THE BRITISH COLUMBIA FEDERATIONIST

INDUSTRIAL UNITY: STRENGTH — OFFICIAL PAPER: VANCOUVER TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL. — POLITICAL UNITY: VICTORY

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PRINTING TRADES DISPUTE IS ENDED

Lockout Called Off on Tuesday Morning

Men Now Await Award of Arbitration Board

On many occasions only a few words are necessary to cause trouble. This was the case in the printing trades in Vancouver when the employers posted the following notice in their offices towards the close of the year,

"Notice.—This is to notify all union employees in this shop that on and after expiration of existing agreements, December 31, 1920, wages will be paid according to present scales and contracts now in hands of various unions, which must be signed before the expiration of that date.

(Sgd.)
Industrial Committee,
Vancouver Typothetae."

This lockout, declared by the Vancouver Typothetae against the affiliated membership of the British Columbia Printing Trades Council in Vancouver on January 3, was lifted on Tuesday, and all the employees have been reinstated in all the offices save one, a two-man shop, employing one compositor and one pressman. This result has been secured through the unity of the membership involved and the hearty co-operation of all the unions throughout Western Canada and along the Pacific slope.

The flat basic wage for the printing industry throughout British Columbia is now being determined by the International Board of Arbitration at Indianapolis. A finding is expected on or about February 10.

There is reasonable assurance that the above award will be accepted by the employers of Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster, Vernon, Prince Rupert and other points within their jurisdiction, along with the acceptance of the 44-hour week from May 1, 1921, without reduction of pay; but the B. C. Printing Trades Council is taking no chances, and preparations, financially and otherwise, are being made to secure agreements, all terminating on December 31, 1921.

"Come On, Skinnay"

A camp fire concert is being staged for the young folks of the Labor movement by the Junior Labor League, to be held in the F. L. P. hall, at 148 Cordova street west, on Saturday evening, commencing at 8 p.m. A first-class novel programme has been arranged, and provisions have also been made for a dance after the concert. The admission for adults is 25c, children 10c.

Detroit, Mich.—Motormen and conductors employed on the Detroit United Railways, by a vote of 1663 to 4, reaffirmed their determination to refuse acceptance of a 20 per cent. wage cut proposed by the company to take effect January 1.

Moscow.—The Petrograd Soviet Executive is now sitting in public in the factories. Last week it met in the Putiloff works. The workers present were permitted to intervene in the debates with suggestions and criticisms.

CHINESE AND WHITES SCRAP IN WESTMINSTER

Bosses of Shingle Mills Cut Wages and Mixup Takes Place Between the Workers

A scrap took place last Saturday in New Westminster between white and Chinese workers, in which several were taken to the hospital for treatment. It appears that the shingle mills of that district have been persistently reducing wages, with the result that when the last cut was made, practically all the Chinese and white workers quit. A few of the Chinese, however, were induced to go to work, and so an attempt was made by those who had quit to induce the others to, but the wordy arguments developed into blows and there was a fierce battle raging before any one hardly knew what was happening.

J. L. L. Business Meeting

The regular business meeting of the Junior Labor League will be held in their club-rooms at 52 Dufferin street west, on Friday evening, Jan. 28, commencing at 7:30. Those expecting to be initiated on Friday, Feb. 4, should be present at this meeting.

GOVERNMENT STARTS TO CUT WAGES

Toronto Firm Gets Shipbuilding Contract which Calls for Reduction in Union Scale of Wages

The Meighen government recently granted a contract to the Collingwood Shipbuilding Co. of Toronto which included a 15 cents an hour reduction in the union scale and at the last meeting of the Toronto District Labor Council endorsation was given to a motion to send a strong protest to Premier Meighen and the Minister of Marine against the action of the Government in trying to break the existing scale of wages paid to some of the trades in this district.

MINERS' UNIONS UNITING IN JAPAN

Cheap Labor From China Is Waking Up the Workers

(By Ellis Yorks, Federated Press Staff Correspondent)

Tokyo—An amalgamation of Japanese miners unions that will cover the whole of the islands, will have a membership of 30,000. The combine thus expects to be able to deal more effectively with the employers through the medium of collective bargaining, a reduction in wages having been the rule in several industries for the last few months. Relief work among the distressed is also one of the objects.

As evidence of the bad conditions under which miners work one has only to submit the latest report of the mining section of the department of Agriculture and Commerce. It is there recorded that the number of accidents and deaths in mines and mining operations in Japan during 1919 totalled 209,828.

Following the miners example, the seamen are launching a movement to embrace the 48 existing unions and a big effort is being made to enroll the men who at present are outside the ranks of trade unionism. The importation of cheap labor from China is giving impetus to the new movement.

BRITISH P. O. WORKER'S POLICY

Declared in Favor of a Strike Policy and Strike Fund

The British Union of Post Office Workers has declared in favor of a strike policy by a majority of 12,746 votes. The voting was: in favor, 48,157; against, 35,411. The resolution passed at the last annual conference on which the ballot was taken also included the creation of a strike fund. The executive council has decided that the special scale of contributions necessary for the strike fund shall come into operation on January 1, 1921, and a sub-committe has been appointed to consider the application of a strike policy to the posal service and to report to the next conference of the Union. This marks a very important step in the history of trades unionism. The Civil Service has always been regarded as a respectable and rather distant relation of the rest of industry, and far too superior to adopt such vulgar tactics as strikes. The postal workers have, however, discovered that rights and justice are not words which carry much weight in a capitalist society.

Bombay.—The editor and printer of the "Rangoon Mail" have been sentenced to 4 and 2 months' imprisonment, respectively, for alleged "intention to create hatred between the white and colored races." The ground of the action was simply the republication of articles in the "Manchester Guardian," "Asian Review" and "Bombay Chronicle."

Winnipeg, Man. — David Bogle, former editor of the Western Labor News, organ of the American Federation of Labor here, announces the formation of a joint stock company to publish a Farmer-Labor paper.

Washington—According to Secretary Baker there is so much unemployment in the United States at present, and such good prospects that it will continue and perhaps grow greater, that he need not spend any more money to persuade young men to join the army. Baker told the newspaper men that he would forthwith abolish the campaign of advertising to win recruits. This campaign has recently entailed a cost of $67 per man recruited.

O'CONNOR AT EMPRESS SUNDAY

Smith Deals With Crime Wave Now Sweeping World

A little variety was injected into the regular Socialist Party propaganda meeting last Sunday night by the presence of a lady orator from the U. S., Com. Ella Reeve Bloor. Comrade Bloor especially emphasized the international nature of the class struggle, and reminded her audience of the fact that even in matters concerning the slight betterment of working class conditions, the dictatorial nature of the state always showed itself quite plainly to those who had eyes to see, and cited many instances in which the use of armed force against the workers by the "guardians of the vested interests" had taught the workers a much-needed lesson.

Fatalism, in the speaker's opinion, could only be considered as a deadening philosophy. Admitting that favorable conditions must exist before the workers could take power, it must also be admitted that the taking of power is a tremendous task which the workers themselves must actually perform, possibly at great sacrifice.

The speaker placed considerable emphasis on the necessity of industrial organization, suggesting that far better results could be obtained from political strikes than from parliamentary activity.

Comrade Smith, who was the speaker of the evening, pointed out that even the political strike had its limitations, and that the labor unions could not be expected to emancipate the workers alone and unaided. He dealt at some length with the crime wave now sweeping over the civilized world, and showed that it resulted simply from the fact that millions of men were being denied access to the means of production. The private ownership of the means of production had been made possible by the organization of the state, and upon the power of state it still relied. The workers are allowed access to the means of production only when their products can be sold profitably. Otherwise, "tresspassers will be prosecuted," and prosecuted they are. But men will not starve if they can steal. By far the greatest percantage of crimes are simply invasions of private property rights, from which it would seem that the only reasonable remedy for crime waves was to be found in the socialization of the means of production. Such a programme, however, would be just as detrimental to the propertied class as it would be beneficial to the working class. Hence the class nature of political strife, and its increasing bitterness.

The speaker for next Sunday will be Comrade Tom O'Connor.

AMERICANIZED RUSSIANS ARE LEAVING AMERICA

Two Thousand Have Left America in the Last Sixty Days—Lots More to Follow.

(By The Federated Press.)

Moscow—Russian workers who under the Czar's regime emigrated to America are now returning to Russia by the hundreds. It is declared that fully two thousand men have reached the Soviet Republic from America in the last sixty days, and according to information at government offices, fully ten thousand more are either on their way or are preparing to sail for this country.

As fast as these workers return they are given employment in their trades and are paying a valuable acquisition to Russian industry.

Seattle, Wash.—Bank statements show that during the last year the Trades Union Savings and Loan Association increased its deposits by $451,728; over 100 per cent. While the large banks' deposits decreased heavily only five of the smaller concerns show an increase, the total shrinkage for 1920 being $23,839,247.

JIM BATEMAN PASSES OUT

Secretary of O. B. U. Is Killed by Rock Slide

Jim Bateman, secretary of the miner's unit of the O. B. U. at South Wellington, was killed on January 18, whilst working in the mine, by a fall of rock. Only last summer, a son of Jim's was killed in the same place. Thus do the men who produce the world's wealth meet their end, and while working for a bare existence. Jim was widely known in mining circles throughout the Province, and will be missed by many, for his friends were numerous. While following his occupation, Comrade Bateman always took an interest in the doings of the workers throughout the world. He at all times toon an active part in the labor movement in this Province, and attended some of the B. C. Federation of Labor conventions as representative of the Island miners.

Toronto—Toronto local of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union has purchased a four-storey building for $55,000, and will expend $50,000 in fitting it for the organization's various activities.

FINNISH LABOR WINS MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Workers Getting Back Into Old Form—Tide Turning Against Reactionaries

Superior, Wis.—The recent municipal elections in Finland have resulted in a victory for the workers, according to a special cable received by the Finnish Daily "Tyomies" here.

The workers elected 799 representatives and the middle classes 686. The workers have a majority of 98 and the conservatives in 64 municipalities only. In three towns only workers' representatives were re-elected, while the middle classes secured a complete victory in only one place. In nineteen towns the election resulted in a draw between representatives of labor and the well-to-dos.

EUROPE'S PLIGHT GETTING WORSE

France Now Leads as a Military Hunting Ground

Detroit, Mich.—"Europe has become a great military camp, the old fear of a militarized Germany having shifted to France, now viewed with distrust and fear," Frederick K. Libby, European Commissioner for the Society of Friends, declared in an address here.

"It is not the French people who are hated but the military feeling that is left as the heritage of war.

"In American we speak of the submerged tenth. In Europe we have a submerged nine-tenths, and in that heavy fraction we have doctors, lawyers, professors, clergymen and city officials.

"Berlin, well-to-do looking in the streets, is a ragggamuffin in the privacy of its homes, and but for the chests of linen that every German family begins to fill for its children from the hour of birth, Germany would be naked today. A German gets a ration of a half a pound of bread a day. In Vienna one has to pay 9,000 kronen for a suit of clothes, and in Germany 2,000 marks. Sacrifice is the middle name of pretty nearly every family in Central Europe.

"When I had tea in Frankfort a month ago there was no sugar. England is not eating butter. It is too expensive. Nine-tenths of the people in Germany have meat once only a week, usually Sunday. In Warsaw I couldn't locate any bread while a suit of clothes cost four months' pay. The schools of Poland in several places are closed because the children have no shoes.

"Medical authorities of Vienna examined 200,000 children and found only 6,000 of them normal. Many are becoming infected with tuberculosis because of their low resistance to disease."

St. Paul—The St. Paul Labor College has been opened here, the first lecture being delivered by Professor A. W. Rankin on the history of the labor movement and current events. Preparations are well advanced for starting the Workers College of Minneapolis, which is being organized by a committee of trade union leaders in association with local educators.

Bismarck, N. D. — Recommending a state-owned coal mine to supply the 75,000 tons used annually by the state, Governor Lynn J. Frazier last Tuesday opened the seventeenth legislative assembly, which began its sessions with the nonpartisan league forces controlling the senate.

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SHIPYARD STRIKE AT VICTORIA

Yarrows Reduce Wages to Workers Who Resent By Striking

Two hundred and fifty shipyard workers are out on strike in Victoria as the result of attempted wage cut of fifty cents a day by the repair firm of Yarrows, Ltd., of Esquimalt. The cut went into effect Wednesday of last week and all the Electrical Workers quit immediately. Boilermakers, patternmakers, and blacksmiths followed in a body. This is not only true of the organized but also of the unorganized workers. Carpenters and machinists, however, had not seen fit to oppose the cut so it is left to the other crafts to battle it out with the firm. The strikers are of the general opinion that if this cut is not opposed that further cuts will be made from time to time until a pre-war scale is arrived at. This appears to be the practice of employers wherever the workers have given in without a fight. Shipyard workers are advised to stay away from Victoria.

TWIN CITIES FORM COUNCIL OF ACTION

To Facilitate Simultaneous Action in Legislative and Industrial Matters.

Minneapolis.—Organization of a "council of action" on the British model has been begun by delegates of labor unions in the twin cities.

Its object is to facilitate simultaneous action in all unions and labor organizations on important legislative and industrial matters.

S. O. Lambert, of the Carmen's Union, was elected president, and Albert Hallberg, of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union, vice-president. Thomas Van Lear was named secretary.

Representatives of the railroad shops crafts in St. Paul, and of the railroad brotherhoods, endorsed the plan.

UNEMPLOYMENT GROWS WORSE

Masses, However, Still Unaware of Real Cause of Distress

The unemployed situation in Canada continues to get worse and all the schemes to reduce the number has practically met with failure. The most noticeable feature of the situation throughout the entire Dominion is the great number of returned men, most of whom bear scars of the fight for the innumerable ideals that an imperialistic press flaunted in their faces during 1914-17. The east still suffers worse than the west but the middle west finds the situation desperate and many frantic appeals are being sent out from various communities. One feature that tends to lessen the suffering somewhat is the mild winter prevalent all over the Dominion. Of course, the only cure for unemployment is being overlooked at almost every place. Strenuous efforts at relief, where there is but very little chance of relief, only tend to leave a feeling of hopelessness, not only to the unemployed but also to those working to relieve the situation without knowledge of the real cause. The capitalist system has not only broken down, but is in a complete state of chaos, but the masses cling desperately to the old and worn-out system of wage slavery and the business element struggle to perpetuate the profit system, which drags them down to the level of the workers every once in a while. Unemployment and bankruptcy go hand in hand. The present situation may improve to normal, but whereas these periods dropped upon us about every seven years prior to the war, there appears to be every prospect for a yearly occurrence from now on.

"Red Europe"

One of the most interesting books published concerning the activities of the European Imperialists and the rebel proletariat of Europe, is contained in "Red Europe," now on sale at the office of The B. C. Federationist. Price, postpaid, 50c.

Veterans and Labor

J. L. Miler at the Forum, F. L. P. hall, 148 Cordova street, Sunday, at 3. Subject: "The Relationship Between the Veterans and Labor Organizations."

Sydney, N. S. W.—The executive of the Australian Labor Party, meeting at Melbourne recently resolved to write to the president of the American Federation of Labor urging that all possible steps be taken to obtain the release of Eugene V. Debs.

ANOTHER BIG AMALGAMATION

London Transport Workers Form Organization of Half Million

London.—Unanimous support of a project to amalgamate all the different unions of transport workers excepting the railwaymen, into one huge organization, was voted in a resolution adopted at a meeting in which all sections of the transport workers in London were represented. Several thousand were present.

Under the plan, the resources of the unions would be pooled and a central office staff created. Harry Gosling, a leader of the workers presiding, said it was ridiculous that the men should be divided into small unions when the employers were banded into a single great organization. E. Bevan, of the dock workers union, said the estimated membership of the new organization would be half a million.

The scheme unites the dock workers, stevedores and others, but does not include the railwaymen.

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ROSE HENDERSON COLUMBIA SUNDAY

Tom Richardson Addressed Big Audience Last Sunday Night

Sunday night saw the Columbia theatre packed with workers to hear Tom Richardson and Egan address the audience on the subject of "Self-determination for Ireland." Mr. Richardson dwelt at length on the principle which the F. L. P. stood for, and pointed out to the audience that for 700 years Ireland had considered herself to be under the rule of a foreign power. He further illustrated the fact that Carson & Co., which included Bonar Law, now an active member of the Law & Order class, had raised an army, equipped it with rifles, etc., procured from Germany, and in fact further had been in touch with this same foreign power with a view to invading, if necessary, the coast of Ireland.

Mr. Richardson at times got his audience in fine tone, especially in his reference to 1917 and 1918, when crime in Ireland was at its lowest, and not a single soldier or policeman was killed, although during that period some 2000 persons were arrested and placed in goal without any charge whatever. He further stated the fact that the Sinn Feiners had captured the government, also the local government thus proving it to be the will of the people for a Republican form of government.

Mr. Egan followed with a few words, and told of some of the crimes committed by the Black and Tans, also the R. I. C. He also told his audience how Ireland had sent large numbers to France to fight.

Following this speaker, Ella Reeve Bloor, from the United States, addressed the meeting for a few moments, illustrating the wonderful spirit of some of the workers, who the ruling class have imprisoned for trivial offences. Her references to Russia were loudly applauded; in fact, the audience at all times of the meeting was very enthusiastic. The chairman asked all in favor of self determination to rise, and the audience rose to their feet, proving the solidarity of the workers on this point at issue. At the close of the meeting, the "Red Flag" was sung, and three cheers for Ireland being given heartily.

Next Sunday, at 8 p.m., Mrs. Rose Henderson at Columbia theatre. R. P. Pettipiece will be chairman.

New York—Merging of the groups which have been working in the colleges of the country to rouse the interest of student in social problems is under way here. The Intercollegiate Socialist Society, the Young Democracy and the intercollegiate conference for Democracy are the factors in the proposed merger.

NO MINERS WANTED IN MONTANA

Copper Company Advertising for Men, But O. B. U. Says There Are No Jobs

Butte, Mont.—In a signed statement issued by the Metal Mine Workers unit of the One Big Union charges are made that despite conditions of unemployment here, the Anaconda Copper Company is advertising in newspapers in Eastern, Middle Western and Coast industrial districts for miners with the apparent object of flooding Butte with unemployed so that further cuts in wages can be made.

The statement asserts that in its advertisement the company calls for 1000 miners for Butte to work for $5.75 per shift. The Metal Mine Workers claim that there are not over 2500 men employed in all of the mines and surface works by all of the operating companies, and that there are approximately 3000 idle men in the industry here at the present time.

A conference of managers of factories and workshops in the Moscow region declared that the productiveness of labor is raised to the pre-war standard.

WOULD DEPORT ENGLISHMAN

Appeal Is Being Made Against Decision of Local Authorities

Comrade D. S. Browett, a member of the Socialist Party of Canada, has been ordered deported by the immigration authorities. Browett is an Englishman by birth, but was charged with illegal entry into Canada. He was tried by the immigration authorities en-camera in Vancouver. Mr. I. I. Rubinowitz, acting for the defense committee, has appealed against the decision of the local authorities, direct to the department of immigration at Ottawa. E. McLeod, secretary of the Socialist Party, along with the secretary of the defense committee, gave evidence as to the respectability, etc., of the accused, and the defense committee supplied the money for bail so that Comrade Browett could be at liberty pending the outcome of the appeal.

London—The employment of Women, Young Women and Children Act went into force on January 1, and it is illegal to employ any child under 14 in any industrial undertaking, unless the child was already so employed at that date.

NORWEGIAN LABOR MEN IN TROUBLE

Police Seize Two and Half Tons of Red Literature From Soviet Russia

Copenhagen.—The authorities in Norway have decided to bring action against the president of the Labor party and the Social Demokraten for having admitted that the Labor party sent Bolsheviki literature from Norway to foreign countries, says a dispatch to the National Tidene from Christiania.

The newspaper adds that the police at Vardo, on the Arctic Ocean, off the extreme north coast of Norway, recently seized two and a half tons of Bolsheiki literature smuggled into Norway from Russia.

RUSSIA'S EFFORT FOR CHILDREN

Strongest Civilization in the World Says Lincoln Steffins

Detroit, Mich.—"Bolshevik civilization is the strongest civilization in the world," Lincoln Steffens, well known writer and newspaper correspondent, recently returned from Europe, told an audience, composed for the most part of the monied class, which packed Orchestra hall.

"Europe is bankrupt, not only financially but socially, morally and politically," he said.

Praising Lenin as one who saw into the future, he described how the Russian premier, as well as all other administrators and visitors on diplomatic missions, get black bread while they see little children with soup, eggs and the best that the blockade permits.

"The Soviet leaders say there is absolutely nothing in the revolution for the present generation," he explained. "They are doing it all for the children and are centering every effort on educating them giving them the best in food, shelter and amusement.

"Invention in Russia has reached the highest point in the world's history while it had more music last year than any other country."

MAKING GOOD USE OF LOCK-OUT

Clothing Workers' Union Keep Members on the Firing Line

(By Helen Augur.)
(Federated Press Staff Correspondent.)

New York.—Schools and stores are being opened for the locked-out members of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. With prospects for isolating the manufacturers' attack upon the union in the New York and possibly Boston markets daily strengthening, union officials are perfecting plans for preventing misery or waste of time among the locked-out workers.

Registration for the Labor College established for the period of the lock-out, will continue all week. The college will be under the direction of David Saposs, educational director for the Amalgamated in Greater New York, and Solon DeLeon, editor of the union organ, "Advance." Courses will be offered in History of Civilization, Public Speaking, Working Class Movements and Economics. The aim of the instruction, according to Saposs, will be to enable the Amalgamated members "to understand better the great economic and social problems, so that they may participate more intelligently in the affairs of their union and in society.

With the Amalgamated paper currency which has been printed for the present situation, members will be able to buy supplies at greatly reduced prices. The currency will be issued free to members needing relief, and can be bought by members at work.

Medical aid will be given union members by physicians stationed in various parts of the city, who will be on call to visit families in case of sickness, or to receive patients in their offices.

Albany, N. Y.—Attempts to expel the three Socialists assemblymen and the Socialist senator from the legislature, for the same reason for which they were ousted twice during the past year failed, for the time being at least. Four resolutions calling for the expulsion of the Socialist members were referred by Republican leaders to the judiciary committee.

Buy at a union store.

ITALIAN SOCIALISTS MAKING RED STATE

Powerful Organization Is Getting Control of Government

Twenty-five Hundred City Halls Now Fly the Red Flag

The Socialist party has swept over Italy winning victory after victory.

In 1919, at the general elections, 159 Socialists were elected to parliament, the largest single party in the nation.

Since then, the great metal workers' uprising took place, and the non-Socialist forces began there what they have been doing in every country, that is, a vicious attack, lying, misrepresentation, mob law, and combination and frauds at the polls. The municipal elections came and the struggle became bitter. In every city, town and village, all non-Socialist parties combined; it was "anything to beat the Socialists."

But the Socialists have a powerful organization, they have a wonderful press—their paper "Avanti" has a circulation of two million a day!—and they have skillful, enthusiastic and tireless propagandists.

The rest is history. After a campaign unparalleled in Italian history, one-third of the municipalities of Italy were swept by the Socialist party! Twenty-five hundred city halls now fly the red flag of international brotherhood!

Milan is the largest, richest and greatest city in Italy. The Socialists have governed the city for years. This year millions of lire were spent to beat the Socialists; monarchists and Republicans; reactionaries and Liberals; Catholic and Freemasons (who have a bitter feud in Italy) united; and the Socialists swept the city again.

In Rome, the most reactionary spot in Italy, the Socialists increased their vote by over 5,000 and elected sixteen councilmen. In the province that includes Rome, the vote was 29,977 for the Socialists and 39,643 for all others together.

In the province of Rome, likewise, the Socialists carried seventy towns; among them is Roccocorga, whose new mayor is B. Rossi, up to a year ago, resident of Rochester N. Y., and a member of the Socialist party there.

In many of the larger towns in Northern Italy, the Socialists were so strong that no nominations were made against them.

The Socialist party besides Milan, the largest city in the kingdom, retains Bologna, famous for its university, Novara, Alessandria, Reggio Emilia, and captured Belluno, Pavia, Perugia Grosseto, Liverno, Ferrara, Siena, Massa Carrara the militarist Modena, Mantua, Piacenza, Como, Forli Cremona and Rovigo all first class cities and capitals of provincial governments, and many more of secondary importance. In some of the latter provinces the Socialist victory was amazingly sweeping. Socialists elected the majority of the provincial councilmen in the province of Milan they conquered 208 of the 310 towns. In the province of Bologna out of 61 towns 52 went Socialist and to the provincial council, out of 50, Socialists elected 47 representatives.

EXTENDING EUROPEAN PRESS SERVICE

Lochner Will Take Charge of Middle European Bureau for Federated Press

New York—Louis P. Lochner, news editor of The Federated Press, sailed recently for Europe on the steamship Ryndan of the Holland-American line. He will land at Rotterdam, and proceed direct to Berlin, where he will take charge of the Middle Europen bureau of The Federated Press and the organization work of the association in Central Europe.

It is planned to centralize in Berlin the work of news gathering for Europe in conjunction with the service of the London bureau, which is under the direction of W. N. Ewer.

Mr. Lochner has had wide experience in Europe. He is personally acquainted with many of the leading figures in the working class movements, and is one of the best-known of organization experts.

How about getting another subscriber for the Federationist? We can stand 5,000 more readers in Vancouver.

Meetings in O.B.U. Hall

For the Coming Week

804 PENDER STREET WEST

MONDAY—Piledrivers.
WEDNESDAY—General Workers.
THURSDAY—Dance 9 to 12.
FRIDAY—Women's Auxiliary.
SATURDAY—Dance 9 to 12.

REGULAR EDITION NEXT WEEK

THE trouble between the employing printers and their employees having been eliminated, we have been able to get out a curtailed edition this week, and the full, regular edition will be resumed next week. We request the forebearance of our readers under the circumstances, and promise that the old standard, or even a better service will be the aim of the Federationist during the year.

OPEN FORUM

PENDER HALL
Corner Pender and Howe Streets

TONIGHT, FRIDAY

AT 8 P.M.

Speaker—**Geo. H. Hardy**
Subject—**"Bolshevism and Sovietism"**
Questions and Discussion

THE B. C. FEDERATIONIST

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Unity of Labor: The Hope of the World

FRIDAY.....January 21, 1921

THOSE individuals who compose the middle class, or that section of society that engages in business or office work, who receive a salary, or wages in the shape of profits obtained by selling some commodity or other, or perhaps a number of things that are usually found for sale in stores, are at this time wondering just what has struck them. In fact, they are not sure just where they are, whether they are going forward or backward. Most people would say that they are going back, but whether they realize it or not, they are going forward. They are being driven into the ranks of the proletariat. Just recently it has been our privilege to see a cartoon which originally appeared in the Jugend, published in Munich, and which was later reproduced in the Manchester Guardian. The cartoon pictured two hoboes, and in the discussion that they were engaged in, they came to the following conclusion: **"We belong to the middle class now, my lad. They have nothing either."** In other words there is no middle class except in the concept that some individuals have. The members of the white collar brigade are only separated from the industrial workers by the amount of illusions that they have above the collars they wear. They are subject to the same inconveniences by periods of unemployment and business depression as are the industrial workers. Thinking that they have something to lose, however, their mental state is worse than that of the jobless slave who realizes that he has nothing to lose, and that the job that he has had a loan of for a time has gone back to its owner. The worry of trying to hang on to something that they do not really hold must surely be a terrible job for these people in these stirring times when even kings and the real rulers of the earth are trembling in their shoes for fear that they will lose their control of the situation. They have our sympathy, and all we can wish them is that the going forward push will continue to push them into the proletarian ranks, and the quicker they get there, the sooner they will realize that their difficulties are the outcome of the system that drives them to the bankruptcy court or to the ever-increasing army of unemployed and propertyless slaves on whom the future of humanity rests.

THEY, TOO, HAVE "NOTHING"

FROM time to time Socialists have been described as destructionists, and derided because they have no constructive programme under the present system. This is entirely true, they have no constructive proposal to offer in the bolstering up of capitalism, because they realize that putting props under a tottering system solves nothing, and only delays the emancipation of the human race from slavery. All Socialists who have any concept of present day society are quite willing to allow the capitalist apologists to formulate "constructive policies" for the prevention of the demise of the wage system. That they have done this can be seen in every capitalistic newspaper published; hardly a day passing but what some apologist of the present chaotic state of affairs attempts to formulate such a policy and, strange to say, even representatives of the working class join in the race to stave off the evil day when the system shall fall. Governor Harding, of the U. S. A. federal reserve board, recommends work as the cure for present difficulties and in a recent speech made the following comment:

CONSTRUCTION IS IMPOSSIBLE

> Speaking on "working back to normal," he asserted that whatever danger of crisis there may have been is passed and that a bright future is ahead to be attained through hard and intelligent work.
>
> Production must continue if the country is to prosper, the governor said, but surplus production must be disposed of by sale to foreign countries. Continuance of trade with Europe is vital, Governor Harding declared, and the maintenance of "trade relationships of other countries with Europe" is scarcely less important.

The London Daily Herald, a splendid working-class paper in many respects, commenting editorially on the unemployed situation in the Old Land, after pointing out the danger of revolution due to the present situation, and that hungry men will help themselves, states that the employed workers must assist those who are unemployed, and concludes by the following passage:

> They must induce, or compel, the employers to find their comrades' work—and through the employers induce, or compel, the government to find a market for the products of their labor.
>
> Labor is in deadly peril.

* * *

If producing commodities will cure the present unemployed situation, how is it that the commodities that have already been produced cannot be disposed of. How on earth is it possible to sell the surplus commodities to another country that is also producing more than it can consume? These questions must be answered before the advice of Governor Harding can be accepted as being of any value. The suggestion of the Daily Herald that the employed, either induce or compel the government to find a market for the products of their labor, is just about as valuable as the suggestion of Harding. "Intelligent work," says Harding, "will bring us back to normal." As a matter of fact it is "work" that has made the workers workless. The slaves have worked too much, and produced too much, hence they must take a rest. To think it is possible for the government of any country to find a market for the surplus products is nonsense. The government of any country represents the employing class, and it is the function of all ruling bodies to take care of the interests of the class they represent, and if it were possible for the government of the Old Land, or the U. S. A., or Canada, or any other country, to find a market for the surplus products of the slaves, there would be no necessity for the employed workers to take a hand in the game. The market would be found sure enough without their aid. But markets do not any longer crop up over night. They have all been exploited, and by that exploitation made into surplus producing agencies, and consequently have only intensified the unemployed situation. If the above suggestions made at two ends of the social scale are an example of the "constructive policies" of those who are of the opinion that unemployment can be removed under the present system of wage slavery, then we prefer to be with those who are classified as destructionists, because it will only be when capitalism is wiped out that human needs will be cared for. Profits are now the only incentive to production, and until that incentive and the system that is responsible for it is abolished, the workers will starve in the midst of plenty.

While one of the "labor" candidates in the recent civic elections opened his campaign in the Hotel Vancouver, it remained for the one who was elected to make a statement after the election was over in the same edifice. It does not matter much where a statement is made, but what is said by men who are supposed to represent labor is mighty important in these days. Alderman Scribbens, the individual we have in mind, made a statement at the big civic luncheon in the hotel referred to. He is reported as having made the following statement:

> While stating that in a country like Canada there should be no unemployment, and he was glad to see the 1920 council take the matter up, be believed that it was unnecessary to adopt the Russian methods to satisfy labor's wants.

We may be mistaken in our understanding as to just what the alderman meant, but Mayor Gale evidently took it as a slam at Soviet Russia, and we have seen no denial to the construction from the "labor" alderman, consequently we can fairly assume that that was what was intended. We realize that in perhaps no other country will the methods of the Russian working class be adopted by the workers in seeking their freedom, conditions not being similar. But we realize that the Russian workers took the only methods that the conditions which prevailed in that country would allow them to take, and we would suggest that Alderman Scribbens cease to credit himself with being a labor man until he at least gives the workers of other countries credit for being as sane as he is. The gratuitous insult to the workers of Russia may have placed the alderman in a good light in the mayor's eyes, but will certainly not enhance his reputation in working-class circles.

To those people in this country who are interested in education we would call the attention of the following words of H. N. Brailsford on what has been done in Soviet Russia:

> "I saw near Petrograd a big boarding-school formerly reserved for the children of the nobility. Today about three in four of its inmates are the children of manual workers. They were, in their bearing and manners, as refined as the children whose parents belonged to the 'intelligentsia,' as eager to study, and keen to enjoy the pleasures of art and knowledge to which an admirable staff of teachers introduced them. They were learning handicrafts as well as sciences and languages, and whether they exercise a trade or a profession when they leave school, they will be cultivated men and women, capable of disciplined thought and aesthetic pleasure.

We know that the above will not appeal to the "better class," but it may strike a responsive chord in some wage slave whose children's education is left to the haphazard methods of our so-called educationalists.

Readers of the morning papers were told on Thursday morning that Germany would have to pay the debts in trade. In other words, by goods and raw materials. It appears that it was the French that made these proposals, and very evidently the French "statesmen" have not learned anything from history or they would realize that it would pay them better to wipe the slate clean and begin all over again than accept German goods as payment of a war indemnity. As the German ruling class must do all the paying, that section of the German people will be compelled to attempt at least to keep their factories going. Whether this will be possible or not remains to be seen. But if it is, and the German manufacturers are able to keep their plants running to produce the goods to pay the indemnity with, and France receives the goods, what will be the fate of the French workers? They will be unemployed because the market will be filled with goods made in Germany. No wonder some people are not yet convinced as to who won the war.

There is an old saying to the effect "That misfortune makes strange bedfellows. If this is correct there must have been an extra large amount of misfortune in Vancouver. Our attention has been called to a circular issued by the agent of Made-in-B. C. Campaign that has been started by the manufacturers' bureau of the Board of Trade. This document states that among others who will be at the campaign dinner to be held in the Hotel Vancouver will be the executive of the International Trades and Labor Council. The executive of the Retail Merchants' Association. Mayors and reeves of cities and municipalities, and the council of the Vancouver Board of Trade. In view of the attitude assumed by the manufacturers towards their employees, the bond of sympathy between them and the heads of the international trades unions in this city will no doubt be "obvious." With wages being cut, and men on strike or locked out by the manufacturers of one kind or another, the mutual interests will be very "evident" to all close observers. Stranger things may have happened in the past, but it is certainly a puzzle to us to discover where the mutual interests lie. However, it would appear to be the fashion these days for international trade union representatives to foregather at the Hotel Vancouver with those who they are daily fighting with over wages, hours and conditions. But, perhaps, the fighting is only on the surface. As far as the Made-in-B. C. Campaign is concerned, no doubt the unemployed would be pleased to have a supply of the necessities of life that are made in the province, but which are at this time inaccessable owing to the fact that they have no WORK.

Lower California Concessions Cancelled

(By Arthur Thomson)

The Mexican Government has cancelled concessions to about ten million acres of land held by various syndicates and companies in Lower California. These concessions were granted by Porfirio Diaz on conditions that bound the concessionaires to cultivate the land, colonize, establish schools and to advance in general the development of the tracts. These conditions have not been fulfilled, hence the order cancelling the concessions.

Among the companies affected by the order are Luis Huller & Co., a British syndicate, holding about three million acres, and Flores, Hale & Co., an American company, holding about the same acreage, also Adolfo Bulle, holding about 1,200,000 acres.

Instead of improving and cultivating the land as the concessions called for these concerns have ignored the terms and merely held the land for use as they might desire, or waited for a time when it would appreciate in value, hoping to sell at a large profit.

By so holding the land these concerns have kept a vast fertile land undeveloped and uncultivated and have kept others from cultivating it.

Granting huge concessions to foreigners was one way Porfirio Diaz had of keeping the stranglehold over the Mexican masses. By so doing he got the support of the United States and other governments in time of trouble. If the peons threatened to revolt the dictator threatened them with intervention and all was well. When, however, most of their land had been taken away from them, the peons and farmers finally did revolt under the banner of "Land and Liberty."

While these big Diaz concessions have been cancelled a group of negroes have acquired control of 34 square miles of Lower California territory, which is said to be the largest extent of territory under negro control on the American continent. They plan to establish an industrial and agricultural college, a hospital and sanitarium, also a packing house and a flour mill, besides, of course, cultivating the land. One of the leaders in announcing the colony scheme says that "there is a marvellous bond of sympathy between the Mexican people and the colored people, which is explained in a measure by the fact that both peoples have suffered from chattel slavery, economic exploitation and racial antipathy."

Lower California is 1005 miles long and is capable of supporting five million people, whereas at present there are only about 35,000 people there.

Ottawa, Ont.—Canada's women are joining the nationalist movement now developing in every part of the Dominion. The Daughters of Canada, organized locally in Toronto a short time ago, are preparing to establish locals in every province. The organization, which has its head office in Toronto, will carry on a campaign to offset the imperialistic propaganda being assiduously spread by the Daughters of the Empire and other associations which favor militarism.

Port Arthur, Ont.—Nine thousand men employed in the various shops of the western division of the Canadian National Railways have accepted a forty-hour, no-Saturday plan, which the officials proposed as an alternative for a lay-off.

WHY GERMANY DOES NOT DISARM

Germany claims that it is impossible for her to carry out the full terms of the disarmament programme. The Einwohnerwehr of East Prussia and Bavaria have not been disarmed and Berlin dare not try to disarm the Bavarian Orgesch, which is said to number half a million men, with its own outnumbered and reactionary troops. The function of the Orgesch seems to be threefold: to guard against revolution in Bavaria; to fight Communism in the rest of Germany, and, it is hinted, to set up, at the right moment, the Wittelsbach dynasty. Why has this reactionary volunteer force been allowed to exist by the Allies? The French accuse a British general, Malcolm, of winking at its existence; the British middle class would be without protection; and the French themselves are accused of having encouraged the Bavarian militia as a means to the separation of Bavaria from Germany.—The New Republic.

UNEMPLOYED RESTLESS

Hamilton, Ont.—Military and police forces are being held in readiness for a threatened attack on the armories by unemployed men. Ex-members of the British army, who, it is said, entered Canada from England illegally, are leading the out-of-work army. Military, police and civic officials declare they have received word that the "Red" element of the jobless army will attempt to take forcible possession of the big drill hall to hold mass meetings.

Several speakers, at an unemployed demonstration, urged their comrades to enter stores and help themselves to whatever they wanted. A hurry-up call for secret service agents was sent to Ottawa and, following their investigation, 12 radicals, labor unionists and returned soldiers, were ordered to leave Hamilton under threat of imprisonment.

RAILWAYMEN WANT CONTROL

British Workers Will Not Allow Subject to Be Shelved

(By Evelyn Sharp.)
(Federated Press Staff Correspondent.)

London.—Matters are slowly approaching a crisis in the question of railroad control.

The latest move has been made by the owners in the reply of the Railway Companies' Association to the "White Paper" of the Ministry of Transport on the subject of a national railway system. This document makes it clear that the shareholders mean to obstruct all reorganization of the system, and especially any measure of workers' control.

Meanwhile J. H. Thomas, head of the railway workers, reiterates that the railway men will not relinquish their demand for a share in control, backed as it has been by the Government.

In an interview, referring to the companies' report, Thomas remarked that it is now for the Government to say whether its proposal to give the men some kind of control over the organization of railways is to be flouted by the managers or not. He added that there was no doubt the men "would hold the Government to their scheme."

Sydney, N. S. W.—Not only has the labor government of New South Wales made the state-owned trawling industry a paying concern, by turning a big annual loss into a large annual profit, but it has already reduced the selling price of fish by at least 50 per cent. to the public. Today, fish sell at from 4 cents per pound upwards at the state-owned fish shops, and as the profits are large even at the present prices, the government anticipates that in the near future it will be able to sell fish at two cents per pound.

O. B. U. PUBLICATION IN CALIFORNIA

Issued by Fresno General Workers Unit Twice a Month—M. Bumpus Editor

The Workers Bulletin is the name of a new publication being issued twice monthly by the educational committee of the Fresno California, General Workers Unit of the O. B. U. The first issue comprises 12 pages, contains general O. B. U. propaganda and world-wide news. M. Bumpus is editor, and copies can be obtained for 5c from Box 521, Selma, Cal.

Seattle, Wash.—Any attempt of employers to reduce wages and break down conditions under which members of the International Union of Boilermakers and Iron Shipbuilders are now working, will be resisted with the full force of the International, according to word received by officers of the Seattle local.

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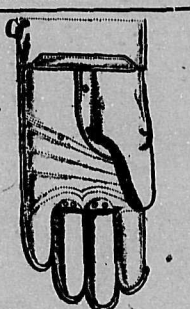
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LUMBER WORKERS' NEWS

GENERAL CONVENTION

The general convention opened at Vancouver on Monday, Jan. 17; 56 delegates present from the Coast, Cranbrook, Edmonton, Kamloops, Merritt, Prince George, Prince Rupert and The Pas.

Delegate Head elected chairman. Committees elected on credentials, past management, future policy, resolutions, constitution, arrangements and grievance.

The central executive report showed 13,732 members in good standing; total amount collected during the past six months for fees and dues, $59,294; 12 active districts; future per capita was recommended to be 25c. This to enable the district to get sufficient supply of an official paper; a separate report was issued dealing in detail with the Port Arthur convention affairs, both before and after the date of convention, and the reasons why per capita had been withheld from the O. B. U. since July. The reports were fully discussed and adopted.

After considerable discussion, it was decided by a vote of 35 to 5 to form an industrial organization, separate from the O. B. U., until that body again conformed to the original principles upon which the Lumber Workers first joined, and until the officials should be elected by the vote of the membership.

Special committees were elected to draft a new constitution and define more fully the future policy of the organization.

The principle of One Big Unionism, based and organized upon industrial lines, is solidly supported by the Lumber Workers, but they refuse to recognize the present O. B. U. organization, or its officials, as being representative of these principles, or of the workers who hold to them.

The Lumber Workers will continue to advocate the principles, and work in harmony with any and all other bodies of workers who are striving to attain a greater measure of economic freedom. The convention is still in session dealing with the reports of future policy and constitution committees. All proceedings will be submitted to referendum vote.

COAST DISTRICT CONVENTION

The Coast District convention continued from January 10th to 15th.

A proposal to hold district conventions yearly in future, was rejected. The semi-annual convention being maintained.

It was decided in favor of forming a Lumber Workers Industrial Union of Canada, and withdrawing from the O. B. U. until the words recently deleted from the preamble were replaced, and the election of executive members by referendum vote was adopted; also a recall provision inserted in the constitution; recall proceedings against any one or more members of the general executive board.

Job action was recommended to secure enforcement of the law "that qualified first aid men be provided in all camps."

May 1 was set for the burning of blankets and the compelling of employers to furnish them in all camps after that date.

Bylaws were drafted governing the conduct of the internal affairs of the district.

A referendum will be taken as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made.

Nominations for District Secretary

C. Linder, W. Head, G. Mitchell.

For District Executive: (4 to be elected): D. Herdman, C. Freeman, W. O'Donnell, B. Wilson, A. Lamey, J. Arnold, T. Armour.

CRANBROOK DISTRICT CONVENTION

Cranbrook District convention took place on Jan. 23. The report of the executive showed the splendid condition of the district, which enabled it to face and weather the present chaos and slump in the lumber industry. Acknowledgment was made to the splendid work of the retiring secretary, Jimmie Thompson.

District Organizer Ed. Robinson reported on work done and conditions existing throughout the district. He recognized the good work being carried on by active delegates and members which had resulted in good camp conditions, and a general elevation of the standing of the logger; but he did not hesitate to damn the slackers, booze artists, card packers and card players, who were more concerned with dealing a deck and trying to clean out some other fellow worker, than they were in cleaning out the filthy bunk houses and blind pigs and getting a new deal for the working class.

The audit committee, O. J. Dandeneau, Bidder, Robinson, certified the financial statement as being correct.

Nominations for district secretary: F. Bidder, O. J. Dandeneau, C. McPhail. For district executive (4 to elect): G. Heafford, W. L. Allen, A. Carlson, Ferd Meyer, Armand Z. Viau.

Delegates to general convention: E. J. Robinson, O. Dandeneau, F. Bidder.

Delegates were instructed to emphasize the need for more literature, and to urge consideration of the organization publishing an official paper; piece work, bonus and contract systems are to be strenuously opposed; a referendum to be taken to fix June 1 next as the last day for packing blankets in the district.

PRINCE GEORGE DISTRICT

Quick, B. C.

O. Hanson's tie camp 2. The camp is about two miles from the railroad. Have two bunk houses, 30x28; fairly good. About 25 men in each house; have double-deck bunks; company supplies mattresses, no springs or blankets, have not a wash-house, but expect one when the builders get time to put one up. The timber here isn't very good; men are pretty well all in, and if he wants to make day wages for himself, and the snow is getting pretty deep, too. Nearly all the men in camp belong to the O. B. U. Food poor, dishes are not properly cleaned after using. Dining-room dirty.

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FORT FRANCES CONVENTION

Fort Frances District conevntion opened on Dec. 28. There was a good attendance of delegates, including fraternal delegates from Winnipeg and Port Arthur districts.

The convention unanimously opposed work being done by piece, bonus or contract; an 8-hour day to be enforced; no member of the organization to be permitted to work longer; a minimum wage of $5 per day with board; double time for Sundays and legal holidays.

While carrying on the fight against the piece, bonus and contract system, no member may make more than the minimum wage, working an 8-hour day; job section is to be the strict method to be followed in the district in an endeavor to obtain better working conditions. Any official seen in public in an intoxicated state shall upon proof, be removed from his position; any member proven guilty of a similar condition shall be ineligible to hold office in the organization for two years thereafter.

The question of maintaining headquarters in connection with the department, was strongly discussed, and uanimously supported, the district refsing to entertain any proposal to withdraw from being an integral part of the L. C. & A. W. department.

It was decided to work in harmony with the Finnish Socialist Local of Fort Frances, and with all other militant organiations of an non-parliamentary character that were out to secure economic democracy and the overthrow of exploitation of human labor-power.

Good public propaganda meetings were held during the period of the convention.

KAMLOOPS DISTRICT

There is mail at Kamloops district office for Frank Cassidy, Helmer Edlund, Ben Gleason, W. Hawryluk, L. J. Hoffman, George Johnson, Robt. MacPherson, Malcolm McAllister, John Olson, Thomas Rourke, E. J. Sullian, George Smith and William Malenoir.

NOTICE

Will he who took C. Newberg's suitcase from Rock Bay Hotel in mistake, return same either to the Rock Bay Hotel, or Granite Bay. His own suitcase is in safety at Rock Bay Hotel.

EASTERN CANADA LABOR VICTORIES

Municipal Elections Bring Out Some Interesting Opposition

Toronto, Ont.—Employers and "anti-radical" labor men joined forces throughout Ontario to defeat candidates of the Labor party in the municipal elections, the cry of "Bolshevism" being raised as a bugaboo in more than one city. In Toronto, Hamilton and London, the province's three largest industrial centres, the Conservative and Liberal parties combined to cut down Labor's representation.

Thousands of copies of a so-called Labor paper, which has the backing of Chambers of Commerce and Canadian manufacturers, were distributed in Toronto and London. It contained personal attacks on Labor candidates, picturing them as "dangerous radicals."

Hamilton Labor's mayoralty candidate was defeated, as well as its nominee for hydro commissioner, who held that position last year. Labor, however, elected two controllers and seven aldermen.

Labor made an exceptional run in Owen Sound, its mayoralty candidate, as well as thre aldermen being elected. Windsor elected four, Kitchener two and St. Catherines one Labor aldermen.

In Guelph the Labor Party entered the municipal field for the first time and elected one alderman, W. Phil Evans, and one trustee, John Berry.

At Sault Ste. Marie Mayor Thomas Farquhar, Labor's candidate in Monday's election, was re-elected with a majority of 551. The council now stands fifty-fifty, with the mayor giving Labor the deciding vote in a deadlock.

At St. Thomas, William Stokes, president of the Independent Labor Party, was elected a member of the City Council.

At Port Arthur two Labor aldermen were elected.

At Stratford three of the Labor-Soldier slate were elected members of he council.

At Niagara Falls C. R. Newman, a Labor candidate was elected to the city council, and Chas. F. Swayze, Labor M.P.P., was elected a school trustee.

One Labor alderman was elected in the Cobalt election.

At North Bay Jim McIvenna, the Labor candidate, was re-elected alderman.

John Cameron, the Labor controller of Ottawa, was re-elected by a vote of 6,379.

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The Problem of Unemployment

(By James T. Stott.)

IN A leaflet issued by the Victoria Local of the S. P. of C. during the recent election, after making reference to the problem of unemployment, the statement is made that this problem—unemployment—is the rock on which Capitalism will meet its doom. This statement is not made without good reason. The reason why some of the social systems which preceded our present one lasted for a much longer period of time than our present system seems likely to last, is because of the fact that their social economy at least ensured an existence for all. Capitalism, with its unemployment of about six per cent. or over, a chronic condition at all times and a far greater percentage at periods of depression which occur with greater frequency, so much so that one period seems scarcely over before another is on, and unemployment today means that even existence is not assured. And when a social system can no longer assure the means of life to its members, its doom is near—and certain.

Another statement made in the leaflet mentioned is as follows:

"With the ever-increasing perfection of the machinery of production and the more efficient organization of the producers of wealth, the worker of today is able to produce in a few hours a far larger output than formerly could be produced in treble the time; but this increased product, instead of reducing his hours of labor, thus giving him greater opportunities for culture and the pleasres of life, is retained by the owners of the machinery of production and is used to force him to accept an even lower standard of life than hitherto. Instead of the larger output made possible by the increased productivity of the machine being used to raise the workers' standard of life, it is used to dispense with a portion of the labor army, and the growing problem of the unemployed, with all its attendant misery, suffering and degradation, is a ghastly witness of the failure and mismanagement of industry by the Capitalist class."

As a commentary on this, the following news dispatch is interesting:

"New York, Nov. 30.—Advices from various parts of the United States, widely scattered, of the reopening of factories closed during the recent industrial re-adjustment are taken in New York business circles as indicating the beginning of a gradual improvement in business conditions. **In some instances the opening of plants is attended with announcements of lower wage schedules or curtailed working time.**"

At the outset of a discussion on any problem, it is customary to begin by a statement of the nature and magnitude of the problem, its causes and effects. There is little necessity to explain the nature of this problem to the average worker. We have all "been there" and understand from experience. News dispatches daily keep us posted as to the magnitude of the problem. Our business is to find out the cause, and having diagnozed this social disease, find out if there is a remedy, and proceed to agitate for its application.

The problem is one which must be met— and met immediately, for "out of a job" today means to the average worker that staration will stare him, and those dependent on him, in the face in a very short time. Palliative measures must be resorted to to relieve the immediate pressure, but palliative measures do not solve the problem. The day of reckoning is only put off.

The class interested in the maintenance of our present social system can offer no solution of this problem. If they could solve it they would, for the ones in their ranks who do a little thinking know that an army of unemployed constitutes a menace. Realizing this, the fact that the problem is still with us is a confession of their inability to find a solution. The capitalist class does not suffer from the effects of unemployment as the working class does, and the problem will remain until the working class, driven by necessity, get to the root of the matter and solve it themselves.

The "Why" of the Problem.

Then, what is the reason that men, able and willing to work, possessing the brawn to wrestle with nature and take from her the raw material, or the skill necessary to fashion such raw material into articles which minister to the necessities or comforts of life, are unable to utilize the energy stored in their bodies and so add to the wealth of the world—to the real wealth, not the column of figures in a bank ledger, which merely demonstrate that some individual, whose name appears at the head of the column, possesses a legally recognized mortgage on existing wealth, or wealth yet to be created, but real wealth, in the shape of foodstuffs, clothing, good and comfortable shelter—the primal necessities of existence—and the many things necessary for life in its widest sense—all that is implied by the term "culture." There is no lack of the brown and the brain necessary to produce, there is no limit to the capacity to consume the wealth which can be produced. Then, why unemployment? Why this problem which seems, on the surface, insoluble? Our answer is: A social system which has outgrown its usefulness; a system heading for destruction; a system which cannot be saved, and would not be worth saving were salvation possible.

In order to understand this problem it is necessary, first of all, to know something of the underlying feature of our present social system—Capitalism. The Capitalist system is based on the production of commodities—that is, on the production of things for sale. While any article produced must have a use value of some kind, catering to either the needs or the desires of a prospective purchaser, this is only a side issue: The primary object of production is to sell. And the sale must be made to bring to the owner a profit, in order to secure for its lucky possessor command over the good things of life, and power over others. There are well defined economic laws governing the production of commodities, the main one of which is that the value on the market of any article is the cost of its reproduction.

Labor-power—human energy—is a commodity, and as such must go on the market on precisely the same footing as other commodities. Its value on the market is, and will be so long as the capitalist system continues, not the value of what it produces, but the cost of its own reproduction. Were the price paid for labor-power—the wages paid—the sum total of the value produced, the consuming power of the working class would be greatly increased, and the markets would not be overstocked—a phenomena observed as the prelude to a period of unemployment. What happens today is that the working-class, with the aid of modern machinery, and by the application of scientific, and well regulated subdivision of labor, actually produce in a given time much more than is necessary to sustain them for that time, but, as the value of their labor-power is simply the cost of its reproduction, when they have been allowed to take from the store of wealth produced sufficient to renew their energy there still remains a surplus over which they have no control and until this surplus can be disposed of the wheels of industry must be slowed down. Under the present system there is no use in continuing production unless a market can be found for the product.

Early Capitalism

In the early days of the capitalist system, the subdivision of labor and the use of the somewhat simple and, in comparison with the present-day, rather crude machine, did not increase production to the extent of making the question of unemployment a serious problem. True, the embryo capitalist was able to live in a better home and to enjoy more of the pleasures and comforts of life, but the master still worked in the factory, either at some of the mechanical processes or taking an active part in the management or marketing the product. The surplus was small, and the natural development of business absorbed it. As the machine developed this surplus grew, and markets had to be found for its disposal. But the world was wide, and for some years the capitalist class of industrialized countries managed to dispose of their surplus aiding in the development of new countries. Iron and steel works were kept busy producing machinery for "foreign" markets, and textile factories kept the "foreigner" or "colonial" clothed until such time as he began to produce for himself. But day by day saw the machine becoming more perfect, and increasing production with the same expenditure of labor. The "foreign" producer began to supply his own needs, and first, the foreign market began to contract, and later, the surplus from the machines of the newly developed countries began to pour into the world market. And the spectre of unemployment began to rear its head, first periodically, now all the time, with greater or less intensity. Today, from all quarters of the globe come reports of factories closing, and news about demonstrations of the unemployed. Denied access to the products of their labor, the working class must face the question either of changing the social system or submitting to starvation. As the strongest instinct of all living beings is self-preservation, the latter alternative is out of the question.

During the recent war it has been estimated that 75,000,000 persons were engaged either on the battlefields, producing munitions, or in other lines of war work, yet the needs of all were provided for demonstrating that so far as production is concerned, these 75,000,000 persons are unnecessary. Even were they exterminated the problem we are considering would not be solved, for the market would be contracted to the extent of their consuming power. The wages paid to the working class only average 20 per cent of the value of the wealth produced by their labor, and this leaves a surplus of 80 per cent in the hands of the master class, which they are physically unable to consume, and try as they will, are unable to waste. There being no market for what is already in stock, the incentive to develop and increase production does not exist, and the defenders of our present system finds himself faced on all sides with unsurmountable difficulties: Either they must solve the problem, or the accummulated surplus wealth they are defending will smother them.

It may be mentioned, in passing, that the Returned Soldier problem, of which we have heard so much, is only a phase of the problem of unemployment. In this case, the matter is complicated by a number of the men being below par for a variety of causes,—being away from their accustomed vocation for a long period, gas, shell shock, and the awful experiences they have gone through, and although sufficient have been coming home in small numbers from the early days of the war to indicate the magnitude of the problem which would have to be faced, nothing was done. During the war, when recruits were needed, prospects were told that "nothing would be too good for them once the enemy was beaten." Today it seems that "Nothing" is quite good enough. The Returned soldier and his troubles add complications to the problem today.

The Solution.

Well, having stated the problem, and having tried to demonstrate its nature, the question will be asked: What can the Socialist offer as a Solution? In analyzing the matter I have endeavored to show that the problem is one inseparable to the present social order—Capitalism—and so long as Capitalism lasts, will grow in magnitude. To solve this problem, then, our social system must be changed. Under Capitalism, production is carried on for profit. We must have production for use. The Capitalist system rests on the basis of profit. All the benefits of the subdivision of labor, of machinery, of scientific discoveries flow into the coffers of the owner of the machinery of production today. By their control of this machinery the present Capitalist class maintains its strangle-hold on the class which must have access to the machine in order to subsist. In the social economy of the future the benefits accruing from the ownership of the machine and the natural resources of the earth will continue to be for the benefit of the owners, but the ownership must be social, not the ownership of a small class—when industry can be so organized that all will perform their part in the labor neressary to produce the necessaries and luxuries of life, due allowance being made for those disabled from any cause, and all will receive the full social value of their labor. In that day, if the necessaries and comforts of life are being produced in a greater quantity than needed, the wheels of production will be slowed down by reducing the hours of labor for all, instead of a portion being turned onto the streets, jobless, to face starvation, as is the case today.

The anachronism of full warehouses and starving human beings, of idle land, and machinery and unemployed men, are things which cannot last. By its failure to solve the problems it has created the Capitalist system stands condemned, and all the sophistries of its apologists, and the brutal measures of its defenders and beneficiaries can not prevent sentence being passed and the judgment executed as soon as the facts of the matter are thoroughly understood by the workers of the world. Leaving to those who still believe the capitalist system can be patched up and tinkered with, and made to last some time longer, the introduction of palliative measures to relieve the present situation, it is our business to disseminate the facts of the matter as widely as possible and hasten the day of judgment. The problem of unemployment, and a number of other problems incidental to the Capitalist system, can only be solved by the inauguration of a social system of production for use in place of the present system of production for profit.

Missoula, Mont.—Lumber operators at a meeting here have decided to reduce wages among all timber workers. The new cut in wages effective January 15, amounts to 20 per cent. It will bring wages below $4.00 a day and will affect over 4,000 lumberjacks. Mill wages of course were reduced in proportion. Three thousand men are employed in the mills of western Montana.

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KERENSKY AGAIN SEEKING FAME

Story of His Downfall After Short Term in Office

In view of the fact that Kerensky is supposed to be acting on behalf of France in another attempt to attack Soviet Russia, it might be of interest to again relate how he lost out in Russia. Following are some of the events which took place between Sept. 28 and Nov. 7, 1917:

The "Great Democratic Conference" opened in Petrograd on the 27th of September. As to the "Great National Conference" in Moscow, where the counter-revolution developed, so here Kerensky opened the proceedings. Here he defended himself against complicity in the Korniloff conspiracy, and here he said: "Whosoever raises a knife to stab the Russian army in the back, shall learn the whole weight of the authority of the Revolutionary government." He was soon to learn where stood the Russian army, and which authority it regarded as truly revolutionary.

Reactionary Conference

The conference was a gathering of all the clans of reaction. Every kind of association, however anti-democratic, had representation.

Thus Kerensky allied himself with the Kadet capitalists, the supporters of the Korniloff rebellion, the avowed enemies of the Soviets, and this was his answer to the Bolshevik triumph at the Soviet elections. He declared that the "Provisional government" was the real expression of the people's will. He was soon to see.

The Issue

The Soviets or the Provisional government had to go—both sides recognized it.

Nicholas Lenin said:

"Berensky now stands in the path of the revolution. He defies it. It must sweep him away or he will destroy it—that's the issue."

Kerensky regarded the "Provisional government" as the true custodian of the Revolution, and he regarded the Bolsheviks as greater enemies of Russia than the Kadets. Thus he made his choice.

The Bolsheviks held mass meetings in all the graet cities. The Moscow municipal elections came on and the Bolsheviks swept the polls. The Petrograd Soviet took the initiative in calling together the "All Russian Congress." The old executive appealed to branch Soviets to return anti-Bolsheviks—they returned Bolsheviks. The congress met. The new executive was triumphantly Bolshevik, and the Soviet organization was Bolshevik top and bottom and throughout the land.

Trotsky Acts

On Oct. 20, the Kadet-rigged "Provisional Council" that was to support Kerensky commenced its session. Into it strode Leon Trotsky with a number of supporters. He denounced the government as a government of public treason, and the council as "a council of counter revolutionary complicity." He told its members to run away home and save their skins, and then he and his Bolshevik following walked out.

And this "Provisional Council," this assembly of all the talents, this gathering of the wealth, industry, finance and brains of Russia did not move. It did nothing. It was afraid to act. It professed to be there in the name of the nation. It professed to represent the nation. Yet it feared to move lest the nation should rise and slay it. It meandered along in meaningless speeches that incurred no risk. Finally it slunk away into the darkness. The world knew it no more. Kerensky was left to his fate.

By Oct. 29 Kerensky had ready for a march on Moscow and Petrograd, if need be, all the forces upon which he thought he could rely, and on that date he answered that he had sufficient troops at his disposal to suppress any attempted rising.

On Nov. 6 the Bolshevik Soviets struck and Kerensky's Kadet supporters crumbled to pieces. Within 24 hours Kerensky was in flight, and the "Provisional government" had ceased to exist. Once more the armies and the masses demonstrated that they would not stand for any power that sought to destroy the Soviets. Thus the "Socialist Republic of Federated Soviets" came into existence.—Reproduced from "Red Europe" by Frank Anstey, Australian M. P. On sale at office of The Federationist. 50c postpaid.

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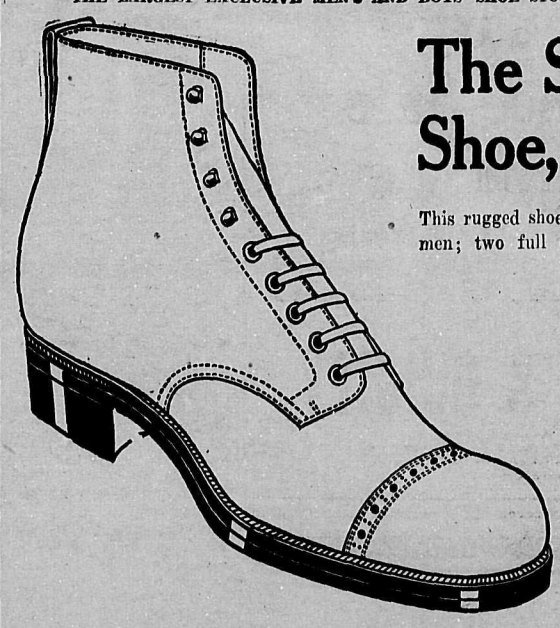

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