

# CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

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True Confidence and Understanding Between Employer and Employee Absolutely Necessary to Industrial Peace.

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## CANADA'S BROAD ACRES CALLS FOR IMMIGRATION

### Would Close Unsanitary Shops

A medical doctor will be presented to a legislative committee of the Provincial Government during the present session by the Barbers' Federation of Ontario who, it says, will prove that a loathsome skin disease was contracted in a town barber shop by 50 men. As a witness this medical man is prepared to testify, according to Leon Worthall, President of the federation, said that the disease could be traced to a shop which was not in a sanitary condition.

### "Get Together" Among Joiners

Twenty of Amalgamated Society Join Forces With U. B. C. J.

Twenty local members of the Amalgamated Society of Joiners, joined the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners at the regular meeting of the union in the Labor Temple, held recently. Their membership was secured in a campaign by the United Brotherhood officials, who claimed it was necessary to protect wages of their union this season.

"It is essential that we have only one organization in Toronto this year," said Alfred Cheeseman, business agent of the United Brotherhood. It was said that an agreement was signed last year by one union at a rate of 10 cents an hour lower than that demanded by the other organization, due to the strife which had existed between the two unions and the efforts of one of the unions to keep its men at work.

### To Give U.K. Cheaper Electricity

Aim is to Stimulate Industry and Supply Private Users

London, Eng.—A plan to stimulate British industry by the production of much cheaper electricity is being prepared by the Government. The authorities are considering an issue of electricity bonds, guaranteed by the Government to an ultimate value of £50,000,000.

The scheme apparently replaces the one contemplated by the late Labor Government, based on the principle of nationalization of the means of production. It aims to bring electricity within the reach of every industry and every private individual in the country at a cost of from 10 to 3½d (roughly, from 2 to 3 cents) per unit, as compared with the present average cost of 5d, where it is obtainable, which is by no means everywhere.

There are now more than 500 power stations supplying certain areas, and experts figure that the entire country can be cared for at a fraction of the present cost by only 100 stations.

We cannot conceive the reasoning behind the misrepresentative statements being made in Great Britain relative to the possibilities of Canada as a desirable country in which to settle.

Pessimistic articles have been furnished to leading British papers by people who call themselves Canadians in which it is alleged that insurmountable difficulties present such a grave problem that annexation to the United States is the inevitable lot of Canada.

We believe that this is more of a wish on the part of those who make the statements than the possibility of such an occurrence. Canada has too much at stake and her responsibility to the "Mother country" is too keenly realized to allow of such a happening, even if it was thought practical by all concerned.

Canada does not need annexation, but Canada does need a sound policy with regard to the development and progress of the country and the building up of her vacant lands through occupation by desirable immigration. It cannot be pointed out too often that many miles of fertile lands are idle in Canada because we have no people to occupy them, and the wonderful opportunities of potential wealth that are going to waste, is a blot upon our National life. The old axiom of "Waste not, want not," should hold good in this instance and it behooves us to help bring about a rectifying of the situation.

We know from past experience that Britshers have the desirable qualities to make a success of farming in Canada under the conditions as offered and it need not be necessary that the man who takes up land in Canada should have been an agriculturist in the Old Country. As a matter of fact, it has been found that the lad from the city learns the new ways just as quick if not quicker than the lad from the country. As there are certain things that differ from conditions in Great Britain, a certain amount of schooling is required but as the old countryman, taking up farming in Canada receives a most favorable reception in the district where he settles, it does not take long for him to become accustomed to the habits and manners.

We would like to draw attention to the fact that settling in Canada today is not like it was in the pioneer days of thirty or forty years ago. The missionary work has all been done and today you have an up-to-date service from beginning to end and every consideration is shown to make the newcomer feel at home. A large modern steamship conveys you safely across the ocean in about five days and a train is waiting to take you in the same manner of comfort and safety to your destination. Canada is away ahead of its population in its conveniences, appliances and service and ranks with the most advanced countries in the world in these respects, so one need never worry that they will have to endure hardships of a disagreeable and trying nature, no matter what part of the country they settle in.

### Many in Idleness in United States

Canadian Out-of-Work There Warns Friends at Home

Serious unemployment exists in many centres of the United States. Among those who are finding it difficult to secure work are mechanics from Toronto who went to New York, Chicago and Detroit within the past two years in search of higher wages. Writing to a friend who returned this week to Toronto from New York, a plumber advised him to remain here instead of returning to New York. "I was thrown out of work seven weeks ago, and got my first job on Monday morning. There are many plumbers out of work here," he said.

Agents of the union explain that the building industry in many centres of the United States has not recovered from the slump preceding the Presidential elections. In view of the conditions which have attracted workers to the United States, it is interesting to note that bulletins of many unions report unemployment in the United States, in some instances of a serious character.

### Women and Children Starve to Death

Frightful Hunger Conditions Prevail in Odessa Province

London, Eng.—The conditions prevailing in the famine-stricken districts of Odessa Province are described in a report of the Children's Relief Commission, published in the Ukrainian journal "The Communist." "In the village of Peresodovka," says the report, "their chief food consists of mangelwurzel and cabbage stalks. Whole families have not seen bread for ten days or more, and the last pound of grain was consumed long ago."

In Kalfinovka "a mother and six children are feeding on mangels." Another "remnant of a family of three orphan children is naked and starving."

"A widow and two children, after starving for a month, are now prostrate from weakness. The Commission allotted them one pound of flour, but the mother is now unable to swallow any food. Another widow with children had nothing to eat except soup made out of potato peel."

The report says, as a result of the famine, acute gastric diseases are developing on a large scale.

### Garment Strike Is Settled

Toronto, Ont.—Striking operators, tailors and pressers returned to work for employers who have signed agreements with the union. Cutters are already at work in these shops preparing work for their colleagues.

F. Polakoff stated that he is now in negotiation with a group of manufacturers who will likely come to terms with the union.

### Pension Principle Approved by Labor

Approval of the principle of old age pensions was voted by the A. F. of L. convention at El Paso, Texas.

Trade unionists are called upon to defend these old age pension laws. The executive council recommended that this subject be studied in the light of the larger problem on labor insurance.

"The old age pension, in principle, attempts to do the same thing as the policies insurance companies are writing for 'assured' incomes. In essence all forms of life insurance are a method of prolonging the income-producing capacity of the individual—whether during old age or after death," the council said.

"It is evident that our trade unions must render increasing service to our membership to conform to our growing standards of industrial and social welfare, and the method for securing desired results must be given most careful and searching consideration in order that we establish agencies that will bring dependable and constructive results."

### Always 3 Sides to Labor Conflicts

Years, Other Fellow's and the Right One, Says Sherman Rogers

An extremely vital message regarding the labor problems of this continent was delivered before the Optimist Club, Toronto, by Sherman Rogers, president of Optimist International and editor of "Success" magazine. Declaring that 95 per cent. of all strikes originate in the president's office, Mr. Rogers said that employers must learn to inspire, not compel, the respect of their men.

This he held as the cardinal rule for the solving of the trouble, if it can be so designated. "For I am firmly convinced," he said at the outset, "that the labor problem is the most astute thing in the world. I have traveled about the continent, have spoken to the chambers of commerce in every city of the United States with a population over 50,000, have addressed L.W.W. meetings, and I have reached one conclusion. It is this: faith in man is the gyroscope of civilization."

Mr. Rogers gave a graphic account of his early days spent among the logging and steel centres. He analyzed his experiences among the laborers and the troubles they had with the employers. "There has never been a strike," he declared, "in the years of conflict between labor and the employer—I don't recognize capital as the employer—which could not have been averted if representatives of both sides had sat down and talked the matter over. There are always three sides to a question; yours, the other fellow's and the right side."

### Help Means About \$50,000

Government Aid in Relief

Toronto, Ont.—City officials have commenced an investigation to find what the Ontario Government's assistance in unemployment relief will mean to the city. A rough estimate placed the expenditure at about \$50,000. In the course of a few days a clearer statement will be available.

In no other year has a greater demand been made upon the House of Industry than at present.

### BRITISH LABOR CHIEFS DEPRECIATE KIRKWOOD'S ATTACK ON THE PRINCE

London, Eng.—Ramsay MacDonald, former Premier, and John Robert Clynes, who was Lord Privy Seal in the Labor Government, of Mr. MacDonald, speaking at different places, both deprecated the recent attack in the House of Commons by David Kirkwood and other Laborites on the forthcoming tour of the Prince of Wales.

Mr. MacDonald and Mr. Clynes, the former speaking at Swindon and the latter at Hornechurch, resented especially the suggestion that the Prince should defray the cost of his tour from his own pocket. They emphasized that the tour was a public duty on the part of the Prince.

"We can't cure the case of the poor widow and her children by being small-minded and petty," declared the former Premier. "The magnanimity which sees in the glitter of a button the whole of the world is not befitting to the Labor Party."

He declared that the trip of the Prince was not one for pleasure, but one of public duty, and it was just as right for Parliament to vote public money for the expenses as it was for it to vote public money for the railway expenses of the members of Parliament between Westminster and their constituencies.

The Prince of Wales, Mr. Clynes declared, was no more to blame for the evil conditions on the Clyde or anywhere else, for that matter, than any one of those who criticized him.

### Why the Farmer Needs Tariff Protection

No one in Canada needs protection more than the farmer, but it is difficult to drive this fact home. The farmer takes it as one of the drawbacks of his calling that he must always be at the mercy of the circumstances and so he subjected to low prices and unfair returns on his investment and labor. In return therefore, he demands free trade in the belief that he will get his farm machinery a few cents cheaper and in this way he reminds us of a drowning man clutching at a straw to save his life. We would ask the farmer to sit down and reason the thing out and we will feel sure that he will see that there is something else radically wrong and that free trade will not remedy the matter. Indeed free trade will greatly aggravate the situation as his available market will dwindle still more and prices get still less through Canadian industries being demoralized and even though the farmer was able to make a very small saving through free trade (which we doubt) he could not take advantage of the saving because he is not able to realize on his own products. In other words, it is obvious that in order to save something, you first have to acquire it.

In order that there may be no misconception as to the value of the Home Market is the farmer's biggest asset, but right now we see this market destroyed for lack of proper protection. Canadian grown vegetables are every bit as good and appetizing as can be found and are ridiculously cheap, but they are passed up for the fresh vegetables that daily arrive in huge quantities from the Southern States. The Canadian farmer's winter fresh egg market is also destroyed and he is forced to sell at a loss. Why? Because the United States has such a variation in climate that every day is summer in some part of that country, and as spring comes much sooner in the South than in Canada, their surplus eggs are dumped on the Canadian market when we are merely in the middle of our winter.

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The same thing applies to the strawberry market in the early summer: in fact to every vegetable or fruit that you can think of. The United States product develops and ripens always just in advance of the Canadian product and by the time our produce is ready, the appetite has been satisfied and prices are not available for the Canadian farmer to recompense him for his work. Indeed much of his product is wasted, as he either has no market for it or the prices obtainable would not pay him for his trouble.

The axiom that "the early bird gets the worm" holds particularly true in the case of the Canadian farmer.

total value of dried fruits was \$18,795,548; the total value of prepared fruits was \$8,537,502; the total value of fresh vegetables was \$25,512,578; the total value of canned vegetables was \$19,505,701 making a grand total of fruit and vegetable importations into Canada in 1924 of \$113,989,626.

Ontario growers of fruit and vegetables have suffered for a number of years from the competition of United States products which are brought into the Canadian market and sold before the Canadian products are ready, thus spoiling the market for domestic produce and lowering prices to a basis which does not give the grower an adequate return for his labor. The Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association and the Niagara Peninsula Fruit Growers' Association have recently held a joint meeting and drafted two resolutions setting forth the state of affairs and asking protection against this unfair competition.

The first resolution points out that the growers in these districts of Canada especially adapted for the produc-

lower production costs to a level impossible for Canadian growers to reach; and that heavy importations of these products are made during the season before the Canadian crop is ripe, thus largely satisfying the public demand and compelling Canadian growers to accept substantially lower prices for the same kind of products maturing earlier. The resolution also states that foreign fruits of a kind not produced in Canada, by competing directly with Canadian grown fruits, are admitted duty free, while the specific duty now applicable to fruits such as are produced in this country was adopted in 1906 when values were much lower than at present, and is lower than the average duty on manufactured articles of the kinds produced in Canada. If this condition continue many fruit and vegetable growers in Canada will be driven out of business, so the Minister of Finance is asked to place an import tax of not less than twenty per cent. ad valorem on all fruits and vegetables of a kind produced in Canada, in addition to the tariff now provided, and is also asked to apply section 47a of Customs Circular 289c to all fruits and vegetables of a kind produced in Canada.

The second resolution deals with dumping, pointing out that it is the practice of foreign countries to consign fruit and vegetables to Canada for sale at whatever prices they will fetch in order to prevent a slump in their own market. The dumping duty provided by the Customs Tariff is inadequate to meet this situation, and the Minister of Finance is asked to amend the tariff or provide machinery so that the protection intended to be provided by the Dumping Act shall be provided.

### Plan to Slay Seckel

German Checks Agent Given Option of Bomb or Bullet

Leipzig, Germany—Plans for the murder of General von Seckel were described in detail in a trial of sixteen communists, who are alleged to be members of the German "Cheka." On the witness stand, Felix Neumann, one of the defendants, charged that his Russian co-defendant, Skobolevsky, had ordered the Terrorist group headed by the witness, and also another group, to assassinate the German military leader, either by bomb or bullet.

### Live on Dissatisfaction, Says Union Man

London, Eng.—The craze for popularity in trades unionism is unequivocally condemned by Charles Cramp, secretary of the Railwaymen's Union. He says that the craze pervades the noisy, unthinking trades union world.

"I am firmly convinced that a small section of the men in this country," he says, "owe their livelihood purely to promoting dissatisfaction. These men have agreed that work is the most unsatisfactory method of obtaining one's living. Their efforts on the Continent have been largely successful, and trades unionism has been correspondingly weakened. They seldom vent their spleen upon employers, but sow suspicion and distrust among the workers concerning their union. I hope that it will be generally recognized that it is far more important to do the right thing than merely a popular thing."

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