

# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

## NOW OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED

In view of the Geneva Conference being now in session, how the International Labor Office came into being is worthy of recall, and none is better able to give the same briefly than J. Ondergeest. In a summary of same he states certain facts leading up to the creation of the International Labor Office.

In July, 1916, a conference of English and French Trade Union representatives was held at Leeds at which a programme for the International Trade Union Movement was drafted. This draft programme contained various demands as regards social legislation, particularly as regards social insurance.

It was subsequently submitted to Karl Legien, the then secretary of the Trade Union International, with a view to securing the co-operation of the organizations of Central Europe as well as those in the neutral countries. Legien elaborated and completed this programme, so that at the Conference of Trade Union representatives held at Berne in October, 1917, this Leeds programme, which had been drafted by organizations from the Entente countries, was also accepted by the organizations of the other European countries.

When President Wilson came to Europe to take part in the work of drafting the Peace Treaty, he was approached by the representatives of the European workers with the demand that, in the reconstruction of the world, this programme should be incorporated in the Treaty and that an institution should be created charged with the execution of this programme. In order that this programme and the organization which would be necessary to put it into execution should also be studied from the point of view of the American Trade Union Movement, Mr. Samuel Gompers was summoned to Paris. This explains the peculiar character of Part XIII. of the Peace Treaty with its commingling of somewhat obsolete theories and modern trade union conceptions.

The Commission charged with the task of drafting Part XIII. comprised some of the most prominent leaders of the Trade Union movement in England, France, Belgium and the United States. While this Commission was holding its session in Paris, a second Trade Union Conference was held at Berne in February, 1919, at which the organizations of most of the European countries and Canada were represented, and at which the Leeds programme was subjected to a fresh revision, with the express purpose of making that document serve as the basis of the International Social Legislation which was to be introduced by the Labor Office of the League of Nations. At the Trade Union Congress held in Amsterdam (1919) the Berne programme was accepted as containing the essential principles of international labor legislation.

## ORGANIZED LABOR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Organized labor is raising the standards of workingmen by compelling them to think rapidly and to speak clearly. The trade union movement has developed a company of speakers who are abundantly able to present the cause of the toilers. This is constantly being demonstrated at the national meetings of labor bodies, where statesmanship of the highest order is demanded, and where some of the addresses would easily rank with the best that are delivered in the conferences and conventions of other national bodies.

Organized labor is raising the standards of workingmen by fighting the battles of all the people. It is carrying with it even the lowest and most degraded. Every victory won for the men and women at the top means a higher level for those lower down. While the trade unionist may for a time belong to the aristocracy of labor, he soon makes of that aristocracy a democracy for all.—Contributed.

### TELL THE CHILD.

When that rubber ball bounces off the sidewalk to the roadway, LOOK—but do not go after it until the roadway is clear of traffic.

### "ELEVATOR SAFETY."

Operators—Before starting car, be sure that (1) doors are shut and latched; (2) car is not overcrowded; (3) passengers are well back from door. Passengers—for your own safety always (1) Wait until car stops before getting on or off; (2) upon entering move back and face door; (3) watch threshold when stepping into, or out of, car; (4) keep your hands off doors and elevator mechanism.

Our careless habits must be guarded as well as prime movers if we would avoid accidents. The best accident insurance is a careful man.

### ST. JOHN LABOR MEN STANDS BY THEIR RIGHTS

At the preliminary hearing of the twelve members of the St. John, N.B., Trades and Labor Council, charged with being members of an unlawful assembly in connection with the recent labor parade held in this city, the magistrate decided to send up the entire twelve for trial.

the peace on the ground that they were fighting for a principle and that they did not feel they were breaking the law by the holding of the parade.

### FAVOR ANTI-LYNCH BILL.

Washington.—The Dyer anti-lynching bill, imposing heavy penalties on persons involved in mob actions resulting in the taking of life, has been favorably reported by the house judiciary committee.

## CO-OPERATION

Every Ottawa Dairy Salesman is a co-partner in the Company in that his salary is based upon the turnover.

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## NOT ENTERTAINING TRANSFER IDEA

The following letter written by Ex-President Taft of the United States to the late Ex-President Roosevelt during the reciprocity negotiations of 1911 shows what a reduced tariff would do for Canada:

"The amount of Canadian products we would take would produce a current of business between Western Canada and the United States that would make Canada only an adjunct of the United States.

"It would transfer all their important business to Chicago and New York with their bank credits and everything else and it would increase greatly the demand of Canada for our manufacturers."

### LIFE CAN BE LENGTHENED

New York.—Dr. A. S. Knight, president of the national association of life insurance medical directors,

told delegates to the convention of that organization that a six-year test has shown that human life is prolonged by periodical health examinations.

The mortality of a special group of 5937 men, who have taken voluntary medical examinations regularly since 1914, has been only 53 per cent of the rate expected on standard insurance tables, Dr. Knight said. The company, he added, in defraying the expense of the tests for its policy holders has had its principal returned and has made on the investment, through reduced insurance claims, a profit of 200 per cent.

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### POKING UP CEMENT COMBINE

Chicago.—The government has asked for a federal injunction against the Midwest cement credit and statistical bureau from "keeping up an unlawful combination and conspiracy in restraint of interstate trade and commerce in cement." Twenty-four firms, operating 30 mills, and producing 90 per cent of the cement used in the middle west, are involved.

## "My Back Is So Bad"

PAINS in the small of the back, lumbago, rheumatism, pains in the limbs all tell of defective kidneys.

Poisons are being left in the blood which cause pains and aches.

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