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EDMONTON FREE PRESS

— Edited, Controlled and Published by
THE EDMONTON TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Phone 5595. ELMER E. ROPER, Editor. Adams Building
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"EDMONTON IN 1921"

The caption of this article will be the password among Edmonton Trade Unionists from now until the convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada in September. It is to be hoped that the slogan will have an added meaning from that time on.

It is reasonable to suppose that the Congress will decide to meet in the west next year. In fairness to the prairie provinces they should be given the privilege of entertaining the Dominion body in 1921. And if the convention in Windsor decides to favor the west in this way, no better choice could be made than the capital city of Alberta for the seat of the Dominion gathering next year.

Edmonton is a live Labor city. It has more and larger and better hotels than any eastern city of its size. It has natural beauties superior to any other western city. It possesses a staunch and progressive body of trade unionists, and takes second place to no other Canadian city in the matter of working conditions that exist within its borders. The hospitality of Edmonton people has been established through the entertainment of many conventions of various kinds.

This city should have a large delegation at the Windsor convention. Unions and groups of unions should plan to send representatives. The Trades Council should receive the co-operation it desires from the city council and other local bodies, in placing this city's advantages before the trades unions of Canada. It is proposed to send literature of some description to every union in the Dominion, and it is impossible to conceive of a more profitable field for intelligent advertisement of Edmonton's superior qualities. Through the "Edmonton in 1921" campaign this city can be brought to the notice of a most useful and intelligent class of Canadian citizens—the organized work-people of the Dominion.

Edmonton in 1921!

SPORTSMANSHIP

There is not likely to be a Dominion election for some considerable time. At least it would appear so, unless the Journal and other unionist papers are endeavoring to make us so believe for the purpose of keeping us unprepared. Mr. Spinney who is a member without portfolio of the Meighen cabinet believes that an election would precipitate a situation which it is desirable to avoid at all costs. In other words we suppose it is desirable to, "at all costs," avoid the defeat of the "national" party government. The desirability of avoiding such a "calamity" may not strike the ordinary Canadian citizen with very much force.

The Journal tells us that "we have not settled down sufficiently from our war experiences" to make an election desirable from the Journal's point of view. What might be said is that the people of Canada are at the present time too politically conscious to allow any chance for the return of a reactionary government under the leadership of a stand-pat Tory. But has the Journal any hope that in two years the temper of the people will be different? If so we predict the blasting of such an illusion. On the contrary we believe that the present political outlook of the people is but a stage in the evolutionary progress of political consciousness, and that in two years from now a Tory Premier with a reactionary following will have less chance than at present to secure the confidence of the voting public of Canada.

We are asked to display our "sportsmanship" and give the "new" government a chance to show what it can do. We would like to point out that the people of Canada have been somewhat "sporty" for a considerable time. They have, in fact, allowed the big business interests of the country to operate a "sure thing" at their expense. The time has arrived, however, when the talk of "sportsmanship" should not draw the attention of the people from their duty politically, to themselves and to the nation. The administration at Ottawa is not "new," and it is the most discredited and unpopular government that Canada ever had. Under those conditions a considerable lack of sportsmanship is shown by a determination to hang on to office as long as the law will allow. There should be an election before another session of parliament.

POLITICALLY CLASS-CONSCIOUS

We are repeatedly told, and the Free Press agrees, that it is unnecessary in a country like Canada, where we have an almost universal franchise, to resort to any other than constitutional means to secure social justice for the workers. We have the privilege, we are informed, of electing to parliament the men who will represent our views and carry out our political desires.

A very strange thing, however, is the fact that the people who are most insistent upon the virtue of political methods of righting social wrongs, are those that are equally antagonistic to independent political action by the workers. We are advised to use constitutional means, and when we proceed to do so we are criticized for "class" organization.

Now why are so many opposed to Labor and Farmer parties? We are inclined to believe that the opposition is against, not the principle of economic class organization, but against the election of a worker or farmer. And the reason is that an industrial worker or Farmer will, if elected, naturally seek to further the interests of the class he represents. Naturally, we say, because the economic factor is the dominating influence of political as well as of social, life. The fact that the business interests are opposed to working class political organization, shows very clearly that they believe a Labor member of parliament would only represent Labor interests. Which shows further that the business and professional people are politically class-conscious. When the workers realize, as completely as do the employing class, that only representatives of their own economic group can truly represent them, the political life of the country will be on the high road to social justice and equity. The Labor Party is the logical political organization for every worker to be affiliated with.

THE PEOPLE PAY THE PIPER

While preaching efficiency to the workers, and expounding, the virtues of economy and thrift as applied to the toilers, the business interests in control of things have exhibited very little evidence of their sincerity. Waste and inefficiency, as a matter of fact, seems to be the rule rather than the exception.

Take as an example the timber resources of the continent. United States Secretary of Agriculture Meredith recently stated that, "timber depletion has not resulted from the use of our forests, but from their devastation." "There are," he said "463,000,000 acres of forest lands of all classes in the United States, including burned, culled or cut over. Of this amount \$1,000,000 acres is an unproductive waste. Unless timber growth takes the place of devastation from forest fires and destructive methods of cutting, our consumption of lumber must drop to the level of European countries, where wood is an imported luxury." What applies to the U.S. timber supply is equally applicable to the lumber resources of Canada. Exploitation has been the policy, and economy and conservation has been a negligible factor. Scientific methods of production have been utterly ignored.

In connection with other natural resources the same wasteful policy has been pursued. The province of Alberta itself supplies one of the most glaring examples of shameful exploitation. In this province there has been no attempt to conserve the coal deposits that are of such tremendous importance to the whole of Canada. Any Tom, Dick or Harry has been permitted to sink a hole in the ground and gouge out the precious heat producing substance without regard to any approved methods of mining. The result is ten times too many mines in the province and six tons of waste to every four tons of coal that has been marketed. When competitive business calls the tune the people of the nation must pay the piper.

THE CHRISTOPHERS INCIDENT

Every thinking trade unionist will look with indignant displeasure upon the perpetration of mob violence upon the person of P. M. Christophers, the O.B.U. organizer, at Bienfait, Saskatchewan. On Sunday night, July 4th, a crowd of armed men entered his hotel, made him dress, took him in an automobile to Noonan, North Dakota, told him to keep going and threatened him with dire penalties should he return to Canada. Christophers, it might be mentioned, is a Canadian citizen.

In this district in Saskatchewan the U.M.W.A. was crushed in 1913. It can be said without fear of contradiction that the mob that ran Christophers out of town, would have taken similar measures to end the activities of an

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Women's White Kid Boots. Regular \$16.50.	\$8.95
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The Hudson's Bay Company

organizer representing any other union. The action was without doubt inspired by the mine operators of the district, and carried out by their agents. Trade unionists are not going to be deceived into thinking that there is any love for the workers in outrages of this kind. The fact that a mob attacks an O.B.U. organizer will not bring any joy to even the most earnest opponents of the secessionist movement. On the contrary organized Labor is unalterably opposed to violence and mob law, and will not fail to protest the perpetration of such outrages.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Edmonton in 1921!

On Tuesday next Nova Scotia elects a new legislature. Will the Ontario and Manitoba doses be repeated?

What is the cause of high prices? Read Philip Snowden's thoughtful article on this subject.

The time to prepare for political action is not after the election campaign is on. The trade unionist can be prepared now by joining the Labor Party.

Monday, August 9th, is Civic Holiday. But that is only an incidental, for the day will go down in history as the date of the big Labor picnic and concert.

If it were not so serious it would be funny to read of a U.S. judge ruling that cloth is not wearing material, and so a firm against whom profiteering was proven is permitted to go free because of technicality in the act under which the prosecution was instituted.

The reader who is desirous of obtaining some inside information regarding the peace conference and the treaty, cannot do better than carefully peruse John Maynard Keynes' "The Economic Consequences of the Peace." Mr. Keynes was on the "inside" and writes from first hand knowledge. The book is at the library.

Of course no person who will honestly express their convictions will claim that by "open shop" anything other than non-union shop is meant. The Denver Labor Bulletin reproduces a fac-simile of an employment application form used by one of the Denver "open shoppers." The concluding sentence reads: "I hereby agree that if dissatisfied with shop rules or my position, to take the matter up with the superintendent. If still unsatisfied, I agree to leave the company's services without interfering with or agitating other employes."

McBRIDE ON THE WAR PATH GETS LITTLE SYMPATHY

Ontario Labor papers are unanimous in condemnation of Mayor McBride of Brantford, who has openly declared war on the Labor-Farmer government in general and Hon. Walter Rollo in particular. Says the New Democracy, Hamilton:

"Watch the two R's. Raney and Rollo," says McBride, and then watch the Montreal Gazette and the Financial Post, a fine combination for a Farmer-Labor government." Poor "Mac" seems to be up against it. Evidently nobody wants to purchase his silence. It is said that "hell hath no fury like that of a woman scorned." We believe that this saying is particularly applicable to the old ladies of both sexes.

Join the Labor Party

ENGINEERS OF HAMILTON ARE TURNED DOWN

Contractors Decline To Consider Their Requests—Showdown Coming

The Building Contractors' association has declined to consider the requests of the portable and hoisting engineers of Hamilton, even when pressure was brought to bear by the carpenters' representative. There is an agreement in existence between the carpenters, the bricklayers, and the steam and operating engineers' international unions, which calls for joint action where the question of the closed shop is involved. Matters must soon come to some sort of a show down here.

Join the Labor Party

HIGH POINTS OF A. F. OF L. CONVENTION

Summary of Action Taken By Great Gathering in Montreal

During the next two or three weeks the Labor press throughout the continent will be filled with actions of the 40th annual convention of the A. F. of L., which adjourned at Montreal on June 19th to meet again at Denver, Colo., in June, 1921.

The high points of this great convention are about as follows:

Declaring in favor of government ownership of railroads.
Declaring in favor of the League of Nations without reservations.
Election of Samuel Gompers for the thirty-ninth time president of the federation and re-election of Vice-President Woll, Secretary Frank Morrison, and Treasurer Tobin.

Increasing the salary of president from \$10,000 to \$12,000 and the secretary from \$7,500 to \$10,000.
Condemning the Republican national

platform.

Endorsing the non-partisan political campaign inaugurated by the federation.

Demanding the immediate curbing of profiteers and the jailing of food and clothing profiteers.

Insisting on the right to strike and abolition of compulsory arbitration and anti-strike legislation.

Demanding that Uncle Sam keep hands off Mexico.

Retreating positive right to collective bargaining through trade unions.

Return to the absolute right of free speech and free press.

Condemning compulsory military training.

Increasing of the legislative committee from eleven to fifteen.

Enacting of child labor laws.

Repeal of the Esch-Cummins railroad law.

Removing the color line in all trades.

THROWING IT AWAY

Seattle—More than a quarter-million cans of salmon unfit for human food were seized in waterfront warehouses by U.S. Agents. This is the eighth seizure of this nature.

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