

Saskatchewan Labor's Realm

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THE SASKATCHEWAN LABOR'S REALM

Weekly Labor and Social Reform Newspaper, edited by Justice, Truth, Fraternity. "Labor Omnia Vincit."

HUGH PEAT EDITOR.

How Long Will the Emigration Employment Joke Last Yet?

Soliciting Aid from the Charitable to Ship Emigrants to Canada—Employment Guaranteed

The following is a reproduction of an advertisement which appeared in the London (Eng.) Times, on Monday, January 20th, 1908.

EMIGRATION

gives PROSPERITY to the emigrant and benefits the EMPIRE. THE CHURCH ARMY is receiving numerous applications for emigration to Canada in readiness for the opening of the season in APRIL. All applications carefully sifted, and unsuitable applicants rejected.

IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT obtained for each emigrant. FUNDS EARNESTLY REQUESTED for advances of part of Passage-money and incidental expenses. £10 sends single man to North-West; £20 small family; £1,000 one conducted party. Cheques crossed payable to the Hon. Secretary, Church Army, Headquarters, 35, Bryanston-street, W.

The opening spasm is unique, and is enough to cheer the stranded immigrant in Canada to further efforts in search for that prosperity which must be here since the good Church Army says so.

Emigration, Prosperity, and Empire in capital letters, all negotiated by the Church Army, and immediate employment found, are just a few of the alluring and tempting offers to the perfectly lovely and easily gulled British public.

Considered from an artistic point of view the advertisement is indeed a credit to the author. No details have been neglected. Everything is in perfect harmony, even to the heavy black border which is placed around the advt., no doubt with the same reverential care as would be placed around a funeral card, and no doubt is a tribute to the emigrants gone before and a fitting emblem of the graveyard of shattered hopes for the victims yet to come.

Probably never before in the history of Canada has the unemployed problem assumed such prodigious proportions as it has during the present winter. It is perfectly true that this condition of affairs is in a great measure the result of the general depression which has prevailed not only in Canada and the United States but in every other country in the world, and it is the inevitable aftermath of a boomed period of prosperity which has certainly existed for a few years past, and has to a certain extent warranted the beautiful pictures of unprecedented prosperity which have been drawn, sometimes by honest and conscientious men, but more often by exploiting boosters who have a large stake in the national resources which urgently needed as many laborers as possible, the greatest qualification which it was possible for those laborers to have been their propensity for working at the highest rate compatible with existence.

The above advertisement states that immediate employment will be found for each emigrant. Now if the Government of Canada could only succeed in securing the services of and bringing to Canada at the earliest possible moment, and if the Government could arrange with the Church Army, with the aforesaid latter will guarantee that work for the thousands to find work for the thousands who are employed immigrants here, the

greatest blessing that could fall upon the land would be consummated. It would pay and pay well to charter a special steamer to bring them over, or half a dozen steamers if necessary so that the employment finders could have a steamer apiece if they desired to travel that way. They might commence operations at Toronto where they will have an excellent opportunity of trying their magic employment finding dope on the 675 families mentioned in the article below. When they have placed the small number of employed there, they might visit a few of the other towns in the east and then turn their attention westward where abundant practice will improve their skill so that by the time they reach the coast the difficulty of providing employment for the hundreds of white laborers who have been displaced to accommodate their yellow and brown brethren will be mere child's play. When this work is accomplished the children of these members of the Church Army who are still alive can return to England, after carefully burying their ancestors who have succumbed to the arduousness of their task of providing employment for those already here, when the time will be ripe for a repetition of the same performance in about a century from now.

675 FAMILIES HUNGRY

A condition of destitution has been arrived at in Toronto such as it is hard for Canadians to believe. The condition is undoubtedly the climax to the industrial immigration which has been brought about during the past few years. Relief measures were at first tardy, until the daily papers investigated and found out the volume of actual and complete destitution existing. The News was first in the field with relief measures, its first efforts being to save from starvation over one hundred babies. The Globe then took up the work systematically in connection with a volunteer committee.

Here is one report which the paper received, among many others:

"I visited a home yesterday," said Rev. Robert Gay, of District No. 7, in the eastern territory, "and found a man with his wife and eight children, living on what the eldest girl, aged eighteen, could earn. The husband was out of work, as was also the oldest boy, a lad of sixteen years. I had great difficulty in eliciting any information from the family. I found them lacking bed clothing, fuel and food. So cold had been the house that there was ice on the walls of the bedrooms. With the assistance of a neighbor, we moved the solitary stove, so that its heat would be evenly distributed. Stovepipes were bought and blankets, and food supplied. The coal was delivered later."

Actual Conditions.—Reporting to the public ten days after its first appeal for funds, the Globe had received \$12,000 and disbursed \$8,000. It says:

In addition, clothing, household goods and provisions to the value of at least \$8,000 have been given. The demand for clothing has been fairly well met, save in the case of children's clothes and underclothes, of which there is still a

scarcity. Fuel is an important item of expense and will be till the weather moderates.

Food, however, is the great essential, and it is upon food that the bulk of the money is being spent. A careful canvass yesterday shows that during the past week 675 families have been supplied with the necessities of life. The family in Shacktown is never small. An average of five persons per family is low. The Globe's readers have been feeding 3,375 persons during the week, and there is no doubt at all that this number will not be lessened for a month. Ninety per cent. of those helped are immigrants not more than three years in the country. The bulk of them own their pathetic little houses, and in all the army of unemployed very few cases have been discovered of thriftlessness.

The fund has paid out \$8,000 to date, and a requisition for \$500 from one of the districts is yet to be met. It is costing about \$3,000 per week to do the work, or about 88 cents per individual fed. It would of course be impossible to feed the people in want so cheaply unless by the help of friends who send in gifts of food, and of the wholesale butchers and others who have given very low rates for supplies.

A word as to the actual conditions of affairs in the shack districts. The responsibility of the people of Canada will not end in six weeks. If these poor folk do not get work in the city or its environment when March comes it will be absolutely essential that some public scheme be launched for their dispersal throughout the country. Toronto has absorbed within three years not less than five and twenty thousand immigrants from England and Scotland. The city is saturated with immigrants, and is utterly unable to incorporate the dwellers in Shacktown into its permanent population. There must be a movement out to the land. We will have more to say on this by-and-by.

CLERKS AND ORGANIZATION

The Advantages of Organized Labor Over the "Free and Independent" Workers.

Occasionally, during the past ten years, we have tried to impress upon readers of all kinds the importance of organising for self protection.

We have told the estimable young clerks in their black coats and nice red ties—the cheap respectable little men who parade on election day in favor of prosperity, and who are the first to get discharged in time of trouble—that they ought also to protect themselves.

We have pointed out the fact that mechanics and other workmen are strong because they are united.

Many of the little gentlemen who make a living as clerks have looked down with scorn upon the union man and possibly also upon the suggestion that they should protect themselves by organization.

The clerks of the Erie Railroad are to have their pay reduced—some 5 per cent., some 2 per cent. Every man of them, except those that get less than \$60 a month, will have the pleasure of seeing his income diminished from now on.

We do not write to criticise the action of the railroad. It is quite possible that had financial conditions actually made some reductions necessary.

Whether or not the clerks were paid as much as they might have been paid, when better financial conditions would have made an increase possible we don't know.

Anyhow, the clerks are to have their pay reduced from now on.

And the union labor mechanics and others are not to have their pay reduced.

The little man with the respectable black coat and nice necktie, clean collar and large family of children will see his income cut down. And the mechanic with his oil stained jumper and the dinner pail on his arm, who often makes twice as much and nearly always more than the average clerk, will see his income go on as big as it was before.

The railroad announces that it will cut the wages of all except those whose pay is fixed by the unions.

When the young gentlemen with the nice coats get over the surprise of this announcement, we advise them to think over once more the possibility of protecting themselves by some kind of union.

It pays men to stick together.

The above article which appeared in a recent issue of a leading American daily, was evidently written with no intention of wounding the susceptibilities of the man with the nice necktie and the respectable black coat who presides with smiling face and obliging mein behind the counters of our departmental stores, but rather with the intention of pointing out the futility and hollowness of presuming to a respectability for above that of the mechanic, which is not and cannot be real, since every one of those clerks are subject to a reduction of wages at any time, because they belong to the noble army of free and independents who look upon the organized wage earners with contempt, and depend upon their own individual ability and the changing seasons of the year for the crumbs that fall from the master's table.

It may not be deemed respectable to belong to a labor union, but it goes a long way to help to maintain a respectability compatible with social progress, by keeping the wages of the mechanic at such a standard as will make it possible for him to purchase those things which are requisite and necessary for the maintenance of life and in keeping with the advancing social status of the people who constitute when all is said and done the backbone of the nation's strength.

Remember Secretary Taft's answer to the question, "What has a man to do during a financial crisis, when he is starving?" which was—"God knows!" And remembering what that mournful, hopeless answer to the starving man will mean, proceed straightway to seek strength in the much abused union so that a living wage can be commanded in season's of prosperity which will help to carry you over in the dark period of depression and financial stringency.—Ed.

AN IDEAL LABOR LEADER

The United Mine Workers' Journal in a recent issue, publishes the following pen sketch of a labor leader: The ideal labor leader is an ideal

man in every particular, whose ready brain quickly grasps each new situation as it presents itself, and whose cool level head instantly directs the proper course of action. He must have the self-confidence which will guide him to success under all circumstances and the prestige which will compel anyone to give him a hearing. He must have a fairly good education, that he may couch his language in terms of intelligent conciseness and forcible emphasis.

REGINA TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

F. D. Monk's Bill Respecting Co-operation Endorsed.

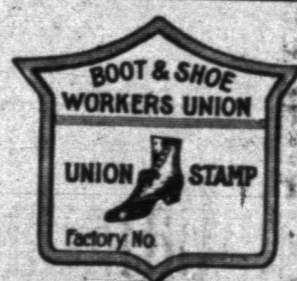
The regular fortnightly meeting of the above council was held on Saturday last. All officers were present, but nineteen absentees among the delegates were reported by the warden.

Very little business came up for discussion with the exception of the resolution to endorse Mr. F. D. Monk's bill entitled "An Act Respecting Co-operation," which it is expected will be brought before the House for its third reading at an early date. The resolution to endorse was again introduced by Del. J. D. Simson, and after several delegates had commented on the bill and the advisability of endorsing the principle of co-operation had been fully argued pro and con, one of the delegates pointed out that the hon. member's bill had already been endorsed by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, which body had also suggested the advisability of extending the scope of the bill so as to include co-operative banking business also. The resolution was therefore put to a vote and the resolution to endorse was unanimously carried. The secretary being instructed to forward a copy of the resolution to Mr. F. D. Monk without delay.

The resolution is as follows: "Resolved, that we, the Trades and Labor Council of Regina, do heartily approve of the purpose of the bill introduced in the federal House by Mr. F. D. Monk, M.P. for Jacques Cartier, entitled an "Act respecting Industrial and Co-operative Societies," and that we use our utmost endeavors to facilitate its successful passage through parliament."

The secretary treasurers' report was presented and adopted, and whilst it showed that the financial standing of the council was good, it was pointed out that there was still one debt which had been entailed in connection with the furnishing of the hall, and the affiliated locals were urged to pay their per capita tax affiliation fee at as early a date as possible in order to ensure that the necessary work in connection with the administration of the affairs of the council could be discharged in a proper manner.

Meeting of the Canadian Labor Party Sunday. Be there.



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