



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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LABOR AND THE SOVIET

At the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress Convention held in a resolution submitted by a Nova Scotia group in favor of a resolution submitted by a Nova Scotia group in favor of a large State loan being made by Canada to the Soviet Government of Russia. The vote, and the discussion which preceded it, showed that the majority of the Labor people in Canada, as represented by two-thirds of the delegates, know more about the Russian Soviet Government and its ways than the men who sent the resolution to the Congress. But perhaps most of those men were misled by a few Communist conspirators who have recently been in Nova Scotia.

The Soviet Government was brought into being by men whose ostensible and avowed purpose was to serve above all else the interests of the masses of the common people of Russia. What have been the fruits of Soviet rule in Russia? The people robbed of what property they may have had; free speech made as much of a mockery as it ever was in the blackest days of czarist rule; men and women put at enforced labor under military rule; administration of justice made a travesty, and men and women executed by thousands! This is the lot of the common people in Russia under the Soviet Government which the resolution rejected at Montreal sought to assist. "Ah, but wait," someone who has heard the talking of the Communist may say, "this is the prejudiced assertion of an enemy of Labor." Very well; listen to what was said during the debate by Tom Moore, now re-elected for a fifth term as president of the Trades and Labor Congress:

"Don't confuse starvation appeals with Soviet matters. Do you think you could hold this Congress in Russia? Do you think you could have free speech there? If you tried it you would be stood up in front of some Red Guard and shot down. . . . There is no democracy in Russia. Don't think because they have overthrown Czarism in Russia they have overthrown autocracy. Instead of that they have set up the worst kind of autocracy—a military dictatorship."

What would liberty loving Canadians wish to have to do with an organization of which such things as these may truthfully be said? Since the adjournment of the Congress sessions, moreover, there has come new evidence of the autocratic and oppressive policy of the Soviet Government. Today there has been revived in Russia a brutal practice followed in the days of the worst of the czars—the exile, without trial, of those whom it pleases the rulers to drive away from home. At the whim of the infamous Cheka, or secret police of the Soviet, men and women are driven into Siberia or wherever the persecutors lease—driven out without shadow of trial, perhaps without even a knowledge of the reason advanced for their exile.

And it is such a Government that the resolution put before the Canadian Congress would help. No wonder the resolution was rejected by an overwhelming majority. The wonder is that even glib Communist talkers could mislead anybody in Canada into supporting the proposal.

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WHEN LABOR STRIKES AGAINST STRIKES

Continued from Page 1.
When The Big Test Came.

Union chiefs, builders, and technical men hailed the formation of the board as the beginning of a new day. It proceeded to justify the acclaim by promptly deciding an ancient feud between sheet metal workers and plumbers and steamfitters over the assembling of air-cooling machinery. To determine the facts, the board—in itself a highly expert body—heard not only the union claimants, but manufacturers and installing employers and an outside expert or two.

Cheerful acceptance of the ruling was taken as an augury of real results. "If" it was argued, "these battlers accept its verdicts, others will have to."

Succeeding cases increased confidence in the board. This confidence, however, was tempered by doubt as to what would happen when the most famous dispute of all—that between the carpenters and sheet-metal workers' unions as to which craft should have the placing of metal doors, window frames and other metal trim in fireproof buildings—was decided. This fight had raged for fifteen years, despite attempt after attempt by the American Federation of Labor to compose it. Because of the construction of buildings had been held up for months—a classic example was the Hotel Winton, in Cleveland, where strike delay cost the owners \$100,000—and the success of large enterprises, such as the San Francisco Fair, was imperilled.

Consideration of this dispute by the board was delayed for months on one request or another from the carpenters. Eventually on their asking yet more delay it was decided against them. Their response was a refusal to abide by the ruling. They withdrew their member from the board.

The refusal of the largest union in the building trades—it has over 300,000 members—to abide by the decision of a body it had helped create, was a distinct challenge to the life of the board. It was met by the remaining sixteen unions keeping their pledge and forcing the carpenters out of the Building Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor over the protest of the veteran vice president of the federation, James Duncanson, who sought opportunity for compromise.

An attempt to force the suspension of the carpenters from the American Federation of Labor next threatening, Samuel Gompers intervened with an effort to induce the sixteen unions standing by the board to relent and allow the acceptance of the compromise. The response was the almost unanimous indorsement of the board and all it had done.

Not even the cry of "the open shop" could swing the delegates from standing by the board, which, in the opinion of those best qualified to judge, passed its great crisis when the vote was recorded.

Having been sustained to the limit by the unions which constitute its backbone, the board, in evidence of its courage and convictions, has now lined up all its elements behind a declaration of war upon the recalcitrant carpenter, declaring in a resolution, free from all ambiguity, its intention that he shall be good or suffer the consequences. This resolution, among other things, provides:

"That the members of the Associated General Contractors and of the National Association of Trades Employers shall refuse employment to any local union or members thereof neglecting or refusing to abide by the decision of the Jurisdictional Board.

"That the Building Trade Department of the American Federation of Labor shall instruct local councils to unseat any local union refusing compliance with such decisions, and that associated international unions shall instruct their respective locals to extend neither recognition nor support until such time as delinquent locals accept and abide by all decisions of the Jurisdictional Board.

"That this resolution shall be enforced as expeditiously as possible, beginning with those localities in which the trouble appears to be most acute and where action seems most urgent, and that all these signatories make special and united efforts toward securing general and complete compliance with all the decisions of the Board."

That means, in plain English, that where carpenters refuse to abide by the board's ruling, the employer is to establish open-shop conditions so far as that trade is concerned, the members of other unions sustaining him in so doing, and that the fight will be carried on systematically and with all elements united to fight the one recalcitrant.

How far the war will go, how long it will last, I do not know. Neither does any union man, employer, or technical adviser I have talked with. Many, however, are inclined to agree with me that with the carpenter, incorrigible though the record may make him appear, more interested in working than in fighting, an early peace honorable to all will be arranged.

Meantime, however, of 200 disputes, each with a potential for scores of strikes, big and little, in a single building season, but one remained.

LIVE LIKE SLAVES SAYS COMMITTEE

Living and working conditions of miners employed in the Berwind-White Coal Company's mines were declared to be "worse than the conditions of the slaves prior to the Civil War," in the report of the committee appointed by Mayor Hylan to investigate labor conditions in the Berwind-White mines in Somerset and other counties of Pennsylvania which supply the Interborough Rapid Transit Company with coal.

This report, made public yesterday by Commissioner of Accounts David H. H. H. H., chairman of the committee, urged that the government take over the coal fields, and operate them for the "benefit of the people and place

it beyond the possibility of any man or group of men to restrict coal production, or its distribution." The committee declared that E. J. Berwind, president of the Berwind-White Company, as chairman of the board of directors of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company which had made it possible for him "to purchase from his own company coal mined under unfair and heart-breaking conditions and reap therefrom enormous profits, amounting in 1921 to more than \$1,000,000 with corresponding financial detriment to the tax and rent-payers in the city of New York." Because of the alleged attitude of the Berwind Company towards its miners and the resultant strike, the committee said that "from all appearances the increased expenditure of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company for fuel this year will be at least \$2,000,000 over last year."

C. N. R. WORKERS TO BE ALLOWED TO SEEK OFFICE

President of Railway System Makes Decision After Careful Review. 97,000 Represented. Conference is Arranged by Tom Moore, the Labor Leader.

The "Hanna Order" which prevented employees of the Canadian National Railways from accepting public elective positions has been rescinded. In a statement made at an informal conference of chairmen and general chairmen of the standard railway union organizations employed on the National Railways with the executive committee members, Sir Henry Thornton, president of the government system, announced the removal of the order. Sir Henry stated that, immediately on assuming office he had recognized that the order should be carefully reviewed. This had been done, and he informed the representatives of the employees that it had been decided to remove the order in so far as the executive of the Canadian National Railways was concerned.

The conference this afternoon was arranged by Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress and representative of labor on the board of directors of the Canadian National Railways. There were present representatives of 9,000 employees spread over the entire Canadian National system. With Sir Henry Thornton were S. J. Hungerford and W. D. Robb, vice-presidents and general managers of the government lines. Senator Gideon Robertson, vice-president of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, presided.

At the close of the meeting, the first of its kind ever held, Mr. Moore said that Sir Henry had outlined to the men's leaders his policy regarding the operation of the system, and his attitude and that of his associates towards labor. He had emphasized the fact that the loyalty and service of the workers was just as essential to success as the direction of the administration and the support of the public. The representatives of the men made suggestions and assured the president that he could depend upon the whole-hearted support of his employees in this task.

Mr. Moore stated that the announcement in regard to the "Hanna order" had been received with enthusiasm by the employees' representatives. Various speakers representing the shop crafts, transportation organizations and clerical staffs stated that the workers had been impressed with Sir Henry's fair attitude toward labor. Attention was drawn by these speakers to the previous declarations of the president that he would resist political interference in the operation of the railways. It was said that labor organizations in the past had fought against political patronage and interference on the old Intercolonial railway during the government management. Organized workers could be depended upon to give Sir Henry Thornton every support in carrying out the pledge that no political interference would be allowed.

A CHANGE NEEDED IN MEDICAL SERVICE

Hamilton Speaker Favors Revision of System To Obtain Best Results.

Hamilton.—Opposing the complete nationalization of the medical profession, Dr. J. H. Mullin, addressing the Hamilton Association for the Advancement of Literature, Science and Art, in the public library lecture hall, declared that changes in the present system were necessary to get the best results.

The speaker was last year president of the Ontario Medical Association. The problem of medical service was one closely connected with the social service, he pointed out, and the solution could not be found if there was selfish class opposition or lack of co-operation through ignorance of conditions.

Favoring a revision in the plan of service, the speaker said the medical men themselves must first clean house, but this could not be done unless there was protection against possible actions for slander.

Dr. Mullin predicted that the bulk of the work for the practitioner in the years to come would be in the preventive field for the child, and periodic examination for the adult.

In the hopes that their efforts would show that it was necessary to establish small community hospitals in surrounding counties, Dr. Mullin said that the doctors in Ontario were studying the questions of more complete hospitalization for the sick.

Concluding his speaker advocated the application locally of a scheme of the British ministry of health for the division of a district into primary and secondary health centres. A commission either elected or selected by the people, could manage the affairs, without in any way interfering with the present independent system.

STRIKERS IN JAIL OVER ALBERTA RIOT

Wives of Miners Demand Aid of the Authorities.

Edmonton, Alta.—Wives of 135 miners continued their campaign of protest against the arrest of their husbands. A delegation waited upon Mayor Tagan and demanded that the city provide them with food, clothing and other necessities while their husbands are held.

The mayor declared the women would have to take their case to the regular City welfare board.

The women then asked that they be allowed to appoint three to act on the welfare board, declaring that the chairman of the board was prejudiced against foreigners.

This the mayor refused to do. Leonard Barlow, one of the 29 pickets arrested, Wednesday morning, was found guilty and sentenced to 30 days on a charge of assault on Thomas McEwan.

He was also remanded for trial on a charge of being a member of an unlawful assembly.

"I Had Terrible Backache From Kidney Disease"



Mrs. M. A. McNeill, Cannon St., N.B., writes: "I was troubled for years with terrible backache, resulting from kidney disease. At times in each month I remained in bed, the pain was more than I could stand, and to walk was almost impossible. I used about \$50.00 worth of other medicines, but with little result. Now I am completely better, after using only five boxes of Dr. Chase's Kidney-Liver Pills.

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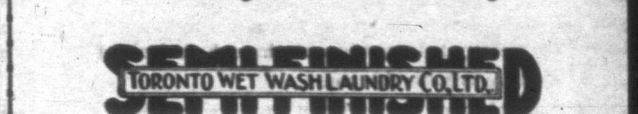
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FRIENDS OF LABOR

ENTERPRISES THAT HAVE SHOWN A FRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE WORKING CLASS

RUSSIAN PEASANTRY BLANK AND BRUTAL

Bolshevism may be bad enough, but on the Russian horizon looms another figure, which, at least as seen through the eyes of one of the most famous of living Russians, appears quite as terrible. Maxim Gorky, the writer, himself risen from the dregs of the old Russian civilization, presents the Russian peasant to the world as a crowning type of brutality. The Russian novelist and playwright, himself more or less of a Bolshevik in spite of having been frequently in conflict with the Bolshevik authorities for his unorthodox opinions, has lately written an extended study of his peasant countrymen, which is published in translation in the Revue Bleue of Paris.

The Russian peasant in his loneliness, in his lack of variety, tends to be blank and brutal in mind. His labor is performed in the most primitive manner. It is very difficult and wearing, so that, in the Russian language, the same verb means both to labor and to suffer. He sees the contrast between the burden of his fatigue and the insignificant results of his toil, and it reinforces in him the instinct of private property and contentment almost entirely the influence of the doctrines which describe all human life to the power of the instinct. He cannot think in terms of great cities or great factories, great museums or great parks and theatres, built by the co-operation of many people. He retires into his own little hut, after his day of hard, solitary labor is completed, soaks himself in alcohol as often and as thoroughly as possible, and dreams much of his life away in a kind of melancholia.

Cruelty, which Gorky finds an outstanding characteristic of the peasant nature, may be explained in part by the fact that the Russian peasant seems to have evolved very little from the type of man common over most of Europe in the early middle ages. The writer speaks of having read a book "The Progress and Evolution of Cruelty." However, he continues: "I am obliged to remark that there has been no evolution in Russian cruelty—apparently it has undergone a change in form. A chronicler writing at the beginning of the seven-

BRITISH PREMIER NOT OLD OFFICE

First Prime Minister Assumed Title Only Two Hundred Years Ago.

When all the world is interested in the accession of a new British Premier, as happens in these after-war days, it is interesting to note that in England Prime Ministers are "a comparatively modern institution." We are so accustomed to think of the political machinery of the British Isles as dating back too far in the past to bear remembrance, that the information that this office is only about two hundred years old comes with surprise.

The Hon. Clive Bigham reminds us that in the days of the Norman and the Plantagenet monarchs, the King himself directed and carried on the government of the country by the advice of his council. This he did through his officers and largely from his own revenues. Usually he chose these officers himself, though at times they were "forced upon him." In "The Prime Minister of Britain" this informant further relates: "For the most part they were priests, the medieval ecclesiastics possessing considerable advantages over laymen in the way of education and of freedom from family ties. They often rose to great power, and rivalled the King himself. . . . But after the Wars of the Roses nearly all of the old families had disappeared. When Henry VII. came to the throne the lay peers totalled only 29, one-third of what their number had been a hundred and fifty years earlier. The influence of the Church also was diminishing, whilst two new classes, the landed gentry and the city merchants, were rapidly becoming more literate and acquiring importance. The names of Howard, Seymour, Cecil, Cavendish, and Russell now first rise into prominence and the House of Commons is really beginning to count."

TO DISSENT FROM THE FEDERAL VIEW ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

Emphatic protests will be made by Winnipeg civic and provincial authorities against the view taken by federal government that unemployment is now back to normal and that the cost of relief this winter should be borne by the provincial and municipal governments. While unemployment conditions in Winnipeg and urban districts show an improvement over last winter, officials here contend that they are still abnormal and the contention is made that the federal government has failed in pledges given at the unemployment conference held in Ottawa last September.

LABOR POLITICS IN UNITED STATES

An attempt to form an American Labor Party was made on December 11, 1922, at Cleveland, by a conference of delegates representing Farmer, Socialist and Trade Unionist Organizations.

The idea was to launch a National Labor Party, similar to that of England, but it was decided to defer organization for the present. The United States already has a Socialist Party which has been in existence for a long time, but has not made much headway. There is also a Farmer-Labor Party organized about two years ago; its activities have been mainly centered in the Middle West, and as yet is more of a sentiment than a force. Then there is the American Workers' Party, mainly composed of Communists and I. W. W.'s; it met in New York the other day and achieved the line of sending a message to Lenin, asserting that the United States was getting ready to overthrow capitalism and set up communism.

Another organization through which American labor seeks to exercise political influence is the A. F. of L. National Non-Partisan Political Campaign Committee. In a recent report on the work of this committee President Sam Gompers of the A. F. of L. says it secured tremendous victories in the November elections. This report claims that the committee secured the election of 170 friends of Labor, viz.: Democrats 105, Republicans 62, Farmer-Labor; Independents 1.

The committee recommends that it be authorized in the name of the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. to endeavor to bring about the cooperation of all Labor and Progressive groups, so that there may be unity of action to protect and promote the rights and interests of the working people and the people generally. It is reported that one of the reasons why the Cleveland Conference adjourned without taking definite action was to see what will be the outcome of the proposed move of the A. F. of L. But it is apparently not the intention of President Gompers and his advisors to form an independent Labor Party for his report upon the November elections says: "It is my conviction that by alert interest in political affairs and with a constant devotion and partisan to principles without regard to party, we can materially advance the interests of the workers. The unity of opinion throughout our movement in this regard is most gratifying, and it is that unity upon which all of our success must rest."

Nevertheless, the Sovereigns are still paramount, presiding at his Council and personally selecting his ministers. But under the Stuarts this choice became more restricted and it was soon "distinctly limited to Members of either House of Parliament." With the Restoration came further changes and it is pointed out that Ministers were obliged to pay more attention as well as considerable gratification to the members of the House of Commons while even the King used to go down to the House of Lords and try to influence their decisions. In 1688 the arbitrary power of the Crown was definitely checked, Parliament became "almost supreme" and a certain responsibility was compelled from the administration. King William, who acted largely as his own Minister, took an active and constant part in the government, but Queen Anne devolved more and more of her duties upon her councillors. Then a fresh development came.

"A foreign prince succeeded to the throne. Entirely dependent on the good-will of a parliamentary majority, and speaking hardly any English, he could not effectively control that committee of the Council which was gradually growing into a Cabinet. He was averse to political business and became attached to a single Minister. This Minister, who led the Commons, was also a leader of the Whigs, and was supported by the great Families of the Revolution. Gradually he took the first place amongst his colleagues, communicating the royal commands to them, and their views to the Sovereign. From this to a more precise position was but a short step, and the regular series of Prime Ministers is regarded as beginning with Sir Robert Walpole's appointment to the office of First Lord of the Treasury, in April, 1721."

One reason that the Prime Minister has presided over the Treasury, it appears, is that its patronage was always so great, that, according to Fox, "whoever filled it must have much more power than any other member of the Cabinet." But Mr. Clive Bigham gives another reason for the Prime Minister's control of the Treasury: the fact that in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the Treasury furnished the secret service money, and one of its principal men was for bribes to members of Parliament; and, "as Fox justly remarked, no Minister could lead the House of Commons without being informed on this question." Indeed, the actual management of the House was so closely connected with the Treasury that the Patronage Secretary and the Junior Lords have gradually developed into the chief and other whips of the Ministry.

At times the Prime Minister has presided over another department; but, speaking generally, for two hundred years the position of the head of the government has been united with that of First Lord of the Treasury. The exceptions are Lord Chatham, who was Lord Privy Seal, and Lord Salisbury, who was successively Foreign Secretary and Lord Privy Seal on two occasions while leading an administration.

PROTEST REDUCTION IN WORKING HOURS

Union of Shopmen Carries Complaint to Sir Henry Thornton.

Local carmen, along with thousands of brother workers throughout Canada, are carrying their protest against the short week of 40 hours to Ottawa. Joseph Corbett, representative in this city, is today in Ottawa in conference with Sir Henry Thornton, president of the Canadian National Railways.

They have been working on a 44 hour week, and only a short time ago they were given to understand that this time schedule would be continued through out the winter. They have been officially notified, however, that beginning tomorrow (Saturday) the shops are to be closed in the morning. The afternoon is a half holiday anyway.

The loss to the men is terrific as over 700 employees in this city alone are affected. The wage cut per man each month will be about \$9.60. It is likely that a mass meeting of local carmen will be called for Monday night when the whole matter will be discussed and resolutions passed.

At the present time there is no action open to the carmen except abject surrender to the order. Mr. Corbett will lay the case of the carmen before the officials of the road and some means of arbitration may be decided upon.

INDUSTRIES AND TRADE WITH AFRICA

Brantford Manufacturers Arrange Interviews With Commissioner Egan to Discuss Proposition.

Brantford.—That Brantford manufacturers intend to take a greater interest in export trade this year is evidenced by the number of applications for interviews with Canadian Government trade commissioners who will visit the city in the near future under the auspices of the chamber of commerce.

W. J. Egan, trade commissioner for South Africa, will be in Brantford February 1, and many representative business men have made arrangements to have him discuss export trade with that country with them. He will also address the Rotary Club at their luncheon February 1.

P. W. Ward, commissioner at Singapore and representing the Canadian Government in British Borneo, Straits Settlements, Netherlands, East Indies and Siam, will also visit the city next month and will give information concerning the export possibilities to these countries for local manufacturers.

Licenses for city and county motor vehicles are expected to reach Brantford shortly. The 1923 markers are the reverse of 1922's in respect of the color, the background being black instead of white, while the figures and letters are white.

The word "Ontario" appears under the license number instead of at the side. The same scale of license fees will be in vogue this year, and in addition every motorist will be required to pay \$1 for the plates.

The department expects to net about \$250,000 from this additional charge, which will be used in the maintenance of Ontario's good roads system. In other places the issuance of licenses has been handed over to motor clubs, but no word has been received of any change here.

Two more aldermen were sworn in at the city hall Wednesday afternoon, these being A. J. J. Fisher and James D. Ansell, both from Ward 5. All members of the 1923 council must be sworn in before they can take their seats at the inaugural meeting next Monday morning.

FOREST FIRES RUIN FUR TRADE

Mr. Angus Brabant, Fur Trade Commissioner of the Hudson's Bay Company and an authority on fur and timber conditions in Canada, declares that forest fires have done so much damage that the fur trade of the Dominion is threatened. It is not only that are being destroyed, he explains, the millions of dollars worth of trees but the areas where the best fur-bearing animals thrive are rapidly becoming restricted. If the waste keeps on Canada will lose one of its greatest industries much sooner than most people might think possible.

Mr. Brabant, writing in The Illustrated Canadian Forestry Magazine, points out that it is in the most densely wooded districts that the finest furs are obtained, and he has noted the decline in the company's returns from areas which were formerly thickly covered but are now devastated regions. The losses to the fur trade resulting from forest fires is appalling. Mr. Brabant adds, and trappers, traders, cutters, dyers, garment makers and many thousand of other workers suffer accordingly.

It is encouraging to learn from Mr. Brabant that no forest fires are ever started through carelessness on the part of the men employed by the Hudson's Bay Company. All these employees, whites and Indians, are "scrupulously careful with fires in the bush," because they know what the awful result of a great bush fire is, and how easy it is to prevent it. "It is," says Mr. Brabant, "among the newer generations of Canadians, the campers, hunters, tourists and other transients who find their way into the woods that the need for education in matters pertaining to fire prevention is most urgently required."

These people do not start fires maliciously, but too few of them are careful. They leave smouldering fires in the woods thinking they will die out in a few minutes. But a breeze comes up suddenly, fans the abandoned camp fire into a blaze and soon the flames are sweeping over a vast acreage.

Canada's fire loss is a heavy burden on the taxpayers of the country, and if any taxpayers has not stopped to think about it he should do so forthwith. For it is obvious that millions of dollars of our most valuable assets cannot be wiped out year after year without the people paying for it, directly or indirectly. It is a case where negligence is criminal.

WOMEN TO RECEIVE \$14 MINIMUM WAGE

Edmonton.—Fourteen dollars a week is the wage to prevail in Alberta as the minimum for women industrial workers. The government has adopted the recommendations of the minimum wage board to that effect and the new wage scale will be effective after the first of April next. There will be a maximum working week for women workers of 48 hours, and it is also ruled that no more than 25 per cent of female employees may be classed as apprentices. Special classifications have been made for the several industries, the periods for learning varying in the different trades.

DUTCH IMMIGRANTS ARE EXPECTED

Although economic conditions in Europe are not most favorable to all aspects of immigration, the Acting Minister of that Department, Hon. Charles Stewart, and his assisting staff are putting forth every effort to obtain a very substantial influx this year. To that end, it is announced, offices are opened anew or reopened at Paris, Antwerp, Dantzig, Warsaw and Bucharest. Simultaneously extensive propaganda is being initiated in the Scandinavian countries and in Holland. From the last mentioned a good sized immigration to Canada is assured this year, according to advisers from governmental authorities there. In the British Isles the work is already under way.

Next week's conference here between the federal immigration authorities and representatives of the provincial governments is designed to have an important bearing upon activities of this year. The desire of the Dominion government is to regulate the influx of immigrants proportionately to the provincial capacity to assimilate. Before asking people to emigrate from the other side, it is desired to know just how many can be absorbed, where specifically they can be located, and in what particular line of work they can engage with the best prospect. With this knowledge beforehand there will be no trouble in obtaining as many as can be taken care of; but there is to be no programme of "hit or miss."

Immigration contemplated this year will not be restricted to the agricultural classes and domestic workers, though to them the preference will be given. There is a need for other kinds of labor, and one thing that occasions it is the heavy influx of skilled artisans in 1922 to the United States, where, in some of the building trades, the hourly wage goes as high as \$2 with higher rates still for overtime.

PROTEST REDUCTION IN WORKING HOURS

Union of Shopmen Carries Complaint to Sir Henry Thornton.

Local carmen, along with thousands of brother workers throughout Canada, are carrying their protest against the short week of 40 hours to Ottawa. Joseph Corbett, representative in this city, is today in Ottawa in conference with Sir Henry Thornton, president of the Canadian National Railways.

They have been working on a 44 hour week, and only a short time ago they were given to understand that this time schedule would be continued through out the winter. They have been officially notified, however, that beginning tomorrow (Saturday) the shops are to be closed in the morning. The afternoon is a half holiday anyway.

The loss to the men is terrific as over 700 employees in this city alone are affected. The wage cut per man each month will be about \$9.60. It is likely that a mass meeting of local carmen will be called for Monday night when the whole matter will be discussed and resolutions passed.

At the present time there is no action open to the carmen except abject surrender to the order. Mr. Corbett will lay the case of the carmen before the officials of the road and some means of arbitration may be decided upon.

INDUSTRIES AND TRADE WITH AFRICA

Brantford Manufacturers Arrange Interviews With Commissioner Egan to Discuss Proposition.

Brantford.—That Brantford manufacturers intend to take a greater interest in export trade this year is evidenced by the number of applications for interviews with Canadian Government trade commissioners who will visit the city in the near future under the auspices of the chamber of commerce.

W. J. Egan, trade commissioner for South Africa, will be in Brantford February 1, and many representative business men have made arrangements to have him discuss export trade with that country with them. He will also address the Rotary Club at their luncheon February 1.

P. W. Ward, commissioner at Singapore and representing the Canadian Government in British Borneo, Straits Settlements, Netherlands, East Indies and Siam, will also visit the city next month and will give information concerning the export possibilities to these countries for local manufacturers.

Licenses for city and county motor vehicles are expected to reach Brantford shortly. The 1923 markers are the reverse of 1922's in respect of the color, the background being black instead of white, while the figures and letters are white.

The word "Ontario" appears under the license number instead of at the side. The same scale of license fees will be in vogue this year, and in addition every motorist will be required to pay \$1 for the plates.

The department expects to net about \$250,000 from this additional charge, which will be used in the maintenance of Ontario's good roads system. In other places the issuance of licenses has been handed over to motor clubs, but no word has been received of any change here.

Two more aldermen were sworn in at the city hall Wednesday afternoon, these being A. J. J. Fisher and James D. Ansell, both from Ward 5. All members of the 1923 council must be sworn in before they can take their seats at the inaugural meeting next Monday morning.

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WORKER BANK TO PAY MORE TO DEPOSITORS

Milwaukee.—The Commonwealth Mutual Savings Bank announces that hereafter the interest rate on deposits will be 4 per cent instead of the 3 1/2 per cent. the bank has been paying.

The bank was organized over 10 years ago by local Socialists and union men, under state law that permits mutual banks to operate on a plan whereby there are no stockholders and all profits go back to the depositors. Its success was instant and has continued with increasing popularity.

"Every dollar deposited insures greater returns to depositors and at the same time reduces the cost of making a loan to the worker who has not yet cleared his home of a mortgage debt. We have proved that workers by co-operation, can charge labor fees for loans and pay labor more for savings than can be done by banks that are run for the benefit of stockholders," the bank says.

NO NEED TO APPLY FOR RELIEF

Declares Coal and Food A plenty Given Families of Striking Miners.

Edmonton, Alta.—Several serious cases of extreme hardship have been found among the families of striking miners now in jail awaiting trial.

Robert Peacock, Calgary, secretary of the District 18 of the U. M. W. A. when asked over the long distance telephone as to the use to which the alleged "war chest" of \$100,000 was being put, in view of the fact that some strikers' families were actually without food or coal, said:

"I did not bring \$25,000 to Edmonton with me, but we had that amount

in the bank at Calgary for use in the Edmonton strike. I deposited it in the Bank of Commerce at Edmonton sufficient money for two weeks' rations, and when this fund is exhausted, a similar sum will be sent up to Edmonton for the same purpose.

"Not only have we \$100,000 guaranteed by Indianapolis headquarters for the Edmonton strike, but another \$100,000 after that if necessary, and as much more beyond it as may be required to win out in the fight against the operators," added Mr. Peacock.

"The police may crowd the jails with pickets whom they arrest. We will send as many more into the field."

William Ryan, vice-president of the U. M. W. A., and leader of the strike, said that they had paid out over \$11,000 to the strikers and their families already. They had bought \$4,500 worth of groceries, and had placed an order for another \$1,500 worth today, in addition to which they had in some cases paid the rent of homes of the strikers.

Asked as to the stories from strikers' wives that they were destitute, Mr. Ryan said: "There is no reason for any of them to be without food. All of them get relief rations yesterday and any woman who needs food knows she can get it at the store we have opened on Jasper street. We have bought quite a lot of coal also for our members."

NOT A BOLSHEVİK OR EVEN COMMUNIST

Jean Longuet, French Socialist Leader and Editor, in Toronto

Toronto.—Jean Longuet, French Socialist leader and editor of the Socialist daily paper published in Paris, La Populaire, who arrived in Toronto to give an address, in an interview said he was not a Bolshevik and in fact was not even a Communist.

"To make all producers, consumers and all consumers producers—that is the goal we are aiming at," M. Longuet said. He admitted that the aims of the Socialist and Communist were almost identical, but the two differed in tactics.

M. Longuet said Communists were forced to obey whatever orders came from Moscow, and they were not free as were the Socialists.

With reference to recent talk of his not being allowed to speak in public in this city, M. Longuet laughed and shrugged his shoulders. He intimated that the trouble probably had arisen through excessive caution on the part of his manager, rather than as a result of any contemplated action by the police. He had had no difficulty of this nature in any city of his tour, he said.

IN THE STRIKE-BREAKERS' CAMP

Continued from Page 1.

possibility. Except possibly during the war, unskilled, semi-skilled, and unattached (not to say floating) labor has never had such a joy ride as this strike gave it. Even during the war the average employer could not be as free with transportation as are the railroad employers.

He Rambled All Round.

"And from Indianapolis Ah's going to Cincinnati, and from there to Nashville, and from Nashville Oh's going to ship down to some job around Charlotte, North Carolina, and from there, etc. Thus a young colored boy was explaining to his chum. When I remarked that he was evidently doing a good part of the country, he came back with his quick boast:

"Yes, and yeh ain't heard nothin' yet to what Ah's already done."

"We fellows got more yesterday," so a couple of tough looking youngsters were telling at the station before I went to work. "But if we quit, then we'll lose our transportation back to Philly—you know you got to stay fifteen days steady to get that. But if you fire you, then they gotta give you your transportation back. That's the law. So last night we went and hid and then got our boss to tell the super that he'd fired us. So here we are with our money and our tickets back home."

"How much of a stake you got today, buddy?" So runs the talk among the great majority of these drifters. They are evidently so philosophical that they are able to resist the lure of labor except when a job—a short-time job—furnishes such big earnings as are offered by the present rates, plus overtime, plus, in some cases, a bonus of a dollar or two a day, and plus, in all cases, free board and room, together with free transportation. Contrary to general belief, among the strikers, they have not been earning straight hourly wages above the rates scheduled by the Railroad Labor Board's decision.

Merry Life But a Short One.

Many of these floaters are finks—that is, professional strike breakers, who lead a merry high-spot life and usually a short one.

"Wherever his labor agent tells him, there's he's gotta go. See?" one of their friends explains. "His agent can wire him at any time for any job at any place. Of course he don't do no more work than he has to. He's mainly there to count one so the papers can say the job's going on fine—that, and to be ready to fight in case the strikers start something. In between jobs he mebbe gets cleaned out of money. Well, all he has to do is to go to his agent and say: 'Gimme thirty dollars on account!' Just like that. See?—and it's took out of his pay later on. Easy money, I'll say. The minute things get too quiet here, his agent'll probably wire him to beat it out to some place where there's more trouble."

"A lot of these finks are Junkers too," explains still another. "You know—sneak birds—dope fends. The police here has taken three hypo needles off a one man."

Even for such workers—such alleged workers—the hours on the job in the 'house' have their satisfactions. Perhaps these come from the sense of multiplying your own personal power—as though the work brought it about that it is you and not the engine that after all the maneuvering, backs out onto the turntable and goes out to the farm, or the ready tracks, there to wait to be coupled on to Number 16 and chase it up to the division's end.

The trouble is not with the hours of labor, but of leisure. The camp's sleeping and eating quarters are hastily constructed. The dozen box cars fitted up with beds look to be the best, but these have been reserved for the salaried guards and foremen. We common laborers and helpers of all colors—including one from India—have been put into bunk houses, sixty or a hundred of us in a bunch. The constant chatter of the colored waiters just outside and the swarms of hungry flies within—make it plain enough why most of the night workers try to do their sleeping in the round-house—on the job—instead of in the camp. The more they can sleep in the house, furthermore, the more overtime they can stand and the more pay and a half they can get out of the passing days to build up their stake.

"That camp, it is a place only fit for swine!" So the green-but worker from Jugo slavia exclaims. No place to wash except that little basin where all that go by on the street above can see. My body, it is black like coal. And to eat! Only by grabbing everything with both hands. Never in my life have I ever seen anything so bad everywhere the line and the flies. Nothing like it since my years in the war in the old country. War, it is here too—in our camp. Only few days before you came, two men were shot by outsiders. Easily from all the hills they can shoot down upon us—as swine. When once I learn English, then will I never more break strikes!"

Under these conditions, in the camp—also in the house and in the towns in the enemy's territory out beyond the No Man's Land shared between our armed guards and the strikers' pickets—it is not strange that things go pretty much hit or miss. Oddly enough, those who have been carrying the real responsibility and doing the real work that gets out the engines, are, for the most part, the strike-breaking strikers. I mean the many men who are strikers in one

railroad community but nevertheless are earning money as strikebreakers in another. It is evidence of the difficulty of holding great bodies of workers together that many in the country have been doing this under such pressure as a friend here says he did:

"Four weeks I stayed out with the boys—believing the leaders' that every day they were going to win. If I'd 'a been single, I'd 'a stuck till the cows come home. Without a wife, a fellow can beg, borrow, steal, or bum and still stand by his mates. But what is a fellow going to do when his wife and two kids—after four weeks, you understand—begin to say 'Daddy, I just got to have a pair of shoes, or 'Papa, how shall I start to school without a new dress?' A fellow's just got to do something then, I tell you; he's just got to."

I wonder if, when the strike is over, he will get away with his story of 'farmin' with my uncle up in Vermont. I recall too many unhappy endings told at the boarding house table last week:

"Up at F—one of the boys that hesitated several days makin' up his mind to go out has been fired out of two lodges and lost all his benefits. Besides that, he's been in bed, ever since. I guess something must 'a happened to him."

Jim will Have to Leave Town.

"Looks to me like our old friend Jim—you know, he has been trin' to get the fellows back to work and lay down on their buddies—will have to leave town when it's all over. They are refusin' to sell him goods or give him a shave down-town, and I reckon the church members will refuse to stand for him."

Personally I feel fortunate to be out of the camp again after a few days and safe in another place away from both the picket line and those hard-boiled finks that were supposed to guard us. Thank my stars, too, I'm not troubled by the sleeplessness of the night-shift man who tries to stick by his boss.

It is simply impossible for the white collared occupant of a salaried year-by-year position to appreciate the importance of the day-by-day job to all the greater world that depends on it.

By the same token, also, it is impossible for the rest of us to understand the heart of the worker. I mean that loyalty to one's cause and to one's class always roused in the hearts of strong men by crucial, life-protecting conflict.

"Nothin' to Conclude On."

The hearts of many railroad presidents have doubtless been deeply hurt when their men joined the strike. That unhappiness can be understood when—as happened more than once last June—ten men voted to strike on roads where they were well treated, while they voted not to strike on certain other roads where managers and workers have been much farther apart. To the first sort of executive it looked like disloyalty. To the worker it was not a question of disloyalty, but of which loyalty.

"I've worked on this line thirty-eight years—goin' on thirty-nine," said an old veteran the other day, "and I want to say that there ain't a better railroad in the world to work for than mine. But all the boys voted to help the other shop men get the treatment we're gettin' here, and when the super tried to persuade me to play safe and go back, I told him I'd been square all my life, and I couldn't think of makin' sure of my old age as far as money was concerned—you see, I'll get my pension soon, or will if we go back—and run the risk of goin' down to my grave with all my pals and neighbours a-disrespectin' me. I just couldn't do that."

"I got a wife and three kids," said a younger man. "But before we'd steal the jobs of our friends I'm tellin' you we'd eat the bark off the trees!"

I am not saying whether such decisions and such choices of loyalty are wise and right or not. I simply say that those decisions have to be made—with infinitely more wrestling and travail of spirit than most of us can realize. In the words of one who went through it:

"If we turn down the boss and stick by our buddies we may have to get another job—mebbe in a factory or steel plant. But if we stick by the boss and turn down our buddies—why, then, we're just yellow. We gotta leave town—gotta sell our house and everything—and start all over again, somewhere else."

No wonder the negro baggage huster was puzzled to find the right word for such a problem of balancing off against each other these competing rights and opposing duties as between the man who leaves the job and the man who takes it:

"Yessah, of all the strikes I've ever seen, this heah one is the most unconquerable. There just aint nothin' to conclude on!"

Other Troubles Beside Wages.

In spite of that, I think that we can conclude on this—or these: Seniority always will and always should loom large to the railroad worker. But it should hardly furnish the obstacle some executives have described in the way of giving justice—that is, a decent job—to both the striker and the strike breaker after the dispute is settled. The reason is that 80 per cent of my strike-breaker friends will linger only a few days on the railroad after they are deprived of the special "war-time" advantages of much overtime, with free board, room, and transportation.

Most of them, furthermore, have not the ability to earn the pay they can get under the stress of strike labor shortage.

Second, the biggest cost of the strike will be its hang-over in the demoralization and unhappiness that will hold the country's shops and round-houses in its ugly and costly grip for months and months after the peace is declared.

Third, the safety of the travelling public certainly requires that railroad work be done by workers who not only know their job but also care for it and are happy year after year in the enjoyment of its responsibilities.

Fourth, the very well-being of the public certainly requires that this question of loyalty to one's immediate neighbours or to one's employer—this matter of holding the job and fighting for it—must not be allowed to cause such colossal economic and social disturbances. Peace needs no such wars as these.

Can this be done without the Railroad Labor Board? If not, why hasn't the board found the answer—for that was what it was expected to do. How did it fail to gain the confidence of these 400,000 shopmen—also of those railroad managers who disregarded some of its decisions? What are the troubles—besides those of wages and wage cuts—which must somehow be got out of the minds of both workers and executives before we can expect peace on the railroads?

Unless too many adventures come into the next week or two, farther down the line, I hope to get more light shortly on these questions.

—Colliers' Weekly.

ANOTHER LABOR WIN.

Melbourne, Australia.—Cloghlin, another Labor party candidate, has been declared elected to the Australian federal senate from South Australia.

MEN SEEKING PEACE SLAIN BY GUNMEN

Marion, Ill.—(By International News Service.)—Union miners, accompanied by five deserters from the imported crew in the Lester strip mine were on their way to enter peaceful negotiations with the non-union men to quit and leave the county when a machine gun masked by brush carried to the summit of the dump cut loose at them, killing Jordie Henderson, an unarmed union man, at its first spray of bullets across the countryside.

This was the story of a defense witness in the trial of the five union miners indicted for murder during the riots of June 21 and 22.

WORKERS' LEAGUE TO HEAR COURSE.

Sociology and modern science will be the subject of a course of lectures to be given by John C. Kennedy before the Young Workers' League of Seattle, beginning Friday at 7:30 p.m. The lectures will be held at 617 University street. Union men and women are urged to attend. Membership in the league is granted to applicants between 14 and 30 years old.

TO CALIFORNIA VIA CANADIAN NATIONAL ROUTE.

At this season of the year, many Canadians are planning to visit California. Of course there are many routes, each with their special scenic interest, but, treating travel as fundamental of education, why not travel one way through Canada. It will give you an opportunity of knowing your own country better, a chance to view the finest mountain scenery in America, and to visit our own all-year-round resorts on the Pacific Coast, Vancouver and Victoria, where the grass is green and flowers bloom, and golf, motoring, and all outdoor sports may be indulged in throughout the winter months. Discuss this tour with an agent of the Canadian National Railways, before concluding your plans. "The Continental Limited," which runs daily between Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver is one of the finest all-steel equipment trains in America. For full particulars, apply to the city passenger office, Canadian National-Grand Trunk Railways, North-west corner King and Yonge Streets, Toronto. Telephone Main 4209 and Adel 5179.

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