

EDMONTON FREE PRESS

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GENERAL STRIKES NOT PRACTICAL

It's an ill wind that blows no good. Strikes throughout the country in sympathy with Winnipeg—and the Winnipeg strike itself—have demonstrated the impracticability of the general strike as a means of forcing a decision in Labor disputes.

A general strike was attempted at Seattle. It was a failure. A general strike was attempted at Winnipeg. It is a general strike no longer.

The general strike too quickly sacrifices sympathy of the public. Statistics show that without public support few strikes have ever been successful. The general strike stops the wheels of all industrial activity.

Organized Labor might as well look these facts squarely in the face, unpleasant though they may be for many. But cost what they may, unpleasant as they may be, just or unjust, facts must be considered and dealt with as they are, not as what they should be.

Organized Labor is in a big fight all over Canada. With soldiers returning from overseas requiring employment; with the government taking practically no steps to inaugurate activities to absorb that Labor, industrial barons and big combinations of capital employing Labor are seeking to smash unionism to the end of a general reduction in the price of Labor without a reduction in the cost of commodities.

Labor asks what is the solution to the problem then? The O.B.U. replies: a general strike, bringing the entire nation to a dead halt until the desired end is attained, or material steps are taken toward its solution.

A plausible procedure of winning the fight against the Triple Alliance of Winnipeg has been suggested by E. E. Roper, writing in a recent issue of the Edmonton Bulletin. He advised that Trades' unions return to work with the exception of the Winnipeg metal trades' workers.

THE STRIKE BREAKER

When Labor men are on strike, strike breakers receive little public sympathy. That industrial concern which attempts to break a strike by such methods usually precipitates trouble and makes matters decidedly worse.

He earns the enmity of his fellow citizens who belong to Organized Labor, loses the respect of the community generally. Those who encourage him in fighting his brother workers in their efforts to better conditions for all who toil, are men with selfish and personal interests which they want served, if not at the time, then at another day.

Look at the thing squarely, unselfishly, without bias or prejudice, and there are none who fail to recognize these facts. Self respecting citizens very properly resent being classed as strike breakers.

QUESTION OF PROCEDURE

Quite a number of internationals have advised unions under their jurisdiction to return to work as regards the Winnipeg sympathetic strike. Other internationals have refused their unions taking a strike vote—particularly in the railroads' running trades.

In its last week's issue the EDMONTON FREE PRESS in its editorial columns which express the convictions of the paper itself, and which have been, are now, and always will be used to advance the cause of Organized Labor at all times, suggested that Organized Labor in Edmonton return to work and thereby lift what had been to all intents and purposes a general strike.

impossible of prolongation, and an undesirable weapon for Organized Labor to use. It was with full cognizance that many union men could not at that time, nor yet, see eye to eye with the paper in this respect.

It is quite possible—may further, it is a fact—that the FREE PRESS had a broader perspective of the local situation than those actively directing the policies of the strike, and we are thoroughly convinced that the time is not far distant when Trades' Unionism, as a whole will recognize and concede that the suggestion was sound, was right and opportune.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND SCHEDULE AGREEMENTS

Trades' Unionists most properly claim the same right as capital to organize. Organized Labor is generally conceded the right to bargain collectively. And therein lies a fundamental factor that no Trades' Unionist can lose sight of.

THE INTERNATIONALS

If ever there was a time in the history of Organized Labor when Trades' Unions require their Internationals, it is now. It would appear that the fight against Labor is national. And because of this Labor cannot, must not, dissolve itself into isolated independent sectional groups recognizing no central and directing force.

The employers of Labor do few things hastily. Their combines are national in scope. The keenest brains supported by unlimited money are employed in handling their case. There can be no doubt that the disruption of Trades' Unionism is an end they are seeking to bring about.

WHO ARE THE REVOLUTIONISTS?

There are millions of children working in the varied industries of the so-called civilized and Christian nations. Many of them are working in direct violation of the laws of the land.

Hundreds of thousands are working at machines under conditions which are a menace to lives and health. Stockholders are insisting that earnings be kept up and dividends be not reduced.

Textile and other factory workers have an endless struggle for living above the existence line. Hunger and want are ever a menace to the families that send these children to the factories.

Injustice, oppression, poverty, want and destruction breed despair that ripens into rebellion. Who is furnishing a fertile soil for revolutionists' propaganda? Who is brewing a hell's broth for Bolshevism?—Blacksmith's Journal.

CO-OP. SOCIETIES OPERATE BANK

Russia has 50,000 co-operative societies and the membership of these is found in 20,000,000 head of families. As the average family is at least five strong, this means 100,000,000 individuals bound in a co-operative movement which operated the strongest bank in Russia—a bank that did a billion dollar business every year; a bank so popular and stable that Lenin and Trotsky dare not touch it.

Failing to reach an adjustment of the differences between the Moving Picture Operators' Union and the owners of the theatres in Brunswick, Ga., all of the operators ceased work. Increased wage demand was the cause of the strike.

JAMAICA INSISTS THAT IMMIGRANTS ALL BE EDUCATED

A law prohibiting the landing in Jamaica of aliens who cannot pass literacy tests, or are undesirable, was passed by the legislative council. The penalty is a fine of \$1,000 and deportation. The master of a steamship from which the immigrant lands also is liable to a fine of \$500.

MEAT CUTTERS IN NEW ORLEANS ARE CUTTING UP SOME

Insisting that they want eight hours and no Sunday work, the butchers of New Orleans, La., got together and completed an organization of the Meat Cutters' and Butcher Workmen's Union. They have been working 14 hours a day and seven days a week.

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