

LABOR CAUSE IS EXPLAINED

John W. Bruce Speaks to Small Audience But Makes Clear His Position

URGES SOLIDARITY

Spoke with British and Italian Situations and Urges a United Front

That the labor classes in Canada will take a similar step to that which has been taken in Great Britain and, in order to protect themselves from the present capitalist and political system of government, will make a bid for the administration of the country's affairs, was a prediction made by John W. Bruce, the recent organizer of the International Plumbers' Union of Canada, in addressing a meeting last night in the Empress Theatre. The speaker said that solidarity of the working classes was necessary and that a spirit of co-operation and enthusiasm that was now lacking must be developed. Disintegrating influences "must be overcome and the working classes had their destiny in their own hands."

Fund of Knowledge

Mr. Bruce's subject was "Latest News on American and European Labor Movements." Having just returned from a tour of America and Europe and having attended the International Labor Congress in Geneva and the congress of the British craft unions in England, the speaker had a wide fund of knowledge from his personal observations and, couched in eloquence, his address was replete with interest and enthusiasm. The attendance, however, due no doubt to the adverse weather, was small. Ald. S. D. Macdonald, president of the Trades & Labor Council, was in the chair and J. J. Gillis, president of the Carpenters' Union, also had a seat upon the platform.

The world today was in a condition of chaos and the capitalist system had failed, the speaker declared. This condition had arisen out of the war in which the workers of practically all countries had participated. They had been told that they were fighting for democracy but today Europe and the world were in a worse condition than before the war. Unemployment, misery, starvation and degradation were rife. It seemed that war made work for men but peace brought starvation. The Treaty of Versailles had been a failure and had not brought peace. Today Europe was a armed camp and



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in spite of the era of international peace and goodwill that had been predicted, there was more divisions and boundaries than before the war.

Great Mass Ignorant

The great mass of the people in many of the European countries were ignorant of their social and economic condition so they were easily led. The Fascist movement, opposed to the principles and objects of labor organization, had gained control in Italy and was threatening Germany and England. Its influence could even be felt on this side of the Atlantic. It must be combated by labor for its object was to prevent labor functioning in the way it should and it was being capitalized to disrupt labor organizations.

Low Moral Standard

Unemployment was the tragedy of civilization in the world today. With the exception of Germany alone, it was greater in every country than before the war and no effort was being made to adjust it. In Great Britain there were 2,500,000 workless. In their determination to make Germany pay, the Allies were making Germany work to capacity. With Germany at work, the rest of the world was out of work. Today Germany was controlling practically all the markets because that country was able to produce more cheaply than the other countries. The governments would say that the only remedy was longer hours and lower pay which meant a lower standard of living. In England today conditions were already repulsive. The worst thing was the increase in prostitution. The same condition existed in Belgium, Italy and Austria and the morality and ideals

cherished by men were being broken down.

There was a ray of hope in England, however. The labor classes had risen to be a power in the political field and were challenging the state by attempting to control the machinery of state. Such action was necessary to the welfare of the working classes.

Canadians Divided

In Canada there was a problem confronting the laboring classes equally important. The failure of the workers to realize their position had been destructive to their solidarity. They had been divided in many respects. Some had lacked enthusiasm, while others had been over enthusiastic.

A desperate attempt was being made in Great Britain to solve the problem confronting labor. Philip Snowden even now had a resolution on the order paper of the British House of Commons challenging the very basis of society. That was an indication that the policy of production for use and not for profit was sound.

In numerical strength, the labor movements in Europe were far greater than in America but conditions of the workers were not as good there. This showed that where there was a higher degree of education among the workers better results had been obtained.

Orderly Movement

There were disrupting influences in the ranks of labor in Canada and the United States. These things would have to be faced and a common basis of understanding among all labor classes was necessary in order to present a united front for industrial emancipation. An orderly movement would have to be

built up which would function and take the labor classes where they wanted to go with the ultimate object in view of getting the full share of the production of their labor. A spirit of dependency or division could not be allowed to lead the workers to defeat.

Local Conditions

Referring to local labor conditions, the speaker said that the city council here had refused to heed a government act in refusing the workers a conciliation board on their wage dispute. An attempt was being made to smash a labor union. If the council was able to do that, it would be doing something that thousands had tried and failed to accomplish. They would find it impossible, however. He would have thought the city council was comprised of men big enough to observe the law. They had taken advantage of a falling labor market. Had it been rising the council would have been forcing negotiations instead of the workers.

"What the laboring classes need is solidarity, activity and vigor," declared the speaker. "Apathy must be dispelled and organization brought to the status it enjoyed some years ago. The active effort of every man is needed. The outlook, however, is bright. In Britain the basis of society is being challenged and the same may be done here in the same way."

"The workers have got to figure where they stand. Faced with a debt a thousand per cent greater after the war than it was before, capitalists and politicians say that longer hours and less pay are necessary. Thus they would make the laboring classes increase their participation in the payment of the war debts, how much you are going to pay is up to you."

Follow Great Britain

"There is a serious situation ahead. Things have been done without your knowledge and you are not getting all the facts. But I can see the rising tide of militancy in this country. I can see the laboring classes here taking the same step as in Great Britain with the result that, possibly, at no far date in the future, we may be able to put on the order paper of our government just such a motion as Philip Snowden has done in Great Britain challenging the very economic heart of the nation."

Charles Hunter asked Mr. Bruce if he did not consider the resolution made by Philip Snowden but a sop to appease the unemployed while he was crawling on his hands and knees in cocked hat and knee breeches to dine with the King. Mr. Bruce did not share this view and felt that the very fact that Snowden and other Laborites had been asked to dine with the King was a signal victory of recognition for the cause. Mr. Hunter expressed the opinion that Thomas and Clynes were a disgrace to the British Labor party. Mr. Bruce defended them and stated that they held the wide respect and approbation of the laboring masses of Great Britain.

Avoided Russia

W. Dickens asked Mr. Bruce why he had not dealt more fully with the Russian situation. Mr. Bruce replied that, not having personally visited Russia, he was not in a position to speak on the question. Opinions and reports differed widely and it was difficult to get coherent information about Russia. Mr. Bruce referred to Lenin's declaration before the soviet congress that the workers of each country would have to work out their own salvation according to the circumstances prevailing in their particular sphere. Such advice as that he believed was sound.

President S. D. Macdonald in closing the meeting thanked Mr. Bruce for his message and deplored the fact that there had been so few present to hear it. He also publicly thanked Archdeacon Bix and other members of the delegation which had appeared before the city council on Monday night on behalf of the workers in their wage dispute with the city.

BOWSER OBJECTS TO GROUP GOVERNMENT

Lack of Continuity and Cohesion Under Loose System: New Party Not Likely to Last

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sacrifice would not go down with those who knew him and his record. General McRae's past career, Mr. Bowser declared, indicated clearly that he had never made any effort except in favor of General McRae.

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