

described at best as shameful neglect. It is impossible to carry on an honest struggle for a Labor Party, for industrial unionism, against war and fascism, while this festering sore of Negro discrimination stays unhealed in the vitals of the American labor movement.

**T**HE record for the total number of resolutions in recent conventions of the American Federation of Labor was reached in this one and the general trend of these resolutions is now reflecting the processes at work within capitalism and consequently within the labor movement.

The sensational pugilistic engagement between John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers and William Hucheson of the Carpenters and Joiners (this union recently also acquired jurisdiction rights over loggers and sawmill workers on the strange theory that sawmills now produce *finished* products and keep many deserving Hucheson supporters from getting jobs done by these loggers and lumbermen) on the floor of the convention, with Hucheson kicking an aged and decrepit delegate in lieu of Lewis, was very interesting while it lasted.

It got plenty of publicity in the metropolitan press. But it did not show anything except the anger of rivals for control of the Executive Council—rivals whose views of the rank and file differ little if any, both believing apparently that the chief right of a member is to pay dues—and keep his mouth shut about the high standard of living of his officials.

In the proceedings of the second day of the convention there are sixty-eight solidly-printed pages of resolutions. About a hundred had been printed the day before.

These resolutions represent the concentrated thought of the members of organized labor in this country. They are the documents that show the wishes of the members—and they are of far greater importance for this reason than a public denunciation of your correspondent by President Green because he spoke for the Communist Party against the Wagner Bill before the Senate Committee on Education and Labor.

These resolutions are of immeasurably greater importance than the highly unscientific exhibition put on by Green and Hucheson. The real reason for this personal conflict—like those other sharp encounters between high-salaried officials—is to be found in the mass of resolutions.

Among these are to be found the resolutions introduced by John L. Lewis by unanimous consent. They came into the convention because of the definite trend of rank-and-file sentiment—to which Lewis, like Woll, has to cater at least once in a while. Read the two resolutions submitted by Lewis. They are short and to the point. They changed a policy of toleration of official conniving with the employers to one of opposi-

tion and reprisal for violations of this policy. The resolutions of the United Mine Workers delegation said:

RESOLVED, that no officer of the American Federation of Labor shall act as an officer of the National Civic Federation, or be a member thereof.

United Mine Workers of America.

RESOLVED, that the American Federationist is hereby prohibited from the acceptance of advertisements or paid printing of any character from concerns which do not generally recognize and practice collective bargaining with legitimate organizations of labor.

The Executive Council is hereby expressly directed to execute this policy.

United Mine Workers of America.

This fight for prestige and place in the Fifty-fifth convention, more than in any other convention since the World War, had to occur on fundamental issues because the membership forced it in this direction.

This is shown by the resolutions, by the battles on the convention floor, by new alignments of forces—as well as by the personal conflicts of members of the upper stratum of union-labor officialdom.

The march toward a progressive program in which some advances were made clearly is

a march forced by great pressure from the local unions, federal labor unions and central bodies—from which most all resolutions came into the convention.

Young workers played a big part in the Fifty-fifth convention. And not only by specific resolutions dealing with the problems of young workers, but by their organizational ability, in debate and in the committees.

The young workers of the United States put their stamp on the Fifty-fifth convention. They must be given a large measure of credit for what a special wire to The New York World-Telegram, Oct. 17, characterized thus:

Today the pet project of Mr. Green and Vice-President Matthew Woll, a bigger and better Red-baiting campaign alleged by its opponents to be designed for use in punishing militant union elements, lay in ruins. The A.F. of L. Executive Council confessed defeat by dropping its formally advanced project for an amendment to the constitution authorizing suspension of any union which "represented" Communists—the Council to decide. . . .

Such damaging blows do not add to the prestige of an officialdom confronted by young delegates from the new unions in basic industries.

## Advertisement

OSCAR BYRNES

Pity the men who search, now and forever,  
the recipe for feeling like a million  
dollars.

Whose wheels are free and individually sprung  
under the slippery gear-shifts of Detroit;  
who ride in welded steel with armchair ease,  
wholesomely ventilated and sun-sprayed;  
who seek upon the roads that never end  
since they go nowhere, the heart's habitat—  
turning for hours upon a lathe of motion  
their hope of happiness to a shape of hope;—  
these engineers of pleasure who behind  
the windshields of direction and cigars  
support a chromium and high-speed dream  
that all's well with the inside of the world  
because stream-lines of envy follow when  
elated with comfort and the lift of gas  
they open up their throttles toward the sun—

Give it a thought! they sleep in varnished beds  
with cures for belly-ache laid out in reach  
and sterile women lying all night beside.  
For there's a trick of famine in this design  
for stepped-up elegance—look at their wives,  
girdled and boned for love, continually  
with snappish eyes and clicking fingernails  
dealing out cards and caviar and craft  
through endless afternoons—till dark comes down;  
and all the plate and posture's folded up  
and all the chemicals of youth rubbed on,  
and they go dry to sleep, or wet to lust.



# UNION HALL



THOSE WHO GOT SLAPPED

Russell T. Limbach



# Canada Swings to the Left

ROBERT BRUCE

OTTAWA.

**S**OVIET RUSSIA, Communism and the coming of socialism are the burning topics of the hour in every part of Canada. From the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the border of the United States to the far, frozen north, these three names are on the tip of the tongue of almost every person.

For five years and more the people of Canada have starved in the midst of plenty. They have talked and tried every other way out. Now they turn to more and more frequent discussion of these three subjects. The climax came with the Canadian general election campaign which tore the country loose from end to end, and during the last two months. The general fear was that Richard Bedford Bennett, a multi-millionaire corporation lawyer, would remain prime minister and so the people turned to his strongest political opponent to replace him. This, however, does not mean that William Lyon Mackenzie King, who succeeds Bennett as the result of the recent poll has the confidence of the people. He is a little more popular and a little less domineering, that's all. Eight out of the nine Canadian provinces had elected members of the same political party as King and the voters felt that they would make the Dominion parliament itself follow along the same line. This would leave no excuse for reforms.

Underneath the surface the same class feelings exist in Canada as in all other industrial nations. The struggle in Canada is even more keen than in most other countries, for the masses are among the most exploited of all the English-speaking world. Only ten percent of Canada's national wealth is owned by the common people of Canada. The poor are getting poorer and the rich richer. Unemployment is increasing everywhere. Those who still have jobs are being driven still harder than ever before. The standard of living is going down day by day. Yet the great corporations are declaring greater dividends. The total net earnings of 254 of Canada's largest companies increased from \$86,500,000 in 1933-34 to \$148,500,000 in 1934-35. The number of shareholders became still fewer, a mere handful of men controlling the life of the nation.

The people have tried almost every quack remedy. In the prairie province of Alberta, for example, they had sickened of the two old capitalist parties in provincial politics years ago. They had put in a United Farmers of Alberta government, which had the support of many farmers and city workers. Last month they swept it out of office to try a new reform movement called the Social Credit Party which promised every resident of that province a certain cash sum of money each month. Yet the people admit that this

is only a protest against the two old parties. In ever increasing numbers they say: "We'll try every quack remedy first and then turn to a change in the system of society." More and more they are coming to the view that the way out is the "establishment of a Socialist Canada," as advocated by the Communists.

Both the political and economic movements of the working class are much stronger in Canada than in the United States. In proportion to population, more than twice as many Canadians are organized in labor unions as in the United States. Labor and farmer provincial and municipal governments have been numerous.

Yet the workers are split into five different labor organizations. Most of them are in the American Federation of Labor. Others belong to a purely Canadian national union movement. In the province of Quebec and a few places in other provinces the Catholic unions control tens of thousands. The Workers Unity League, however, is the most militant. Ninety percent of the strikes of the last two or three years have been led by it. This organization is led by Communists and it is powerful in many sections of Canada. Many of its strikes have won important demands for large groups of wage workers.

The leadership of the American Federation of Labor in Canada is just as reactionary as in the United States. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, which is composed of the A.F. of L. unions in this country, recently resigned to accept a government position paying a large salary. For years he had received fat plums from the Dominion government, whether it was Conservative or Liberal.

Many of the largest cities of Canada have labor mayors and labor aldermen and other elected officials. Toronto, a city of 800,000 population, the largest English-speaking city in the Dominion, has a so-called labor mayor. He is one of the vice-presidents of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. The mayor of Winnipeg, the largest city of the Middle West, is a member of the Labor Party. He was imprisoned for his activities in the Winnipeg general strike of 1919.

Two aldermen in Winnipeg are Communists, while one in Windsor, Ontario, also is a Communist. Blairmore, Alberta, a mining town, has a Communist mayor and town council. The principal street of the town is called Tim Buck Avenue after Tim Buck, who as secretary of the Communist Party of Canada was sent to prison when the Communist Party was declared illegal.

Fascist organizations, however, are very strong in every part of the Dominion. The Brown Shirts, definitely anti-Communist and anti-semitic, numbered more than 60,000

members at one time. They were mostly found in Montreal, Quebec and other cities of the province of Quebec and nearby provinces. Other fascist organizations with large memberships are called "Forty and Over Clubs," while numerous other organizations with fascist tendencies go by other names.

The British government, at the very time it gained control of Canada from France in 1763 decided to rule by division of the people along racial and religious lines. It encouraged settlement of Canada by English-speaking people and started them off by creating ill feeling between French-speaking Roman Catholics and English-speaking Protestants. The exploiters of Canada have followed this policy to this day. Most of the people of Quebec are French-speaking Roman Catholics. The hierarchy has received the aid of Canada's exploiters in arousing them against the people of other provinces. The Loyal Orange lodge and the Sons of England, two other extreme Protestant organizations which are led by rabid Protestant preachers and ambitious politicians, are used in Ontario and other English-speaking provinces to create racial feeling against the people of Quebec.

The Roman Catholic bishops and the grand masters of the Orange lodges, however, have formed a united front on one issue. That is the fight against Communism. They have vied with one another to see which could be most venomous in attacks on Russia.

Their influence is growing less with the rapid worsening of the economic condition of the Canadian people. Yet they are still powerful and have joined in support of the most severe criminal laws and against militant working-class organizations. Section 98 of the Criminal Code contains as vicious clauses against working-class unity as any law in any part of the English-speaking world. Under this section any one is considered guilty of the charge made against him until he can prove his innocence.

Premier-elect King, in a radio speech during the recent election campaign, said that he would seek its repeal. But he issued this warning: "The Liberal Party will give no quarter to Communism. Those who advocate the overthrow of our existing institutions are enemies of society and should be so regarded."

The recently-elected Liberal premier of British Columbia is using it against workers while the attorney general in the recently-elected Liberal government of Ontario says that as long as it is law it will be enforced.

It was under Section 98 that Tim Buck, secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, and seven other active Communists were convicted after the Communist Party was declared illegal in November, 1931. Shots were