

BELGIUM'S APPEAL TO THE WORKER

Call of Montreal Trades and Labour Council for instant aid to Belgian Trade Unionists who have been despoiled of homes and savings by German invaders.

To the Officers and Members of Labor Unions.

Gentlemen and Brothers,—

The Trades and Labor Council of Montreal, wishing to follow up the splendid sentiments expressed by Brothers Sedden and Bellamy, the two delegates from the British Trades and Labor Congress, at the meeting held in St. Joseph's Hall, last November, have decided to make a special call in favor of Belgian Trade Unionists.

You all know that Belgium has given to the world the finest example of faithfulness to its traditional friendship, of loyalty and bravery, and as a result it is now almost entirely in the hands of German soldiers.

Cradle of Great Liberties.

From every part of the world, words of comfort have been dispatched to her, and with a most generous feeling; hands offering relief are extended to those who are in flight or suffering from the invaders.

Belgium was a small, happy country, inviting other great nations around her to share her happiness. Belgium was living in peace and quiet, trusting to the treaties which insured her neutrality.

This country, gifted by a marvellous activity, the cradle of the greatest liberties, felt in honor bound to enact laws for the moral and intellectual uplifting of its workingmen, to improve the conditions of labor for the benefit of the proletariat. And these laws, admired all over the world, have served as a standard to other people who have copied them.

In order to give a stronger impetus to the international labor movement, a large number of Belgian syndicates and labor unions had deposited in England and especially in Germany, considerable

sums of money derived from their relief funds.

What is there left now of this prosperous situation? How have the German plutocrats acknowledged the hospitality which was accorded them?

Families are Starving.

They have burned the cities, shelled the churches, destroyed the crops, ruined the mills and manufactures, robbed the banks and popular savings institutions, killed the women, shot the men, maimed the children. And after having taken possession of considerable funds deposited in Germany by Belgian workers, they have imprisoned the best workers whom they have robbed of their belongings and dragged them as slaves to force them to work and manufacture war material which was intended to aid in the destruction of their country and their families already in a state of starvation.

Brothers and fellow workers, these are the reasons which prompt us to make an appeal to the brotherly spirit which would bind us to this heroic nation.

Shall more than 5,000,000 people be left to perish through starvation after having gone through all the horrors of war?

Subscribe together in the name of your union, subscribe personally as your means allow, in order to help those who are the martyrs of German barbarism, and in this manner, you will be paying homage to the sublime sacrifice of Belgium in offering herself as a victim for the security and the right of all nations to life and liberty.

ALPHONSE VERILLE, M.P., President,
JOS. AINEY, City Commissioner, Vice-
J. T. FOSTER, President,
G. R. BRUNET,
JAMES DRURY,
AUGUSTE BODDARD,
GUS. FRANCO, Secretary-Treasurer.