

Prime Minister R.B. Bennett
Ottawa Ont
Mrs Thomas Douglas Bernard Bush

Dear Sir it is with a very humble heart I take the opportunity of writing this letter to you to ask you if you will please send for the underwear in the Eaton order made out and enclosed in this letter. My husband will be 64 miles and has merits very bad at times in his arms and shoulders, we have had very little crops for the last three years not enough at all to pay taxes and live and this year crops around here (west of Saskatoon) are a complete failure. My husband is drawing wood on the wagon for 34 miles and had to draw hay too for feed for horses this winter. He has to take two days for a trip and sleep



PAC, C-29396



PAC, C-33398

Western Labor News

SPECIAL STRIKE EDITION No. 4

OUR CAUSE IS JUST

CENTRAL STRIKE COMMITTEE

STRIKE OFFICERS' REPORT

The Committee strongly urges the use of force to break the strike. It is the only way to end the suffering of the unemployed. The Committee is confident that the workers will win their fight for a better life.

THE STRIKE AND FINANCIAL SUFFERING

The strike has caused a great deal of suffering among the workers and their families. The unemployment rate is high and the wages are low. The workers are in a desperate situation and need your help.

ORGANIZATION AND RECOGNITION

The workers are organized and they are fighting for their rights. They are demanding recognition from the employers and a fair wage. They are not asking for anything more than what is just and fair.

WHO'S RUNNING THE STRIKE

The strike is being run by the workers themselves. They are not being led by any one person. They are all working together for a common goal.

BEWARE! BEWARE!

The employers are trying to break the strike. They are using all kinds of tricks and tactics to get the workers back to work. But the workers are not going to be fooled. They will stand firm until their demands are met.

PAC, C-105708

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ORIGINAL OF MESSAGE

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RIGHT HON B B BENNETT
PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA OTTAWA ONT

INFORMED ELEVEN HUNDRED SINGLE UNEMPLOYED STRIKERS HAVE LEFT VANCOUVER ENROUTE OTTAWA BY FREIGHT TRAIN STOP ALSO THAT ANOTHER DRAFT LEAVES TONIGHT STOP UNDERSTAND THEY PROPOSE STOPPING OFF AT CALGARY EDMONTON AND OTHER POINTS AS THEY PROCEED EASTWARD STOP SUCH A MOVEMENT HAS THE POSSIBILITY OF SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IN THIS PROVINCE AND WOULD SUGGEST YOU GIVE IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION TO HAVING THE NECESSARY STEPS TAKEN TO PREVENT THEIR COMING INTO ALBERTA STOP AM INFORMED IMMEDIATE ACTION IS NECESSARY AS OTHERWISE THEY MAY REACH OUR CITIES AT ALMOST ANYTIME WITHIN NEXT TWENTY FOUR HOURS

R G REID PREMIER.

Wars were not Canada's only strife in the 20th century. After World War I many labouring men found themselves crushed by static wages and spiraling prices. Their anger exploded in Winnipeg in May 1919, when the combined unions called a general strike. A massive demonstration was crushed by mounted police and two people were killed, hundreds injured. The strike leaders were jailed and, despite wishful headlines in labour papers, the strike was broken; but the turmoil helped create the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, the forerunner of Canada's third major party, the New Democratic Party.

The labour conflict was followed by the Great Depression. Shamed men, unable to find work, survived by eating free soup, an army of the unemployed moved across Canada toward Ottawa and a woman wrote Prime Minister R.B. Bennett and asked him to buy winter underwear for her arthritic husband.

October / Octobre 1984

CANADA
TODAY / D'AUJOURD'HUI

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Yom Kippur

Columbus Day
Thanksgiving Day (Can)
Fête d'action de grâces