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EFFECT OF SPAIN'S LABOR POLICY

Government's Surrender to the Demands of Seamen Was One Cause of Revolution

An important example of the type of legislation which the Spanish Government added to the laws of the republic and, in so doing, paved the way for the revolt, is the body of regulations concerning the sailors and officers of the merchant marine.

Some of the steamship lines had been making fair profits when the bills were passed, but most of them were not out of the depressed circumstances which has affected shipping from Yokohama to Liverpool. There then came the demands of the seamen. These included not only the eight-hour day and extremely large increases in wages, but also many of the technical demands made in this country by the unions on the West Coast.

When the demands were presented to the ship owners and to the Government the answer was a refusal. This occurred early in the year. On May Day the union leaders called a general strike on all ships and in all ports. The slowly rising prices for charters and the expansion of seaborne commerce at the time put the shipping companies in a difficult position. Their argument that the shorter day and the increases could not be afforded was met with stubborn resistance.

Changes Enforced by Decree

After a strike, which lasted only four days, the shipping lines were forced to yield. The surrender placed all their investments in such a risky position that the outcry against the unions and the Government was great. They were forced to grant a general wage increase. In some classes the increase was a full 100 per cent. In others the daily wage was raised one-half. The eight-hour day was put into effect and the various grades of the marine service

were granted payment for all overtime work, a factor of the greatest importance in an industry where the most ordinary circumstances sometimes require extended overtime employment.

The sailors, too, in the immemorial way of sailors, had complained about the amount of food and the quality. This is a matter in which a healthy seaman will not be denied. He becomes voracious if the biscuits are stale or the beef too salty. Even the mariners of Japan fought it out on this score a year ago and got bigger rice bowls for themselves. The regulations written by the new Spanish Government to cover this matter of food seem a trifle obscure, but there are indications that a sailor can almost write his own ticket. Other changes in the laws gave the mariners twenty days of paid holiday a year for the lower ranks and a month for officers and engineers. The settlement of the strike was capped by a decree of the republic in which it engaged to enforce the new regulations absolutely.

Other Workers Sought Gains

The history of this industrial movement is of importance in interpreting the inner meaning of the struggle now going on because the gains of the seamen were, directly or indirectly, promised by the Government to almost all branches of industry. How far the Government actually intended to go in this direction was problematical. It is not a problem now. There seems to be every reason for assuming that the republic, if it survives the present attack, will be forced by its militant supporters to grant all the demands formulated by the various organizations of workers and peasants. The effect on the Spanish economy remains to be seen.

The people who had to pay the piper apparently preferred not to wait until the Government had made similar concessions in other industries, such as the agricultural, where hundreds of thousands of the Spanish workers are employed as day laborers on small and vast estates. The farm workers, indeed, were especially emphatic in presenting their demands and their presence at the polls was so effective in installing the Government that, after the installation, they proceeded to carry out their own wishes regarding the lands.

Ways of Bonapartism

Many large estates were seized by the laborers, who announced that they intended to work the land for their own benefit, and it was only with the greatest difficulty and some loss of prestige that the Government forced the illegal occupants to surrender their holdings to the rightful owners.

If one adds to the number employed in the marine industries and on the farms the vast aggregation of workers who saw in the Government a chance to correct conditions which they considered intolerable, it is easy to understand why the present struggle is fought on so many fronts and why its results and trends are obscure. The "haventots" are in arms in every corner of the land. They are continuing the movement that began in 1931, that developed into an armed conflict in 1934, when the Asturian miners fought a bloody struggle. It is a measuring of two strengths: the new one created by the undeniable poverty that has left Spain stricken for many years and the old strength which lies in the Spain of tradition, the Spain that took the measure of Bonapartism, in the person of Gen. Franco, to save what it then fought for.

PROBATE COURT

COUNTY OF YORK
PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK

To the devisees, legatees and creditors and CHARLES K. PALMER, late of the City of Fredericton, in the County of York and Province of New Brunswick, Manufacturer, deceased, and to all others whom it may concern:

The Executors of the Last Will and Testament of the above named deceased having filed their accounts in this Court and asked to have the same passed and allowed and an order for distribution made, you are hereby cited to attend, if you so desire, at the passing of the same, at a Court of Probate to be held in and for the County of York, at the office of the Undersigned, Judge of Probate for the County of York, at the City of Fredericton, in this County of York, on FRIDAY, the ELEVENTH of SEPTEMBER, A.D. 1936, at the hour of 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon, when the said accounts will be passed upon and order for distribution made.

Given under my hand this 26th day of August, A.D. 1936.
(Sgd) CHARLES R. BARRY,
Judge of Probate in and for the County of York.
(Sgd) WHITMAN A. HAINES,
Registrar of Probate.

SPECIAL LAW THREATENED

EDMONTON, Aug. 27.—Mr. Justice T. W. Tweedie, in Alberta Supreme Court Chambers here today, adjourned until next Wednesday hearing of an action by the Alberta Government and the City of Edmonton to have set aside an interim injunction restraining Edmonton from accepting "prosperity certificates."

Request by counsel for Hon. J. W. Huggill, Alberta Attorney-General, one of the defendants named in the injunction, for immediate disposition of the case and a charge by the Attorney-General, the hearing was being delayed, featured the afternoon session.

After H. J. Wilson, K.C., counsel for Mr. Huggill, had stated his client wanted immediate disposition, Mr. Justice Tweedie said the case was "very important" and he wanted time to consider it.

"The Legislature is sitting," the Attorney-General asserted, "and I don't want to force legislation, but may be compelled to do so."

"I will do the best I can," the court replied.

A special session of the Provincial Legislature to deal with Social Credit measures and other matters will start Tuesday and will be in session when the hearing continues Wednesday.

Mr. Justice Tweedie granted the interim injunction a week ago Thursday when it was requested in a statement of claim filed by Mr. Watson. It was claimed the City of Edmonton was without power to enter into a contract with the Province.

Under the proposed agreement, Edmonton would purchase \$55,000 worth of certificates with the August cash relief grant of that amount, and the Province would give the city an additional \$30,000 in certificates which Edmonton would guarantee to keep in circulation for two years.

SPANISH PEOPLE DID NOT SENSE COMING DANGER

SASKATOON, Aug. 27.—Mrs. Alvin Thiessen, wife of a Spanish librarian sees in the troubles of bleeding Spain the outcome of a condition she saw presaged in 1928, when she lived there teaching the English language to a wealthy Spanish family.

Mrs. Thiessen stated the Senora under whom she worked lacked a realistic conception of the change which was even then stirring in the hearts and minds of the masses. A charming hostess in her fifty-room hacienda, and kind to her personal servants, she accepted the miserable condition of the peasant population in one-room mud huts as inevitable.

"The youth of Spain—both peasants and workers in the industrial centres—were becoming more and more restive," Mrs. Thiessen said.

"I had been out of Spain some years when the Popular Front gained victory in Parliament Feb. 13, 1936. But I am certain that the internal rifts in the Leftist Government and, because of these, its lack of a definite policy, spurred the Spanish Rightists on in their hope to make a successful military coup and dismember the constitutional government."

"Looking back to my days in Spain I think of the Port of San Sebastian, on the Bay of Biscay—rocky promontories in either side of the blue water with grey ruins of ancient Spanish castles stretching up to a bluer sky. Once a holiday resort—a Spanish Riviera—it was lately a Fascist stronghold, more recently reported in the hands of the government."

"But southward, where the summer days are hot, the peasants of the brown plains are armed. They have the land where rain falls seldom on dusty fields and greyish olive trees. From that land comes their scant living, and they will fight to keep it."

BURDEN NOTES

BURDEN Aug. 27.—The weather for the last few days has been quite rainy.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Kitchen and daughter Mavis who have been visiting Mr. Kitchen's mother Mrs. Marion Kitchen, have returned home.

Mrs. Jacob Kitchen spent few days last week with Mrs. David Burden. Miss Glenna Grant of Danforth, Maine, is visiting Miss Myra Long.

Mrs. Murray Long is spending a few days with her daughter Mrs. Arnold Trail at Island View.

Mrs. Elmer Bell and daughter Kathleen have returned home, after spending a short time with Mrs. Bell's mother, Mrs. Marion Kitchen.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Mullin and daughter Ella are visiting Mrs. Mullin's sister, Mrs. W. A. MacKenzie.

Miss Mildred Kitchen spent a day last week with Mrs. David Burden.

Rev. W. G. Killam preached in the Burden church Sunday evening.

Miss Esmy Moore spent the week end with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Dow Moore.

Miss Lyda Armstrong of Summer Hill returned home after spending a short time with her sister Mrs. Harold Kitchen.

Comparison European and American Wages and Cost of Living

Some very interesting figures have recently been compiled as to comparative wholesale prices, wages and cost of living in European countries and the United States, taking 1929, in gold, as equaling 100. Recent wholesale prices on this basis in Germany were 75, Switzerland 71, France 67, Holland 61 1-2, Belgium 56, United States 51, United Kingdom 50, Sweden 48. Wages declined in 1934 in the case of Germany to a ratio of 81, Holland 79, United Kingdom 59, Sweden 52, United States 51. Cost of living on the same basis was France 87, Holland 81, Germany 80, Switzerland 79, United Kingdom 52, Sweden 51, United States 48. From this it will be seen that the United States had the least decline in wages and the lowest cost of living with Sweden second and Great Britain third, according to the Industrial Department of the Canadian National Railways.

Granite Hill News

Many attend picnics, home and vacations and other items.

The annual Baptist Sunday School picnic was held Aug. 6, and a large number attended. The sum of over \$43.00 was realized which will be used for church purposes.

Mr. and Mrs. Perley McLean, and daughter, Myrtle of Malden, Mass., is spending some time with relatives and friends in this place.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Chown and children, Harry, Jr., and Kathleen, spent a week recently with Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Hanson and family.

Wesley Sinnott spent a day recently in Springfield on business.

Douglas V Parent, who has been ill for several months with the rheumatism, has entered the St. John Public Hospital for treatment.

Miss Beulah Carey is spending some time with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Doan Carey, of this place.

Miss Lillian B. Parent is spending her vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Balfour Parent of this vicinity.

Miss Julia Morse of Temperance Vale is spending some time with her sister, Mrs. George Brown.

Miss Marsh called on Mrs. Hanson recently.

Mrs. Harry Chown and Mrs. T. L. Hanson spent Friday with the latter's mother, Mrs. Sarah Hagerman.

Charlie Brown, who has been ill with rheumatism is greatly improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Stilwell, Mrs. Evelyn Kelly and Miss Kathleen Chown attended the dance held in Bear Island Hall on Thursday last.

Those who spent Saturday in Fredericton were, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Roach, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Stilwell, Mrs. T. L. Hanson, Mrs. Evelyn Kelly, Roberta Stilwell and Monte Kelly.

Mrs. H. V. Mooers and daughters Mrs. Percy Fillamore, Woodstock, Mrs. Frank Walsh, Lowell, Mass., and Miss Dorothy Mooers, Fredericton spent Thursday in Bear Island the guests of Mrs. Mooers' mother, Mrs. Sarah Hagerman.

J. J. Brown, structural steel erector, who is employed at the Woodstock Railway Bridge took tea with Mrs. T. L. Hanson on Sunday.

INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTS IMPORTANT TO CANADA

The importance of an adequate study of international accounts is emphasized by Frank A. Knox, associate professor of economics at Queen's University, in an article in the August issue of The Canadian Chartered Accountant. "Despite the acknowledged importance of international transactions to the economic life of Canada," writes Mr. Knox, "our government has not seen fit to provide an adequate staff for their study, nor are business men, for the most part, yet willing to submit to the inquiries and expense involved in aiding the government in such an undertaking. Canadian attempts at domestic economic reconstruction are bound to be gravely limited by what men do in other countries and the consequent changes in the volume and character of our transactions with them. Yet about either their character or volume we know almost nothing with certainty."

Mr. Knox's article, which is the first of a series, surveys the principal items of payments on international account beyond the detailed information on exports and imports of commodities, which is now available. The "invisible" imports and exports, such as sums paid for foreign securities or received when Canadian securities are sold abroad, tourist expenditures, insurance receipts and premiums, probably outweigh greatly the total commodity trade, but at present their totals can be only estimated. Until some method of ascertaining the facts is devised, economic arguments on Canada's trade must involve too high a proportion of guesswork to be sound.

DEFENSE INSTINCT WITH US AT BIRTH

WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—Man comes into the world a fighting animal—and leading with his left.

Such is the conclusion of Dr. Mandel Sherman, University of Chicago psychologist, on the basis of studies of the defense reactions of new-born infants in a large maternity hospital. Almost from the first moments of life, Dr. Sherman and his collaborators found, the infant is able to make co-ordinate defense movements in 30 seconds.

Most of the defense reactions, says Dr. Sherman, was strikingly accurate, the hands locating the stimulus at the point of its application to the chin. In general, the infant at first made defense movements with either the right or the left hand before co-ordinate movement with both hands appeared. This indicates, says the psychologist, that even within thirty seconds some type of selection of defense was made.

Many of the children also responded to the pressure against the chin by apparently aimless kicking. This, of course, could have no effect in removing the unpleasant pressure, but was a case of the whole body reacting until some movements were found to be useless and discarded. Dr. Sherman found similar co-ordinated movements when lights were flashed in the eyes or when a mild pain stimulus was applied.

The newborn infant, Dr. Sherman concludes, is predominantly "left-sided"—in striking contrast to the majority of older children and adults.

This is shown particularly in the grasp reflex. Exact measurements show that the left hand is slightly stronger. He found a somewhat more adequate reflex pupillary response of the left eye than of the right. It required longer for the right eye to react. The average per cent of defense movements of the left hand in response to pressure on the chin also exceeded those of the right. This difference was particularly striking in those infants who made excessive kicking movements in response of the pressure stimulus.

"With advance in age," says Dr. Sherman, "there is apparently a shift in the central nervous system function. The difference in the adjustment reactivity of the two hands offers evidence that the more primitive reactions of the infant the more left-sided they tend to be. The strength of the leg movements in response to the pressure stimulus was in most instances stronger on the left than on the right. On the whole, these observations show that a newborn infant is not dominated in his response by the usual asymmetrical cortical function manifested in mature individuals."

The defense reactions during early infancy, Dr. Sherman says, are quite different from those manifested by older children. The latter show clearly the element of learning. They become more and more efficient with experience. But the newborn, so far as its few simple fighting reactions go acts with an unlearned efficiency. This is due to the fact, he believes, that the cortex of the brain—the thinking and learning area—is not yet functioning.

These inborn defense reactions, Dr. Sherman holds, are the infant's heritage from a long line of infra-human ancestors. The 20th century human baby has actually no need to "fight" for its existence from the first day of its life. It is placed immediately into an environment free from danger and annoyance, with even the temperature and illumination carefully adjusted. All of its needs are anticipated.

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