



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

C. M. A. AND RUSSIAN TRADE

It is indeed difficult to follow the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in the matter of trade with Russia. In a statement to the press a few days ago the C.M.A. says:

"It is difficult to conceive in what manner Canada could hope to get large amounts of profitable Russian business by taking action now. On evidence received from Soviet publications, factory production is very seriously diminished and her ability to pay very limited.

"The question, too, of whether Canadian producers can participate direct in Russian trade under the British agreement has not been settled.

"To sum up except for a few special industries, owing to hampering conditions, it is practically futile for many Canadian manufacturers to anticipate serious business in Soviet Russia. There is plenty of time and opportunity to get Russian business when it is on a better basis. At present it is as highly speculative as oil stocks in an unknown field."

This statement in view of the recent declaration of Mr. David Lloyd George, the British Premier, who urges the British manufacturers to trade with Russia and states that the Soviet Administration has of late shown a complete change of heart.

Canadian factories are closed for lack of orders—at least this is what the workers are told. A market is offered the Canadian manufacturers in Russia. The C.M.A. tells its membership not to trade with Russia but rather should they seek markets in the United States, South America—everywhere but Russia.

We have repeatedly stated that trading with Russia does not mean a recognition of Bolshevism. Canadian workers will never subscribe to the Soviet theory but we believe that the sooner trade is opened up with Russia the quicker will Russia be restored to peace and stabilized democratic government.

Mr. Washington B. Vanderlip, an American capitalist, who is at present in Russia, negotiating with the Soviet Administration in answer to a question concerning Russia's trade relations, is quoted in a British newspaper as follows:

"The best answer is that from April 20, 1920, to March 30, 1921, thirty-seven British vessels have brought goods to Russia and more are on the way; 150 have come from Germany; 142 from Sweden, and others from Holland, Denmark and Finland and some from the United States.

"All these goods were paid for in Russian gold, which eventually finds its way back to the Bank of England."

Thus it would appear that there is a market for Canadian goods in Russia. The more markets, the greater the need for production. More production means more work for Canadian labor and more profits for Canadian capital. We believe Canadian capital is anxious for returns, and accordingly there should be no hesitancy on the part of Canadian capital to look into the Russian situation. We suggest that the Canadian Government send a trade agent to Russia and ascertain to what extent Canadian products may be used in Russia.

The trade agreement between Great Britain and Russia has been ratified in both countries and the Russian Administration is at present endeavoring to negotiate a similar trade agreement with the United States of America. Possibly when this is concluded the C.M.A. will "sing another song" and follow the lead of the American capitalists.

INDIVIDUAL BARGAINING.

THERE is absolutely nothing new in the "individual bargaining between employer and employe" system that is at present being pushed to the front under the misnomer "Optional Plan of Employment" by the open shoppers who hope to destroy organized labor.

Individual bargaining was the method used for centuries, and until the dawn of the day when labor began to organize into trade unions the workers felt its full force and knew its fatal result. It was in full sway when skilled mechanics worked ten, twelve, and often fourteen hours a day for whatever the employer saw fit to hand his "individually hired" man. It was in the height of its glory when the workers' home held neither comfort nor convenience of any kind, and when eighty-five per cent. of the workers' children were deprived of an opportunity to obtain even a public school education. These miserable conditions, and many others as bad or worse, generally prevailed until labor through the power of organization put them forever out of its life.

These conditions which for so long a time made of the worker no more than a chattel are behind us. We do not propose to see the march of progress stopped in its upward swing and forced backward to gratify the desires of an industrial autocracy, as bad if not worse and more ruthless than the political autocracy against which the entire civilized world protested and in rebellion spilled the blood of millions of workers.

Let it be known now and forever that we have

POLITICS AND PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

J. A. P. HAYDON.

Mr. Angus McDonald, of Temiskaming, the only Labor member of the House of Commons, is perhaps the most regular attendant of the sittings of the House. It is a rare occasion when the "big" Labor member is absent from his seat. "Angus" has remained singularly quiet for most of the session. He could not be drawn into the debates and on all divisions he has voted against the Government. The Labor member from Temiskaming is of the opinion that the Government should go to the country and give to the people an opportunity of expressing their opinions on the public questions of the day.

When the resolution of Mr. Herman Deslauriers, Sainte-Marie, dealing with unemployment and the suspension of immigration was being discussed some loose statements were made concerning the workers. It was evident to all that the sole Labor member of the House of Commons did not intend to allow these remarks to pass unnoticed.

"Angus" could be seen making note after note as the various members spoke on the question. It was nearly the time for adjournment when the member for Temiskaming rose to address the House. Immediately upon being recognized by the Speaker a profound silence came over the House. The Minister of Immigration and Colonization, Hon. J. A. Calder, the only member of the House who had not taken the seat to listen to the sound logic of the Labor representative.

The address of Mr. McDonald was unique in many respects. Angus was not very familiar with the immigration policy of the Dominion Government. As a matter of fact he said little concerning immigration. His chief object in occupying the time of the House "was to repudiate some of the loose statements made by various members concerning the workers of this country." We said his address was unique. It was. The only Labor member not only attacked the Government but he was equally severe on all the various parties represented in the House of Commons. However, Mr. McDonald struck a new note in the trend of his address. He left no doubt in the minds of the House that Labor was not responsible for the unemployment in Canada. To the charge that Canadian Labor was laying the blame for the unemployment on the workers of this country, Mr. McDonald simply stated that if this assertion was true "why have the employers kept these men in their employ until they decided that it was expedient to close their factories?"

One member suggested that Labor should give an extra hour daily to help meet the great national debt.

tried individual bargaining and know the dregs the cup contains. We do not propose to drink again of its poisoned contents, be it labelled "Optional Plan of Employment" or anything else.

THE BRITISH MINERS' LOCKOUT.

PRESS despatches from the Old Land are very conflicting on the situation in the British minefields. It is difficult to analyze the exact situation. However, one thing is certain: the mines are at present idle, and the most recent despatches hold little hope for their immediate resumption of work.

No problem in recent years has so perplexing as the mining situation in Great Britain. No question has called for the need of statesmanship so strikingly as that of mining. The British Labor Movement has for quite a long time demanded the nationalization of the mines. A Royal Commission, some years ago, brought in a majority report substantiating the claims of Labor. Premier Lloyd George, for reasons best known to himself, has refused to put into effect the findings of that Commission, and there can be no permanent settlement of the mining problem in Britain until that is done.

The facts in the present case are related to the nationalization of the mines. As we have previously stated the whole facts are not before us, and we must, therefore, refrain from commenting on the present difficulty. However, of this we are convinced: that just so soon as the British Government nationalizes the mines the root of most of the trouble will have been removed and the way paved for future peace in the mining industry in Britain.

WHY NOT A TARIFF BOARD?

THE Independent Labor Party of Ontario in convention assembled at Welland, recently, made some slight changes in its tariff policy. That section of it pertaining to "free boots and shoes" was eliminated. However, when Dr. Heft, of Kitchener, asked that the convention rescind its tariff proposal the president of the I.L.P., Mr. J. W. Buckley, said:

"Don't you know, doctor, that the Peterboro election was fought on the question of tariff reform? The tariff question is only a cry for the purpose of blinding and dividing the working men when a great social and economic crisis confronted them, raised by a party that had no panacea to offer. It made no difference, because the workers were exploited even worse in protected countries than in those under free trade."

The president of the I.L.P. advanced an argument in favor of the Tariff Board. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the body which speaks with authority for the workers of this country, asks that a Tariff Board be established for many reasons. One of them is, as President Buckley points out, "that the tariff question was only a cry for the purpose of dividing the workers." President Buckley and his band of followers in the I.L.P. have decided to stick to their own tariff policy in preference to the acceptance of a policy formulated by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada at a representative gathering of workers from all parts of Canada at Windsor in September last.

The honorable member for South Oxford says that we want men who are willing to give an extra hour, if necessary, to give my honorable friend the right hand of fellowship so far as that is concerned, and I will go further than he did and say that I am one of those working men who like to see a man give an honest day for an honest dollar. But I want to tell you, that we want to see the farmers apply this principle to themselves, and not stick at the last farthing. I have been on the farm; I was raised there to some extent, and I know something at least about the farmer. I am going to find a farmer who will give you 2,240 pounds of hay for a ton anywhere—and I make that statement having farmed myself. Let me tell this House that the laboring men, like the rest of us, are human and are somewhat like politicians. No doubt they get into any of the centres of population because an inducement is there offered. In the cities, they can get work the year round, they can get a little more in the case on the farm, not on the western farms at any rate. I worked there myself. I got work for three months a year, and for the other nine months the attitude of the farmer was this: You can shift for yourself after you are through with us.

"Something must be done for the working man; he cannot starve for nine months while he is waiting for the three months work which the West offers him. The attitude of the farmer in the Province of Ontario, but is he likely to get work all the year round with a man who may be only earning 10s. a week, and for the workman does not have employment the year round, and what are you going to do with him during the winter? He is idle, and we see some policy of a reasonable character adopted; and it will be unfortunate if the labor situation today is not taken into a little further extent than it is investigated by politicians. The workingman is just like the politician in this chamber—he gets into a rut, and he hates to be taken away from it; he has to be driven out just as a great many politicians have been driven out of Ottawa. I wish to place on record the statement that I consider some of the things that have been said here as a direct insult to the laboring class of this country. It is not taken into account, at perhaps have been earning their living under the very hard and very disagreeable conditions which the workingman experiences—could sit and listen to aspersions such as were hurled at labor this afternoon."

The question of immigration was one of the topics which was discussed during the past week. However, other questions of importance to the workers of this country were considered. The Canadian Merchant Marine Service was reported upon by the Minister of Marine, Hon. J. W. Mackenzie King, who stated that the same forces that are assailing our national railways are arrayed against this nationally owned industry. The report of the Minister of Marine, Hon. C. C. Ballantyne, differed from the report of the Minister of Railways in many respects. He stated that the Government is making that effort would be made to reduce the wages of the men employed in the Service. No mention was made of a re-adjustment of working conditions. The report showed the

House of Commons. Ottawa, Ont., April 2, 1920.

THE CURSE OF PACIFISM

By G. MOORE BELL, in "Justice," London, Eng.

Why has a record week for labor been spoiled in East Woolwich? Why, when Kennedy after a fortnight's campaign could romp in at the head of the poll, against the most influential man the Coalition could put up at Kirkcaldy, with a sweeping majority, and Wilson could drive a Cabinet Minister out of Dudley, did East Woolwich, the Labor stronghold that the Coalition dared not tackle at the general election, return a dude Tory candidate that not a single member of the Government troubled to support by a single word? Let Ramsay MacDonald answer in his own words uttered just after the declaration of the poll: "I think, considering the sort of attacks that were made upon me, considering how in a way I was vulnerable to those attacks, also considering the kind of appeal my opponents were able to make to the constituency—the more I think of it the more marvelous is our poll." And how came it to pass that MacDonald was vulnerable to those attacks? The plain answer is because as the campaign developed and the attacks were made upon him he had no defence, but proved himself a shallow and fanatical pacifist. The great error was made towards the close of the fight when Philip Snowden was brought on as a star turn and deliberately attempted to justify his attitude during the war. MacDonald, who followed, declared himself in accordance with Snowden, expressed impatience for his past actions and told the electors that they must accept him on these conditions or go and vote against him. He then spent the rest of a long and fluent speech in declamation about turning swords into pruning-hooks and summing the moral condition of the country to approve of all he said and did. That night MacDonald's doom at the poll was sealed. I sat in the gallery and watched a demagogic meeting of over two thousand Labor supporters, and I am sure that not more than two hundred noisy pacifists approved of what he said.

When MacDonald came to Woolwich last month as approved Labor candidate, I was hopeful that he would come to the problems that concerned Labor in the country and in the constituency, and that he would, if his war record came up, endeavor to "make good," otherwise what right had he to come here and what right had the party to put him up without some undertaking on his part that he would prove acceptable to the Labor electors of East Woolwich? Crooks for 18 years saw the seat to that part of the borough. East Woolwich not only gave Labor its majority, but wiped out the Tory majority in West Woolwich, and I am convinced that had a suitable Labor candidate come forward the Tories would not have challenged him. It was only after MacDonald

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The Truth About

Continued From Page Three.

certain localities because of "agitation among Protestants and Catholic workers members of other trade unions. An attempt was made to minimize this difficulty by passing the following resolution at the Three Rivers convention of September, 1919:

"(Resolution 19). Whereas certain rumors have circulated that the National Catholic Union do not protect Protestant workers in labor matters, this convention allows the adoption of a resolution protesting against such a statement, and energetically states that it has protected, and is still protecting, Protestant workers in all labor matters by issuing to them an adjunct membership card which guarantees to them all the protection they need.

"Investigation shows that this adjunct membership card permitted the holder to pay dues but debarred him from any voting power in the union.

"Perusal of the constitution reveals some interesting facts. That of the Catholic Union of the Quebec Printing and Bookbinding Workers may be of interest to the Montreal Gazette. It reads in part as follows:

"Chapter I. Article 1: "There is founded in the City of Quebec between the Catholic workers following the printing and bookbinding trades, an organization which shall be known as follows: The Catholic Union of the Quebec Printing and Bookbinding Workers.

"Article 2. The union has for its immediate object the study, the protection and development of the professional interests of its members; but it subordinates this proximate object to the exigencies of the superior interests of social, society and religion.

"Article 3. Because it is a Catholic labor organization, the Catholic Union of the Quebec Printing and Bookbinding Workers:

"(a) Shall affiliate with the Action Sociale Catholique;

"(b) Shall receive from it, after filing the usual conditions and upon presentation of its statutes and bylaws, a special diploma which shall be the warranty of the Catholicism of the union;

"(c) Shall admit among its members Catholic workers only;

"(d) It shall have a chaplain;

"(e) It shall remember:

"(1) That all human life, those of groups as well as those of individuals are subjected to the tribunal of conscience;

"(2) That justice and Christian charity are the two supreme mandatory rules or relations between employers and workers;

"(3) Recognizing that the church alone has the right and is qualified to say where, in the social and labor relations, the just and the unjust, the good and the bad, what is permissible and what is not, the C. U. of P. and B. W. will comply entirely and conscientiously, in the pursuit of its object, with the teaching and instructions of the religious authority.

"(4) In order to still show its character as a Catholic Union, the C. U. of P. and B. W.

"(a) Put itself under the protection of St. Joseph.

"(b) It shall cause to be celebrated every year, on the Feast Day of its Holy Patron Saint, a solemn mass with a sermon, all members endeavoring to attend, and receive Holy Communion.

"(c) When a member dies the Union shall cause to be celebrated in the Church where the funeral takes place a high mass for the repose of the Brother's soul, and shall be represented at said mass by at least two of its members.

"Chapter II.—Membership, admission and exclusion.

"Art. 4. The Catholic Union of Printing and Bookbinding Workers of Quebec is composed of an unlimited number of members:

"Art. 5. To become a member of the C. U. of P. and B. W. one must:

"1.—Be an active Catholic.

"2.—Be at least 18 years old; follow (as prototype machine operator, case binder, pressman, feeder, binder, finisher and ruler) the printing or book binding trade since at least five years, or that of stereotypy since at least three years and hold a certificate of competency (as journeyman) delivered by the Union itself.

"All those who, being 15 years old, have followed the printing or book binding trade for at least two years, may also be members of the Union, but as apprentices and without having a certificate of competency, if they otherwise fulfill the other conditions of admission.

"3.—Belong to no other society or any organization, the principles, tendencies and spirit of which do not agree with those of the union.

"Chapter III.—Executive Committee, Council, General Assembly, and Treasurer of the Union, elected in February of each year and re-eligible at the expiration of their term of office by the General Assembly of the Union, appointed by His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec.

"II. The Executive Committee is directed to administer the property of the Union, to dispatch daily and routine business, and to carry out the decision of the General Assembly, in the direction which it recommends, and to which it gives an account of its operations and conduct. It is its duty to call regular meetings or, if need be, special meetings of the Council and General Assembly and to settle itself all matters relating to such calls.

"III. The Executive Committee meets once a week at the place, date and hour fixed by itself. As to special meetings of the General Assembly the President of the Union shall call them if four members of the Union request him in writing to do so.

"Art. 18. The Council is composed of the members of the Executive Committee and three Councilors elected in February of each year, and re-eligible at the expiration of their term of office by the General Assembly of members.

"The Council has as its powers necessary for the direction of the management of the affairs of the Union in particular:

"It admits, refuses, or excludes members, after consulting the General Assembly.

"It settles all matters in connection with the enforcement of the bylaws of the Union and the putting into practice of the principles which the Union recognizes as governing its action.

"Art. 19. The Chaplain is appointed by His Grace the Archbishop of Quebec. He is a member of the Executive Committee, Council, and General Assembly. He takes part in all debates but does not vote. He may, however, require that any resolution be submitted to the Archbishop of Quebec and approved by him before taking effect, and any resolution adopted during his absence must be communicated to him before being carried out.

"The apprenticeship bylaws provide that:

"1. The selector of apprentices belongs to the employer, and no one shall be allowed, without his consent, to work in printing and book binding shops;

"All apprentices shall be at least 14 years of age and shall have shown a sufficient knowledge of the French language to the satisfaction of both the employer and the union.

"The foregoing clearly shows that the purpose is church control of an organization of industrial workers. Note that no resolution can pass or be adopted without the chaplain's consent, who will in turn—if he is in doubt—submit same to the bishop, whose decision is final, regardless of the wishes of the membership. Note too that apprenticeship is required, and that the applicant must have the endorsement of the union as to his ability to speak French, not Protestant, and no Catholic connected with any other organization of workers is eligible for membership. Why? Obviously because they cannot be satisfactorily controlled by the church authorities.

"May I relate just two instances of how the application of the National Catholic Union principles work out. During 1919 the Department of Labor received a complaint that it was difficult, if not impossible, for any National Catholic Union member to get employment in the Davies ship yards at Lauzon. It was also observed that the dry dock operated by that company was built with public money and protected vigorously against Protestants or Catholics, not members of the National Catholic Union, being debarred from employment. On February 23, 1920, a French-Canadian Catholic filed complaint that two painters, members of the International Painters' Union, working on the Drill Hall at Quebec City, were dis-

missed by the contractors because they would not join the National Catholic Union. The complaint stated this was the second instance of discrimination against them. Briefly stated, the conflict arises because of the determination of church authorities to automatically control industry and industrial workers, discriminating against those who do not bow to their dictation.

"To such a policy the present Minister of Labor will never subscribe; Mr. Lapointe does; does the Montreal Gazette?"

"Finally, your paper supports Mr. Lapointe in his endorsement of the National Catholic Union request for representation at the conference of the National Industrial Council of building employers and workers. I wonder why?"

"The Dominion Association of Building Contractors and the trade unions representing the building trades in Canada, did, in 1919, lay the foundation for active co-operation between employer and employee in that important industry. They have established local industrial councils in several large cities with a central or appeal court to which local disputes unadjusted may

be referred. On the Central Council each interest has equal representation, but no chairman. Both interests asked the Department of Labor for its co-operation in providing an official of the department to act as convener of and preside at the Central Council meetings, but without any voting power. His advice on questions under consideration being solicited by both. The development of the Co-operative Industrial Council idea is growing and the object of the conference on May 15 is to encourage it among those who have found it possible to work together in harmony. The delegates are being invited upon the nomination of the employers' and workers' respective organizations. The National Catholic Union delegates would be gladly invited if the consent of the parties participating were obtained, but instead of groups whose principles, claims and programs are not entirely in opposition, the National Catholic Union now demands that the Department of Labor force their unwelcome presence upon this conference, the only possible effect of which would be to destroy its usefulness. They know the Department could not lend itself to such a proposal, therefore a good opportunity presented itself for Mr. Lapointe to endorse a project calculated to provoke discord and, at the same time, blame the Government for it, and you lent the support of your paper to the trick.

"I hope you will give this letter the same publicity as your editorial received."

"The National Central Trades Council of the District of Quebec is, moreover, absolutely a stranger to all the doings of the 'Labor Party' of the Province of Quebec, and has no relation whatever with either of the 'Trades and Labor Congress of Canada' or the Trades and Labor Council of Montreal.

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After an experience in the administration of the Ontario Temperance Act covering the period since it first came into force in September, 1916, I am in a position to state that importation is seriously hampering its effectiveness," states the Chairman of the Board of License Commissioners.

Send a Dominion Express Money Order. Shall the importation and the bringing of intoxicating liquors into the Province be forbidden? NO. Shall the importation and the bringing of intoxicating liquors into the Province be forbidden? YES X. VOTE—and vote—YES. Cut off the Bootlegger's Source of Supply. Ontario Referendum Committee.



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Letters to the Editor

PROHIBITION OR GOVERNMENT CONTROL

Sir:—In the Toronto Evening Telegram of March 7, some ministers... I know many more bishops and clergymen who think that they would not be true to their ordination vows if they preached the prohibition gospel.

Everybody wants a sober country. Everybody wants a law-abiding country. Everybody wants to protect the rising generation. Everybody wants to get away with the money which is caused by drink.

Next to the man who herds the unthinking voters to the polls, the greatest menace to the country is the thoughtless voter.

But now that we have paid for our experience, we begin to wonder if they were not right after all. The spiritual forces are infinitely more potent than the material.

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bound to swing as far the other way. The country is not ripe. If we had been dry prohibition in Ontario today it could not be enforced.

Everyman's hand is against the thief. Not one man in 10,000 will inform against his neighbor for taking an illegal drink. The cellars of the well-to-do have been filled—the poor man can make his own whiskey in a five-dollar still.

The Bishop of Montreal did a sensible thing before the last Referendum. He exhorted his people to study every side of the question before casting their votes.

There is really only one question before the country today, which is the best way to obtain what we want—Total Prohibition or Government Control?

Yours truly, ERNEST HEATON.

HIS HEAD WAS TURNED

Deck-hand: "Poor Bill Spool is dead. He broke his neck in sick bay last night." Striker: "Dead! I thought he only had a slight attack of lambrago."



Rapids." This is but one of the features that compel your interest in the trip from

NIAGARA - to - the - SEA

There's the delightful scenery of the Thousand Islands—the sojourn in quaint Quebec—and finally the canyon-like scenery of the River Saguenay where massive promontories rise like giant obelisks and seem to touch the sky.

Capes Trinity and Eternity are higher than Gibraltar; they and the canyon, of which they form a part, form a fitting climax to a trip of incomparable charm and interest.

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THE FORTY-FOUR HOUR WEEK

By J. W. HAYS, Secretary-Treasurer, International Typographical Union

The most important problem confronting the International Typographical Union at this time is putting into effect the forty-four-hour week on the first day of next May. That considerable opposition is to be encountered is evident from the fact that a number of meetings of employers, the book and job branch of the printing industry have been held recently at which they have gone on record against the plan, and declare that they are going to fight.

This was the same stand taken by certain employers in the industry when it was announced by the International Typographical Union that a nine-hour day would be established, and when some years later a movement was inaugurated for establishing the eight-hour day.

It should also be remembered that the Closed Shop Branch of the United Typothetae, the Printers' League of America and the International Association of Employing Electrotypers some two years ago agreed that forty-four hours should be the basic work week.

These bodies comprise the employers' group embraced in the International Joint Conference Council, which met in Atlanta, Ga., December 13 and 14, 1920, and reaffirmed that this Joint Conference Council considers that all members of its constituent bodies are morally bound to adopt and put into effect the forty-four-hour week on May 1, 1921.

Notwithstanding their cry that the printing industry was headed straight for the rocks should the employees be successful in their shorter workday movement, the industry survived, and with the shorter workday in effect thrived and grew as never before in its history.

They say that "Everything comes to those who save their money while they wait." The record of our Savings Account depositors shows the truth of this saying.

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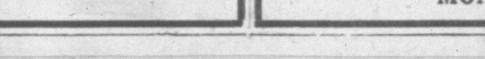
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Union is of the opinion that the will be the attitude of practically all of these employers when the date arrives to place in effect the shorter work-week.

Some employers are taking advantage of present industrial conditions in their attempt to prevent the inauguration of the shorter work-week. They are wildly acclaiming that there should be more production when it is an undisputed fact that there is over-production in most lines of industry.

A few employers have organized themselves under a high-sounding title, calling themselves "Employing Printers of America," and are determined that there will be no reduction in hours.

The personnel of this body contains the names of men who never recognized the eight-hour day, so they are of the opinion that the will be the attitude of practically all of these employers when the date arrives to place in effect the shorter work-week.

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the International Union need not worry about the influence this crowd will have in the present situation.

They predict that before the end of 1921 a majority of the successful printing concerns of this country will be operating on a fifty-hour basis.

They are due for a rude awakening.

"A collapse of the Soviet Government at the present time would be disastrous, if not disastrous, to the most respectable elements of the world."



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### VANCOUVER CARPENTERS WILL RESIST ATTEMPT TO REDUCE WAGES.

VANCOUVER — Carpenters of Vancouver met last week in the Dominion Hall to consider the report of the joint committee of the carpentry organization which met the master builders in conference recently on the question of a readjustment of wages.

The meeting, which was largely attended after hearing the report, discussed the contemplated wage reduction as proposed by the Master Builders' Association, and, upon motion, decided to adhere to their original demands of no reduction in the wage schedule of \$7.25 a day as now paid.

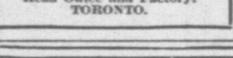
Members reported that the building trade was in a bad condition, but that this was not due to the wages paid but to general depression.

"British Columbia," declared one delegate, "has always paid the lowest wages in the building trades of any place on the Pacific Coast and we feel that the time has come when we must take a determined stand on this question of wage reduction without a corresponding decrease in the cost of living."

Another delegate reported that carpenters employed at the Wallace Shipyards were working for less than the agreed wages, and a lively discussion arose as to what action should be taken.

HOW IT WAS TO BE DONE. A colored blacksmith recently announced a change in his business as follows: "Notice—De co-partnership heretofore existing between me and Moses Skinner is hereby dissolved. Dem what owe de firm will settle wid me, and dem what de firm owes will settle wid Moses."

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### THE SITUATION IN THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AT OTTAWA.

The Ottawa Branch of the Association of Building and Construction Industries in Canada has notified the Ottawa Building Trades Council that there is to be no democracy in the building and construction industry in Ottawa. Why this action is one seems able to state.

For the past two years there has been in effect a union shop in the building and construction industry in Ottawa. Democracy entered the industry and with it came an industrial council. To this tribunal all disputes—after the agreement was signed—were submitted. Many of them were settled to the advantage of the employer; and all were settled to the satisfaction of the parties concerned. The employers now take the position that "monarchism is all I survey," and this democracy is to be supplanted by the old autocracy.

In reviewing this situation one needs to go back a few years. For the past quarter of a century the International Trades Union Movement has struggled for democracy in industry. It has experienced much opposition. It has fought many an industrial battle. It met some defeat, it won some victories. Today it is in a large number of industrial centres in the building industry. Disputes in the building industry have been frequent in Ottawa. Two years ago the workers were successful in their struggle for democracy and a union shop was established in the building and construction industry in the Capital city. The employers, until a short time ago, operated under various organizations but the best brains of the employers decided to take a leaf out of Labor's book and an association was formed in which all of the various employers' organizations were united or affiliated. This organization is known as the Association of Building and Construction Industries of Canada. At its last convention in Winnipeg, it decided to fight for the non-union shop. It does not call it by that name, but has decided for reasons best known to itself, to term it the "Optional Plan of Employment." We have pointed out the impossibilities of this proposal, so far as the workers are concerned. This "Plan" is well-known to all Canadian Labor Press readers. The Ottawa Branch also brought Ottawa a member of the Detroit Builders' Exchange to tell of the "advantages" of this scheme. The Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association warned its affiliated members of the danger of this movement and one of the Ottawa daily newspapers reprinted the remarks of the "paid official of the employers." To those in our midst who believe that the non-union shop movement is confined solely to the United States, we suggest that they study well the situation in the building industry at Ottawa.

We have heard it stated that had the Building Trades Council asked for a continuance of the present rate of wages there would be no trouble. To this argument we simply state that the attitude of the employers is not based on the rate of wages asked, but it is on the right of the workers to deal collectively, through representatives of their own choosing with the employers.

The employers have been ill advised in deciding to fight the Ottawa Building Trades Council at this time. The affiliated organizations are better prepared for the struggle today than they were 10 or 20 years ago. They have learned much about industrial warfare. They have saved some money. The finances of the various international organizations are in excellent condition. Their own desire is for industrial peace and harmony. If there is a struggle in the building and construction industry in Ottawa no blame can be laid at the door of the Building Trades Council, or its affiliates. To the employers must be attached all responsibility.

It is not yet too late for the Ottawa Branch of the Association of Building and Construction Industries to declare for a continuance of democracy in the building and construction industry. Delay is making it exceedingly difficult for a satisfactory settlement.—J. A. P. H.

It is not others you must educate to demand the union label, card and button; it is yourself.

### OTTAWA TRADES COUNCIL ENDORSES ROLLO'S FAIR RENTALS BILL.

OTTAWA.—At the last regular meeting of the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association that body went on record as being in favor of Hon. Walter Rollo's Fair Rentals Bill. The Fire Fighters' request for a Board of Conciliation was also endorsed as was the stand of the Minister of Labor in regard to the National Catholic Union. The executive urged all members to cast their vote on the coming referendum. In another column appears extracts from the addresses of Mr. Tom Moore and Mr. P. M. Draper.

SUNSTRUCK. Just a laborer—dead! Stricken down by the sun. Here his day's work was done. "Overcome by heat," they said. Look on him, lying there. Buried and wrinkled face, Lacking beauty or grace. Furrowed with lines of care. Some must dig in the ditch. Others may tell as game. Hecken it is as you please. Life belongs to the rich. Masters of time are they, Lordlings of circumstance. What matters, then, the chance That a workman drops by the way. "It is useless to talk of calling people out on strike if they won't follow us to the ballot box."—J. H. Thomas. Which we have said—often.

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