

Editorial Page of the Canadian Labor Press

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The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

THERE'S A REASON.

IN the returns from our western provinces, where municipal elections are proceeding, varying results are being recorded, each carrying their own story, and to read of the election of one candidate or another implies nothing through the giving of the name, as in most instances a sharp dividing line is being drawn between the forces of Organized Labor and the opponents.

Another instance of very strong division was the contest at Calgary, where the Citizens' Committee carried the spoils of victory, and unfortunate indeed was the result where men of constitutional tendencies were among the defeated, with their services in a governing position lost to the citizens at this time, when extremists from any section should find their place in the background.

A brighter story is to be read from the results at Edmonton, where a revision of the Calgary situation is shown, the Labor Party in a very emphatic manner being sustained at the polls and becoming the party in power. To gain a reason for this is but to recall that during the past summer, when many westerners undertook to go on a rampage, one of the bright spots, standing for constitution and methodical methods of adjustment of grievances, was the City of Edmonton.

If those who would destroy the Labor movement, from within, could take lessons from results—the most practical viewpoint—a regular curriculum is openly placed before them in the western municipal elections, realizing that co-operation of all is the chief essential to the happiness of all.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION SIGNS

ALTHOUGH the various provinces of the Dominion are a law unto themselves as to the time of the year when civic governors are to be elected, it so happens that in almost every instance the end of or the beginning of the year finds agreement by common consent as being the correct period when the electors shall decide who must be the responsible parties to carry on the local government.

This system finds favor, and does not betray that any advantage is gained, but an index as to public thought is in evidence to the analytic mind. In some sections the political or party system is adopted, and on the results of civic elections under these conditions prospects of the party are based. A larger number of aspirants for office is the sign showing an increased interest, and so on down the line, civic contests tell each their own story.

We thus find at the present time an outstanding sign or feature, i.e., that wherever civic elections are being staged, the workers' candidates are being presented and in greater number than has previously been known. Not only industrial centres, where spasmodic efforts have been made for years past to secure direct civic representation, but towns and hamlets, to which trades unionism was formerly unknown, have joined in the workers' claim.

Even stronger numerically would be the list of candidates from the workers' ranks, but for the barrier of qualification in the dollar sign, which holds finance at a higher premium than ability in the management of civic affairs. This bricks and mortar standard detriment must be added to the workers' enthusiasm, and held to be responsible for the lacking of an even greater showing of candidates than is in evidence.

No period of civic activity has presented such a pronounced sign, showing plainly a workers' awakening to the rights and needs for the voice to govern and the acceptance of its responsibilities. A sign just as strong and appreciated is that the public mind, which speaks at the ballot, is now prepared to give responsibility of office to the workers' candidates in this Dominion, and follow the voice of the old land, which spoke in pronounced terms at the November municipal elections just recorded.

POLITICS and PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

By Special Correspondent. The political week was turned into a turmoil this week by the news that Sir Robert Borden had decided to retire as Canadian Prime Minister. While a few of his admirers might have been surprised, it was not so much that an early retirement was likely, but the news that Sir Robert was unprepared for the announcement. The facts are that the final decision was not taken until a week ago, after Sir Robert had visited Montreal and been thoroughly examined by a famous physician. His advice was so imperative that the Prime Minister must drop out of the turmoil of politics if he was not to suffer a complete break-down that Sir Robert at once decided to resign, and so informed his colleagues.

Sir Robert found upon his return from the Peace Conference that he was completely worn out. When he went to take up the usual Cabinet and Parliamentary work he discovered he was losing his grip. He decided on a lengthy rest, expecting that as in the past he would return fully recuperated and as ready as ever for work. His disappointment when he took up his labors again a few weeks ago he discovered that he had not "come back" as he supposed. He had better rest. They urged him to remain at least over the session and until the Unionist Party had been formed and a platform drafted. To this he agreed, provided his doctors after an examination said that he was not likely to do any harm. The Montreal diagnosis followed with the result that Sir Robert's retirement at the present juncture will set the political pot fairly seething is undoubted. There is no outstanding figure in the Government or in Par-

liament who can step into his shoes and with certainty hold the Government supporters together and command the respect of the country. The thought that Sir Robert remained in the Cabinet and had his old-time vigor, he would doubtless be the chief support of the Government. He has informed his closest friends he is out of politics for good.

There is a growing feeling that the general election will be held after all might clear the atmosphere. That the new Farmers' and Labor Party would be the dominating factor in a new house is certain. There are many predictions that Hon. T. Crerar will be blowing this is no idle guess. However, a Farmers' Party in the country as much as six months ago. The same way the Drury Cabinet is proceeding in Ontario, giving the public a different idea of the new progressive party in Canadian public life.

An announcement was made this week by Sir Henry Drayton that a general revision of the tariff had been postponed. The reasons advanced were that the tariff commission was not yet settled down or improved since the war, but if anything had improved. In view of this situation an immediate and hurried revision would be unwise. In the meantime statements in regard to the tariff revision were being made along various lines would be welcomed.

This is only half the truth. The facts are that the change in finance ministers, the general political turmoil, combined with the Victory Loan campaign showed consideration of the tariff and tariff commission completely out of the minds of the

Government. When the Dominion Government had taken direct action to reduce the tariff, the tariff commission, the question should be raised in the Provincial Legislature through the three soldier members. It is not the purpose of the veterans to press for Government action on the soldiers' behalf only, but for some plan whereby all those who were in the military service of their own can be aided.

The high cost of living is also proving a problem and the Veterans in Ontario are organizing a Veterans' Association. The high cost of living is also proving a problem and the Veterans in Ontario are organizing a Veterans' Association. The high cost of living is also proving a problem and the Veterans in Ontario are organizing a Veterans' Association.

Notes of Particular Interest to Ex-Servicemen. LABOR MARKET AT LOW LEVEL. That the labor market for returned soldiers in Edmonton is at a low level is indicated from replies received to questionnaires sent in the interest of the Veterans' Association. Two employers had positions open for returned men. There are about 250 workless veterans in Edmonton.

WAR AWARDS. An interesting table is issued by the War Office showing the total number of honors awarded in connection with the war and how the total is made up. Excluding honors conferred on the Royal Air Force, altogether 249,387 were awarded between August, 1914, and October 31, last; 13,245 for each of the years 1915 and 1916; 18,282 for other war services.

MOTHERS AND WIDOWS BOTH GET CROSSES. The Department of Militia and Defence announces with reference to draft regulations respecting the issue of memorial crosses to the mothers and wives of deceased soldiers, that the regulations in their final form provide for the issue of two crosses in the case of each soldier or sailor who was survived by both a widow and a mother. In such instances one cross will be issued to the widow and one to the mother. If, after becoming entitled to the cross, the widow or mother has died, the cross will be delivered to the eldest of the sailor's or soldier's next of kin.

Lord Leverhulme's Plan.

Lord Leverhulme, chief partner in the soap manufacture of Lever Brothers at Port Sunlight, near Liverpool, is now in Canada. Lord Leverhulme has built up the largest business of its kind under the British flag.

One thing is certain if the Unionist party is long to survive it will have to decide on some definite policy. At present no one knows what it is, save that it is a matter of fact it has none—it is neither fish, flesh nor devil. If it is to have a future it would seem that it must be as a protectionist party. The Liberals, have already committed themselves to a platform little short of free trade, while the Farmers are, of course, out and out free trade.

The Government seems to have at last awakened to the possibilities of commercial air navigation. Under a bill passed last session an Air Board was created with power to regulate and to control the new transportation system. The board was authorized to investigate means by which aerial transportation could be put to use in public undertakings.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal—Cain. NIGHT WORK FOR WOMEN. A recommendation of the International Conference of Labor, which was made at the abolition of night work for women—between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. During the progress of the conference, Mrs. Kjelberg, chief inspector of factories for her Government, told of her own country, applying to both men and women, and added: "We got the law and it functions splendidly."

It is possible that there will be difficulty in getting the recommendation of the International conference accepted by the women workers, at least with unanimous enthusiasm, since it does not extend its recommendation to the men workers. There are some who hold that a healthy competition in industry, excepting in continuous industries regarded as a public necessity.

U. F. O.-I. L. P. MINISTERS RETURNED UNOPPOSED. Retained, all seven Ministers in the Drury Government whose nominations took place on Monday. The Ministers in the Drury Government were: Hon. R. H. Carrington, Minister of Education; Hon. Peter Smith, North Perth, Provincial Treasurer; Hon. J. G. Macdonald, Brant, Provincial Secretary; Hon. Walter Rollo, West Hamilton, Minister of Health and Labor; Hon. G. M. D. Murray, Minister of Agriculture, and Hon. F. C. Biggs, Minister of Finance.

WESTERN SHOPMEN'S NEW AGREEMENT. A new wage agreement effective December 1 has been entered into between the Canadian Railway War Board and Division No. 4 Railway Employees' Department, American Federation of Labor, in respect to rates of pay, work hours and conditions of service for employees in the Locomotive and Car Departments of the railways. The railways are: Canadian National Railway, Dominion Atlantic Railway, Equival and Nanaimo Railway, Grand Trunk Railway, Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, Halifax and Southwestern Railway, Kettle Valley Railway, Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway, Winnipeg, Joint Terminals and (conditional as to application of increased rates of pay from August 1, 1915) Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway.

HAMILTON LADY TEACHERS ASK FOR INCREASE. Harry G. Foster, corresponding secretary of the Hamilton Trades and Labor Council, and J. Roberts appeared before the Board of Education last Thursday night and spoke in behalf of the lady school teachers' salary increase. Included in the delegation were the Rev. Dr. Hemmison, rector of the Church of Ascension, and the Rev. D. W. Philpott, pastor of Gospel Tabernacle. The Hamilton Teachers' Association had a big following, headed by Miss H. Roberts, president, and Miss M. S. B. secretary of the salary committee. As a result of the deputations, the trustees referred the claims relating to the lady teachers' salary back to the committee for further consideration.

Across the Atlantic. What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing. WEST END ACTORS' ASSOCIATION'S GREAT VICTORY. The Actors' Association has received the welcome news that the proposed standard contract for all theatrical performers in the West End theatres has been approved by the Society of West End Managers, subject to a discussion of the words of the contract. For some months the association has been negotiating for the adoption of that contract, which will undoubtedly rank as the chief of the theatrical profession.

FRENCH TEXTILE WORKERS GET EIGHT-HOUR DAY. The eight-hour day bill is employed in the textile industry of France was presented to President Poincaré for signature recently by M. Jourdain, the new Minister of Labor.



Advertisement for Old Chum Tobacco. 'OLD CHUM TOBACCO is the "chum" of more pipe smokers, than any other tobacco smoked in Canada. EVERYBODY SMOKES "OLD CHUM"'

Advertisement for Schrader Universal Tire Pressure Gauge. 'Schrader Universal Tire Pressure Gauge. The Schrader Gauge contains a large air chamber which has only one opening. During the operation of testing the air pressure, the air chamber of the tire and the air chamber of the gauge, become one combined, continued chamber, so hermetically connected that no leak, no matter how infinitesimal, is possible.'

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Advertisement for The DALY COMPANY Ltd. 'The DALY COMPANY Ltd. Store Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. 104-106 Sparks St. You should visit our new store. It is one of the most handsomely appointed stores in the Dominion, and is brimful of all that is newest and best in the Fall styles and models for the Outfitting of All Members of the Family. Our Men's Dept. is replete with outstanding values in Suits, Overcoats, Hats and Furnishings. Also a complete assortment of Furniture for every room in the Home—Rugs, Carpets, Upholstery Fabrics, Draperies, Curtains, Linoleums, etc.'

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