS MUST BE SECURED

Organized Labor's case in behalf of collective bargaining is, that it is the inalienable right of a free people; that it guarantees continuity of service; that it provides living wages and working conditions. If collective bargaining resulting in agreements duly executed between employer and employees is to remain a factor, the agreements so entered into must be respected. Whenever the time arrives that Organized Labor fails to keep such agreements, the principle will be lost. To retain the respect and support of all fairminded men, Labor must prove itself to be a responsible organization, competent and disposed to carry out to the letter and in good faith contracts entered into.

A member of a union under an agreement is not duty bound to continue work in any shop. He may quit work as an individual. The entire force may quit as individuals. But in such event the union is morally bound to supply workmen to take their places. If the union is unable to supply such men, then the employer is entitled to find help himself whether such be union or non-union. Such has been recognized by unionism throughout the country for years.

FORECAST OF POLITICAL PLATFORMS

As far as platforms go, professions of faith on the part of politicians seeking office, and legislation recommended by political party publications, the next 12 months promise some revelations. The national government will thoroughly understand the principle of collective bargaining before election and a plank of some kind favoring such legislation without too strong commitment may be expected. The Liberal convention at Ottawa in August will likely espouse strong professions of faith in that creed also. All parties of all faiths will denounce in strongest terms the profiteer and the high cost of living and promise, if elected to curb the same. Legislation for the well being of the people will become a slogan. Agriculture will be recognized as the basic industry of the nation and promises made to do everything to encourage and assist all agricultural industries. Prohibition issues will be straddled. All will insist on close supervision of immigration and all will assume attitudes inviting support of veterans. An amicable adjustment—or something as intangible in meaning—will be espoused for the solution of the problem of the natural resources of the prairie provinces. When it comes to making political history in respect to party platforms, the next general elections promises some startling changes.

INDUSTRIAL PEACE TERMS

Proper adjustment of the relation of employer and employee confronts industries today more serious than ever before. Labor is contending for a larger division of profits and for direct representation and voice in the councils of the business. Labor in the past did not receive its just share and now wants more. Great progress has been made in Great Britain in this direction, not only in the matter of more intimate contact with the employees, but also in profit-sharing arrangements.

The experience of an English foundry company, cited in the April report of the United States Bureau of Labor statistics, reveals startling results following a collective profit-sharing contract with the workers. An increase of 40 per cent in output occurred without working more men or longer hours.

That there is a liberal trend throughout the country is evidenced by the increasing number of industrial corporations that are seeking to extend to employees incentives to greater efficiency and greater production.

Practically nothing has been done in this country to bring about a true profit-sharing system in industry in which the employees will also have part in the management of the business.

But now comes the state of Massachusetts with a statute whose importance is far greater than the publicity it has received. All cor-

porations of Massachusetts are authorized to provide through by-laws for a directorship to be filled by the nomination of employees.

While the law is merely permissive and not compulsory, it reflects a tendency of the industrial world and foreshadows the increasing influence of the workers who are concentrating their efforts to secure a place in the inner councils.

Employers are to blame for not striving harder to understand the aspirations of the employees.

Heads of industrial enterprises would do well to cultivate the acquaintance of the officers of labor organizations, find out in a straightforward way the general and particular purposes striven for. Argue, debate, discuss, but above all, get acquainted.

It is only through such methods that an understanding can be reached that will be acceptable to both sides of a controversy and will insure lasting industrial peace.

SYMPATHY WITH THE CAUSE

Because orthodox unions all over the country have refrained from going on general strike does not mean that Trades' Unionism as a unit is not in sympathy with the cause for which the Winnipeg men are striking. Let no one be misled into believing that Trades' Unionism for one moment fails to support collective bargaining as interpreted to mean the right of workers to negotiate through their own chosen representatives. The great big majority differ with their Winnipeg brethren merely on the method of waging the fight. They refuse to quit work and tie up the whole country because three big Winnipeg metal firms play the role of Bolshevists. Organized Labor generally would stick to their work, give financial support to the metal workers enabling them to continue their strike, refuse to handle the product of the offending companies and keep their plants idle. Thereby the Triple Alliance would be put out of business until they got ready to bargain collectively. In their efforts they would receive the approbation of ninety-nine per cent of the population.

TIME TO REGISTER

Again the time has come to get on the municipal voters list. It is the duty of every citizen to see that his or her name is written there. The ballot is the most effective means of correcting wrongs against any community or portion of that community. If all the energy of the country devoted to Direct Action were concentrated in political action, Canada would make remarkable history in the next twelve months.

DIRECT LEGISLATION VS. DIRECT ACTION

If the Initiative, Referendum and Recall were applicable to national affairs, how long would the Dominion Government last? How long would be required to settle a few of the outstanding issues confronting the nation? It would take just as long as the process of applying these measures would involve. That would be a few weeks. There would be no excuse for "Direct Action."

RETAIL BUDGET OF FOOD PRICES SHOWS INCREASE

Manufactured Metal Goods Lower—All Foods Except Eggs and Beans, Higher

Slightly higher price levels for April appeared in the index number of wholesale prices and in the retail food budget, averaged for sixty cities. In wholesale prices the index number fell slightly each month from November until March, the chief decreases being in metals and other industrial materials, with a sharp fall in coarse grains, cattle, hay and hogs, in each of which there was afterwards a recovery. During April the fall in prices of materials was arrested to some extent. Wool was higher, and there was a recovery in some metals, although the decline in iron and steel became more pronounced and manufactured metal goods were lower. There were advances in grains, fodder, meats, butter, some vegetables, hides, boots, and house furnishings, due to seasonal conditions, demand for export, cost of production, etc. In retail food prices the chief increases were in butter and in meats, but eggs and beans were lower. Anthracite coal was slightly lower, but bituminous coal and wood were slightly higher. There were some increases in rent for April, but advances to take effect on May 1st were reported in many of the cities.

PROVINCIAL CRIME RECORDS ACCORDING TO POPULATION

The criminality of each province, according to the estimated population for 1917, as stated in the Canadian Criminal Statistics for the year ending September 30, 1917, stands as follows: Yukon, one conviction in every 384 persons; Ontario, one in 396; British Columbia, one in 499; Manitoba, one in 425; Alberta, one in 579; Saskatchewan, one in 653; Quebec, one in 665; Nova Scotia, one in 879; New Brunswick, one in 1,097; Prince Edward Island, one in 2,840; Canada, one in 537.

The number of inmates of Canadian penitentiaries at the close of the fiscal year ended March 31, 1917, was 1,694, as compared with 2,118 at the close of the previous fiscal year. Of these inmates 35 were females, as stated in the report of the inspectors of penitentiaries for that period.

DEVELOPMENT OF CANADA'S RAILWAYS

The first passenger-carrying railway in Canada, the Champlain and St. Lawrence, was opened on July 23, 1836, and the length of the line was 16 miles. The line was the only one in Canada until 1847, when the railway mileage was increased to 54. In 1851 the mileage had grown to 159 and in 1861 to 2,146. At Confederation, in 1867, the mileage was 2,288. The total railway mileage of Canada at the beginning of each decade from 1871 to 1911 and in 1917 was as follows: 1871, 2,695; 1881, 7,331; 1891, 13,835; 1901, 18,140; 1911, 25,400; 1917, 28,604, according to the Canada Year Book for 1918, issued by the Census and Statistic Office.

The man who can acknowledge a mistake without blaming it on some one else has true moral courage.

ARMY AND NAVY VETS ORGANIZE CO-OPERATIVE STORE

A Co-operative Stores Company was recently organized at Victoria, B.C., under the British Columbia Co-operative Companies Act, by the Great War Veterans' Association, the Army and Navy Veterans, the Comrades of the Great War, the British Campaigners and the Provincial and Dominion Civil Service Associations. It is proposed to deal in meat, fish, groceries, etc. Arrangements are being made to handle the fish of a returned soldiers' cannery to be operated at Point Beale.

TRADE UNIONISTS GIVEN PREFERENCE BY THIS JUDGE

"I give preference to unionists because I am convinced that the man who gives a considerable portion of his time each week and a considerable portion of his earnings each week to try to improve the conditions in which he lives, is justly entitled to more consideration than the man who remains outside and will not give a portion of his time or a fraction of his money to better the conditions of himself and those who are dependent upon his earnings." Judge Cussen, Australian Arbitration Court.

NO 'SHORT CUT' TO INDUSTRIAL PEACE, SAYS S. GOMPERS

Ignorant Irrational Unrest Must Be Understood and Educated

There is no "easy" way to solve industrial and social problems, declared President Gompers, replying to a Washington (D.C.) newspaper which has revived the plan to hold a national conference to meet in that city and discuss these questions.

The newspaper asked President Gompers' views on the proposal, and the trade unionist replied:

"A conference of the character indicated may be helpful in bringing men to a better realization of each other's point of view and the claims which the workers make upon society as a more adequate reward for service performed."

"If, however, there is in the project the thought that a 'set of basic principles for guidance in solution of labor problems and assurance of industrial peace' can be adopted, it will utterly fail. There is no royal road to a final solution of the 'labor problem,' nor can 'industrial peace' be secured by a set of resolutions."

"I have endeavored to do my share to help solve the problems of the day and of the time, and to bring about as nearly an approach to industrial peace as perhaps any other man in our country, but to entertain the idea that the 'labor problem' can be solved or permanent 'industrial peace' attained is following a will-o'-the-wisp."

"An intelligent, rational discontent for a better time and better conditions of life and work is the harbinger of progress and a better day. It is the ignorant, irrational unrest which must be understood and educated and brought within the common activities of all our people in order to open the path to our greater progress and our higher civilization."

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BRITISH EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES SHOW HIGHEST RECORD

Important Feature of Work Was Advancement of Railway Fares

During 1918, there were 3,739,064 registrations at the British employment exchanges, including re-registrations. This was the highest recorded for any year. The number of registrations per individual has declined from 1.6 in 1914 to 1.2 in 1918. The number of vacancies notified to the exchanges in 1918 was 2,067,217, slightly more than in 1916 when the previous highest figure was recorded. Work was found for 1,224,743 individuals, of whom 44 per cent were men, 41 per cent were women, 8 per cent boys, and 7 per cent girls. An important feature of the work of the employment department was advancing railway fares to persons for whom work was found in a district other than where they were residing. Advances to workpeople proceeding to work of national importance were charged to them or their employers at the rate of five-eighths of the pre-war fare.

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