

CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

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A National, Sane Labor Paper

VOL. V. \$1.00 Per Year. National and Rational TORONTO, ONT. THURSDAY, JULY 31st, 1925. Live News and Views Single Copies 5c. No. 34.

Woodworking Trade Has a Big Future Before It

Training at Technical Institute Gives Opportunity to Become Conversant With All Phases of This Work Training Beneficial to Mechanics.

By E. Evans.

Let us consider, for a moment, what is expected of a boy who comes, as a pupil, to the workshop of the Hamilton Technical Institute. He is first given a blueprint or drawing, representing some object which is to be constructed. He is required to read it, and by the aid of his knowledge of mechanical drawing, to visualize the actual object for which the drawing stands. Then, from his knowledge of the characteristics of timber, he is asked to choose the most suitable kind of wood, and to estimate, from the drawing, the number and size of the various pieces required for the job.

Next comes the analysis of the job into a series of operations, and the arrangement of the order in which they are to be carried out. Also the choice of the most suitable method, when more than one way of working presents itself. Then the carrying out of each operation in a workmanlike manner, using tools and machines accurately and according to correct mechanical principles and standard shop practice. Finally the assembling of the parts into the completed object, represented by the drawing from which the work was begun.

As the pupil advances in the course he is called upon to supply details in design, construction, or methods of working, until at its completion, he is capable of carrying a job through, without aid.

In the Hamilton Technical Institute four courses in woodwork are offered. First, an elementary course for the pupils of the preparatory classes. This course resembles somewhat the manual training course of our public schools, but stresses, particularly, proper methods of using, sharpening and caring for wood-working tools and correct shop practice in performing simple operations, rather than in attempting to develop initiative and invention. After successfully completing the course in elementary woodworking, the pupil may choose a course in either carpentry, cabinet work or pattern-making.

Complete Course.

The carpentry course covers complete instruction in house building, from the making of a cellar window frame, and the laying of ground floor joists to the placing of ridge boards, and the fitting of locks and hinges.

The course in patternmaking is worked from a series of blueprints, beginning with the simplest, kind of one-piece pattern and working up to complicated, built-up, split and cored patterns. Part of the equip-

ment of this shop consists of four patternmakers' lathes, many intricate pulleys, molding sand, snap blocks and molding tools.

A General Knowledge.

The course of cabinetmaking consists of the working up of various kinds of hard woods, and the design and construction of cabinets and furniture in general. Combined with this is the setting up, operation and care of wood-working machinery. A battery of 15 new lathes has just been hooked up, which will add considerably to the future interest in this course. The equipment, besides the lathes, consists of a planer, jointer, hand saw and table saw, together with a tool grinder and saw-filing machine. There are also over 80 wood-working benches, each equipped with a complete set of tools.

Individual Check.

A card system keeps track of each individual boys work every day, checking him up on the quality and accuracy of his work after each operation.

The boy who completes a course in the technical institute has many advantages over the boy who is trained in a shop. The school is fitted for its work and its instructors are especially trained. A broad and basic aspect of the trade is presented, and the intellectual viewpoint is stressed at every possible angle.

Beneficial Training.

When the technically trained boy obtains a position he receives higher wages, wins promotion more quickly and is less liable to be laid off during slack seasons. He is better fitted to adapt himself to the rapid changes through which industry is progressing and has some educational foundation on which, if he is ambitious, he may build his future career.

Opportunities for employment are many and varied. A government bulletin names over 2,000 large firms in Ontario alone manufacturing wood products. To this can be added all those contractors engaged in construction work and thousands of small shops, employing a few men; and all industries complain of the lack of brain and intelligent young men, who are capable of advancing to positions of trust and responsibility.

Scarcity of Workmen

There has been for some time a great shortage of men in all types of construction work.

How much better for everybody for workmen to be trained in our schools, in what is, in the final reckoning, the most economical way for the public as a whole, as well as the most efficient and thorough way for both the helper and his employer.

As a majority of the local branch decided to change union affiliation, it was felt that the money of the branch belonged to them, while the Toronto officials dispute this.

Disputes Change in Carpenters' Labor Affiliation

Take Court Action Over Funds of Union

Ottawa, Ont.—The decision of the majority of the Ottawa members of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners to leave the British labor organization and affiliate with the International United Brotherhood of Carpenters, is the cause of an action being started in the Supreme Court of Ontario.

The writ has been issued by Lieut.-Col. L. F. Sherwood, acting for the executive of the British organization, which has Canadian headquarters in Toronto. It is against the former officers of the Ottawa branch, Messrs. D. Rankin, C. A. Nichols, George Woodruff and A. J. Page. An accounting of all monies and property is asked and also the return of such money and property to the Canadian executive.

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"Jerry" O'Brien Will Provide Men

Sufficient labor to build the viaduct will be furnished to Mayor Hiltz within a week, is the promise of "Jerry" O'Brien of the Employment Association of Canada. When it became known that the Minister of Railways would introduce a bill to provide the Canadian National Railways with funds for its share of the project, O'Brien and his colleagues of the association commenced the collection of names of men who needed work and would accept it on the viaduct. In a short while they had collected three hundred. O'Brien informed Mayor Hiltz recently that he would be able to give the Mayor the names of 5,000 within the next few days who are willing to work on the viaduct, and are waiting for it.

Inverness Miners in Distress

Inverness, N.S.—On June 6th the Inverness mine was closed. Coal mining was the only industry in the town. Upon this one industry 3,500 people depended for a living. With the closing of the mine, the only source from which the people could derive a livelihood was cut off. For some time previous to the closing of the mine, on June 6th, work had been very irregular, so that the workmen were in no condition to undergo a protracted period of idleness.

The miners are now on their fifth week of enforced idleness, and the situation at Inverness has become alarmingly serious. Many families are entirely destitute and depend entirely upon private charity to keep them from starving.

The farmers from the surrounding countryside have been for some time past contributing what they can of farm produce to help the most needy cases. But this is far from sufficient to meet the situation; and even this cannot long continue. If outside relief is not forthcoming, there are likely to be deaths from starvation in Inverness.

One family was discovered in which there were five young children; this family had been for three days subsisting on one meal a day—and that "meal" consisted of a little cod-fish contributed by some charitable fisherman. It is pitiable to visit some of the miners' homes and listen to the little children crying for a drink of milk, while a worn and worried mother tries to pacify them with substitutes water for the milk which she cannot afford to buy.

Trade Union Movement in Latvia

The Baltic state of Latvia, which, like its neighbors Estonia and Lithuania, owes its independent existence to the war and the Treaty of Versailles, is predominantly agricultural.

Before the war it had indeed developed a comparatively flourishing industry, but this was brought to a standstill at the very beginning of the war as a result of the requisitions of the Russian Army. What remained of it has since been almost totally destroyed, partly during the war itself, and partly in consequence of the devastating effects of successive occupations by the Russian Communists, and by the white army of Bermont, and of the temporary domination of the Communists of Latvia itself. Before the war there were 150,000 industrial workers in the provinces which now form the state of Latvia; now there are only 34,000, out of a total population of 2,100,000.

Before the war Riga, which is now the capital of the little state, had several factories employing over 6,000 workers; one indeed gave work to as many as 12,000. To-day there are only a few factories which employ more than 100. The once flourishing metal industry has now almost entirely disappeared; the chemical industry has also suffered a very serious decline. In former days Lettish industry found its chief market in the interior of Russia and this market it has now lost. The chief articles of export at present are timber and flax.

Seventy-eight per cent. of the population of Latvia is Lettish. The foreign population, which chiefly consists of Germans, Russians and Jews, mostly reside in the large towns. The people are mainly Protestant, but the Church has little influence, which is in sharp contrast with Catholic Lithuania, where, as in Poland, the clerics exercise great power. Latvia contains scarcely any illiterates, and the same may be said of Estonia, where the cultural and economic conditions are very similar to those of Latvia. In Lithuania, as in Poland, some 50 per cent. of the population are unable to read and write.

Socialist policy aims at the establishment of a Federated States of the Baltic, consisting of Latvia, with a little over two millions, Lithuania with two million five hundred thousand, and Estonia with two million six hundred thousand inhabitants. These efforts have hitherto met with no great success, but a military convention has already been concluded between Latvia and Estonia, and a customs and commercial agreement between these states is now under consideration. Although the peoples of Latvia and Lithuania are of the same race and speak the same language, the relations between them are not so close

Plumbers' Strike

Union Official Says Trouble Will Be Settled Shortly

Hamilton, Ont.—That the plumbers' strike would be settled within a few more days, was a statement made by an official of the Plumbers' Union. Already between twenty and thirty shops have signed up and agreed to give the men the wages demanded, and by the end of this week the remaining bosses, it is expected will also sign up. About forty of the plumbers who went on-strike are back at work again. Several of the men, believing that the strike might last for a long time, left the city, it is stated, and have found work in other places.

May Exempt Hydro Men From Agreement

Winnipeg, Man.—Exemption of the hydro's linemen from the city's working agreement, which forbids their affiliation with outside unions, will be discussed by the civic legislation and wage committee.

An application on behalf of the hydro linemen has been made to Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, to have a board of conciliation appointed to consider this move.

The minister recently wrote the city, stating that the cabinet was not prepared to take any action until it knew the city's position and whether or not it would be prepared to name a member for the board.

The Organization of French Capital

Billiet, the French Signer

In pre-war days it was only the Americans who enjoyed the privilege of uniting economic, financial and political power in a single person. In the United States there have long been oil-kings, steel-kings, and coal-kings. But now the Old World has learnt the lesson of the New, and some of the greatest countries of Europe are following very closely in the footsteps of their American predecessor.

In Germany, Stinnes' name is in all mouths. In the case of France, the talk is more of a syndicate, the notorious "Comite des Forges." But in this case too, the real driving power is concentrated in the hands of a single person. The Stinnes of France is named Billiet. Billiet is the president of the "Union des Interests Economiques" (U. I. E.) the great Federation of Economic Interests of France.

We find the name of Billiet figuring very prominently in all the plots and intrigues of "high finance," and it is significant that Billiet was the first person who was received by Millerand in the Elysee after the fall of Poincare. Poincare himself is Billiet's obedient servant, and all that he does is in accordance with the will of this "power behind the throne." Billiet is the leader of the great election campaign of the National Block. For this purpose the sum of 300 million francs was raised by voluntary contribution and placed at his disposal by the industrialists, the big banks, the insurance companies, and the speculators. He has already organized the publication and distribution of thousands of placards and millions of leaflets, by means of which he strives to incite the peasants against the workers, and to throw dust in the eyes of the population of the rural districts, persuading them that urban workers have a splendid time. He it was who issued the notorious placard, to be seen on every wall, representing a worker with a knife between his teeth, a placard which is well calculated to strike fear to the hearts of the middle classes. Of recent times Billiet has begun to make use of the cinema. He is offering propaganda films free of charge throughout the whole country. A letter sent with one of these fell by chance into the hands of one of our comrades. In this letter Billiet writes:—"We have issued two propaganda films. One, 'The Threat,' is a romantic comedy, illustrating the dangers of the capital levy; the other 'Line Engaged,' is an amusing farce, Poincare's new cabinet."

showing up the inefficiency of the telephone monopoly."

It is now a matter of common knowledge that Billiet has so great an influence over Poincare that he has even persuaded him to hand over to a friend of his own the State monopoly in matches. Billiet himself already controls the sugar industry, oil, the mines, etc., etc. But as there are not nearly enough for him, he is now manoeuvring to put an end to the state tobacco monopoly, although during the period of the state management (from 1913 onwards) the profits have risen from 438,000,000 to 1,300,000,000 francs. He would also like to annex the telegraphs and telephones, the railways and arsenals, and a few other industries. It was to please him that Poincare broke his promise to bring in a bill for workers' insurance during the present parliamentary session.

Only a short time ago it seemed as if the power of Billiet and the U. I. E. were practically unlimited. At the last congress of the U. I. E., every effort was made to convert into warm supporters the members of the Federation which represent the retail tradespeople and the middle-class consumers. But since that time so many of the profiteering intrigues of the big capitalists have been brought to light that many of the tradespeople and consumers are now by no means so favourably disposed to Billiet and the U. I. E. as they were. Quite recently some 52,000 of the tradespeople of Western and Eastern France made for the first time a decided pronouncement against the Federation.

One of these adversaries, himself formerly a member of the Federation, made the following blunt statement in a letter to the official organ of the U. I. E.:—"It is not the retail traders who pay for the sensational placards of the U. I. E., but the banks, insurance companies, trusts, cartels, etc. These people are eager to bring the retail people finally under the yoke of the Money International. The U. I. E. makes scapegoats of the retail people, using them to hide the fact that it is really the producers who are charging exorbitant prices for their goods."

This cooling-off of the tradespeople and middle-class consumers is of great importance in view of the approaching elections, for it may prove to be a decisive factor in a general move to the Left, such as seems to be foreshadowed by the formation of Poincare's new cabinet.

Not Asked to Join Union, He Claims

Declares Ficketing of Theatres Started by International Officers

Hamilton, Ont.—Claiming that he had not been asked to join the local Theatrical Workers' Union, and that the insinuation that the "Red Mill" was employing non-union help, was hardly justified, as he was receiving the union scale and was at perfect liberty to join if he desired, the operator at the theatre resents an article published in connection with the fight at present taking place.

"I was not wanted in the union after coming back from overseas and studying operating in a vocational training class," said the operator. "The admission fee was raised from \$25 to \$50 when I made application. Furthermore, I was informed, there were no sick or accident benefits. I have a family of eight to feed, and think that amount would be better spent on insurance of some kind."

"This agitation is being conducted by international officers from New York. Why did they allow me to work for eight months with a pianist who belonged to the union? And why were not the local officers men enough to come and ask for me to join the union if they wanted me in it?"

J. Roberts President Hamilton T. & L. C.

Hamilton, Ont.—Officers of the local Trades and Labor Council were elected recently as follows:

President, J. Roberts; Vice-President, George Kerslake; Corresponding Secretary, Bert Purrey; Recording Secretary, Arthur Blackwell; Financial Secretary, William Jarman; Sergeant-at-Arms, William J. Burr; Auditors, Messrs. W. Buck, A. Manfredo, W. J. Allan and W. Allan; Trustees, H. Little, G. Sharp and H. L. Asselstine; Executive Council, Messrs. R. Riley, H. S. Mitchell, J. Wharrie, A. Boyd, G. Kerslake, B. B. Hampson, Ald. S. Lawrence, B. Purrey, A. Blythe, A. Blackwell and Ald. C. I. Aitchison. The Organization Committee is composed of R. Riley, F. Kristoff, W. Guck, J. Turner, J. Pryke and Harry Roberts.

The chief objection to the plain people is that some of them are so darned plain.

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