

LEADERS IN WINNIPEG STRIKE CALLED "REFORMERS" NOW

Labor News Terms Ridiculous the Charge That They are Revolutionists—Comments of the Ivens Paper on the Progress of Events in the Western City.

Special to The Star.

Thief River Falls, Minn., May 29. (By train from Winnipeg.)—The Western Labor News says: "If a denial is needed to the ridiculous stories going the rounds relative to revolution and alien influences, proof is near at hand. . . Take leaders Veitch, Winning, Ivens, Robinson, etc., they belong to the Dominion Labor party and belong to no revolutionary party of any sort or condition. Not one of them has made a single statement that was even tinged with revolution. Not one of them believes in the emancipation of workers by Soviet rule. They all believe that that which cannot be won by the ballot, cannot be won by the bullet, and there is not the slightest foundation for the assertions being made that they are revolutionists. They are not revolutionists. They are parliamentary reformers.

Few Reds in Winnipeg.

"There are revolutionists in every part of the world to-day. The spirit of the times breeds revolution. Yet Winnipeg is not controlled by men with revolutionary tendencies. Their number in this city is decidedly limited, and in the Trades and Labor Council control is in the hands of the moderates. Winning is its president. Those who know him best know that he is sane, straightforward and controlled wholly by common sense.

"Ald. Robinson is the secretary. He is younger and his heart is aflame with a very passion for justice, but he believes only in parliamentary action. Take his actions in the City Council. No one dreams that these have been revolutionary.

"Then take Ivens. He is claimed to be the self-appointed dictator—the man who proclaimed the Soviet. It is safe to say that those who think thus of him have never met him or heard him speak. He hates all that is unjust or untrue or selfish, wherever it may be found. He opposes violence with the whole strength of his being. He has given himself without reserve to the championship of the rights of the masses. But no man living gives less attention to self than does Ivens. He has no desires whatever in the direction of a dictatorship.

Russell a Thinker.

Russell is a thinker of the first water. He has studied economics. He understands the meaning of solidarity of workers and the class struggle. He believes that final emancipation of the workers will be through political action when their industrial organizations have been perfected to the point where production for profit can be replaced by production for use. But Russell is no visionary. He knows that these are days when workers must deal in

one way and one way only. That is through the formation of industrial organizations and the acceptance of advantageous schedules."

"There are those who are afraid of the One Big Union movement. They believe that it means revolution and that hard earned savings of a lifetime would be lost if this should come into effect. How idle are such fears. How utterly beside the mark. The one big union is intended to unite the workers by industries, instead of by crafts. It is the normal and inevitable next step in the industrial field. But it is not everything. Alongside of it workers must build up a strong political organization so that they may better their position year by year until they get the full product of their labor.

"In view of the foregoing resume of the facts of the case what is the solution and method? There is but one solution namely, labor must have first the unrestricted right to collective bargaining and second, a living wage.

Suggests a Committee.

"The way to get a settlement is to get a committee of say, eight to ten persons from each side into a conference. Let the workers appoint their delegates. Let the employers do the same and an approach can be made. No greater hindrance is in the way than the Committee of 1,000. It has taken the matter out of the hands of the employers and misunderstands the whole nature of the struggle, which it confesses it does not understand. It makes absolutely impossible demands."

It would be preferable also for the two Government and City Council to withdraw from the arena for a few hours. Let them forget their ultimatums. Let them agree to a meeting of the workers and their bosses. Let issues of the strike as presented on the ballot and in letters of Labor to their City Council and the Government, be only issues and let the decision be arrived at on these issues. Then a solution is possible.

Big Fight the Alternative.

"The alternative to the above is a Dominion-wide struggle, the final ramifications of which are wholly beyond prediction. There will be bitterness and ruin for men in every direction. And there may well be bloodshed and chaos without parallel in our history."

Under heading of "Gross and des-

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