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Labor's Showdown

COMMUNISM within the trade unions appears to be heading for a showdown which is making itself apparent not only as between employers and workers but in the way of division amid the ranks of the workers themselves. It is reaching a point where the business and economy of the country may suffer seriously but possibly the most unfortunate part of the whole thing may easily be the unhappy effect upon workers and families from the unemployment which threatens to be brought about.

Co-incidental with the movement on the part of some union elements to purge themselves of the communist influence is the growing disposition of at least some of the operators and employers to refuse to deal with communist-tinged or communist-led unions. There is this aspect of the new waterfront workers' dispute in the United States. In this part of the country the communistic-influenced miners' union led workers to a position where an entire large mining operation closed up completely, throwing 200-odd men, many of them with families, into unemployment. Now there is very definite possibility that the large scale timber operators of this coast may close down their workings rather than deal further with the communist element which leads the International Woodworkers of America. Not only the dupes of the communists but many honest and hard working men will be out of work, bringing in many cases suffering and discomfort to the women and children of their families. Likewise, trouble and idleness may come to the factionally-torn seamen.

It is regrettable that the housecleaning of the unions should be so hurtful to the welfare of the country economically, socially and industrially. To the average observer it all seems so unnecessary. Undoubtedly, some of the operators are concerned over the disruption of their business and the ill-effects of the situation to country and public. Few of them, of course, have to worry about facing personal discomfort even if their operations cease. They are in a secure position to wait for the culmination which most undoubtedly will be to their final benefit. On the other hand, the communist leaders, who by their actions are beginning to make clear their principal motive of disrupting business and industry and perpetuating the industrial strife which keeps their well paid jobs going, are, of course, happy. It makes no difference to them how many of their followers or their wives and families suffer.

It is too bad indeed that so many of the good workers continue to be blindly deluded and that they may have to taste the bitter medicine which they have contributed themselves to brewing before they see the light. There is one ray of hope for them, however, and that is that among them are emerging certain leaders who realize where things are drifting and are endeavouring to turn the tide. That the dikes are not being raised too late is the hope of those who have the welfare of industry, the workers of this country and trades unionism itself really at heart.

BERLIN CRISIS

THE BERLIN CRISIS drags on as word is awaited of an agreement for the lifting by the Russians of the blockade on land transport on the basis of acceptance of the Soviet zone mark as the currency of the whole city under four-power control instead of the arbitrary Soviet currency without such control.

Meanwhile the serious rioting in the City hall at Berlin yesterday, the third such unpleasantness by the Soviet, does not make the promise of a settlement any more reassuring.

The same technique which has been employed by the Russians throughout the crisis goes on but the mere fact that the crisis has lasted so long is a healthy indication of the effectiveness and determination of western power resistance.

By creation of chaos, the Soviets have endeavoured to force a western withdrawal but such a withdrawal seems more remote now in spite of all the Soviet process of sabotage and usurpation.

Berlin has been the year's chief objective in the general campaign against the non-Communist world, a campaign which, though persistent makes such slow progress that we may take some courage from that very fact of slowness itself.

THIS AND THAT



"Well, of all the conceit!"

RETENTION OF LIBERTY

Special Speaker is Heard at Kingdom Hall

The Kingdom Hall on Sixth Avenue East was well filled Sunday afternoon when an address "Fight For Freedom" was delivered by A. H. Melin, representative of the Watch Tower Society. The discourse, which occupied about half an hour, went at some length into different stages of world history. Today was a time when it was all too plain that far reaching plans and efforts were being made to again restrict the liberties of people, to regiment, to control and to regulate—in short, to bend people to the will of others. Yet there was a time such a condition did not exist, and this was before there were denials of the teachings of Christ. The word of God, the message of the Scriptures, could always be depended on to uphold freedom. When one forsakes Christ, it was only placing one's self in bondage, and remaining there. Mr. Melin, at some length, went into the subject of the Bill of Rights, explaining what it is and what it stood for. A petition was now being presented asking for the enactment of a Bill of Rights enforceable by the courts in order to stop the spread of the abridgement of individual freedoms.

The meeting was presided over by David Hadland, who also played violin selections, with Mrs. Hadland playing piano accompaniment.

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BASEBALL SERIES IS RAINED OUT

Hoping to take part in a season-concluding inter-town baseball series, a Smithers ball team came down from the interior during the Labor Day week-end but all it got was the rain. Rain on Sunday and Monday afternoons made it impossible to play either day. The team, which had arrived Sunday afternoon, left yesterday afternoon on its homeward way.

MOOSE HALL BLOCK SOLD

Alex MacKenzie Acquires Third Avenue Property

The well known Third Avenue building known for years as the Moose Hall, the second floor of which during the war was occupied by the Y.M.C.A. and the ground floor until recently by Elio Furniture, has been sold by the owners, Edward, Chester and Olga Clapp to Alexander MacKenzie of MacKenzie Furniture Ltd. The sale was negotiated through the office of R. E. Mortimer, Second Avenue.

Mr. MacKenzie plans to move the furniture business from the present location to the newly acquired site.

The Moose Hall above is being reconditioned for public use.

Would Be Big City --

(Continued from Page One)

means of access between Central Alaska and the Inside Passage."

Mr. Sundborg referred to the importance of the Haines Cut-off from the standpoint of security as well as economic value.

ALASKA NEEDS HAINES CUT-OFF

The interior of Alaska is growing rapidly, the Alaskan official continued, and it should not be left dependent entirely upon the railway out of Seward and Anchorage. Other roads to the interior of Alaska such as the Richardson Highway from Valdez to Fairbanks were closed seven months of the year and there was little that could be done about this in view of the heavy snows and "glaciating." Even the railroad was sometimes closed for days or weeks at a time during the winter and it was not uncommon in winter that aircraft cannot land at Fairbanks owing to fog conditions.

"The Haines Cut-off certainly looks to us like the best possibility" but there remained the complication of almost 100 miles of it being through Canadian territory.

STATEHOOD DEFERRED AT LEAST TWO YEARS

Discussing the possibilities of Alaskan Statehood, Mr. Sundborg said that the people of Alaska had expressed their desire for statehood but the prospect of its early granting was none too encouraging at this time. However, the campaign would be renewed at the next session of Congress convening early in January following the national election. At least two years would probably be required before enactment could be completed.



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"Alaskans certainly feel the need of Prince Rupert in providing transportation service required in the development of the territory," observed Mr. Sundborg.

Seemingly unnecessary regulations which restricted use of aircraft in travel between Alaska and Prince Rupert continued to annoy the people of Alaska, said the gubernatorial assistant.

Mr. Sundborg told of the fine weather which southeastern Alaska had been enjoying all this summer. All-time good weather records had been set in the north while the Puget Sound area and the Pacific Northwest had been having "a year without summer."

Mr. Sandborg came here on Saturday aboard the Princess

Norah to me and five children spending the week in the morning. They all process the Princess morning.

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