

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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The Canadian Labor Press PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS, LIMITED. EDITORIAL OFFICE: JOURNAL BLDG., OTTAWA.

AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT WARNED

Continued From Page One. aspect of the question. You have heard of the terrific strike in our country, a strike unprecedented in any country where black and white scales are unknown.

Strikes Responsibility. "There will be no doubt whatever about that, but you have got to bear some share of the responsibility of that strike. How many of our American people know that there is a direct and pregnant interest between that strike and America, France, Italy, in fact every power there was a party to the peace treaty must bear a share of the responsibility of that strike.

Govt. Reflection of People. "At our conventions in London, I frequently hear condemnation of our Government, resolutions abusing them. You will have the same here. But as a matter of common fact these resolutions are condemnations of yourself. It is perfect hypocrisy to talk about democracy and the virtues of democracy and democratic government and then proceed to denounce the Government in power.

Peace Treaty and Miners. "Therefore, when you must share the responsibility of that treaty. How does that treaty affect the miners' strike? As you know, the fact Britain pays for her imports by her exports. All nations do that. If your imports are exceeding your exports you are in a very bad way.

Germany Must Pay. "Nature never intended that your heart or your stomach should eat the debt, therefore, that is ruled out. When you come to 'kind, you have got to ask yourself what you mean by Germany paying, and we didn't ask it and neither did your American representatives ask it and therefore we said Germany has got in the Ruhr Valley very good coal fields and therefore Germany must pay to France 2,000,000 tons of coal per month.

France Has Surplus Coal. "Their Making Germany pay coal, and the 2,000,000 tons of coal for France was not only more than she ever imported prior to the war but it was actually more than all the requirements of all her people.

Trades Unionism. "All these things were fought down by men who were victimized and scragged and sacrificed, but I say to you, if I presume to give advice, if you want to do anything, do it yourself. Be loyal to your own people, recognize that you are a class but as citizens of the great community, you must discharge your obligations to the community.

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HEART OF AMERICAN LEGION BEATS FOR LABORING PEOPLE OF AMERICA

Time Has Come When Defenders of Nation From Foes Within Must Join Hands to Defend it From the Foes Without.

Special to the Labor Press. DENVER, Col. — Quoting the late Commander Galbraith, as having said, "You must go to Denver and say to the representatives of the laboring people of America that the heart of the Legion beats for them."

Italy Refuses British Coal. "Italy said, 'Why should we buy coal from John Bull at 7 pounds a ton when we can get it at half the price from France?' Belgium said, 'Well, this is pretty good commercialism; hitherto we have kept the Orange market and she proceeded to sell to Holland and Holland was paying 60 shillings per ton. We woke up one morning and discovered that the mines that were taken over during the war, and controlled by the government were losing 4,500,000 pounds per month, and the Government in a panic said, 'This is no good to us, we don't mind running a loss, but we are making a profit but it is shocking bad business when we are making a loss, and they promptly gave notice to decontrol the mines.'

Miner Owners Fair. "We pointed out to them in Parliament what it meant, but the bill was passed and they said to themselves, 'What are we to do?' They put their experts to look at the balance sheet. It is only fair to tell you that they offered to waive every penny of profit, not a solitary penny of profit did they want. They didn't give them a copper's profit and said to the men 'This is the wage' and that wage worked out in that way.

Cost of Living Increased. "But the cost of living in England at this moment is 241 above 1914. The average increase of the miner during the whole of the period of the war was in the neighborhood of 100 per cent. The 1914 cost of living was approximately 20 per cent above the 1914 standard, but the offer of the coal owners meant a 50 per cent reduction in many cases which worked out in this way. Taking the cost of living today and comparing it with the cost of living in 1914, you find that for less than a spending power of \$4 per week, four dollars per week for cutting coal. None of you here can wonder that the answer of the British miner was 'No, we would prefer to fight to death than be exploited in this manner by the coal owners as they are.'

French Mines Idle. "But, here you have—there you have the real connection, the making of Germany pay, through the French coal mines on three days a week. It then paralyzed the whole of the coal industry of our country. The cost of it was, it wasn't Germany paying, it was the French and the British miner who paid, which was the peace treaty and this strike.

Peace Treaty and Shipbuilding. "We have one other illustration: The first high treaty provided that the tonnage should be distributed amongst the Allies and Great Britain and Great Britain's quota was 40 per cent, and the dead-weight price of shipping in our country is between 27 and 30 pounds per ton and we had large orders on the stocks in all our shipyards at that price. And then the Government paid themselves with 1,000,000 tons of shipping. They cancelled their orders and we must start to dispose of it, and they put it up at auction and they sold it for 10 pounds per ton dead weight. Then the shipowners who had given orders at the different shipyards at contract prices of between 27 and 30 pounds a ton said, 'Oh, no buying ships at 7 and 8 pounds a ton is much cheaper than paying 27 and 30 pounds a ton.' They cancelled their orders and 70 per cent of our shipyard workers were thrown out of work as a result of making Germany pay.

No Country Can Remain Isolated. "I want to draw the moral from all this. It is, don't make the mistake assuming that any country today can merely lock themselves up in a water tight compartment. It is impossible to do it. The world, every nation in the world is dependent and inter-dependent upon each other. There is no American that would dare say 'We will build a huge wall around our ocean—insulate ourselves from the rest of the world.' No one but a fool and a fanatic would say that. What he would say is, 'No, for sooner or for ill, we must play our part in these great world problems.' And our part is the part of peacemaker.

War Losses. "Is there any man in this room, or any woman, who would look back with satisfaction and say, 'Yes, we were satisfied that the war was a good thing.' Someone from your platform, gentlemen, said yesterday that you had lost \$9,999 of your money. Yes, I can understand the feeling of pride and reverence with which you bow to your dead heroes. I can understand your action in saying, 'Yes, they died in order that liberty might live. Fifty thousand that we will honor and pay tribute to. But can you excuse me from also feeling something higher and nobler and greater. If the mere hours and wages was the only conception of our movement I should refuse to have anything to do with it. No, I believe our movement is a great moral movement, uplifting and giving freedom to the men and women in every country.

Be Honest. "We must stand forth, where with honor and dignity and satisfaction. We will treat with honest men but we treat with them because we are honest men ourselves. And I would like, sir, without presuming to interfere, to say one word on this open shop question, and I am afraid that some of these people who are advocating this policy quite conscientiously no doubt, quite honestly and with the best of intentions, would have me come under that, but I would rather say to those who really believe what they are saying, that they are fighting as they call it, 'the battle of freedom,' by advocating the 'open shop,' do they realize that there is in the world today, in your country and out, two clearly defined movements? Class Warfare. "It is your movement as well as ours. It is in France, it is in Italy, it is in Germany, it is in the United States, two clearly defined movements, one directed by men and women who say 'to hell with this form of civilization, let us scrap the existing order, let us tear up the Constitution, let the workers as a class in the majority enter into a class war and have victory for the worker as against the other class.' Power Of Ballot. "That section is in America, that section is in our country, that section is in all countries. Now, there is the other section, the section that says, 'Yes, we are dissatisfied with existing order, we are opposed to misery and degradation and we are opposed to the condition and we are going to work for a better and nobler order of things, but they say there is a right way and a wrong way and the right way is that men will use their power through their trades union, constructively and honestly and they will exercise their political power through the ballot box.' Construction. "In other words, the choice of those sections is between the ballot box and the more marked way, the other. We in the labor movement prefer the constructive way because we know the bloody upheavals never bring statements to the top, they merely and invariably bring the bullets. No, we are not going to take the easier way, we are going to take the more difficult path, the path of those of us who believe in order and construction. They are difficult, but they are put on the map, Mr. President, to those people and I would give one other answer.

FROM MANY SOURCES.

Pessimist—"No, but they seem so."—Punch. Kautsky shares the opinion of most trade unionists that no sort of dictatorship can ever be a substitute for democracy.

"I am for ideal homes, rather than ideal public houses." Lady Astor. Why not have both? Those for whom a victory is won seldom esteem it of much account.

"God will not love thee less because men love thee more."—Martin Tupper. It is valueless to a woman to be young unless pretty, or to be pretty unless young.

Bold, cheerful leadership, not denunciation, is the need of the day. Although men flatter themselves with their great action, they are not so often the result of a great design as of chance.

"Being a nation of noodles, we naturally select super-noodles to govern us."—Bernard Shaw. Our friends are those who, whatever happens, believe in our best.

Behold the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth. Mathematically and financially it costs more in money to be an average sinner than it does to be an average Christian.

The violence we put upon ourselves to escape love are often more cruel than the cruelty of those we love. Young women who do not want to appear flirts, and old men who do not want to appear ridiculous, should not talk of love as a matter wherein they can have any interest.

"Indignation is froth except it lead to action. We have not done our duty when we have uttered a large quantity of verbal truth."—Gladstone. "I am amazed at the extraordinary inefficiency with which the productive work of this country and every other country is conducted."—Sidney Webb.

"Our transport is sick," say the Bolsheviks, so they have appointed Dzerjinsky, the "hero" of their terror, to attempt the cure. All the instruments of discipline under our civilization—home, school, workshop, have for their one transcendent object the production of the highest type of manhood.

There are two kinds of constancy in love, one arising from incessantly finding in the loved one fresh objects to love, the other from regarding it as a point of honor to be constant. "Communists who believed we could completely alter the economic form of society in three years were visionaries. I say it will take at least a century."—Lenin. After all, he is only a Fabian.

I shall pass through this world but once, any good thing therefore I can do, or any kindness I can show to any human being, let me do it now, let me not defer it, or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again. Reform is not to be secured by noise and shouting, by complaints and denunciations, by the formation of parties, or the making of resolutions, but by the awakening of thought and the progress of ideas. Until there be correct thought there cannot be right action; and when there is correct thought right action will follow. Power is in the hands of the masses of men. What oppresses the masses is their ignorance, their shortsighted selfishness. Labor Editorials

Trades and Labor Councils

OTTAWA—Some of the important questions to be dealt with at the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada were briefly referred to by President Tom Moore, at the last regular meeting of the Trades and Labor Association. These problems include unemployment, unemployment insurance, and immigration. Moore stated that while he had met with opposition at Winnipeg and at the coast, the international trades union movement was now stronger and better in the West than at any time in its history. Unemployment was very severe in the West and more immigrants were arriving with each vessel from Europe to swell the ranks of the workless. The president of the Trades Council gave a brief summary of the activity of the various political groups in the House of Commons during the past session insofar as labor and social legislation was concerned. He declared that none of the political groups had given thought to labor legislation and when the Government was concerned with the draft conventions and recommendations of the International Labor Conference there was not one word of mention of the unemployed, nor from the occupiers of "No-man's-land."

OTTAWA

A committee of nine was named to meet Mr. Stevenson. Delegate F. B. McCurdy informed the council that public works for which appropriations had been made would be proceeded with at the earliest moment. His letter was a reply to a communication from the council asking for relief for unemployed. During a discussion upon immigration John Beresford criticized the opinions of John Macdonald. He claimed that the country would not suffer any by the loss of Delegate Macdonald and his Socialist comrades.

HAMILTON

HAMILTON—Without dissent the Hamilton Trades and Labor Council at its last regular meeting endorsed the civic mountain driveway. The use of the Labor Hall will be denied the unemployed unless they guard their remarks in the future. It came to the notice of the council that at a recent meeting some of the unemployed attacked the Labor movement and its officials. The Hamilton Trades Council will continue its membership in the Chamber of Commerce for another two years. Although there was some opposition it was decided to continue in affiliation. Delegate Riley informed the Council that the Ontario Government had reduced the wages of laborers on the Hamilton-Kitchener highway from \$2 1/2 to the per hour and Secretary Fester was instructed to send a letter of protest to the Minister of Public Works. Delegates E. MacKenzie, G. Kerlake and H. J. Halford were named a committee to investigate the feasibility of undertaking the opening of a civic golf links at Hamilton.

TORONTO

TORONTO—Joint Industrial Councils and the Federal Government's activity in assisting in their formation engaged the attention of the Toronto District Trades and Labor Council at its last regular meeting. A reply from Senator Gideon Robertson to a communication from the Toronto District Trades and Labor Council was read in substance caused the discussion. James Clark explained that Senator Robertson had informed the Metal Trades Council that T. A. Stevenson, now in Western Canada, would take the question up with local labor organizations when he returned from the West.

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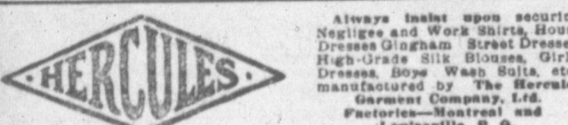
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ROBERTSON NOT LIKELY TO DROP PORTFOLIO YET

Globe Says Minister Will Stick By Gov't Until Parliament Dissolved.

TORONTO.—Senator Gideon D. Robertson is not expected to resign as Minister of Labor before the present Parliament is dissolved, says the Ottawa correspondent of the Globe. For the past three years, it is understood, the Order of Railway Telegraphers has been anxious to have him as its President, and if at any time he had left the Government he could have had this position.

Last summer, before Premier Meighen called around him the old Borden Cabinet as the only possible way to carry on Senator Robertson had practically decided to accept overtures made him by the telegraphers. However, the new Premier needed his help, and he is expected, he will be back again in the ranks of organized labor, but those who know him best do not think it will be this summer or fall.

Senator Robertson's experiences since the end of 1918 as Minister of Labor have enabled him to see Canadian industry in all its many phases. He has remained potentially a trade unionist through it all, with a decided leaning toward conciliation, discussion and negotiation as the best means of settling disputes. He has been a firm believer in industrial conciliation, the Whitley plan, but has held it to be essential that both employers and employees should be organized.

His plans have developed greatly during his term of office, but they are receiving some check from the open-shop campaign, which the period of severe recession in prices and low production in industry, because of a lessened demand, greatly favors. Consequently the militant employer has more influence in Ottawa than formerly.

Senator Robertson's course has, however, been acceptable to organized labor, and if he can still control the labor policy of the Government he will be expected to stay on. If not, it is a pleasant thing for him to know that his old order is keeping a warm spot for him, and as it will be for most of the ministers defeated at the next general election.

He can also retain his seat in the Senate, although it may be expected that he will find it a more controversial place when heater his interests in a labor problem and a representative of a powerful section of organized labor, instead of as a member of the Government of the day.

VOLUNTARY ACTION KEYNOTE OF A. F. OF L. Demand Investigation of the Lockout of Seamen. Special to The Labor Press. DENVER, Colo.—At the close of the first week of the convention of the American Federation of Labor itself well advanced in its work. Resolutions were being disposed of at a rapid rate when adjournment was taken at the week-end.

Just before the close of the final session a resolution was introduced by unanimous consent and acted on at once, protesting against wage reductions in the packing industry. A resolution was adopted urging passage by the United States Senate of the LaFollette resolution, providing for an investigation of the lock-out of seamen. The resolution adopted here was introduced by the seamen's delegation and charged a combination of European and American shipowners, aided by the United States Shipping Board, which has "been busy thwarting the American people in their legitimate desire and purpose to share in overseas commerce and in building for America a sea power corresponding to the American seaboard."

Labor and Soviet Russia

By V. Isacoff, in "Justice," London, Eng.

With its usual consistency, the Soviet Government introduced forced labor some time ago. At first it was of a punitive character and was chiefly imposed on members of the bourgeoisie. But gradually, as the Soviet economic system began to paralyze the industry of the country, the Bolsheviks were obliged to impose compulsory labor on the peasants also. In the course of 1920 a scheme was drawn up, and partially put into practice, for the regular organization of compulsory labor in almost all branches of industry. Not a single inhabitant of Soviet Russia, with the exception of the commissars, is guaranteed the possibility of being seized and deported to the other side of the extensive Soviet Republic to do some work totally alien to usual occupations in his own country.

Decrees Cannot Make Productivity. But even this wide application of forced labor has not helped the Soviet Government to produce more goods. The acute labor shortage is increasing and production is declining. It may be possible to mobilize the number of workers, but it is impossible to create the conditions of the productivity of labor by decrees alone. The workers must be fed and clothed, and the Bolsheviks have not been able to do so. The Soviet papers describe how a whole army, mobilized for lumbering, had to be sent to the front because the workers had no boots, and it was impossible to work barefoot in the winter snow. There is a shortage of labor everywhere and in all branches of industry; in the works in towns, in the Siberian and Ural mines, in the lumbering camps everywhere work is at a standstill owing to the want of workmen. Even in the Caspian the fishing has stopped because there is a shortage of 70,000 fishermen. The "Ekonomscheskaja Zhih" quotes figures illustrating the state of the labor market. There is no need for explanation as the figures speak for themselves.

The issue for March 18 of the above-mentioned paper contains a calculation of the number of workmen required by 2,585 various undertakings in 25 provinces. This does not include either Moscow or Petrograd, or the Donetz coal fields, the Baku oil fields and many others. In these undertakings the actual number of workmen and employees reached 746,549, whereas 1,476,980 were required. In some undertakings the actual number of workmen was as low as 20 per cent of the number required.

The Shortage in Moscow and Petrograd. In the "Ekonomscheskaja Zhih," March 2, we find some information on the movement of labor in Moscow. Apparently the system of rationing good the shortage by means of rationing labor has failed to satisfy the demand and workmen are being sought for in the open market. The movement of labor supply and demand in Moscow for the last three years is shown by the following table:

Year	Supply	Demand
July-December 1918	145,253	134,731
July-December 1919	70,713	90,907
July-December 1920	113,256	186,511

In the different industries the number of situations vacant per 100 applicants was as follows:

Industry	1918	1919	1920
Metal workers	59.1	218.6	170.3
Wood workers	71	152.8	244.1
Textile workers	53	114.0	210

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Printing, etc.	53	94	110
Building trade	126	142	274

In Petrograd the labor shortage is still greater. The "Ekonomscheskaja Zhih," February 24, states that in 1920 there were 103,400 workers, men and women, applying for work, whereas there were up to 247,600 situations vacant per 100 men, and only 133 per 100 women.

The Skilled Trades. As regards branches of industry, the record was better by the metal workers, as there were 1,844 situations vacant per 100 applicants; then come the woodworkers, 714 situations per 100 applicants; tailors, etc., 512 situations per 100 applicants.

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TALK OF GENERAL STRIKE TO HELP MINERS' CAUSE

Membership Votes to Continue Struggle Against Reduction in Wage Standards.

LONDON, Eng.—The miners' executive, confronted with the result of the ballot calling for a continuation of the struggle against the reduction of wages, has decided to ask the various executive committees of all the unions affected by wages disputes to meet the executive of the Miners' Federation at an early date, with the object of taking national action with the miners to secure their mutual demands. When Frank Hodges was asked if "national action" meant strike action, he said: "That is the implication, of course. It certainly means a general strike if the other unions will agree to it."

That other unions will respond to the miners' appeal is doubtful; the engineers are not likely to give it serious consideration while they are taking their own ballot; the transport workers are still negotiating wage cuts, and the railwaymen are working on a sliding scale agreement. Something may emanate from the Labor Party's annual conference at Brighton next week, but on the other hand many miners are likely to break away from the federation and return to work.

BRITISH MINISTRY OF LABOR ISSUES WARNING TO EMIGRANTS. MANCHESTER, Eng.—The Appointments Department of the Ministry of Labor states that it cannot be too widely known that, generally speaking, labor conditions are little, if any, better in the colonies today than in this country, and that openings overseas for either men of professional qualifications or skilled craftsmen are exceedingly rare.

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Tel. Main 1352-2886. Cunningham & Wells, Limited Cartage Contractors. Office, 31 COMMON STREET, MONTREAL.

STEAM COAL CENTURY COAL COMPANY, LIMITED 310 Dominion Express Bldg. MONTREAL.