

Quebec's asbestos strike

Photographs of Tommy Manville's eight successive wives figured in recent demonstrations of Canadian asbestos workers in the Province of Quebec. The five thousand men who are out on strike against the Johns-Manville Company are asking for protective devices against asbestos dust, which, it is claimed, has produced an abnormally high rate of tuberculosis among their number. Extraordinary feature of the strike is the degree of sympathy which it seems to have aroused among the entire working population as well as among the clergy of Quebec. Strikers' parades are headed by the local Catholic pastors, by the principal officials and chaplains, local and national, of Canada's Confederation of Catholic Workers (CTCC), and are accompanied with prayers of nuns and school children. Though the strike has been attacked as illegal by Quebec's Prime Minister Duplessis, and as communist-inspired by the Company itself, the strikers stand firm in their declaration of papal social principles, and claim the full approval of Canadian Church authorities. It is another test of strength in the steadily recurring contest between Catholic teaching on social justice and charity and the interests of some of the large companies engaged in exploiting Canadian resources.

Source: Unsigned, "Quebec's Asbestos Strike", in *America*, April 23, 1949, p. 105.

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