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THE MARITIME LABOR HERALD

(WEEKLY)

Vol. 1 \$2.00 PER YEAR
Gloucester Bay, Nova Scotia, Saturday, November 12, 1921
FIVE CENTS

If the British Empire Steel Corporation Company Can a Living Wage to Its Employees, Let It Admit It Is E

Nothing to Arbitrate

By J. B. McLachlan

The capitalists dig the trenches and when dug, the workers proceed at once to occupy them. The very latest trench in the process of digging was fully outlined in the last Saturday issue of the Sydney Record. This particular trench, according to the Record, is the one from which the coal operators of North America are going to smash the United Mine Workers of America, and as a result everybody is to get cheap coal and the days of high wages (?) for miners shall go for ever. But let the Record tell its own story in its own way:

"If the verdict rendered by Judge Anderson is repeated in the Supreme Court of the United States, it means the end of the check-off system and of the closed-shop in American mines. SHOULD THAT PROVE THE CASE IT WILL MEAN IMMEDIATE ACTION TO END THE SAME PRINCIPLE IN CANADIAN MINES. It can easily be seen what far reaching and stupendous changes may be effected by the case before the American Courts—CHANGES WHICH WILL NOT ONLY AFFECT EVERY MINER BUT SINCE THEY (the changes) CONCERN THE PRICE OF COAL EVERY INDUSTRY AND EVERY HOUSEHOLD ON THE AMERICAN CONTINENT."

The Record was careful to inform its readers that it published its article "not to point a moral." But the moral is there sticking out a foot: "Everybody back up the coal operators to smash the check-off and the closed shop and the operators will give everybody cheap coal. What a beautiful utopian dream, smash the check-off the closed shop and recognition and presto every industry and every household gets cheaper coal! Well outside of North America no trade unionist ever so much as heard of the check-off, the closed shop and that supreme trade union blessing "Recognition." These are but the crutches which the lame and tame labor movement of North America has been hobbling along on and it will be a veritable god-send would the United States Supreme Court, and the people who intend to take immediate action to end the same principles in Canadian mines, kick the wretched check-off and closed shop out of the labor movement then the workers would feel how good it is to stand on their own legs. Then and not till then will they seriously consider the question whether, and how long they are going to continue to "Recognize" the coal operators. In Canada and the United States where the coal operators have "given" the check-off and recognition, coal is mined more cheaply than any other country in the world. China alone excepted.

The writer worked in Lanarkshire, Scotland, the home of Robert Smillie, when the Lanarkshire Miners' Union was organized, and of course as the miners had never heard of this thing called "recognition" it never occurred to them to consult the operators at all in securing many of the things which they wanted. They simply went ahead and legislated for themselves without ever once consulting the operators. Here are three things which they did: Inaugurated an eight hour working day from bank to bank, instituted a five day working week and set the exact number of pounds of coal any one man could dig. When these things were done the operators had no say at all in the matter. The operators had taught them in the days when they had no union. These old country operators felt very important and they used to say, when trouble occurred between them and the miners, "We have nothing to discuss, we have nothing to arbitrate," and so the miners occupied the trenches dug by the operators, and refused to arbitrate or discuss the amount of work that they would perform.

Nothing can very well happen that will put more victory into the miners' organization than the smashing of the pretty little baubles "given" it by coal operators and nothing shall set us more directly on the road to that inevitable goal when we shall tell the coal operators that WE HAVE NOTHING TO DISCUSS, WE HAVE NOTHING TO ARBITRATE WITH THEM.

The Progressive Platform and Coal

The Progressive Movement in Nova Scotia Will Richmond County

by E. C. DOYLE

The fact that the Farmer-Labor Progressive movement is hourly gathering force and momentum in Richmond is due to the long established conviction of our people that the Government policy of the old line parties is fundamentally wrong in so far as, while individuals and corporations have grown wealthy our farmers and workers, those who toil on seas and land, have not and are not securing their proper share of the wealth which their labors bring to the country.

Richmond is largely a seafaring and agricultural county. Our seafarers in this line of work are they whose shoulders bear the burden of both federal, provincial and municipal taxation. The artificial legislation of strict class governments has been so framed that it permits of that sliding procedure which enables those upon whose shoulders should rest their just proportion of taxation to pass it along that it inevitably must all be paid by our toiling masses.

That our farming and fishing villages are becoming yearly depopulated is an undoubted fact. Both the Liberal and Conservative administrations of the past have spent millions bringing foreign immigration into Canada whilst the hope of our country, our young men and women have been compelled to leave all that is dear to the human heart—home, family and friends—to seek in another country that right to a livelihood which inefficient and class governments have denied them at home.

The progress of the world's civilization is being retarded by the selfishness of the few. Better returns for their labor to those who toil in this country, on sea and land, will mean that more people will engage in these industries. This will require that more machinery will be used. This means the consumption of more coal, iron and steel. More production from our farm and sea means more work for our railways and our sea carriers. All means more work in our industrial centers, employment for labor, all of which combined constitutes the essential of a happy and contented people.

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All out governments of the past and

A Statement

I am advised that a canvass is being used in this election that the miners and steel workers should vote for John C. Douglas and myself. I want to make it plain that old party candidates may throw their partner to the wolves to save their own hides, but for myself I want to say that I would rather a thousand times go down to defeat with Doyle than win with the best Grit or Tory that ever lived. I am far asunder from any Grit or Tory as the poles and every Independent Labor Party and its candidates stands for. Vote the straight Farmer-Labor ticket, and don't allow old party political heelers to humbug you.

J. B. McLACHLAN

UNITED MINE WORKERS ON THIS VITAL QUESTION.

Now when that public ownership is brought about, the coal mines of Cape Breton will be acquired by the public, AND BE ACQUIRED AT A FAIR PRICE, AND MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WILL NOT BE GIVEN IN PAYMENT OF FICTITIOUS CAP-

for the Starval Citizens to Pay F a Swollen Capit

In our last issue we postponed to this whether the eminent gentlemen who have now in control of the corporations exploit Breton, were afflicted with conscious prey or the ambition to foot the small fortune (This was to be discussed in connection with companies and the relation of the to will deal briefly with these matters, the future issues of the Herald).

In the now famous article published on October 16th, the question is asked why Breton is so poor, a comparison of the coal fields of Pennsylvania and the bituminous seams in Pennsylvania were so inclined and almost untouched, so that it exceeded low. In Nova Scotia on the other hand the coal is mined at a steeply inclined. Coal is brought up in 2,600 feet. Explosives cannot be used in Breton, the coal had to be brought from the seams under the bed of the sea, and gave. Eighty per cent of the coal is brought from the Cape Breton mines. It was stated in our last issue that the coal was mined in a fair manner the purpose of the article which was evidently prepared in the office of the Cape Breton Coal Company.

Right here rises the question we propose to the operating companies, afflicted with ignorant stupidity or the ambition to let widows and orphans? We will discuss this and throw a little light on the subject.

A Living Wage

The first principle we lay down, a principle by all publicists and religious bodies is his hire, and that he should have a wage to shelter his family in a decent and respectable manner. In May, 1919, the Federal Council in America (embracing thirty Protestant churches) and drew up and adopted a resolution which was approved of by the Young Men's Club and by the Young Women's Christian Association. Other clauses of the Churches' aims such were the following:

Gradual and reasonable reduction of the cost of living, and for this there is a condition of the highest living wage that any industry can give. A new emphasis upon the application to the acquisition and use of property, division of the product of industry, to the benefit of the community.

That living wage does not mean rags, food, nor ramshackle homes. It does not mean wages every time a cent is taken off the cost must be such as to allow Canadian heads of families, to live in peace and comfort and well fed and well clothed children to after their day of toil. This is what a living wage means according to all economic principles.

No, Mr. Wolvin, interest on bonded upon industry, nor is interest on preferred stock upon industry, nor are returns upon the companies the first charge upon industry. No coal mining and the steel industry of Nova Scotia. The Men who Create the Wealth of the Country cannot pay that interest on the bonded indebtedness of your and your Dominion Iron and Steel Com-