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The Editor's Corner THE RAILWAY STRIKE

Because it is the one big topic of conversation this week, an editorial on the current railway strike is in order. The Toronto Globe & Mail in an editorial has expressed our feelings so well that we have taken the liberty of reproducing it below without change. It would be well for every Canadian to ponder these words.

THE POWER OF LIFE AND DEATH

The loss and suffering which will be borne by the nation on account of the railway strike should have been an important factor in determining the attitude of the disputants towards the efforts of the Government mediator. There is more than casual interest, therefore, in the remark by Mr. Frank Hall, reported in this newspaper yesterday. It is literally incredible that a man with his responsibility could seriously say:

We are not fighting the country: we are fighting the railways. We hold them responsible for the situation. .

This reveals some very cloudy thinking. Does he believe that the railway management could pay out of their own pockets the \$124,000,000 which the total union demands would have cost? There is only one source - the consumer; the public as a whole; the people, without whom there would be no use for the railway. Moreover, who, if not the consumer, is going to absorb the cost of the strike to the railways, as well as its other penalties? By depriving the national economy of transportation and a major element of its communications, the unions hope the railways or the Government will be forced to give in. In essence, the battle is, and always has been, with the country at large. The stake is not now the unions' demands; it is the nation's existence. The strike has changed the issue completely.

The development of the modern industrial system has greatly increased the power of the strike weapon. The increase in power lays upon union leaders a proportionate increase in their responsibility. The strike has had an important place in trade union development. No one would deny that there have been circumstances in which strikes were wholly justified. But at any time, the governing condition of its use was a balance struck between the matters at stake, and the cost it was going to levy on the workers themselves. They have been several long industrial strikes recently which cost the workers so much that most of them would never regain what they might have had if they had not gone on strike. For these workers, the strike is obsolete.

The original value of the strike weapon, was to force recognition of the trade union movement. gave them a place in the social structure and freed workers from oppressive labor conditions, compelling the acceptance of minimum standards. The railway strike has been called to force acceptance of maximum standards; not to protect what has been won, but to reach the pinnacle in one quick jump. This is a fundamental change in ordinary labor relations, whereby the strike has become an offensive weapon. On this basis, it cannot be long before - collective bargaining has been reduced to a mere sham.

The benefits sought by the railway workers are not general throughout the nation. While there are many examples of the 40-hour week in industry, it is not yet the custom. There are several examples of the thirty-seven-and-a-half and even thirty-five-hour weeks. Would their existence justify a strike next year to reduce the railway workers' hours still further?

There may be great social value in the strike experience this country is going through. It demonstrates beyond question the vast power that unionism has acquired. It is no longer a struggling movement, to be helped by benevolent employers and aided by favoring laws. One small group has shown that it has the power of life and death over all the rest of the nation, if it chooses to exert it. This is a social fact of great import-

In recent years, the whole continent has recoiled over the spectacle of the power exerted by one labour leader in the United States. Through control of the workers in one basic industry, he has actually, on several occasions sought to choke the national economy. for the enforcement of his demands. There is no difference in principle in what Mr. Hall and Mr. Mosher are doing. Through their irresponsible use of powers which society gave them, they are forcing the nation to reconsider, in terms of the highly organized modern community, the privileges which have been allowed organized labor. Freedom has lost its meaning when at one tick of the clock it can turn into a destructive tyr-

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Migration Mirade

by George Murray (This is the seventh of a series of articles written for the Canadian Keekly Newspapers Association by the editor of the Pictou Advocate, now touring Europe.)

Hanover, Germany: Every paper you pick up has classified advertisements for domestics, laborers, skilled men, sales agents or whatever. But did you ever see a want-ad for a general?

Generals are available. In a many :winged stone schloss near Munster, Germany, live 38 men who should, by every right o friendship and valour; rest uneasily on the conscience of the Allies, but as a result of the surge of events after the wast war have been forgotten by all except the Internalional. Refuged Organization.

In the little village nearby the people 'call it' 'Generals' Schloss" for the inmates are all senior officers, of the former Jugoslav Royal Army but further questioning only brings the answer-"I don't know anything about them. They don't go out much." Yet at the beginning of the second world war, these men were national heroes, many of them serving in the capitals of the world as military advisors; others trusted members of King Peter's

Now only legendary glory belongs to them. The entrance to the schloss retains a certain magnificance of armorial bearings carved on doorways and gateways but one step over the doorstep brings one face to face with the meagre poverty of the displaced person and the atmosphere of patient hopelessness that envelopes all who belong to the category listed as "Limited

Possibility for Resettlement." Seated in what was once an imposing room but is now a rather cold forbidding lounge are the men who nobody wants. Some are playing chess. Others are listening to the news bulleting with the radio tuned in to Yugoslavia. Others are studying language books. Their average age except for a few younger men who are unwilling to leave their leaders in time of need, is 65. Their; only present support is the International Refugee Organization and their age prohibits them from being of any interest to selection committees representing countries receiving and resettling refugees.

Only a humanitarian action on the part of some country who remembers the debt owed to these men can give them any future.

And what is this debt? Many Canadians, Britons and Americans will remember Serbian troops and officers who fought valiantly in the first world war. Indeed many of these displaced persons bear wounds they received at Salonika and in the Balkan struggle in 1914-18. But younger men will think more vividly on the fight put up by the united\Yugoslav Royal Army to prevent the penetration of the Germans into their country in the early part of the last war, That this resistance failed was not due to the efforts of the Yugoslav troops who were swept up by the overpowering German forces and

taken into captivity in Germany. Here for four years they languished in German captivity but when the liberating armies came, the rejoicing at the end of the war was quietened for these -Yugoslav by the news of the communist domination of Yugoslavia. It was impossible for them to return to their homes and families in their native land. As King Peter's men they

could expect no welgome. Seeking temporary succour with first UNRRA and then IRO they have looked in vain for assistance from their former friends.

Politically, they stand for a united Yugoslavia under King Peter. And politically (on paper), they are an embarrassment to many European countries and minority groups.

It is unlikely that they will arouse, much interest or receive much assistance from Serbs , who emigrated at the beginning of the century to America.

Yugoslavia did not become politics entity until after the first world war. Furthermore the Serbian emigrants remember many bitter feuds between the Serbians and the Croations and favour an independent Serbia excluding Croations rather than a united+Yugoslavia.

In the same way other nations with economic agreements with Yugoslavia under Tito are unwilling to be involved in any shadow of controversy over a small group of refugees.

But that is all on paper. In actual fact these thirty eight shattered, politically outcast men can hardly under any circumstances be categorized as possible troublemakers. They are rather men who have lived their lives valiantly and according to their principles and seek only sanctuary and peace for their gomaining years.

Any possessions they had are in Yugoslavia. Few of them have any friends outside of their own country who would be willing or able to take on the obligation of indefinite support. Too many of their ware time comrades-in-arms are them-

BUS SCHEDULE

| v. G'town. | , · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | Lv. Gles |
|------------|---|------------|
| 8 am. | | 8.30 a.m. |
| 9.15 a.m. | | 9.30 a.m. |
| 11.15 a.m. | C | 11:30 a.m. |
| 1.15 p.m. | | 1.30 p.m. |
| 2.15 p.m, | ; | 2.30 p.m. |
| 4.15 p.m. | | 4.30 p.m. |
| 4.15 D.M. | | 6.30 p.m. |
| 7.15 p.m. | | 7.30 p.m |
| 915 p.m. | | 9.30 p.m. |
| 10.15 p.m. | · | 10.30 p.m. |
| Dunes from | Mormandy | Danlausul |

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