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BORDEN A PROFITEER

Evidence before the House of Commons Committee investigating the high cost of living uncovered the fact that the Prime Minister of Canada is financially interested in a cold storage concern that last year made a net profit of \$103,000 from a \$200,000 investment. Borden, according to the testimony, has some \$9,000 worth of stock. His cut of the net profits should be a little better than \$4,500. The company declared a dividend of eight per cent. It is presumed that the other 43 per cent has been held under cover pending a convenient time for distribution.

There is no law of the land violated when the Borden company made a net profit of \$103,000 in one year on an investment of \$200,000. It was entirely within the letter of the law when the prime minister of Canada owns stock in said company. The cut of the profits to which the prime minister is entitled is entirely legal. But there is another perspective.

The office of prime minister is the greatest honor the nation can bestow. It is the maximum trust a people can place in the hands of any man. Royal titles are hollow mockery, for princes and lords are but the breath of kings. He who violates the official trust of his brother commits a greater crime than the highwayman who robs his neighbor at the point of a gun.

The prime minister is the head of a government presuming to represent the people, to administer the affairs of the country in the interests of the people. Oaths to that end, oaths before God and man have been taken with all solemnity. There has been thieving and conniving in this country; a nation at war has been grossly imposed upon. The distress of the hour has been used ruthlessly for graft and personal gain. While the great majority has sweated beneath the yoke, the few have grown fat. Cold storage companies have been classed among the business concerns guilty of aggravating a serious situation for personal profit instead of seeking to alleviate suffering. And it develops that the prime minister, the head of the nation's government has been identified with one such concern at least, and to him accrues personal profit therefrom.

Sir Robert Borden has violated no law of the land. He has done nothing more than hundreds and thousands of other men have done. But there are moral laws stronger than enactments of parliament. It is not unlawful to refuse meat and drink to the hungry and the famished. It is not unlawful to deny succor and comfort to the sick and afflicted. No, it is not against the laws of man—but it is against the laws of God.

It is unfortunate that the prime minister has permitted himself to be placed in such a position. It is a blow to the nation. Borden stands in the same relation to Canada that Lloyd George does to Britain, Clemenceau to France and Wilson to the United States. It is impossible to conceive of either of these men in such a compromising position. The whole world has faith in them—not alone their own countries. The world would be shocked to the core were it to develop that any one of these men made personal gain, directly or indirectly, in profiteering while the children of their country cried for bread.

DEMAND FROM THE SCHOOL

The greatest demand of the public and high school today is to teach civics-citizenship. It is not disputed that the political ills of the day are due to the apathy of citizens to be active in the affairs of the country. A few leaders—too often insincere and utilizing politics for self-aggrandizement and personal gain, have been wont to direct the affairs of the entire country. Lack of knowledge of affairs political, and all absorbing interests in individual business undertakings, are responsible for this condition.

There is talk of a national educational ideal being evolved for Canada. Active steps toward that end are to be taken this summer. Civics needs be the most conspicuous subject on the curriculum. This subject should stress with all emphasis the duty of every man and woman to be active citizens; to understand thoroughly the systems of government with its weaknesses and its strength; the governmental machinery. And above all must be taught the sacredness of the trust imposed in public officials. There must be aroused a national consciousness that he who becomes involved in questionable conduct will be despised among men, ostracized from society. Honest public service must be set upon a pedestal. At the same time it must be emphasized that the function of a government is to administer for the people; the good of the nation—the whole people—needs to be presented as the only purpose and aim of any government.

Had the public schools of the land been so devoted during the past fifteen or twenty years, conditions as experienced in Canada today would have been impossible.

That Canada, and other countries for that matter, have been sadly deficient in this respect is due to deficiency of the teaching class as a whole. School teachers, as a class, are as ill informed, as inactive, and as deficient in active citizenship as any other subdivision of society.

It is impossible to teach what is not known to the teacher.

That this condition exists is due to the fact that school teaching does not pay a salary sufficiently attractive to cause men and women to select it as a life vocation, and further due to the fact that the public has not demanded the teaching of that kind of citizenship.

AND THIS IN CANADA

"I hereby agree that if I am appointed to any position in the city's service, I will not join or remain a member of any union or association which is directly or indirectly in affiliation with any other organization to whose orders, directions or recommendations such union or association or its members are obliged to agree to observe or conform or act in concert with."

Above is a part and parcel of an application form which all people seeking employment in the Winnipeg city service are obliged to sign. Furthermore all employees in the city service are forced to sign such obligation under penalty of dismissal.

Every bona fide labor organization is affiliated with some organization that has authority over it. This obligation simply means open shop so far as Organized Labor is concerned.

Again there are few organizations among men of any consequence which do not fall under the ban of this obligation. Fraternal societies are not exempted.

A document of this description is pretty strong evidence in behalf of the accusation that there is an organized effort in Winnipeg to smash unionism, not to adjust industrial, social and labor problems.

DAY OF RECKONING COMING

Winnipeg's next municipal elections will be watched with keenest interest. There is every reason to believe that it will be the greatest contest in the history of the city. Organized Labor promises to be solidly against the present mayor and those aldermen who have supported him in his attitude during the recent strike. On the other hand the Committee of 1,000 will be out fighting the same or like candidates. The rank and file of the voters will pass judgment. Then it will be known definitely what percentage of Winnipeg citizens disapprove of the conduct of civic authorities during the trying times.

AND ANOTHER COMMISSION

With the Industrial Commission's recommendations laid on the table sine die, the Union government is now appointing another—this one to investigate high cost of living. The Industrial Commission is about the only one that has not been a farce.

ARRESTED FOR SELLING COPIES OF NEWSPAPER

Legality of Anti-Picketing Ordinance of Los Angeles Is Questioned

The anti-picketing ordinance, passed by the city council of Los Angeles in 1910 in an effort to break the metal trades strike, again has come to the front, this time in an unexpected manner.

One woman and two men, members of the Journeymen Tailors' Union, 75 members of which are on strike for an increase in wages, were arrested for selling copies of an extra issued by the Citizen, the paper owned by the Los Angeles labor movement. The woman and men are charged with violating the anti-picketing ordinance because the extra contained an account of the strike and was sold in front of a clothing store which refused to grant the increase asked for, thus forcing the tailors to strike. The defendants are out on bail pending trial.

The outcome of this case will be watched with much interest, as the freedom of the press is involved.

It is hardly conceivable that a court, even in Los Angeles, will hold it is illegal to offer for sale copies of a newspaper containing an account of a strike. The arrest of the woman and men has resulted in rallying the labor movement solidly to the support of the tailors in this fight for living wages.

LABOR CONVENTION ENDORSE FREEDOM OF IRISH PEOPLE

Say According To Principles Of Last War Ireland Should Have Freedom

The American Federation of Labor, at its convention in Atlantic City, N.J., went on record for the freedom of Ireland, and instructed its officers to take this matter up with President Wilson, who is attending the Peace Conference in Paris.

Workingmen all over the world have been led to believe that the last war was for the self-determination of the people and the right for them to say under which government they wished to live.

The Irish people for centuries have been fighting for a free Ireland, and now that England and the Allies have given to some of the countries that were at war the right to have their own governments they, in turn, demand that this same right be given to them by the Peace Conference, and that England be forced to grant these demands of the Irish people.

STREET CAR MEN IN OTTAWA GO OUT ON STRIKE

Employees of the Ottawa Electric Railway Company went on strike at 5 o'clock Tuesday morning. A request was made to the men by the chairman of the conciliation board, to withhold the strike action until the award was made by that board but the request was refused. The men are now getting 39 cents an hour and are demanding 60 cents an hour.

OPERATING MILEAGE OF NINE EXPRESS COMPANIES IN CAN.

The total operating mileage of the nine express companies—five Canadian and four American companies—doing business in Canada is 43,069, as stated in the Canada Year Book for 1918, compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The gross operating receipts were \$16,836,874 in 1917, compared with \$12,860,629 in 1916, an increase of \$3,975,745. A deduction of \$8,052,606 for express privileges—that is, the amount paid to railways, steamboat, and stage lines for the carrying of express matter—leaves \$7,783,768 as the operating revenue for the year. Operating expenses in 1917 amounted to \$7,687,656, as compared with \$5,794,517 in 1916, and the net operating revenue to \$1,096,112, as compared with \$919,713 in 1916.

EVIDENCE SOUGHT OF ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO START REVOLUTION

Mounted police of this city made a raid on the residences of Carl E. Berg, prominent on the strike committee in Edmonton, Joseph A. Knight, one of the "Big Five" of the O.B.U. organization, John F. McGuire, and others supposed to have been prominent in radical Socialistic and O.B.U. circles in this city, shortly after midnight, June 30th. The police also took a letter in at the Edmonton Labor Temple. The purpose was in search of literature, correspondence and any evidence that might tend to give information in respect to the alleged revolution claimed to have been planned to take place in Canada this summer. As the strike committee had vacated the Labor hall in this city and officials of the Trades and Labor Council were again installed in their quarters, nothing of inflammatory nature was found there, even had there been anything there at any time the police may have wanted.

BOLSHEVISM NOT MENACING FRANCE AND ENGLAND

Members of Commission Agree Radical Press Exaggerate Disturbances

According to a statement by the national civic federation on a report by a commission it sent to England and France to study after-war conditions, neither bolshevism nor revolution is seriously menacing these countries, but the workers are determined to improve their conditions.

"The members of the commission are agreed that the radical press in this country has exaggerated industrial disturbances abroad, particularly in Great Britain, where, in their opinion, the bolshevist movement is not a serious menace. Ample evidence was at hand of a determination on the part of the great mass of employers and employed to work out in an amicable and patriotic manner the new problems that have to be faced.

"In France the majority of the socialist labor organizations, differing radically from the trade unions of this country, are frankly revolutionary. France, however, with her predominant agricultural interests, while a theatre of industrial outbreaks, is at bottom syndicalist conservative of a just democracy. There is in general little sympathy between the handworking and hardworking peasant and the revolutionary syndicalist."

The commission included James W. Sullivan, member of New York Typographical union, and Charles S. Barrett, president of the Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America.

LABOR TEMPLES SEARCHED BY THE MOUNTED POLICE

The R.N.W.M.P. made a raid on the Labor Temple at Winnipeg early Tuesday morning and it is stated that documents and literature of revolutionary character were seized. The homes of thirty members of the Radical-Socialistic party of Canada and members of the Ukrainian Social-Democrat party were also raided for the same purpose. Simultaneously with the action of the Mounted Police at Winnipeg, the Labor Temples and homes of members of the Socialistic party in the cities of Calgary, Brandon, Saskatoon, Montreal and Vancouver, were raided and much literature was confiscated.

RETURNED MAN OPENS NEW BOOT AND SHOE STORE

Mr. A. K. Taylor, one of the original 66th battalion, will open an up-to-date Boot & Shoe Store under the style name of "Dominion Shoe Store," at 10145 Jasper Avenue. Mr. Taylor has been fortunate in securing the services of Mr. B. W. Atkinson, who for three years has been with the Jas. Ramsey's Shoe Department. This new store will be open and ready for business on Monday, July 7th.

ELECTRICAL UNION GET SUBSTANTIAL WAGE INCREASE

Electrical Workers Union No. 105, at Hamilton, Ont., signed an agreement with the Cataract Power Company on behalf of the operators and maintenance men at Deser Falls and all sub-stations which will give the operators an increase of from \$10 to \$25 per month and maintenance men 10 to 12 1/2 cents per hour. The increase dates from June 1. The employees work eight-hour shifts.

MARITIME LABOR UNIONS FORMING NEW FEDERATION

The Labor Unions in the maritime industry in the Pacific coast states are being formed into a federation. The new organization will include the sailors, masters, mates and pilots, marine engineers, marine firemen, oilers and water tenders, and the maritime cooks and stewards, approximating 70,000 members.

FORD MOTOR CO. MAKING EFFORTS TO FILL DEMANDS

The Ford Motor Company of Canada is making a big effort to satisfy the demands of Western Canada dealers for Ford cars and trucks, yet Manager Malcolmson and his staff are still behind in delivery of orders. In the past two weeks, the daily output of the Winnipeg factory has been increased from 30 to 50 cars per day and an effort is being made to get production up to 60 cars per day.

A daily production of 60 cars is considerable but even this will not be enough to keep pace with the orders and it is likely that the production will have to be still further increased to take care of the business.

BATTLE CREEK NOW FORMING TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

The eight building craft unions at Battle Creek, Mich., comprising electrical workers, sheet metal workers, carpenters, plumbers, plasterers, bricklayers, and federal labor, have completed a tentative building trades council, and are voting a constitution and by-laws. The four latter unions have from 90 to 100 per cent organizations and are working under union shop agreements.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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