

## Do Not Be Misled By Names

The word Bolshevist is occasionally used by persons opposed to the Winnipeg strikers, and some of the strikers have used the word Soviet to describe their organization. This is a case where the careless use of a word may lead to mischief and render conciliation more difficult. The demands of the men do not include the recognition of a Soviet or any other form of government challenging the constituted authorities of Canada. The *Western Labor News*, the strikers' official organ, says:

"This makes it clear that the two issues involved are: The right of labor to organize, and the right of the worker to a living wage. It also indicates the terms of settlement. These are: First, the unequivocal recognition of labor to effective organization. Second, the acceptance of schedules that guarantee a living wage. Third, the reinstatement of all strikers without prejudice."

There is no indication here of an intention to effect a change in the mode of governing this country. The demands are such as might be made by any body of workmen in an ordinary strike. This strike is distinguished from others simply by its extent and its wide range.

The attitude of the returned soldiers also is significant. They sympathize with the strikers, and will take no part in strike-breaking. But they are entirely opposed to law-breaking and violence, and have intimated plainly that they will not permit it. Their decision, arrived at in a mass meeting held in Winnipeg, is as follows:

"That this meeting declares its full sympathy with the purposes of the present strike to meet the general condition of people, and pledges itself to use every legitimate means to preserve law and order, and that after the strike is settled labor and returned soldiers get together and discuss deportation of **enemy aliens**."

Returned soldiers everywhere have declared themselves for law and order, and are strongly opposed to the display of the red flag or any other act which appears to challenge constituted authority. Their attitude is reassuring, and we think they may be trusted to check any movement that may be inspired by the more reckless spirits among the strikers.

The point is of great importance. It is not merely a question of using language which may do injustice to the labor men. It is a question of using language which may render negotiation and conciliation more difficult. The Dominion Government could not enter into negotiations with a body which challenged its authority, set itself up as a rival, and assumed to exercise Governmental powers. The Dominion Government can and ought to negotiate with men who strike for higher wages, shorter hours, and recognition of unions, and who will be satisfied if these specific demands are granted.

The use of the words Soviet and Bolshevist tends to widen the cleavage between employers and employed, to foster bad temper, and to pro-

voke strife. The wise plan is to get away from names to things, and discuss the question on its merits. What do the workmen demand? What are the employers willing to concede? Where are the points of agreement and disagreement?

The *Winnipeg Citizens' Paper* says that the dispute has gone beyond the point of bargaining with trades unions—that the city is not facing a strike, but a revolution. Yet it says also that “returned soldiers are unanimously behind strikers.” This sounds like the language of despair, for which we sincerely hope there is no warrant. It tends to put the Government of Canada in the unfortunate position either of refusing to negotiate, or of recognizing revolution and bargaining with revolutionaries. The soldiers have declared themselves against revolution. Why not take them at their word, and refrain from putting a hopelessly bad face on what is admittedly a serious situation? Let the Government ally itself with the moderate men among employers and workmen alike, and strive to bring them together. Let it disregard names and slogans and get down to business, to the specific disagreement that is causing the cleavage, and that ought to be removed.