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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

OPPOSITION TO COMMISSION.

IN the appointment of a commission, by the Ontario Premier, to make investigation and report on the Hydro Radials, President Tom Moore, of the Trades Congress, has considered it his duty to take exception to the necessity for such commission work. His attitude has been questioned more especially from sources that cannot be called friendly to either the Farmer-Labor Government of the province or to organized labor itself.

This division of opinion from two responsible heads is thus being seized upon in an attempt to show the lack of common purpose between the parties which control the reins of Government of Ontario, and utilizing the situation under review to discredit the coalition party, to the advancement of self-interest. Making of capital from such is common in the political realm, but it does not in any way serve to solve problems or aid to the bridging of difficulties.

The purpose of President Moore's attitude may not be questioned as other than a supporter of the Government and for the public good. His outspoken method must merit approval both from his own supporters and those who are opposed to the public ownership movement of the Hydro Commission.

President Moore has proven himself friendly at all seasons to the Farmer-Labor combination, not alone from the advent of the coalition to power, but his actions in personal platform effort prior to the success at the polls, in supporting the labor and farmer candidates are well known and belie any question as to his being in any way unfriendly to the present Ontario Government. This is the true position in this respect, notwithstanding any effort of oppositionists to present the division of opinion on the commission appointment in such a light.

In the arguments presented by the Congress president, the democratic side of the issue is made manifestly evident in the reference to the municipalities most directly concerned having voiced approval of the radial project at the polls. Further than this, insofar as the organized worker, of which he is the head, is concerned, public ownership in this regard has full approval not of the moment but for years past.

Viewed in any light the position taken by President Moore is nothing more nor less than a position of right which may not be usurped, however strongly the chain of friendship and goodwill may be forged. This angle is well defined when President Moore stated:

> "If the Drury Government attempts to thwart the policies thought out for many years by organized labor, it will be my duty to take issue with it, and I intend to oppose those policies rather than be subservient to the Labor-Farmer Government. This is not meant as a challenge to the Government, but the Farmer element must take cognizance of the policies laid down by the organized labor before embarking upon such a course as it is at present adopting. The alliance must be one of equal partnership and not one of the lion and the mouse with the latter inside the lion. I owe no apologies to anyone for protecting the policy of the movement of which I am the head."

Opposition to the commission is in this instance directed against the duplicity of work, and if we may borrow a phrase from Premier Drury a refusal of the Labor chief to be of the "rubber stamp" variety. It is a difference in opinion, but foreign to anything save of a friendly and constructive nature. The candor displayed by the Labor official is of that type which is a common ingredient in the make-up of Labor's advisers, that has been largely responsible for stability and growth both of the International Trade Union Movement and the Independent Labor Party, and as such is ever welcomed.

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APPLY ALL AROUND.

IT is indeed a happy position to find one's self in, that when the dollar is shrinking in value it is possible to say yea and bring compensation through the increasing of the number of dollars received. This is exactly the position occupied by our legislators. Despite an ineffective outsider's grumble it is perhaps as well to see the situation as one to be admired—worthy a happy mood, and how further application of this easy method of salary increase could be made effective to all.

To have easily removed any cause for complaint in increasing the indemnity, all that was necessary was at the same time to pass an act allowing their constituents to have similar privilege in estimating their worth. This would have been sauce for goose and gander. The legislators will be acclaimed who will make effective such general application of a law which leaves the estimation of one's own salary to the individual himself, not forgetting to add thereto a five-year term before any adjustment can be made.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers In the Motherland Are Doing.

OUR WEEKLY BRITISH LETTER.

The joint committee representing the Labor Party, the Trade Union Congress and the co-operative societies, which is investigating the cost of living, of which J. H. Thomas is chairman, has held several meetings, and is first devoting its attention to financial problems dealing with banking, foreign exchanges, currency inflation, floating debts and other kindred matters. On Friday, Sir George Paish, famous as a financial statistician, gave evidence, and several other distinguished experts have been examined.

The inquiry is not being conducted from a purely Labor standpoint; the majority of witnesses have so far come from outside of the Labor movement. Independent research work is also going on as regards housing and the relative cost of building by direct labor, by the building guild method and by private enterprise. Costs of specific commodities, such as foodstuffs and articles of clothing, are also being inquired into; in fact, the motive is one of public spirit, and Labor hopes to make a contribution to national and international policy on the question of prices. The investigation is to be on broad lines.

Unauthorized Strikes.

The problems of Labor leaders have not been lightened by the unauthorized strikes in Manchester of the gas workers and the refusal of the typographical association in that neighborhood to comply with their requests. Undoubtedly the tendency of some trade-unionists to defy the executives of the unions and start unauthorized strikes is causing great uneasiness to those who have Labor's interest most at heart. As a case in point the gas strike at Manchester, like the tramway strike in the same district, was unauthorized, breaking away from the agreement made by the men's leaders, and again Liverpool and Manchester have shown this unruly disposition in the case of the typographical association. Such action will strike a blow at the whole idea of collective bargaining and seriously impair the prestige of the unions.

After much persuasion the Bristol gas workers have decided to resume work on an understanding similar to that arrived at in Manchester, but as to the typographical association, despite instructions issued to hold over the tendering of the notice of strike, the local committee asserts that the embargo on overtime decided upon by the membership remains unalterable, so that Manchester Saturday evening papers will not appear.

Engineers' Demand Refused.

As if to stem the tide of ever-increasing wages following after the increased cost of living, the Industrial Court has rejected the demand of the engineers, which would have involved an additional wages bill of £120,000,000 per annum. The court has been dealing with the claim for an advance of 6d. per hour for 2,000,000 workmen in the engineering, foundry and shipbuilding trades, and it decided on Thursday against the increase, finding that the claims submitted have not been established. The workmen are very dissatisfied with the rejection and it is understood that the next move will be intensive workshop propaganda for a five guinea minimum wage per week.

They reject the contention of the Industrial Court that the state of trade was the supreme factor in its decision, and allege that the court has done a disservice to the whole of the industry by its arguments.

The Miners' Threats.

The miners' drastic action in threatening a general strike is not so serious as it may have seemed. The decision cannot be reached until the unions put the question to the ballot, and much water may flow under London Bridge before direct action is adopted by Labor.

The miners' new joint demand for the reduction in the price of domestic coal and for an increase of wages has been presented to the Coal Controller and will now be considered by the president of the Board of Trade. It is almost certain that the Cabinet will have to consider the matter. Undoubtedly the miners will receive public support so far as the reduced price of domestic coal is concerned, but, as to a further increase of wages, that is a doubtful matter. The average wages cost per ton of coal in 1913 was 6s. 10d., while today the cost on every ton of coal at pithead for labor is over 25s. 2d., or nearly four times as much as pre-war cost, while increased wages are responsible for much of the rise in the cost.

Reduced output is also an important factor. At the present time there are over 1,200,000 operators employed in the mines as compared with 1,110,000 in 1913, and yet the coal output is now only at the rate of about 240,000,000 tons per annum, as against 287,000,000 tons for 1913.

How serious this matter is for industrial England is shown by the fact that American coal for February was 11s per ton at the pit, which means that, even after allowing for railway haul to the coast, American coal can be placed on board ship for export at less than 20s per ton, as against 45s per ton for Welsh coal on board ship in the Bristol Channel.

Many wonder why a patriotic leader of Robert Smillie's character should not be sobered by these figures, instead of taking the stand of applying a general strike to force the miners' conception of the best policy in Ireland on the country. The direct action vote at the Trade Union Congress was undoubtedly a bombshell, but before a decision can be reached most of the unions must vote, an important matter will have to take a ballot before any strike is called.

Matt. Tearle, local secretary of the Seamen's Union, addressed a large meeting of seamen at Cardiff on Tuesday and said that if the miners' leaders, instead of going about the country talking about raising the Russian blockade, went to the miners and said: "Never mind about raising the Russian blockade, raise more coal and get the dollar back to its old value," things would be much better. He for one placed the whole responsibility for stagnation at the port of Cardiff on the miners.

THERE WERE OTHERS.

"So our engagement is at an end?" said the blonde youth.

"It is certainly at an end," replied the fickle brunette.

"I suppose you will return the engagentent ring?"

"I certainly will if you call around some night and pick it out."

LAUNCH ATTACK ON CONGRESS AND DRAPER

Draper Characterizes Same as Part of Campaign of O. B. U.

Little hope of obtaining coal in large quantities for next winter was extended to the Trades and Labor Council last Thursday night by the executive committee. The original idea had been to buy large quantities for distribution amongst members, on a co-operative basis.

The committee, however, had met with very little success in their efforts in this direction, and J. Foley, second vice-president of the Journeymen Barbers' International Union, informed the meeting that there was no hope of getting coal from the mines in Pennsylvania, his home, except inferior grades which he did not recommend them to try. The opinion was strongly expressed that the coal mines of Canada ought to be more fully developed.

The question of sending three delegates to the Dominion Trades Congress aroused a storm of criticism, both of the Congress and of its secretary, P. M. Draper. Delegate Kerrigan's forcibly expressed opinion brought a protest from one of the policemen's representatives, resulting in a vigorous argument and some choice epithets. Delegates Thompson and Spealing continued the attack on the Congress, and Delegate Kerrigan moved to refer the matter to the committee. After a period of stormy disorder Chairman Foster succeeded in putting the question, when the motion was lost. Delegates R. Lynch, J. Gauthier and A Mathieu were elected delegates to the Congress.

To replace Delegates Thompson and Maguire, who resigned, Delegates Trudel and Griffard were elected to the executive council. A committee of the following delegates was appointed to study the coal question further: J. T. Foster, Dickson, Thompson, Kerrigan, Alfred Mathieu and McLean.

The attack led by Delegate Kerrigan in the Montreal Trades and Labor Council, Thursday, was characteristic of the campaign of vilification and misrepresentation being carried on in certain cities of the Dominion "by a small group of revolutionary, direct-action, One Big Union advocates," Secretary Draper said. He referred to Delegate Kerrigan as the nominee of this coterie at the Ottawa convention of the Trades and Labor Congress for the position of secretary-treasurer against himself. Mr. Kerrigan had succeeded, in polling 32 votes of some 300 odd delegates.

"His statement that money was used to bribe delegates is foolish in the extreme," Mr. Draper said. "All delegates are elected by their respective organizations in widely scattered parts of the Dominion and come to the congress absolutely free. As long as I am an official of the congress, this One Big Union group will never control its policies, if I can prevent it. I am well aware that an organized anti-administration campaign is in full swing, along the same lines as that engineered before the Hamilton meeting, and I believe this is at the bottom of Mr. Kerrigan's attack."

LABOR NOT TO BLAME FOR HIGH LIVING COSTS

Interesting Figures Gleaned From U. S. Tax Returns.

Representative Rainey, Democrat of Illinois, during the closing days of the 66th Congress of the United States, recently adjourned sine die, discussing the income tax presented these startling statistics:

"There are two men in the United States whose income last year was over $16,000,000. There are five men in the United States whose income last year was over $5,000,000 apiece. In 1914, before the war started, there were 60 men whose annual incomes were over $1,000,000 apiece. Last year there were 248 men whose incomes were between $500,000 and $1,000,000 apiece. Last year there were 405 men whose incomes reached this immense sum. In 1914 there were 147 men whose incomes were between $300,000 and $400,000 apiece.

"Today there are 400 men who enjoy that large income. In 1914 there were 130 men whose incomes exceeded $250,000 and were under $300,000. Now there are 350 who enjoy that income. In 1914 there were 233 men with an income between $200,000 and $250,000. Now there are 750 men who enjoy that income. In 1914 there were 406 men whose incomes exceeded $150,000 and was under $200,000. Now there are 1,300 men who enjoy that income."

These figures refute the charge that labor, due to the high wages paid, were the greatest beneficiaries of war prosperity. The wages paid skilled labor were necessary by reason of the high cost of living. When it is shown by official statistics that a set of men can enjoy an income of $16,000,000, another $5,000,000 and others from $1,000,000 to $200,000 there is prima facie evidence that somebody is robbing the public and it is clear that it is not the wage earners or his wage scale.

That "no man possesses the ability to earn a million dollars in a life time" is a well accepted saying among men who know the value of a real dollar of 100 cents and who can approximate the amount of Labor it would require at the highest possible wage scale to earn that sum.

"Labor won the war" is an undisputed claim of organized labor. The fellow who laid away his millions on profits during the war on munitions, army supplies, contracts, cost-plus, necessities, taken from the Governments' emergency needs and the peoples' necessity, whose patriotism was based upon dollars are now the loudest howlers charging the laborers' wage scale as the cause of the high cost of living.

RURAL CREDITS FOR ONTARIO.

Hon. Manning Doherty, Minister of Agriculture, has named a special committee to investigate the question of a system of rural credits for Ontario. The members of the committee are Prof. W. T. Jackman, of the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto; Thos. McMillan, farmer, Seaforth, and Melville H. Staples, B.A., farmer, Hillbrook.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal.—Cain.

LABOR PROTECTS WOMEN.

The clause in the Bill dealing with the employment of women and young persons which would have enabled British factory owners to introduce a two-shift system for women and young persons was defeated by Labor in Committee of the British House of Commons recently by 23 votes to 5.

* * *

WOMEN MAY SIT ON JURIES IN BRITAIN.

In accordance with an Act of Parliament already passed, the lord chancellor of Great Britain announces that after July 15, women are liable to serve on juries under the same conditions as men. Husband and wife will not be permitted to serve on the same occasion.

* * *

EQUAL SUFFRAGE IN U. S.

Injunction proceedings brought by Charles S. Fairchild of New York, president of the American Constitutional League, to prevent the promulgation of the suffrage amendment when the necessary 36 states have ratified it, were dismissed by the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia on Thursday. The aim of the injunction move was to test the validity of the amendment. It sought to enjoin Bainbridge Colby, Secretary of State and A. Mitchell Palmer, Attorney-General of the equal suffrage law.

LABOR AND CAPITAL BOTH HAVE RIGHTS

Apply the Golden Rule in Dealing With Labor.

"The principle on which all concerned should deal with the labor question appears to me plain. It is the principle of the Golden Rule," declares Otto H. Kahn in his new book "Our Economic and Other Problems" (Doran). He pitilessly exposes the great existing evils of our economic system and suggests their remedy in a constructive and clearly defined programme.

Mr. Kahn speaks in no equivocal terms of the relation between capital and labor. "I think," he says frankly, "the formula should be that, first, labor is entitled to a living wage; after wage, what is left over belongs to both capital and labor, in such proportions as fairness and equity and reason shall determine in all cases."

An interesting angle on the intimate connection between capital and labor is the statement that "there are so many different kinds of capital. Not infrequently the laborer and capitalist overlap and merge into one. You have skilled labor and unskilled labor; you have the small employer, the large individual employer, the corporate employer, the farmer, the inventor, the prospector, etc. And then circumstances and conditions vary greatly, of course, in different parts of the country and in different industries. It is impossible to measure by the same yard-stick everywhere, but the principle of fairness can be stated."

Mr. Kahn outlines what he believes are the essential points on capital and labor to be followed by right-thinking men.

"The workman is neither a machine nor a commodity. He is a collaborator with capital. He must be given an effective voice in determining jointly with the employer the conditions under which he works. Individual capacity, industry and ambition must receive encouragement and recognition. Nor must the employer look for 'gratitude.' The worker's living conditions must be made dignified and attractive to himself and his family. Nothing is of greater importance. To the extent that the employer is unable to provide such homes. It becomes the duty of the state or the community.

"The worker must be relieved of the dread of sickness, unemployment, and old age. The community must find ways and means of seeing to it that any man fit and honestly desirous to do an honest day's work shall have an opportunity to earn a living. The worker must receive a wage which not only permits him to keep body and soul together, but to take proper care of his wife and children, to have for himself and for them a share of the comforts, interests and recreations of life."

DEMOCRATS EMBODY MANY LABOR POLICIES IN PLATFORM.

The special committee of the American Federation of Labor, headed by Samuel Gompers, that attended the Democratic national convention to formulate the demands of Labor before the resolutions committee, issued a statement last week in which it declared that the Democratic platform "marks a measure of progress not found in the Republican platform."

The statement, under the signature of President Gompers and three vice-presidents of the federation, went far to confirm previous intimations that the moral support of the American Federation of Labor leaders would be thrown into the scale in support of the Democratic ticket in the presidential campaign.

While asserting the superiority of the Democratic platform from the viewpoint of Labor leaders, the statement of the committee repeated the attitude of the federation of a nonpartisan campaign and disavowed any intention of controlling the choice of the voters, but added that "it would be a palpable dereliction of duty did we fail to place the facts before the voters of the country on the records of both parties and their respective candidates for public office."

NATION WIDE CAMPAIGN AGAINST CLOSED SHOP.

Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, in a statement charging that business men in New York City alone are financing to the extent of $5,000,000 a campaign for forcing the "open shop" in that locality, last week, focused attention on what he characterized as a nation-wide campaign, possibly backed by hundreds of millions of dollars, to break the organized Labor movement in the United States.

DEMAND WITHDRAWAL TROOPS FROM IRELAND

British Trades Union Congress Wants Irish Parliament Opened.

The direct action issue was raised at a special convention of the British trades union congress held at Central Hall, Westminster, last Tuesday when the attitude and policy of the British trades union movement in relation to the Irish problem and Russia were discussed. Brief mention was made of this in our last issue. Two resolutions were on the agenda, the first being presented by the National Union of Railwaymen, calling for a truce between all parties in Ireland, and demanding that the Government withdraw the army of occupation and open an Irish Parliament with full dominion powers. This resolution, after several stiffening amendments had been proposed and rejected, was ultimately carried.

A second resolution, formulated at the Leamington Miners' Federation Convention recently and presented by the Miners' Federation, called upon all trade unions to recommend to their members a general "down-tools" policy if the British Government did not withdraw the troops from Ireland and cease production of munitions to be used against Ireland and Russia.

Robert Smillie, president of the Miners' Federation, made a vigorous speech in support, and the resolution was carried by a large majority.

Finally this resolution regarding Russia was moved by Tom Shaw and seconded by Margaret Bonfield, both of whom visited Russia with the Labor delegation: "The congress learns with amazement the new demands submitted to the Russian Government before its negotiations on the terms of the Krassin conditions are proceeded with. The conference is heartily in favor of any and all action which may lead to peace in Eastern Europe, but warns the British Government and the Spa conference that any attempt of a clandestine nature to secure the support of the British democracy in order to give military assistance to Poland is foredoomed to failure. The conference therefore calls on the Government to adhere to the terms submitted to and accepted by the Moscow Government as a basis of a lasting peace between Great Britain and Russia.

Tom Shaw said that, constitutionalist as he was, he holds that this matter is so serious that the trade union movement would be justified in taking any action to prevent renewal of war with Russia by sending support to Poland, and Margaret Bonfield referred to the visit of the British Labor delegation to the Polish front and quoted a statement of the Bolshevist leaders that nothing but a striking exhibition of the power of the Soviet Government will bring the Entente powers to a sense of realization of the situation. At the same time, these leaders declared that they were not fighting the Polish people, but only the barons, and they had no desire to crush Poland.

SOVIET WORKMEN WANT MORE FOOD.

Economic disorders begun July 1 by Soviet workmen in the two largest industrial plants at Petrograd are continued, according to advices received this week by the United States Department of State.

The Soviet workmen demand a larger food supply, a longer lunch-on time, elimination of commissary management of the factories, and control of the factories by workmen.

The Seating of German Representatives At the Seamen's Conference

By Special Correspondent.

The International Labor Conference at Genoa, Italy, which is considering the application of the Convention of Washington to seafarers, has settled down to its task, after having surmounted several obstacles to peaceful deliberation. The matter which caused most contention during the first weeks of the conference was the presence and attitude of the German delegates. The seamen's representatives, especially the British and Belgian, strongly objected to the German delegation taking part in the conference, a feeling which arose mainly through an incident, now a matter of history, which took place during 1916. In that year Mr. J. Havelock Wilson, president of the National Union of Sailors and Firemen, wrote to the International Federation of Transport Workers (the general secretariat of which was then in Berlin) requesting that the German seamen should protest against the methods adopted by the German Government in sea warfare, which had resulted in the death and injury of thousands of non-combatants, both of Allied and neutral countries. This request was refused. The British and Belgian seamen have not forgotten this apparent indifference to their appeal, based on the unwritten sailors' code of international maritime chivalry. Hence they came to Genoa with no friendly feelings towards Germany.

The situation came to a head when Herr Wissell, who represents the German seamen at Genoa, gave voice at the conference to a protest against his treatment by the united seamen's delegation. He alleged that, both directly and indirectly, it had been conveyed to him that the seamen's group were not prepared to recognize his right to share in the work of the conference, and in any case they considered that he, not being connected with the maritime service, nor an official of a seamen's organization, was not a fit and proper seamen's representative, notwithstanding his record as a trusted workers' leader and an ex-Minister of the German Republic.

The position amounted to a deadlock, as the various commissions which had to be formed could not be appointed until the question of the admission of Germany and the status of her representatives had been decided. Finally, after the exercise of much tact and patience by the chief officials of the International Labor Office, the situation was relieved. The presence of the German delegation was essential to the success of the conference. On the other hand, the attitude of the British and Belgian seamen had to be taken into serious consideration, and endeavors made to satisfy them as to the attitude of the German seamen with regard to the submarine warfare.

After long negotiations, M. Albert Thomas, the Director of the International Labor Office and Secretary-General of the Conference, was able to announce that the German Government had given full authority to Herr Wissell to make a declaration to the effect that the German delegation deplored the numerous victims caused by the submarine warfare which Germany "undertook to defend herself against the blockade." Further, that the German Government had undertaken by the Peace Treaty to make good all damage caused by the conduct of the war at sea by the Germans to the Allied Powers and their nationals, and have already begun to carry out this agreement and would continue to do so. The Conference received this declaration with satisfaction, and in doing so expressed its desire that the German seamen should see that the engagement was kept. Mr. J. Havelock Wilson, as representative of the British seamen, welcomed the declaration as a recognition of the justice of the point of view of his constituents. He maintained, however, his formal protest against the appointment of Herr Wissell as a seaman's delegate, but withdrew all objection to sitting with the German delegation. Thus the danger of disunity was avoided, and the business of the Conference could proceed.

It is fortunate for the future of international relations, especially in connection with Labor, that the incident closed in this manner. Had it not been found possible to arrive at an understanding the Conference would have failed in its purpose. Moreover, by ensuring the co-operation of Germany in the work of the Conference an important step has been taken in the re-establishment of the international solidarity of seamen which, before the war, was growing apace, and which was, to a great extent, destroyed by the ruthless methods of sea-warfare carried on by Germany.

WORKERS MUST BE DEALT WITH AS HUMANS.

Creative power lies dormant where autocratic management prevails. No employer has a vested right to the good will of his employes. That must be earned, as between men. It can be earned only when management deals with workers as human beings and not as machines. There can not be a full release of productive energy under an autocratic control of industry. There must be a spirit of co-operation and mutuality between employers and workers. We submit that production can be enhanced through the co-operations of management with the trade union agencies which make for order, discipline and productivity.

We hold that the organization of wage-earners into trade unions and the establishment of collective bargaining are the first steps toward the proper development of our industrial machinery for service.

To promote further the production to fan adequate supply of the world's needs for use and higher be established co-operation between standards of life, we urge that there the scientists of industry and the representatives of organized workers.—From "Labor, Its Protests, Grievances and Demands," adopted at Washington, D. C., 1919, by Labor's Representatives.

MINERS WANT U. S. GOV'T TO OPERATE EXPERIMENTAL MINE.

That the government can and should acquire and operate experimental coal mines is contended by Thomas Kennedy, president of District No. 7, United Mine Workers of America, in a statement laid before the anthracite coal commission in Scranton, Pennsylvania, last week.

Instead of putting this forward as a bold or radical scheme, Mr. Kennedy finds an analogy and precedent in the operation of experimental farms and the building of experimental roads by the Department of Agriculture. Such action by the Government, he declares, would let the public know the basic facts about mining management, equipment and profits. This is known as the "Ferry plan," taking its name from Neal Ferry, named by President Wilson to represent the miners on the anthracite coal commission, who first proposed it at the recent tri-district convention of anthracite miners held at Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania.

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