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4 THE IDEA OF A GENERAL STRIKE TAKES SHAPE

The Manitoba Free Press, Winnipeg
May 7, 1919

ALL UNIONS ASKED TO TAKE A STRIKE VOTE

The Trades' and Labor council has decided unanimously to support the striking metal workers and the workers in the building trades in their efforts to establish better wages, reduction of hours of labor, recognition of unions and collective bargaining.

"Every union affiliated with the Trades Council has been asked to take a ballot of its members with the idea of calling a general strike in support of the men of the organizations named who are at present on strike."

The above announcement was made by Ernest Robinson, secretary and business agent of Trades council at the conclusion of a meeting of that body last night, to which press representatives were not admitted.

Continuing, Mr. Robinson said: "It is anticipated that within one week, unless the employers give way, Winnipeg will be experiencing a second, and more severe, sympathetic strike.

"A special meeting of Trades council will be held next Tuesday night to put into operation, if necessary, a general strike.

"Special preparations have been made to take the strike vote in the least possible time. These votes will be taken at points convenient to the respective workers except in the cases of unions which meet in the interim. In the case of the latter, the vote will be registered at the union meeting. Arrangements were made last night for the printing of the official ballot papers."

The meeting was one of the largest in the history of the local labor parliament, the largest room in the temple being crowded to the doors with interested labor men in addition to the appointed union delegates. There was little else of public interest transacted at the meeting.

5 SYMPATHY FOR THE STRIKERS

The Telegram, Winnipeg
May 7, 1919

UNANIMOUS VOTE OF LABOR MEN FOR SYMPATHY STRIKE

Unless the demands of the striking metal trades and building trades workers are acceded to Winnipeg will be tied up by a general strike of all trades next Wednesday if the expectations of the officers of the Trades and Labor council are realized.

At a meeting of the Trades and Labor council last night a unanimous decision was reached to support the present strikers "in their efforts to establish better wages, reduction of hours of labor, recognition of unions and collective bargaining."

Every union affiliated with the Trades council has accordingly been asked to take a strike vote with the idea of calling a general sympathetic strike. The vote applies to railroad shops and running trades, to the police, firemen, street railway workers, and in fact every trades union in the city.

WILL TAKE QUICK VOTE

The council made special arrangements to get a quick vote of all unions. Where a union is holding its regular meeting this week the vote will be taken at the meeting; in the case of unions not meeting this week, arrangements have been made to have the vote taken at points convenient to the respective workers. The ballot papers were printed early this morning and are now being distributed to the workers.

E. Robinson, secretary of the Trades and Labor council, in a statement issued this morning, said: "It is anticipated that within one week, unless the employers give way, Winnipeg will be experiencing a second general sympathy strike — a more severe sympathy strike even than the last. A special meeting of the Trades and Labor council will be held next Tuesday night to put into operation, if necessary, a general strike."

Employers in the building trades contend that if they were to concede the workers'

demands it would put a sudden and absolute stop to building in the city for this year. "We might say 'Yes, we'll pay you fellows all you ask,'" said a leading contractor, today, "but if we did it wouldn't benefit the workers any because they'd have no work to do. Building would be absolutely prohibitive."

Employers in the metal trades declined to make any comment on the latest development of the situation.

8 CLEAN OUT THE BOLSHEVISTS

The Times, Toronto
May 20, 1919

Winnipeg is a warning to the rest of Canada. The object of the One Big Union is plain. It is the aim of the Reds who dominate that organization to use mass-power, in defiance of agreements, for the overturning of organized society. It is mere naked Bolshevism, the establishment of Soviet rule; peaceably if possible, but by force if necessary. Such a plan for strangling the life of the country and sacrificing the comfort of women and children for a visionary well-being is more than disorder. It is rebellion. We do not believe that Organized Labor in Eastern Canada will show itself the fatuous plaything of the extreme Socialists and of the German agents who are financing them.

The Times agrees with Major-General McRae that there should be a "clean up" of the revolutionary agitators and foreign undesirables who infest the country. The men who are trying to wreck society should be given notice to leave the Dominion by a certain date and either jailed or deported if they do not act accordingly. The institutions of this country, the welfare and happiness of its women and children must not be exposed to the dangers of Bolshevism. Canada must not become a second Russia. Plunder, murder and rape must not become ruling principles under the British flag. Organized Labor must not be overturned and submerged by the enemies of civilization. The Government must act with a strong hand to save the day.

5 "WHITE PEOPLE" AND ALIENS

The Herald, Calgary
June 18, 1919

That a Canadian soldier, the holder of the V.C., should have been kicked and crushed by Canadian residents and citizens on a Winnipeg street, is to the eternal disgrace of the men who are responsible for the striking conditions in Winnipeg. It is evident that the mob that thus maltreated a brave man was led by alien agitators, but one cannot help feeling surprised that the "white people" in the crowd, whether they sympathized with the strikers or not, per-

mitted such conduct and did not go to his defence. Surely those in Calgary and elsewhere who quit their work in sympathy with the Winnipeg trouble will see even more clearly now the character of the strike leadership and the sinister influences that are behind it.

38 THE "SOVIET METHOD" IN WINNIPEG

The Gazette, Montreal
May 31, 1919

"It makes my blood boil to see five men, none of whom is Canadian born, or who has served overseas, run Winnipeg as they are at the present time."

This is the way one millionaire of the western metropolis, who was a pioneer there and helped build up the country, expressed his feelings today. R. J. Cromie, publisher of the Vancouver Daily Sun, who arrived in Toronto tonight, and who spent Wednesday in Winnipeg, made this statement.

"It is not a battle between employer and employé," said Mr. Cromie in discussing the Winnipeg situation, "but it is a battle between the constitutional reform and the Soviet method."

6 THE ENEMY HERE IN CANADA

The Daily News Chronicle, Port Arthur
June 13, 1919

A man who was decorated with the highest and most honorable decoration within the gift of Britain, lies in a Winnipeg hospital with bones broken and flesh lacerated.

He received his injuries at the hands of three alien enemies on the public streets of that city. He received them while he was engaged in attempting to maintain law and order in a Canadian city.

Sergeant Coppin [sic] performed one of the most daring deeds of the thousands that are credited to individual soldiers in the great war.

The sole remaining man of a group of five who volunteered to destroy twenty-four hun machine gun nests, he won through and accomplished the task. Alone he fought one nest after the other, killing and wounding the huns who worked the guns. Terrified by the reckless bravery of this splendid hero those of the enemy who had not been killed surrendered.

By his heroic act he saved the lives of his comrades who were being destroyed by a murderous enfilading fire. He marched his prisoners back to the Canadian lines.

In the course of time Sergt. Coppin returned home. Imbued with the same spirit that urged him to his great deed over there, he volunteered as one of two thousand other soldiers to serve his city in its need, when the regular police refused longer to maintain law and order. It was in the discharge of this duty that he fell victim to the murderous assault of three alien enemies.

The assault was one of the most cowardly

10 FOREIGNERS: THE ROOT OF THE TROUBLE

The Telegraph, Quebec
May 21, 1919

The Winnipeg situation emphasizes menace to a nation, such as Canada, which inheres in the free admission of foreign immigration without a careful system of government scrutiny and examination. Canada most emphatically wants immigrants. There is no doubt of that. But at the same time she does not want that element of foreign agitators whose nihilistic hysteria may be the natural product of the unfortunate lands from which they come, but who

are certainly entirely out of their proper element in the free atmosphere of British institutions which they can neither understand nor appreciate.

One of the American speakers at the Good Roads Congress last evening aroused much applause by his declaration that the foreign element must be shipped out of the United States. He referred, of course, not to all foreign immigrants, but to that undesirable aggregation of propagandists who, often with German inspiration, cause so much of the trouble existing in the United States. The records show that the overwhelming majority of the law-breakers of the United States are foreigners. Uncle Sam has his own little problem to handle.

What of Canada? Are we sowing the seeds of a new trouble? So far as can be seen, Government is doing nothing to prevent. Where are its immigration officials, and secret service officers, that it is allowing the country to be infested with these Bolshevik foreigners? Why, above all, has it allowed these Germanophile agitators the wonderful leverage afforded by the high cost of living, against which nothing has been done? If the Government had been less solicitous of the welfare of the profiteers, and more careful in eliminating obnoxious foreign pamphleteers, the country would be in a less precarious position to-day; and such a dangerous condition as that now existing in Winnipeg would probably never have arisen. The Government owes the people an explanation.