

How Much Faith Can War Veterans Place In Strike Leaders' Promises?

About a month ago, before the Winnipeg strike was called, the returned soldiers demanded that the Trades and Labor Council declare its attitude on the alien enemy question and take steps to cleanse the ranks of the labor unions of alien enemies.

A few days ago the leaders of the Winnipeg strike promised that as soon as the strike was over they would take up the alien enemy question, saying they would co-operate with the veterans in the matter and inferring that the problem would be solved to the satisfaction of the returned soldiers.

How Much Faith Can Veterans Place In This Promise?

The veterans demand that alien enemies be deported. They have even gone so far as to suggest that the provincial government resign unless it take immediate action to compel their deportation.

How far will the labor leaders, who are running this strike, go towards meeting this demand?

The leaders of this strike are the same men who have protected alien enemies throughout the war, the same men who have organized alien enemies into unions and have caused strikes to be called at various times to force increases in wages paid to alien enemies. They have been largely instrumental in getting big wages for alien enemies here while our soldiers were fighting over there for \$1.10 a day.

The leaders of this strike are the same men who call the alien enemy "comrade."

The leaders of this strike depend on the alien enemies to keep this strike going.

The leaders of this strike, in convention last March at Calgary, set yesterday, June 1, as the date for a country-wide strike, the object of which was to force the government to release from prison the worst of the alien enemies, the Germans and Austrians who were caught in the act of spying or caught trying to blow up bridges or caught trying to prevent troops and munitions from reaching France.

Does anyone ask proof of these statements? Here it is, supplied by the strike leaders themselves:

Resolution Adopted Unanimously At The Calgary Convention:

"That the interests of all members of the international working class being identical, that this body of workers recognize no alien but the capitalist."

In explanation of this, Delegate Kavanagh, chairman of the resolutions committee, in introducing this resolution, said:

"To us workmen no worker can be an alien, so far as we are concerned."

In other words, the Austrians and Germans in this country who worked unceasingly for the kaiser during the war, who tried to blow up troop trains, who tried to communicate information about Canadian troop ships to Germany so the U-boats could blow them up, are not aliens to the labor leaders; they are fellow workmen, comrades.

In proof of the statement that the labor leaders planned a general strike for June 1 for the purpose of forcing the government to release alien enemies from prison, is the following resolution, also unanimously adopted at Calgary:

"Resolved that this convention demand the release of all political prisoners and that a referendum asking for a general strike be taken, to become effective June 1."

In explanation of what was meant by "political prisoners," Delegate Knight, of Edmonton, told the convention:

"We are asking for the release of those whom they consider as enemies, that is, actively working for the German government in this country."

Twenty-nine Winnipeg delegates who sat in that Calgary convention voted for these resolutions and endorsed these statements. These 29 are now the leaders of this Winnipeg strike. The 29 are: Trades and Labor Council, R. B. Russell, R. J. Johns; Machinists Local No. 189, W. C. Thompson, D. Sinclair, W. H. C. Logan; Machinists Local No. 484, C. W. Foster, W. R. Foster; Machinists Local No. 122, G. P. Smith, W. A. King; Brotherhood Carpenters Local No. 343, T. A. Bratton, G. Armstrong; Boilermakers Local No. 566, J. Morton; Street Railway Men No. 99, T. H. Bunn, A. Scoble; Teamsters Local No. 119, D. McLean; Women's Labor League, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Logan; Maintenance-of-Way Union, J. J. Henry; B.R. of C.A., F. J. Baker; Blacksmiths' Union, W. Allen; Moulders' Union, J. R. Adair; Moving Picture Operators' Union, R. Wishart; Lithographers' Union, F. J. Leathorne; Brotherhood Carpenters, J. Fisher; Biolermakers' Union, W. Holly, H. Warer; Plasterers' Union, W. Miller; Railway Clerks and Freight Handlers, A. H. Morse.

There is no mistaking the meaning of the resolutions and statements quoted above. There is no possible doubt of the fact that the Winnipeg strike leaders regard alien enemies as their friends and comrades, because they say so themselves. The extracts quoted are from the official, verbatim record of the Calgary convention.

These are the people who say to the returned soldiers now: "When the strike is over, we will co-operate with you to solve the alien enemy problem."