

Published By Permission of the Vancouver Strike Committee

# THE RED FLAG

A Journal of News and Views Devoted to the Interests of the Working Class

VOL. 1 NO. 22

VANCOUVER, SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1919

FIVE CENTS

## "THE BOARD OF INDUSTRY"

THE battle of the organized labor movement for recognition of an effective method of collective bargaining, has become marked by a new form of activity by the Federal Government against the movement. In the clearest and most unmistakable manner, so that all may see it has been demonstrated that the Government is but the executive committee of the bourgeois dictatorship in Canada.

Several strike leaders and other active supporters of the strikers have been arrested in Winnipeg, in the middle of the night, and spirited away from their homes to a distant penitentiary. Along with those of British stock, a few Russians have also been gathered in, in order to give the necessary Bolshevik coloring to the affair. Warrants are out for others, including W. A. Pritchard and Dick Johns. A press report just published says that Pritchard has been arrested in Calgary.

The strike leaders have been arrested under the provisions of an Act of Parliament, hastily devised to cope with the present "situation." So much did that 100 per cent. bourgeois parliament, now sitting in Ottawa, feel that its executive must have the camouflage of legal sanction for its purpose of smashing labor's organizations as a means of resisting the encroachments of capital, that the Bill was reported as being rushed through both houses of parliament in twenty minutes. Thus one of the most drastic anti-labor laws that has ever been passed through any house of legislation, not excluding any country, was passed without discussion. Feature this measure as they may, as being an assault upon Anarchists and Bolsheviks, it is recognized as but the mask from behind which, the "dark" forces are smashing the organized labor movement and through it, the working class as a whole to lower levels of economic slavery.

The prisoners were at first held without bail and press reports said they were to be tried by a special "Board of Industry," appointed under the new Act. Note the camouflaging name given to the board. Three members of the board, whose names were not given, were coming from Ottawa. Also eligible for membership on the board, it was said, were Colonel Stearns, of the R. N. W. Mounted

Police; Commissioner Perry of the same force, and Acting-commissioner of Immigration, Thomas Galley. The reports also said that there would be no trial in the civil courts.

What then is this "Board of Industry." It reveals itself as nothing more or less than a court-martial tribunal. Everyone of the individuals mentioned are paid officials of the bourgeois State. They are employed in collecting the evidence, running the prisoners down, and are also judges, jury and jailors too. That the Government has changed its policy on this matter does not obviate the fact that the above was the method by which the arrested men were to be tried if pressure had not been brought to bear.

Senator, the Hon. Gideon Robertson, minister of labor, referring to the arrest of these men, said: "It is a very nice job." We thank him for that snug, complacent phrase. It is a nice "job."

If the sting can be taken out of organized labor it will be a "nice job" for the capitalist oligarchy. If the standard of living of the working class sinks, there will be more profits for the Oligarchy, which will be "nice job for them." But history, or the process, unfortunately for the Canadian capitalist oligarchy, has also a kittenish, unexpected way of producing "nice jobs." We await with the ut-

most assurance its verdict, feeling sure that it will over-ride the verdict of the "Board of Industry," or any other tribunal appointed by the Canadian Capitalistic Oligarchy.

The Crown Prosecutor said he hoped to have the prisoners and their families out of the country in a week. The capitalist press is howling for their blood. The Toronto Mail and Empire, implies they ought to be hung. Well, that is the bourgeois remedy. When you have hung them, imprisoned them and deported them. What will you do then? Unemployment, poverty in the midst of wealth, exploitation, misery, degradation, will they be deported too?

How many perished directly or indirectly, through the late war, allegedly waged to stamp out militarism, twenty, thirty millions? No man knows, or will ever know. But of this we do know, that militarism is more surely shackled onto the human race now, since the war has been fought, than ever it has been in all humanity's chequered career before.

As capitalistic society weakens, and as it totters to its fall under the pressure of historical forces, it must perforce buttress and buttress itself up with military power. Buttress itself up with the sole remaining justification for its existence is a protesting world—Military Might.

### ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTY RALLIES TO MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL

After a series of meetings held March 18-22, the following resolution was formulated:—

"The Executive of the Italian Socialist Party considers the Internationalist Socialist Bureau to be an instrument of the war policy of the pseudo-democratic bourgeoisie tending to mystify the proletariat and to hinder the activity of the Revolutionary Socialist International. It regards the efforts of the International Socialist Bureau to revive the energies of the Socialist proletariat as vain; that the International Socialist Bureau has become the hostage of the imperialist bourgeoisie of the Entente; that the alliance formed at Berne between the Socialist-patriotic tendencies of Entente imperialists and the Central Powers proves the reactionary tendency of all the sections which failed in the pledges of the International against the capitalist bourgeoisie which brought all the nations into the war.

"It considers it impossible for those who kept their faith in the principles of the International and those who betrayed it to remain in one and the same organization. Instead of working towards an immediate convocation of the parties and adhering organizations, on the cessation of hostilities the Bureau contributed to the success of the Berne Conference, which was merely a sham International Socialist Conference. For these reasons the Executive decides to withdraw from the International Socialist Bureau and intends to work for the constitution of the Revolutionary Socialist International on the principles established by the Rus-

sian Communists, and for an International Socialist Conference.

"The resolution added that the Italian Socialists meant to take active measures to win over the Socialists of other countries to this new allegiance. The Executive also declared its readiness to organize a general strike in order to force the withdrawal of the Italian troops now in Russia.

### WHAT IS A REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION?

(From the Glasgow "Socialist.")

What are, as a rule, the symptoms of a revolutionary situation? We shall certainly be on the right track in pointing out three main symptoms: (1) A ruling class finds it impossible to retain its domination intact, due to its passing through a crisis which stimulates the oppressed class to revolt against its rule. For revolution to break out it is not enough for those at the bottom to be content to live as they did before, they must also see to it that it becomes impossible for those at the top to continue their old policy; (2) want and suffering are experienced by the oppressed class in a more intense degree than ordinarily; (3) the causes indicated compel increased activity amongst the masses. During "Times of peace" they calmly allow themselves to be fleeced, but in times of stress they are stimulated by the staging of the crisis, together with the action of those at the top, to enter the arena as an independent historical force. Without these objective changes independent of the will, not only of the separate classes—revolution is, as a rule, impossible. Taken in the sum, these objective changes constitute what is called a revolutionary situation.—LENIN.

### GOVERNMENT TOO CONTEMPTIBLE TO REQUEST ANYTHING FROM SAY MINERS

SYDNEY, N.S., June 19.—Silby Barrett and J. C. McLachlan, United Mine Workers' leaders in Cape Breton, have forwarded a telegram of indignation to the minister of labor, Ottawa, with reference to the arrest of the Winnipeg strike leaders. The telegram reads:

"The arrest of Winnipeg labor men is a case of making criminals by act of parliament. This union protests against this sneak-thief method of arresting men. We pledge ourselves to do all we can to bring about a general strike all over Canada. Present strike-breaking government too contemptible to request anything from."