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THE SASKATCHEWAN LABOR'S REALM

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HUGH PEAT EDITOR.

Canadian Labor Party and the Asiatic Immigration Question

Spirited Debate on the Restriction of Oriental Immigration--Plea for Justice and Christian Charity

The subject at the last regular meeting of the Regina branch of the Canadian Labor Party was evidently one in which the working men of the city were deeply interested, if the attendance at that meeting is any criterion to go by.

The Asiatic question is one which has engaged the attention of all classes of society for some time past, and the resolution introduced by Mr. Hugh Peat gave rise to considerable discussion, and remarkably divergent opinions were expressed by many who although apparently convinced of the urgent necessity for restriction of some kind, were still dubious as to the outcome and justifiability of pronounced restrictive measures being adopted.

The resolution was as follows:

Resolved that we are in favor of restricting the flood of Oriental immigration to this country within such bounds that it can never become a menace to our political power or to our economic or social life.

In speaking to the resolution Mr. Peat emphasised two points particularly in substantiation of the position he maintained, namely, economic and political.

He argued that unless some barrier was raised to prohibit wholesale immigration the Oriental races would soon fill Canada in countless thousands, and that as a natural consequence the white races would be forced back to make room for the invaders, because a nation like the Japanese or Chinese, whose standard of living is so low and whose margin of subsistence is narrow would easily be able to force out of the country a nation whose standard of living is high. Employers of labor favored Oriental immigration on account of its cheapness, and it might be contended that employees were opposed to that immigration solely on the narrow and selfish principle that it would become a menace to them as a class, by forcing a reduction of wages on them through successful competition. This stand of the workers he admitted, but condoned the selfish imputation, if such it could be called, on the ground that high wages were necessary in order to enable the workers to keep in line with the advancement of civilisation, and in accord with the natural evolutionary upward trend of the human race.

On the other hand the only persons who advocated and desired the unhampered influx of Oriental laborers were the employers and the directors of large combines who were actuated by a still narrower and still more selfish motive, inasmuch as they wanted Oriental immigrants solely on account of their cheapness, and were only concerned with the inflating of their banking accounts, regardless of the baneful effects of such a policy on our national life.

Asiatics can live, as everyone well knew, more cheaply than white men can be expected to live. They can, therefore, underbid white men in the matter of wages and profits, and this was and could be the only reason which employers could advance in support of their policy of unrestricted Asiatic immigration.

Continuing, the speaker maintained that unrestricted Oriental immigration was a political menace to the country because the Dominion would be by the pursuit of such a policy, se-

cure a population that is incapable and also unwilling to perform the duties of citizenship, and as a natural consequence would be responsible for promoting a scheme whereby the political standard of the Dominion would be lowered. The Asiatics are not permanent settlers and are bound by more than patriotic ties to the fatherland and are therefore unequivocally averse to becoming citizens of an alien country. It is also well known that they are but a poor source of revenue to the country as they do not spend the money they make here, but send it out to the homeland. In this way millions of dollars are sent out of the country each year, which would be spent here if the land was peopled with settlers like those from eastern Europe who not only come to stay but are proud to merge their nationality in that of our great country, and to become known as true and loyal Canadians.

Moreover, mutual restriction of immigration cannot be regarded as foreign to Japanese ideas at the present time, because foreigners are excluded from laboring in the more important centres of Japan, and the Anglo-Japanese treaty to which Canada adhered at her own wish last year, provides for reciprocity in shipping and trading privileges, but makes no mention of manual labor.

In conclusion the speaker pleaded for restriction of Asiatic immigration as a safeguard to the protection of our own white citizens. Asiatics were removed from us by centuries of superstition and stagnation, and it would be an unpardonable injustice to compel our own children of the Dominion to sink to the level of a morally inferior race, whose social standard and whose religious ideals were so diametrically opposed to our own, and with whom a daily contact for the struggle for bread would mean the setting back of the hands of time and the shrouding in crape of our lofty ideals of western civilisation.

The Negative

In opposing the resolution Mr. T. Walshe Turner said: "In dealing with so important a problem as the Asiatic problem, it seems to me that not merely the economic and social, but also the religious side should be carefully analysed. Now it is not my intention to go into the question very deeply, but I am going to make an appeal to your sense of justice—that sense of justice which is supposed to be so strongly developed in the British race, let me take first of all the religious side. In our modern up-to-date Christianity the moral aspect of any problem is either completely ignored or given very little consideration. Christianity seems to be developing into a creed of talking platitudes, going to church and looking respectable and a people realise that there is any further obligation attached to it they are careful enough to ease their conscience when the keeping of this obligation seems, in any way, to interfere with their material interests.

Now the Christian ideal is that of a universal brotherhood and 'one for ones fellow man, without distinction of race or creed or color, and what ever other differences in doctrine there may be among members of the Christian church, we all seem to interpret the command of the master,

"do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you," in the same way. There is no evading this command therefore, and I contend that any act of ours in trying to exclude the Asiatic races from Canada will brand us as a nation of hypocrites unworthy of this great heritage, and will do more to retard the progress of Christianity and morality than any other act of ours could possibly do, and we have done much al-

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MOOSE JAW TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Officers Elected for Ensuing Year—Council Determines to Boost the "Realm" and Help to Make it a Truly Provincial Labor Paper.

A meeting of the above Council was held on Tuesday, Jan. 20 when several new credentials were presented and much important business done. A splendid move in the right direction was made when the council adopted the recommendation of the Hall Committee to take over the machinists' hall.

A resolution pledging support to any worthy attempt to inaugurate a daily labor paper was brought forward, and after some discussion was laid on the table, the Council feeling its duty to be to concentrate their efforts to boost the Realm before supporting any daily.

Several attempts have been made to bring the formation of a branch of the Canadian Labor party to a head, and this question was again discussed with some warmth, but in the end the matter was again postponed.

The statistician reported, during the last six months the machinists and boilermakers had been successful in securing a shorter workday of nine hours with ten hours pay; the carmen had been granted the shorter workday but no increase.

The organization committee reported a branch of the Musicians Union having been formed, and the committee were endeavoring to form a branch of the teamsters union in the near future.

The election of officers was on the order of business for this meeting and resulted as follows:

President—Fred Gray.
Vice Pres.—W. Flynn.
Sec. Treas.—W. Keay.
Warden—F. Bertwistle.

The various committees will be elected on Feb. 4th.

Bravo, Moose Jaw! It is indeed a pleasure to the management of the Realm to learn that our sister council is beginning to evince a livelier interest in the existence of our Provincial Labor Paper.

In spite of opposition, hard knocks and disparaging remarks The Realm is still in the field, boosting everything that comes its way for the advancement of union principles, and for the uplift of wage earners generally.

We want to extend the scope of The Realm to the utmost limit. It is the only labor paper in the middle west, and if it does not come up to the standard of the workers, to whose interests it is devoted, the blame lies at the door of the workers themselves. Boost The Realm! Increase its circulation and the management on its side will see to it that every effort is put forward to make it one of the best and brightest labor papers in the Dominion.

Without outside help The Realm has fought its fight for a foothold. It is welcomed by every wage earner in the city of Regina, and the time is not far distant when it will become a welcome feature in the life of working men in every part of the province.—Editor.

Annual Meeting of the Regina Trades & Labor Council

President Reviews the Work of Past Year in an Eloquent Address—Unanimously Elected for Another Term

The annual meeting of the Trades and Labor Council of Regina was held in Trades Hall last Saturday evening. The importance of the occasion brought the delegates from the local unions out in grand style, with the result that the largest attendance was recorded since the inauguration of the council.

Very little change took place in the election of officers, the retiring president, Thos. M. Molloy being again enthusiastically elected president for the ensuing year.

Another office was created, namely that of recording secretary, T. Walshe Turner being elected to discharge the duties connected with the recording of the deliberations of the Council. This step was taken with a view to relieve the corresponding secretary of his increasing duties, who will now handle the correspondence and attend to the financial business of the council.

President Thos. Molloy, after the routine business had been transacted read his annual address, as follows: The delegates Regina Trades and Labor Council.

Fellow Workers,

"The year 1907 which has just closed was a memorable one in the history of trades unionism inasmuch as it has witnessed the birth of several local unions, and the inauguration of our Trades and Labor Council."

"Less than a year ago our Trades Council was formed with a membership of five affiliated unions, i.e. Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners; Bricklayers and Masons; Painters and Decorators; Plumbers and Steamfitters and the Typographical Union. Some of you will no doubt remember that meeting and the little incidents connected with it. I might just mention here that it was held in the dining room of a private house kindly lent by our esteemed friend and indefatigable brother worker, Mr. W. E. Cocks, and the most sanguine of that small but earnest body of men who sat there never anticipated, and could hardly be expected to hope that that was the inception of one of the strongest and most active councils of the middle west. Out of that little meeting has grown the present Trades and Labor Council of the city of Regina, a trades Council having ten unions affiliated, and having for its meeting place one of the most commodious and centrally located halls in the city; a trades council that has in less than a year passed from the stage of childhood into its trying period of adolescence right on to this time when it has acquired the fulness of stature of manhood, nobly asserting itself for the uplifting and betterment of the toilers of our capital city."

"Such is the progress we have made during the past eleven months, and it is a criterion and happy harbinger of what can be accomplished in the future."

"Besides the doubling of the number of unions affiliated, the next two matters of importance taking place during the year were first, the grand Labor Day celebration, the first of its kind ever held in this province, the success of which redounds to the credit of those who had the affair in hand, and, secondly, to the fact that Regina was for the first time in her history, represented at the Dominion Trades Congress, where she had three delegates present. These, with many other features have marked an evolutionary year in this city in so far as the toiling masses are concerned."

"But, gentlemen, let me remind you that all this has not been accomplished without work. It is work

however, which we enjoy, a work which draws out all that is best within us, inasmuch as it brings us into closer contact with our fellow workers for whose welfare and social progress we are greatly concerned and to the advancement of whose aspirations and ideals we are pledged."

"I beg to thank the executive officers and the various committees who so willingly and untiringly devoted their time and attention to the cause they represent, often at great loss of time and money to themselves. I feel in duty bound to make especial mention here of our indefatigable secretary, Mr. Hugh Peat, to whose efforts alone a large share of our success is due. And I thank you one and all gentlemen for the honor you conferred on me when you elected me your president, and am content if I have redeemed the trust placed in me for I can truly say I did my best."

"Many pages could be written concerning the past year's work, but it is sufficient for me to say that it has been a grand success both financially and in point of increased organizations, and I look forward with confidence to the time when Regina will have a labor temple erected within its limits which will be a credit and honor to the city and to the workers who will build it."

"I close as I began by saying that there is no end to our opportunities. Our beloved council is, and ever will be as great as we choose to make it. The delegates are in character and ability equal to any tasks, and I look forward confidently and prayerfully to years of such accomplishment as will make the year just passed worthy, chiefly because in it was the beginning of far better things to come."

The council then proceeded with the election of officers which resulted as follows:

President—Thos. M. Molloy.
Vice Pres.—J. D. Simson.
Fin. Sec.—Hugh Peat.
Rec. Sec.—T. Walshe Turner.
Statistician—W. E. Cocks.
Warden—A. S. Wells.
Legislative committee—Simson, Simmons, Turner, Wells and Cocks.
Organisation Committee—Powell, Skanlon, Whitely, Calderwood, Morrison.
Label Committee—Turner, Carmichael, Cook, Whitely, Swan.
Hall Committee—Wells, Turner, Simmons, Calderwood, Todd.

WAGES IN JAPAN

Wages in Japan do not err on the side of generosity. A schedule presented to the Royal Commission, which advised the Ottawa government not to encourage Japanese immigration, gives the following figures:

	Cents a day
Blacksmiths	24
Carpenters	24½
Laborers	17
Plasterers	25
Roofers	24
Saddlers	23
Printers	17½
Stone Cutters	27½

While labor is remunerated at this rate, what wonder is there that the Japanese should look to this side of the Pacific as the place in which to do well? At the same time is there any room for surprise at the opposition of white labor in the west to the coming of the Jap?

It is interesting to note that a printer is worth half a cent more a day than the laborer anyway.