

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY.

TRADE UNIONISM IS THE NEW INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACY. Democracy to live, must be progressive. Political democracy is the sire of this new industrial democracy. Trade unions develop the reason, the conscience and the civic sense of the wage-earners. Trade unions should be encouraged because they appeal to reason and not to the destructive passions of man. By combining into trade unions, in acting collectively, deciding questions by debate and majority vote, making sacrifices of opinion and individual superiority for the common good of all, the workers receive an education and training which eminently fit them to take their rightful place in industry and in organized society. Indeed, it is only by this education and training that democracies can live and grow and develop. Trade unions have done world-wide good in the past. They have established their right to be counted among the greatest instrumentalities of civilization and social progress.

In the middle ages, the trade unions, then called guilds, were among the most remarkable institutions of those days. They prevented undue competition and rendered individual opulence impossible. They protected the worker from a continued struggle for existence and insured a comparatively contented life. The trade unions of today are among the most loyal and devoted advocates and defenders of our democracy and democratic institutions. Like the guilds of old, they protect the wage-earners against undue competition, prevent individual or corporate opulence and each day bring into the worker's life a better day and a brighter hope than the day before.

Workmen should join their union to promote their best interests. Employers who do not encourage their employes to join their union and who do not support them in all their struggles to maintain their trade organizations are untrue to their interest and to those of society at large. Every attempt on the part of employers to prevent employes from uniting to promote and protect their best interests is an attempt to dehumanize and de-civilize the workers and the nation. The labor movement is not fanaticism or Bolshevism. It is a constructive effort to prevent both. Long live the true labor movement!

TITLES IN THE DISCARD.

LOOKS as if Titles were due to go into the discard. After this when a man wants to honor himself very highly he can hang a Union Badge on himself. That's good enough for anybody. The committee investigating the matter of Titles at Ottawa have petitioned King George to refrain "hereafter from conferring any title of honor or titular distinction upon any subjects, domiciled or ordinarily resident in Canada, save such appellations as are of a professional or vocational character, or which appertain to an office. "To provide that appropriate action be taken by legislation or otherwise to ensure the extinction on the death of a person domiciled or ordinarily resident in Canada at present in enjoyment of an hereditary title of honor or titular distinction, dignity or title as a peer of the realm, and that thereafter no such title of honor, titular distinction, dignity or title as a peer of the realm, shall be accepted, enjoyed or used by such person or be recognized. All of which we humbly pray Your Majesty to take into your favorable and gracious consideration."

"Right Honorable" and "Honorable" will be continued. "The practice of awarding military or naval decorations, such as the Victoria Cross, Military Medal, Military Cross, Conspicuous Service Cross, and similar decorations to persons in military or naval services of Canada for exceptional valor and devotion to duty."

The Committee further recommends that action be taken by legislation or otherwise to provide that hereafter no person domiciled or ordinarily resident in Canada, shall accept, enjoy or use any title of honor or titular distinction hereafter conferred by a foreign ruler or Government.

WAGE EARNERS ALL.

THE field of Labor is widening so that it is big enough to take in all workers. Not so long ago there was the announcement that a Union of College Professors had been formed in a certain section of the United States. This was the means taken to get a decent wage. More recently a court decision in Toronto gave an architect the status of a wage earner. On the capacity of a wage earner the architect was allowed to put a lien on a building for unpaid wages, under the Mechanics' and Wage Earners' Lien Act. The status of Labor has risen during the past few years that everybody is proud to be proclaimed as a producer. In this country most people are workers and wage earners. Every kind of useful work is regarded as an honorable occupation, and it takes the hearty co-operation of all kinds of Labor to complete the great national Industrial Life of our Country.

POLITICS and PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

By Special Correspondent. The situation in Winnipeg has completely over-shadowed every other question in Parliament this week, and as a result there was little interest in the proceedings of either the Commons or the Senate. No statement of policy in regard to the general strike in the western capital was made in the House, except an announcement that Hon. Gideon Robertson and Hon. Arthur Meighen had left for Winnipeg to help in a settlement. There is a strong feeling in parliamentary circles that the employers were to blame for precipitating the trouble by refusing to deal collectively with their employes. This is the view of Hon. Gideon Robertson on both the Winnipeg and Toronto trouble among the metal workers. In this view he has the backing of the Cabinet and the majority of the Members. On the other hand it is felt that Bolshevism are ready volunteers, to seize the situation and put into effect their own peculiar views and to upset constitutional government—something which cannot be permitted and which would be a disaster to the country and to labor unionism as a whole.

The question arises in Winnipeg as to the ethics of postal employes joining in a general strike and tying up the public service. Hon. N. W. Rowell made a statement in the House on this subject as follows: "Nearly all the postal employes in the Winnipeg Post Office have gone out on a sympathetic strike in accordance with the action taken by the labor organizations in Winnipeg. The Government considers that such action on the part of the postal employes is entirely without justification. We are advised that efforts are being made to intimidate the employes who are still faithful to the public service. The Government will stand absolutely behind all the employes who are performing their duty in the service of the Government and in the administration of the post office in Winnipeg."

Senator J. E. Turriff speaking in the Upper House and with authority to speak only for himself made a strong statement as to his views. He went much further than he said: "Today there is a strike in Winnipeg—everything tied up. If I were in charge of the Post Office Department I would fire every man or woman who is on strike. Thousands would be ready to take their places at the same pay. I say the Government should take hold of this matter with a strong hand. We have to fight these battles, and we may as well fight them down to business now. The Post Office employes went on strike some time ago. The Government gave in to them, and here is the result. The result is that in a few months it will not be three months, or six months at the most, before they will be at the throat of the Government again demanding something more. We may as well grapple now and fight it out. I would sack every one of them if there would not be a letter man and a mail carrier. I would sack them and the difficulties will gradually disappear; but if you palaver with them and give into them, you are just putting off difficulties for the next day, that is all."

From the standpoint of labor, parliamentary interest was again revived. Senator Robertson said that the average workmen's salary is today much less than it was four years ago. He pointed out that the cost of living as regards wholesale prices had gradually increased from 1913 to 1918 35 per cent. Since 1914 the figures had risen even more startlingly. The purchasing power of a dollar was just about half what it was four years previously. The retail figures in this increase in the cost of living were not confined to Canada. It was a world-wide affair. Owing to the tip of trade between countries it was an international rather than a national affair. Answering the argument that export should be forbidden, he pointed out that the Government should consider the effect on the farmer. If all the oleomargarine were divided there would only be one-quarter of an ounce for each person. If all the cheese were divided there would be only one-quarter of a pound. On this date there was slightly over three million dozen eggs or a third of a dozen for each person. Of pork there was two and a half pounds per person and of beef three and a half pounds. The Senator pointed out that this was usually the time of large production of eggs. At present production was low and small stocks were being accumulated and unless there was greater production there would be a famine in eggs. Senator Robertson did not give an encouraging story as to the butter situation. He said that in 1918 Canada did not produce enough butter to feed her own people. He declared, "that any persons in Canada who believe that the shortage of high price of butter is due to its being laid away in cold storage are wrong. It would be better to have it to the true situation the better it will be for all concerned."

WINNIPEG AND TORONTO SITUATION

At this time of writing, opinions expressed by both Labor leaders and employers indicate that a settlement in the general strike of more than 30,000 Winnipeg union employes had passed and that a settlement of the differences was in the hands of the arbitrator. Representatives and heads of the iron industry are promised. Jas. Winning, president of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council, has not only refused to consider a strike settlement on the basis of general union recognition and reinstatement of all union men who went on strike.

British Railwaymen and Government Offer. A London, England, despatch states that the industrial situation is brighter and more full of hope than it has been for many months, which fact may lead the more cautious and speculative employers to embark on those schemes of development held up in the name of the uncertainty in position of the world of labor.

A Union Man. A few stanzas of Union Poetry written by a member of the Post's Union: You say you are a Union man, The more you talk the more you can't help the cause along. Buy Union Label boots and hats And don't support sweat shop rats. Or you'll be going wrong.

British Clothing Trade to Have Rates. The British Government has taken action with regard to the clothing trade which will go far to deal with the special difficulties of the situation. The Minister of Labor has issued an order fixing the rates of wages varying from 14 an hour for men and 12 for women and 10 for girls under 17 who are engaged in the manufacture of women's and children's clothing. This was a national emergency trade, and during the war the employers found that they had to pay higher wages in order to keep their girls from the more attractive munitions work. Since the armistice was signed there arose a danger that these higher wages might be broken and the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Act only protected the workers in cases where there had been general awards or orders. In this particular trade these orders only covered a very small part, and it would have taken a very long time to get the clothing trade established and an order issued under it. The Minister of Labor has therefore taken ad-

tion and reinstatement of all union men who went on strike. The threatened general strike in Toronto may be averted as the strained situation between the workers and their employers is beginning to ease up. Interested parties with a view of a settlement will meet a committee of the metal trades when it is thought a decided step towards the settlement of the metal trades strike is settled there will be an end to the talked-of sympathetic general strike.

Advantage of a provision in the Wage Act which provided that where there was no general award or order the rates paid to women must be at least 80 per cent of the rates paid to men in the same trade unless some other rate is fixed by the Minister on the advice of the Interim Court of Arbitration.

SAFETY FIRST. "Every man an absent-minded idiot," was the first remark of his first meeting with the circular saw. The foreman, with a few well-chosen and richly flavored words, informed him how to work the contrivance.

CONDENSED HUMOR. "Wee Miss—Mamma, mayn't I take the part of a milk-maid at the fancy dress dance?" "Mamma—You are too little."

THE RIGHT IDEA. "It's perfectly splendid to think you're one of the heroes who went over there to die for your country!" "You're absolutely right. I just over to make some other guy die for his—Life."

TORONTO METAL TRADES ISSUES STATEMENT.

President R. Brown and Secretary A. Hamilton have issued the following statement relative to the strike in Toronto: The Metal Trades Council of Toronto, representing several of the workers engaged in these trades, has received the following statement from the Ontario Government: The Ontario Government has adopted the eight-hour day immediately. We speak for the workers engaged in these trades and we believe we represent for practically the entire rest of the working citizenship of Canada, comprising 6,900,000 people more or less.

Shortening of hours of labor is just as vital to the physical welfare of the Canadian people as is factory legislation safeguarding machinery and child labor regulations. The eight-hour day is long since passed in the iron industries of itself long.

The employers for whom we supply the best of everything, and plenty of it, have a short work day, the rest of us work longer hours and receive insufficient to maintain our former standards of living.

Workers Mostly in Favor. Practically all of the great body of Canadian men and women who toil, and who are the vast majority of the people of this country, are in favor of the eight-hour day. They are the people who not only provide the means of their employes, but enable them to enjoy the shorter work day which the employers' Association already has.

The improvement in machinery, and the multiple improvements in processes, have made a much shorter work day possible. A Dominion-wide referendum shortening of hours of labor would show a tremendous unanimity of opinion in favor of this legislation.

Say Workers Neglected. The interests of the workers have been sadly neglected by politicians, preachers, professors and press writers in their propaganda for the good of the community. There does not appear to be anything left for the workers but to close up their ranks and become insistent in these matters affecting their welfare and happiness.

Grave Loss of Time. Another factor that is becoming increasingly important is the loss of time by the workers through the lack of work which causes their annual income to be a moderate one. We are not satisfied to remain standard of living than which has hitherto prevailed. We want better working conditions to participate in the benefits due to improvement in production continually taking place.

The Employers' Association, by its decision not to meet with us, declares that we are not entitled to and shall not have any voice in the determination of the wages which we shall work and live on, or as to what remuneration we shall receive.

It is the attitude of dictators and tyrannical in the extreme. It is an impossible situation—a situation that cannot continue permanently amongst intelligent men and women who are the status and interest of each is submerged in the interests of all.

The following is a comparative statement of claim of employes and claim of the respective unions as to wages paid in the United States, including the present demand of the Metal Trades Council:

Employers' Association claim paid in the United States: Heavy forgery, 52c per hour; hammer men, 51c per hour; tool and die makers, 51c per hour; hardeners, 48c per hour.

Actual rates paid in United States: Heavy forgery, 41.48c per hour; hammer men, 39c per hour; blacksmiths, 39c per hour; tool and die makers, 39c per hour; heavy fitters, 64c per hour; heavy fitters, 64c per hour; toolsmiths, 96c per hour.

Employers' Association do not state rate paid in United States. Actual rate paid in border states, 80c.

Metal Trades Council's demand, 80c.

Machinists. Employers' Association claim rate paid in U.S., 87c per hour. Actual rates paid, 80c-90c per hour. Metal Trades Council demand, 86c per hour.

Moulders. Employers' Association do not state rate paid in U.S. Metal Trades Council's demand, 76c per hour.

Metal Polishers. Employers' Association claim rate paid in U.S., 83c per hour. Actual rates paid, 60c-110c per hour. Metal Trades Council's demand, 68c per hour.

Pattern Makers. Employers' Association claim rate paid in U.S., 87c per hour. Actual rates paid, 75c-112 1-2. Metal Trades Council's demand, 90c per hour.

Seventy-five per cent. of the members of the above-mentioned unions are working on an eight-hour basis.

SOLDIERS ON THE LAND. While there has been some natural disappointment in parts of the west—on account of the difficulties in the way of a speedy settlement of returned soldiers on the land, we believe that generally the plan of the Soldier Settlement Board, as outlined in the report of March and April, there was a real opportunity for the soldier-privileges offered by the board, and in some cases the soldiers' offices were organized; but Mr. Black, chairman of the board, overcame the difficulty by authorizing his representatives in the west to employ as many temporary land inspectors as were needed to pass upon the farms, for the purchase of which loans were asked.

The number of applicants qualified to go on the land during the past two months in the four western provinces is approximately 5,000. Thousands of returned veterans who have had farming experience suggested upon the opportunity to become land owners under this scheme, thus confounding the false prophets who for political reasons or otherwise have been predicting confusion and failure, and the reluctance on the part of ex-servicemen to go back to the cities.

The Soldier Settlement Board has made a genuine effort to devise a workable plan of settlement and has

INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY

Under the auspices of the Independent Labor party, of Ottawa, the Independent Labor party, of Ottawa, Mr. James Simpson, of Toronto, President W. T. McDowell occupying the chair, introducing the speaker to a capacity audience at the Regent Theatre.

The subject of Mr. Simpson's address was "New Zealand's Democracy." Mr. Simpson has recently returned from a six months' tour of New Zealand, and he comes back an enthusiastic believer in that country's methods and ideals. He said there was no reason why Canada should not be just as far advanced towards democracy.

Mr. Simpson said that if there was to be the impression that New Zealand had established a democracy of a character not heard of in this country, it was not his impression. He wished to show them that with similar institutions in use greater progress had been made towards democracy in Canada.

What had been accomplished in New Zealand had been accomplished by making a better use of the franchise. In New Zealand there were only 19,000 people not of British birth, so that if it had not been for this, it would have been a much more difficult matter to do with the franchise. In New Zealand the men in whom the Government of the country was invested saw it their duty to make the best use of the franchise and public services should be guarded in the carrying out of their policies. There was greater democracy in New Zealand than in Canada or the United States. The difference between a politician and a statesman was that the former was interested in the party and the latter to fight for and legislate in the interests of the people he represented.

Would Such Things? Although much larger in area and population, the same principles of Government carried out in New Zealand were capable of being carried out in Canada. A young country could be best developed if the nation itself undertook the construction and management of its transportation system. In New Zealand the people had constructed and operated its railways and every car and locomotive was made in New Zealand. It had saved hundreds and ninety millions had been spent in this way. "And after spending that amount," said Mr. Simpson, "it could do no better to buy them back and pay perhaps one hundred and ninety millions over again for them." Through the operation of the New Zealand transportation system, New Zealand was not confronted with the same problems as Canada and the United States. One of the advantages of the New Zealand railway system was that in rural districts school children were taken from school and special consideration was

into operation without loss of time. It is a matter of necessity of increasing the volume of agricultural products and adding to the wealth of the nation. It has also seen and grasped the opportunity to provide homes for many of the veterans of the great war, under conditions of settlement that are bound to be productive of very gratifying results.

It is, of course, impossible to set out the details of the New Zealand return of men who have a desire to make farming their permanent occupation. But good progress has been made, and the country will see a great many men lately returned from overseas operating their own farms. Many others are planning to take advantage of the opportunity of attending courses at training farms or engaging with selected farmers to help them to get their feet on their own land and experience. Those who begin their life work in this way will have the summer to look about them and make a choice of the farms upon which they desire to settle, and complete all arrangements for an early commencement of operations near the end of the year, especially to the soldiers who are only now reaching Canada. Many of them will go on training farms as students, to secure employment opportunities for many of the veterans of the great war, under conditions of settlement that are bound to be productive of very gratifying results.

It is wholly unfair to organized labor to associate it with the extreme radicalism which are causing the trouble of today. In a recent article, Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, said: "The American labor movement cannot fall to understand that it stands for something constructive, while anarchy and Bolshevism are destructive philosophies."

The great trouble is that too few people even attempt to understand the American labor movement. There is too large an element that merely assumes that trade unionism is something terrible which should be avoided as a disease. There is much wisdom for education among the people on that subject. But there is a class of employers that seeks to pervert the real understanding of the labor movement and make it appear that it is something else than what it actually is—Bolshevism's Journal.

WHAT IS THE LABOR MOVEMENT? Unfortunately there are people who do not understand what trade unionism means. There are some who, every time they think of unionism, immediately think of anarchy and bolshevism. They associate the two elements because they do not know the difference. And it is unfortunate, also, that there are employes in this country who encourage just such a belief on the part of the public. Such employers are opposed to trade unions and they use this method of fighting organized labor, in the hope that they may thus be able to create a prejudice against trade unions in the minds of the people.

Organized labor does not mean anarchy or bolshevism. There is as much difference between the two as there is between day and night. Anarchy and bolshevism stand for darkness and disorder. Organized labor stands for sunlight and order.

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