

TELLS WAR AIMS OF LABOR MEN

James Simpson Addresses District Trades Council on Conditions in Britain

HENDERSON'S INFLUENCE

Council Resolves to Meet the Great War Veterans.

The war aims of the British Labor party formed the subject of an address by Mr. James Simpson last night to the District Trades and Labor Council. He also spoke at some length on the Labor movement as he found it during his recent trip to Great Britain, referring to the success which had attended some of its efforts.

"Among the resolutions before the British Trade Congress in 1916, which I attended as a delegate from Canada, was one from Samuel Gompers, that the workers of all belligerent countries should meet after the war. Will Thorne and others stood opposed to it, while Smillie and his supporters pleaded that if the diplomats of all countries sat in conference the workers should do the same. When I returned a year later I saw Thorne and Smillie on the same platform, agreeing. I observed a great change," said Mr. Simpson.

Complete Democratization.

"Whatever has been the cause of the war, the British trade unionists say that the people of Europe did not start it. They did not start it, and they have been the chief sufferers. They point out that the people will have lost unless the result is a permanent peace and a complete democratization of all countries of the world. They say that there must be a complete abandonment of imperialism, there must be a suppression of secret diplomacy, the abolition of compulsory military service, the limitation of all costly armaments, and the taking from the hands of the private individual the manufacture of munitions of war. They ask for a league of nations, an international high court, an international world Parliament, so that there shall be industrial co-ordination instead of differences which will lead to strife," he declared.

Economic pressure would bring any nation that fell away from the regulations set up by these international courts back into the fold.

Trade Unions Opposed to War.

"The British trades union movement was opposed to the war as one of aggression, and the question of Alsace-Lorraine, the Balkan States and Poland shall be decided by the people of these States. British Labor is strongly in favor of reparation to Belgium and equal political and civil rights for the Jews. Constantinople was to be a free port, a decision which was strongly at variance with the agreements at the outset of the war.

"We hear a great deal of an economic boycott after the war. British Labor is opposed to an economic boycott. It would lead to reprisals. It realizes that that policy would lead to profit for the capitalist, and would be a grave menace to a lasting peace. It asks for the open door policy, no hostile discrimination against any country. It insists upon a proper distribution of food after the war. For instance, if in Germany there was an abundance of some commodity of which there was a scarcity in England, that abundant commodity would be shipped to England on the basis of need," he said.

Labor Party Progresses.

He said that the Labor party under Arthur Henderson was making great headway, and that it was making a great effort to add many of the women to its ranks who would have the franchise in the next election. He found a closer connection between the great co-operative societies with the trades union movement. Through the efforts of the Educational Committee the British Minister of Education had abolished the part work and part time system under which a child spent some time at work and the rest at school. He said that within the past three years 600,000 children had been taken prematurely from the schools.

The Council appointed a deputation to meet the G.V.W.A., with a view to securing a closer co-operation between the trades union movement, the Labor party and the returned soldier.