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UNTRUTHFUL PROPAGANDA

Edmonton trades' unionists will no doubt be surprised, and somewhat amused probably, to learn that in this fair city the moderate Labor element is on the run, fighting in the last ditch, while the victorious O.B.U. forces hold the fort. At least something to that effect is being heralded throughout the Dominion by the element that unsuccessfully attempted to dynamite the Labor movement. The same untruthful statements and gross and wilful exaggerations are being circulated with respect to other cities where conditions are similar to what they are in Edmonton. The trade union movement in this city is in a healthier condition at the present time than it has been for some years at any rate. A keener interest is being manifested by local unions and individual members; the organization of new locals and the steady increase of membership of locals already established, are features of the local Labor situation at the present time. Edmonton trades' unionists will be pardoned therefore, if they are amused when told that the O.B.U. is in the ascendency and the International movement on the rocks. As our Sporting Editor would say, "It is to smile behind one's hand."

But while there may be an amusing side to the question, there is also a grave danger in permitting such gross misrepresentation to go unchallenged. No man lives to himself alone, and the action of the trade union movement in one city is almost certain to have some influence in shaping the course of fellow workers in other centres. Edmonton has been recognized as a city where the organized workers refused to allow themselves to be torn asunder by the disrupting forces of the O.B.U. Edmonton trade unionists have, through the whole disturbance caused by the destructionist element, presented a united front to all opposition. If, then, the workers in other cities could be made to believe that Edmonton had gone O.B.U., it would stand as a great argument in favor of the secessionist movement. The decision of the local Trades' Council, to inform other cities of the most satisfactory situation prevailing here, was a wise one.

In view of the untruthful statements published regarding this city, it is only reasonable to assume that the propaganda respecting other cities is of the same misrepresenting nature. While the forces of disruption are endeavoring to bolster up a cause that was doomed to failure from the first, the recognized organizations of workers are becoming more firmly established than ever before in every part of Canada. In Calgary where conditions are misrepresented in the same manner as in Edmonton by the O.B.U. propagandists, the secessionist movement is practically non-existent. In Vancouver, which was considered an O.B.U. stronghold, in spite of desperate efforts on the part of Midgeley, Pritchard, Wells, et al, the workers are flocking back to the organizations which alone have advanced the cause of the workers. Regardless of misrepresentation and untruthful propaganda, in spite of vehement statements to the contrary, the destructionist movement is the one that is receiving the bumps as it travels the downward grade. "Facilis est descensus Avernii."

ALBERTA ALLIANCE GOING STRONG.

The writer, in the past week, had a first hand opportunity to size up the attitude of a section of Alberta teachers toward the Teachers' Alliance. To say that there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the organization, is putting it mildly indeed. In all parts of the province, the teachers in cities, towns, villages and the uttermost parts of Alberta, are only waiting to have an application placed before them. Realizing that their status is miserably low when the responsibility of their occupation is considered, the teachers are convinced that organization is their only hope. When they observe workers in every line of endeavor, outstripping them in every material direction, it is not to be wondered at that the pedagogues, of this and other provinces, as well as in other countries, are beginning to analyze their position.

And now that the teachers are adopting organizations along trade union lines, it would be wise to adopt methods of procedure that have proved beneficial in trade unionism. The Alberta Alliance has now a membership of over one thousand. It is confidently expected that by Easter over two thousand teachers will have been enrolled. No organization of that size can exist without proper business methods being applied, and the first step should be the appointment of a permanent financial secretary whose whole time would be devoted to the work of the organization. The Alliance can benefit very greatly in other ways by the experience of the Labor movement and should lose no time in allying itself with central bodies of trade unionism. If the spirit displayed by the teachers in the north-eastern part of the province, is typical of those in other parts, the desire is to go all the way in the matter of organizing along trade union lines. If the great tide of enthusiasm that is carrying the Alberta Alliance from one end of the province to the other, is taken advantage of and wisely directed, we predict that the teachers in this section of the Dominion will emulate the example of the National Union of Teachers in Britain and will soon be found in the very vanguard of the Organized Labor movement in Alberta.

INSURANCE.

The insurance business as conducted on this continent is undoubtedly the most flagrant example of indefensible waste of energy and resources that might be put to productive use. In no other line of business enterprise is there a greater duplication of service and dissipation of human effort.

The principle of life insurance is sound. So sound, in fact, that the matter of making provision for wife and children on the death of any individual, should not be permitted to rest on the whim of any individual. What we term life insurance should be a national institution, and should be participated in by all who might be left unprotected for by the death of the husband and father. Or in other words, state insurance, after the principle of the Workmen's Compensation Act, is what should prevail. The Compensation Act provides for, in addition to payments to the injured worker, payments to the widow or other dependents on the death of a workman while engaged at his daily occupation. The broadening of that principle to make the same provision for dependents, regardless of how or where the worker met death, is most desirable, and sound in theory. But apart from the social value of compulsory state insurance, would be the economic importance of the elimination of private enterprise in the insurance business. It is reasonable to assume that the administration forces employed by any one of the large life insurance concerns, would be sufficiently large to administer a national scheme of compulsory state insurance. Thus, a great army of workers would be released, whose energy could be directed to useful productive effort. In these days when the cry is "greater production," and the worker is admonished to refrain from demanding a shorter work-day on that account, would it not be well to eliminate the dissipation of potential productive effort?

CONDITIONS OF PROGRESS.

We are told that—
The open shop is essential to progress and prosperity, and—
The closed shop means less production, less work, higher costs. All of which is proved untrue by the records.
What the opponents of Unionism call the closed shop is properly called a union shop. What they call an open shop is a non-union shop,

almost invariably closed to union men. Certainly closed to active unionism.

Unions demand a wage adequate to maintain the worker according to modern standards of living; proper hours of work, having regard for the health of the workers and their families; healthful working conditions in order that the health of the workers may be conserved and their usefulness to society prolonged and intensified.

These conditions do not make for high prices and low production. If unfair, wasteful forces, over which the worker has no control, did not enter into costs at other points, we should have fair prices and high production.

A contemporary writer states that:

What Judge Gary calls the open shop, which is the non-union shop, has been the dark nesting place of reaction in industry, the soggy standing ground of low wages, long work days (twelve hours a day now in much of the steel industry) and improper working conditions. The non-union shop has been the foe of progress. It has been the friend and co-partner of illiteracy, under-nourishment, under-development, broken health and premature death. Who does not know the shameful story of non-union cotton and woolen mills?

The union shop is essential to progress. The non-union shop is essential to industrial autocracy and reaction and is the principal agency through which the autocracy is able to practice injustice upon the workers.

The things that Organized Labor demands are conditions of progress; they are demands out of which progress is realized in the lives of men.

EDITOR'S NOTES.

The fine batch of local union news which we receive each week is encouraging. There is still room for more, however.

We note from our Labor exchanges that the Laundry Workers' Unions are active in many cities. Clark, Daly, Neale, et al, please note.

The Alberta Civil Service Association might well emulate the example of the City Hall employees. For a live organization, we'll say "52" is mighty hard to beat.

In the Labor movement solidarity spells success. An attack on Labor's corporate solidarity, from any source, can only have for its object the defeat of the workers.

Now that Sam Gompers is losing some of his prestige among those who recently were singing his praises so loudly, where are we to look for the "safe and sane" Labor leader?

Does any normal individual really believe that an employer wants the "open shop" in his industry in order to protect the "freedom" of his workers?

Is this live western city of Edmonton to be behind Hamilton, Cranford and other eastern cities in the matter of electing Labor representatives to civic offices?

An advertisement of the steel trust a few years ago read: "Men wanted—Syrians, Poles and Rumanians preferred." Evidently Gary's antipathy toward the "ignorant foreigner," is of somewhat recent birth.

After all, the matter of collective bargaining does not rest with a conference in Ottawa, Washington or Timbuctoo. If the workers want to bargain collectively they only need to organize in sufficient numbers, and collective bargaining will follow as a matter of course. Of course it will.

In 1892 when the Homestead steel strike took place, 90 per cent. of the workers were native Americans. Then started the influx of foreigners to eliminate the Americans. Now that the foreigners have become sufficiently Americanized to repeat the dose, we can look for the importation of more alien workers for the steel mills.

The model form of contract adopted by the Alberta Teachers' Alliance is excellent—as far as it goes. When the Alliance has its organization completed (and at the present rate of enrollment that will soon be), we hope to see the adoption of a collective bargaining contract which will be entered into by the Alliance and not by the individual teacher.

William M. Wood of the American Woolen Co., blames Labor for the existing unrest. He gives seven reasons to support his claim, the first of which is typical of the other six: "The desire of Labor to maintain an income adequate to meet the great increase in the cost of living." This is, at least, an important admission. We have, if our memory serves us right, been led to believe that Labor was responsible for "the great increase in the cost of living." Then if Labor is not responsible for the cause of unrest, why blame Labor for the effect?

CIVIC SERVICE UNION REPLIES TO MAYOR'S LETTER

No. "52's" Reply to Mayor's Communication Given Such Wide Publication

Civic Service to Mayor
Civic Service Union No. 52 has addressed the following letter to Mayor Clarke in reply to his communication which was given such wide publication in the press this week:
His Worship Mayor Clarke.

Dear Sir: We beg to acknowledge your letter of the 3rd inst. and that of the Commission Board of the 1st inst. It is not our intention to go into all the questions raised in your communication, as we consider that many of them are not within the province of this organization, and were intended for the information of the general public.

That a most important problem has to be solved by the Commission Board is apparent to this organization. We believe that the most important part of the problem is to find a man or men, who will see to it that the citizens of Edmonton are supplied with electric energy and water, not merely during the peak load periods, but throughout the entire year. Any individual interests must be subservient to this one great need. We do not feel, therefore, that the Commission Board should be hampered in the choice of this man (or men) in any form whatever. In fact, it is our desire to be of service to you in this regard. That was the spirit which actuated us in forwarding the communication in question. In fact we believe that the most efficient servants

MUSICIANS' UNION WILL PUT "JAZZ" IN CIVIC CAMPAIGN

Harry J. Clark, the popular delegate from the Musicians' Union, is chairman of the Organization Committee in charge of the civic election campaign. If Harry puts his usual "pep" into the work the candidates are as good as elected.

The Musicians' Union was pleased at the selection of one of their members to the important position at the head of the organization committee, and the members have intimated that they intend to put some "jazz" in the campaign.

NOTICE.
Civic campaign meetings will be held Tuesday evening, November 11, in Labor Hall, and Wednesday evening, November 12th, at Riverside School, and on Saturday, November 15th at the Oddfellows' Hall, Calder. Candidates will speak at all meetings.

An up-to-the-minute Buffalo firm has the last word on efficiency in collections printed on its billheads: "Man is dust. Dust settles. Be a man."

of the city have risen from the ranks. This fact actuated us in our decision and the letter was forwarded as a suggestion. No other motive was in mind, and we are not interested as a body what politicians may have in mind. We are not a political body nor do we dabble in municipal politics. This fact we cannot emphasize too strongly, and we hope that we have made ourselves perfectly clear.

Yours truly,
Executive Committee, Civic Service Union No. 52.
Per C. M. SMAIL,
Recording Secretary.

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Price, per square yd.

HUDSON'S BAY CO.
JOHN H. BARNETT
INSTALLS OFFICERS IN MOULDERS' UNION
John H. Barnett, third vice-president of the International Moulders' Union of North America, was in the city this week and officiated at the installation of officers in the new Moulders' Union just organized. The new union is a 100% organization, all the moulders in the city having joined up.

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