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THE TOILER

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TORONTO, JULY 29th, 1904

THE IRREPRESSIBLE CONFLICT.

History is the record of one long continued struggle between tyrannical power on the one hand and the oppressed on the other. The struggle of the Saxon against the Norman, the struggle for freedom of thought against ecclesiastical domination; the struggle for popular government, the struggle for the overthrow of chattel slavery, have been fought and won. But the greatest struggle of all has still to come, the conflict for the enthronement of human rights, the enfranchisement of industry, the right to secure employment and the right for labor to enjoy all it produces.

This earth is God's gift to humanity. It is the worst kind of infidelity to declare that the earth is the gift to one part of humanity alone. When once the law was so adjusted that a few people could say to their fellows, "The land, the mines, the forests, the water powers and the other gifts of the Creator are ours, and you must pay us for their occupancy and use," at once society was split in twain. Instead of brother helping brother, it became oppressor despoiling the oppressed. That is the mighty wrong that still remains to be overthrown.

When one man makes a coat and another makes a machine, and they exchange product for product, the transaction has all the outward and visible signs of equity and fairness. It is this kind of exchange which enriches humanity to a degree that we cannot possibly measure; for its benefit is so great. We can easily see that if this kind of exchange were completely abolished, then humanity would be reduced to the most abject want, to a condition of poverty and barbarism of immeasurable depth. Industry divides, industry specializes, and strives by every means to furnish the greatest possible abundance. It offers abundance for abundance, riches for riches, benefit for benefit, elevation for elevation.

About the year 1800 the land of this city was divided among a few families, a free gift. Society has centred here till now the value of the land amounts to eighty or a hundred million dollars. This value is not the product of the individual as a crop or a house, but is the result of the presence and common improvements made by the public. This value, however, has been given by law to one part of the community, thus enabling and causing this part to have an everlasting power of spoliation over their fellows. Thus society is divided into toilers and spoilers, and with every increase of the population the power of the spoilers to impoverish increases. Where men paid $1,000 per acre yearly seventy years ago for the occupation of the land, they have to pay $50,000 today.

The exchange of goods for goods has all the marks of equity. It is twice blessed, blessing him that gives and him that takes. Without this exchange, civilized society, with its immense advantages, would be an impossibility.

But the payment that industry must make year after year for the occupation of the land is the tribute of the slave to the slavemaster. One must do all the work and surrender the wealth, while the other need do no work and live with all the glory of regal splendor.

It is against this tyranny that labor must concentrate all its enthusiasm and all its forces. This is the crusade which calls for every man to do his duty. To pass this tyranny on to our children as a heritage, so that it would crush many of them into the bitterness of unrequited toil, would be a crime of the first magnitude.

How is this to be cured, this wrong to be rectified, and justice to be enthroned? This is the question which transcends all others in importance. No question before Parliament or Congress to-day, no question agitating the religious world, equals in importance this query, How shall we bring men into relations equitable and just?

When a man makes a coat, or a man raises a crop, he has a right to a reward. But when a man keeps a piece of land idle, what right has he to a reward? We would laugh to scorn the farmer who would claim a crop, though he had neither plowed nor sown. And yet when the speculator holds land in a growing town, we think nothing of that man becoming a multimillionaire, as a Leiter in Chicago or an Astor in New York.

What is the appropriate function of the value that comes to the land through the growth of population? Can it possibly be just that this value should be used as a force to lift idleness into a palace and to crush industry into a hovel? A thousand times, no. The community value belongs to the community and not to the individual.

As quickly as possible all taxes on houses, on goods and on implements should be abolished, and the taxation thus confined to the value of the land. Then, instead of men using land for the spoliation and impoverishment of their fellows, they would use it for their enrichment. Then, instead of the oppressor [illegible] would offer the abundance of his products for the abundance in exchange.

Contributed

THE YOUNG READER.

(A short story, by a toiler.)

I dropped into a friend's house the other evening and was requested to take a seat in the parlor. I always enjoy a visit to this friend's house, everything looks so cheery and cosy. As we gathered round the parlor table to look over a lot of illustrated views of the St. Louis Fair, I noticed that the youngest boy, about ten years old, was lying on the lounge reading the paper, and I was curious enough to wonder what attraction there could be in a newspaper for a boy of that age. When I asked him what paper he was reading, he looked up at me and said: "I always read The Toiler every week as soon as it comes." He told me he wanted to know what the toilers were doing. I thought as I sat and watched that boy so deeply interested in reading the toilers' paper, that it did not matter very much after all if the old fogies did treat labor problems with indifference as long as these mere shoots of bone took notice of it, for they will be the men of to-morrow, and if they continue to read and study about our great industrial problems, why naturally when they go to the ballot box for the first time, they will vote for the labor candidate.

REV. WEEKS AND WAR.

A recent issue of the Evening Telegram contains some caustic remarks on the Belleville Intelligencer and the Brockville Times with reference to Mr. Weeks and militarism. It is pleasing to know that the Telegram has not expressed itself as these rural sheets have done.

Working people's journals like the Toiler find too few men in the pulpit who have the iron in their blood and granite in their backbone sufficient to voice their convictions. There is too much infidelity in the pulpit to-day for the representatives of the "Prince of Peace" to stand up and denounce the loud-mouthed ravings of men of the Dundonald stamp, who feed at the public crib and aspire to fame at the people's expense. In view of this, when militarism raises its hideous head and a minister hits it, we should recognize him as a morally brave man, a man who stands for righteousness, the only basis of permanent peace and prosperity.

Do we need more military? If so, for what purpose? Whence come the invading hosts that trouble the fevered imagination of Dundonald and his ilk? Are we not taxing ourselves to pay $5 a head to shipping companies for immigrants? Did we not practically donate over two millions of acres of mineral lands to a foreign syndicate, and force the Canadian consumers of steel rails with a tariff to build up the infant (?) industry? Are we not taxed thousands of dollars to spread literature all over the continent to encourage foreign invasion by Scandinavians, Norwegians, Swedes and Italians? Is it not the fact that the C.P.R. have even gone the length of starting a Chinese colony in Quebec? Why all this waste of energy on the part of our Government to encourage foreign invasion? The answer is not far to seek. Land companies wish land values to rise; manufacturers' associations wish wages to go down. Therefore these combined interests press the Government for more immigrants, and tax us, the people, to bring them.

In the face of this subsidized foreign invasion, we are asked to further tax ourselves to increase the military to prevent foreign invasion. That yarn will hardly wash with thinking Canadian workers. It is more probable that vested wrongs already recognize that increased rents will soon disemploy large bodies of men, when a strong Government, backed by a strong military policy, will be needed to protect monopoly from the people's demand for their rights.

General Grant, a veteran who knew war as learned in the school of experience, said, "War is hell." When the South African land grab was to the front, the principal hell promoters occupied our editorial sanctums. It was then dangerous for an honest man to express an opinion adverse to the cry of the bloodhounds. We to-day have the fruits of their efforts. The Rhodes syndicate own the Rand mines, and a bill has been railroaded through the British Parliament to work the mines with Asiatic slave labor; another bill has been put through to put a hut tax on natives so they also will have to work in the mines at such pay as will just enable them to continue work, whereas formerly their cattle brought them in a living under free conditions.

In this connection writer regrets the pulpit as a body (with a few brave men as exceptions) was a good second to the press. Garrison well expressed the situation when he wrote:

"The Jesus that we reverence is not the lowly man
Who trod in poverty and rags where Jordan's waters ran;
Our Saviour is an Admiral upon the quarter deck,
Or else a General uniformed, an army at his beck.

How natural that a change should come in 1900 years;
And Bibles take a place behind the bullets and the beers!
We need a new Messiah to lead the latest way,
A gospel version well revised, to teach us how to prey.

Then onward, Christian soldiers, through fields of crimson gore;
Behold the trade advantages beyond the open door.
The profits on our ledgers outweigh the heathen loss;
Set thou the glorious Union Jack above the ancient cross."

Moral: We need a righteous system of taxation; a single tax on land values only, that the lands which immigration raises in value may be a blessing, and the face of the earth may not be a gaming table. Then foreigners may come or go at their own expense, and the more coming the better for the country, instead of as now, enriching speculators and reducing wages.

"SAM SLICK."

THE COUNTRY TRIP.

Sometimes we hear the chronic grumbler say, "Oh, times are not half so good for the workingman of to-day as they were 100 years ago." Perhaps in some things they are not, but think of the things we enjoy, which our forefathers never even saw. The electric car, for instance; what would we do without it to-day? Think of how far we can go for the small sum of five cents; right out into the country, and yet in our forefather's time, if he wanted to go out this distance he either had to walk or hire a horse. Surely the electric car has made it easier for the workers along this line. The other day a party of us went to the country, and when we got there we found some who had promised to meet us were not there, and as we had planned for a day in the woods, we didn't want to wait long after hours and see if they were coming we didn't want to leave them. So the hostess said, "Just wait, and we'll telephone." It only took a few minutes to get a satisfactory answer. Leaving privilege the workers of to-day can enjoy which our forefathers never had. When out in the woods the subject came up for discussion, and it was decided that of all centuries this was the best for the workers, and it was thought if our forefathers could rise and see the privileges we enjoy, they would be much surprised, but not any more than we would be if in 100 years we could see what the future generations will be enjoying, for by that time co-operation will be working so perfectly that the workers will enjoy the fruit of their labors quite as much as the rich now enjoy it.

A WOMAN.

STRIKES NOT A REMEDY.

Editor Toiler: Strikes, other than to direct attention to the injustice to which labor is subjected, are useless as a remedy. The injustice consists in treating producers as servants instead of copartners; as servants, producers are subject to their masters, who claim the right "to do what they like with their own," both as to remuneration and hours of work. Companies are granted charters to engage in the manufacture of commodities, and authorizing the directors to pay to their officers and servants what they deem proper for services rendered, so that companies are exercising their legal right in resisting the claims of their workers for an increase of pay or improved conditions, if the directors do not deem their claims to be proper. It is no use to ask companies to refuse to consent to arbitration in the case of a strike, as the law is on the side of the companies, and the troops must be called out, if necessary to aid the companies to obtain another set of workers who will be more amenable to submit to the companies' conditions than the strikers. The remedy for the unjust conditions to which labor is subjected rests with the legislators, who in granting charters to companies to engage in manufacturing or any other industry should safeguard the rights of the workers. By compelling the companies to recognize their workers as co-partners, instead of servants, the workers might reasonably expect to obtain representation on the board of directors, and so be in a position to know whether the industry was paying or otherwise. Of course, co-operation on the part of the workers would enable them to obtain all the wealth they produce, without having to sacrifice the greatest share of the wealth they produce to employers, which is really what labor organizations are striving for. If the workers are in earnest to benefit their condition, they will vote only for such candidates as can be relied on to aid in enacting such legislation as will ensure justice to the producers.

K. OF L.

DEMOCRACY.

In the Toronto Star last Saturday night there was an article in the editorials entitled "Democracy and Morality," in which the following statements were made:

"It must be admitted, however, that democracy is not the cure-all of the world's evils that Savonarola supposed it to be. As a man is, so he acts; so he exercises the franchise; and so he fulfils the functions of office. The reign of the people will take its character from the people themselves, and sometimes it does not reflect any too much credit upon them. Along with triumphs of democracy must be numbered the evils, dangers, blunders, failures, cruelties, and even the abominations of democracy. The orgies of corruption that disgrace so much of the municipal life in the largest cities of the American continent; the scandalous irregularities that too often characterize elections; the unrighteous administration of funds in the conduct of national political campaigns; the sordid appeals too frequently made with success; the bovine indifference of multitudes to the affairs of state; the existence of the grafter in politics; the violence of mobs; the selfishness and injustice and tyranny incident to strikes; the occasional bad taste and ill-directed sympathies shown in large public gatherings; the rash verdicts given at times by a whole people—all these things go to prove that democracy does not as yet mean realized ideals."

If the writer of this article would stop and think for one moment, he would see that what he calls the abominations of democracy are not caused by democracy, but for the want of it being applied to our commercial and industrial life. As citizens, democracy in the United States and Canada has made us a free people, but industrially we are still governed by the aristocrats, autocrats and plutocrats, that own and control our industrial affairs, and it is their influence upon our public institutions that cause the terrible evils over which the writer is lamenting. If we apply the principles of democracy (the rule of the people) to our industrial affairs, every man will enjoy industrial freedom. We give a man a voice in the state, church and school because he is a man. It is only in our industrial life where we make property the standard of government instead of manhood, and it is because of this that our public life is corrupted as it is to-day. Give every man the same opportunity and privilege in our industrial affairs because he is a man, and all these industrial disturbances will pass away.

A WORKINGMAN.

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For which purpose the co-operation of the Labor Organizations and others interested in the general prosperity of the Province is invited.

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The observance of these regulations will materially assist the Department in the proper and effective administration of the Building By-law, and will also save a deal of inconvenience and possible heavy loss to those whose neglect of such constitutes a contravention of By-law No. 2426.

ROBERT J. FLEMING,
Commissioner of Assessment and Property.

City Hall, June 28th, 1904.

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Organizations changing Secretaries are requested to notify this office at once.

TORONTO DISTRICT LABOR COUNCIL. President, Alf. Rayner, 134 Coldbrook st.; vice-president, Robt. Hungerford; financial secretary, Geo. Cooper, 801 King west; corresponding secretary, D. W. Kennedy, 39 Edward st. Meets every Thursday, Richmond Hall.
LABEL SECTION. Chairman, W. Ward; secretary, Chas. Lavoie, 221 Parliament st. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Toiler Office.

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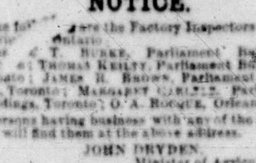
TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION, No. 91. John Chinn, 65 Albany ave.; President, E. M. Meehan; Vice-President, James Simpson; Treasurer, E. J. How; Financial Secretary, T. C. Vodden; Chairman Board of Relief, William Clancy. All officers' address, Box 542. Union room, 11 Richmond st. west, Room 11. Union meets 1st Saturday in Richmond Hall.
PRINTING PRESSMEN, No. 10. Ed. H. Randall, 25 Oak st. Meets 1st Monday, Temple Building.
BROTHERHOOD OF BOOKBINDERS, No. 28. Secretary, Wm. Glockling, 4 Ottawa st.; President, C. R. Hurst; vice-president, Geo. Legler; financial secretary, Thos. Barker; treasurer, Robt. Glockling; guide, A. McLean; inspector, T. Thomas; statistician, D. West; sergeant-at-arms, Wm. Wilson. Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays, Strathcona Chambers.
MAILERS' UNION, No. 5. W. S. Cooper, 33 Lippincott st.
PHOTO ENGRAVERS. James Egan, 26 Sumach st.
PRINTING PRESS FEEDERS, No. 1. F. S. Attrill, 147 Marlborough ave. Meets 2nd Wednesday in Strathcona Chambers.
BINDERY WOMEN, No. 34. Miss Jean Robin, 413 Dupont st. Meets 4th Monday, Temple Building.
WEB PRESSMEN, No. 1. Joseph Leake, 191 St. Patrick st.

CLOTHING TRADES

CLOTHING TRADES SECTION. George Bangster, chairman; Chas. Clarke, 1 Argyle st., secretary. Meets 2nd Tuesday, Richmond Hall.
GARMENT PRESSERS, No. 188. Frank Geary, 182 Ontario st.
CLOTHING CUTTERS, No. 186. Edward Fenton, 192 Simcoe st. Meets 2nd and 4th Fridays, Forum Hall.
GARMENT OPERATORS, No. 202. W. Arnold, 5 St. Vincent st.
TAILORS' INTERNATIONAL, No. 132. Geo. Bangster, Toiler Office. Meets 2nd and 4th Monday, Richmond Hall.
TAILORS' INTERNATIONAL, No. 155. W. E. Coleman, Toronto Junction.

MISCELLANEOUS

MISCELLANEOUS TRADES SECTION. Chairman, I. H. Sanderson; vice-chairman, W. V. Todd; secretary, John Gardner, 695 Queen west. Meets in Richmond Hall on the 3rd Friday.
TOBACCO WORKERS' UNION. Charles Lavoie, 137 Dalhousie st.
WAITERS' ALLIANCE, No. 127. Jas. J. Thompson, 47 Nelson st.
BROTHERHOOD OF LEATHER WORKERS, No. 92. W. Fairbank, 1159 College st. Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays, Richmond Hall.
BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS, No. 27. Carl Saul, 27 Grange ave. Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Room 5, Leader Lane Chambers.
GLASS BOTTLE BLOWERS' ASSOCIATION, No. 66. Joseph Williams, 17 Beaconsfield ave.
BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS, No. 195. W. T. Hughes, 82 Kensington ave.
CARRIAGE AND WAGON WORKERS, No. 95. Robert Hungerford, 29a St. Clarens ave.
MAYFLOWER ASSEMBLY, K. of L., 6564. D. S. McCartney, 127 George st.
PRIMROSE ASSEMBLY, K. of L., 2464. Edwin Brown, 87 Wilton ave.
VICTORIA ASSEMBLY, K. of L., 2125. R. H. Cox, 172 Markham st. Meets 3rd Thursday, Richmond Hall.
EXCELSIOR ASSEMBLY, K. of L., 2305. Wm. Gilmour, 278 Simcoe st.
BREAD SALESMEN, FEDERAL, No. 34. Walter Gibbs, 179 Delaware ave. Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Occident Hall.
CIGARMAKERS, No. 27. R. Haberstock, 61 McGill st. Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays, Richmond Hall. Executive Board every Sunday, Richmond Hall.
WOMEN'S UNION LABEL LEAGUE, No. 66. Mrs. A. Denny, 53 Trinity sq.
MEAT CUTTERS AND BUTCHER WORKMEN. Business agent and cor. secretary, F. Letts, 73 Foxley st.; president, J. Hodgins, 290 Queen east; vice-president, G. J. Jackson, Bracondale; financial secretary, C. A. Longbotham, 51 Augusta ave.; treasurer, Geo. Strickland, 249 Christie st.; guide, Matt. Fitzgerald; guard, Wm. Mahar; sergeant-at-arms, T. G. Bond. Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays, Occident Hall.
BAKERS' INTERNATIONAL, No. 204. J. W. Gibbons, 109 Elm st. Meets 1st and 3rd Saturdays, Richmond Hall.
TORONTO RAILWAY EMPLOYEES' UNION, No. 113. President, J. H. Pickles; vice-president, H. Lock, 148 Pearson st.; cor. secretary, J. W. Griffin, 48 Hayward ave.; financial secretary, Geo. Cooper, 487 Spadina ave.; treasurer, J. W. Williamson, 74 Stollard st.; business agent, Jas. McDonald, room 13, 11 1-2 Richmond west. Meets 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2.30, Richmond Hall.
UPHOLSTERERS' INTERNATIONAL, No. 30. A. R. Lee, 166 Teraulay st. Meets 2nd and 4th Thursdays, Richmond Hall.
BARTENDERS' LEAGUE, No. 280. J. Beaumont, 4 Kepp st. Meets 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m., Forum Hall.
BARBERS' INTERNATIONAL, No. 376. A. M. McKay, 250 St. James sq.
BREWERY WORKMEN, No. 304. Geo. W. Hamer, 14 Thompson st.
CAB AND EXPRESS ASSOCIATION. J. Beatty, 198 Adelaide west. Meets 3rd Monday, Strathcona Chambers.
CIVIC EMPLOYES, No. 1. Thos. Hilton, 115 Booth ave.
CIVIC EMPLOYES, No. 2. Wm. Hill, 52 Stafford st. Meets 2nd Wednesday, Occident Hall.
CORK WORKERS FEDERAL, No. 9665. Wm. Howard, 28 Wyatt ave. Meets 4th Friday, Strathcona Chambers.
FURRIERS' FEDERAL, No. 9701. A. V. McCormack, 68 Sussex ave. Meets 2nd Friday, Strathcona Chambers.
MUSICAL PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, No. 149. J. W. Wiggins, 200 Palmerston ave. Meets 1st Sunday at 2.30 p.m., Richmond Hall.
MALSTERS' UNION, No. 311. Adam Wright, 26 St. Paul st.
TRAVELLERS' GOODS AND LEATHER NOVELTY WORKERS, No. 5. A. H. McBride, 311 Sherbourne. Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays, Occident Hall.
ELECTRICAL WORKERS (LINEMEN), No. 353. J. S. Fyfe, 37 Mansfield ave. Meets 1st and 3rd Mondays, Occident Hall.
STATIONARY FIREMEN, No. 185. John Lynch, 128 Parliament st.
AMALGAMATED LEATHER WORKERS, No. 88. Nathan Stafford, 58 Taylor st.
RAILWAY FREIGHT AND BAGGAGE HANDLERS, No. 61. Jas. C. Jaffary, 67 Tecumseth st.
RAILROAD TRAINMEN, No. 168. S. Griffin, East Toronto.
RAILROAD TRAINMEN, No. 332. H. Meredith, 282 Crawford st.
JEWELRY WORKERS, No. 7. Jas. H. Tomlin, 665 Yonge st.
BROTHERHOOD OF CARMEN, No. 255. F. H. Wallace, 77 Murray ave., Toronto Junction. Meets 2nd and 4th Mondays, Thomson Hall.
LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS, Div. 295. Fred A. Sproule, Toronto Junction. Meets 1st and 3rd Sundays at 2.30 p.m., B. of L. E. Hall, Toronto Junction.
COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPHERS, No. 63. Jos. A. McLean, 67 Grosvenor st.
PRINTERS AND COLOR MIXERS' Union. R. G. Forsey, 27 Herrick st.



NOTICE.

The following are the Factory Inspectors for the Province of Ontario:

JOS. T. BURKE, Parliament Buildings, Toronto; THOMAS KEILTY, Parliament Buildings, Toronto; JAMES R. BROWN, Parliament Buildings, Toronto; MARGARET CARLYLE, Parliament Buildings, Toronto; O. A. ROCQUE, Orleans, Ont.

Persons having business with any of the Inspectors will find them at the above address.

JOHN DRYDEN,
Minister of Agriculture.

PHONE NORTH 2458.