



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

THE DAWN OF THE NEW YEAR

WITH this issue of the Canadian Labor Press, Canadian Labor closes what has been the most eventful year in its history. It has been a very strenuous year, not without its victories.

The Peace Treaty has been signed with the Central Powers, and in that treaty is embodied what may well be called Labor's Magna Charta.

The Canadian Government has ratified the treaty, thereby pledging itself to the Labor legislation therein provided for. Time did not permit of that legislation being placed on the statute books, but it is confidently expected that this will be done in 1920.

The Government's position in the matter was made plain at the International Labor Conference in Washington, when Hon. Newton Wesley Rowell, K.C., M.P., President of the Privy Council, representing the Government, said that Canada would carry out the Peace Treaty and its obligations, including the Labor chapter, both in spirit and in letter.

It has been a strenuous year indeed, in the course of which Canadian workers have passed through a period of transition. While it is true that there have been local upheavals, the rank and file of Canadian workers have controlled their passions, and have not heeded or been swayed by mob psychology.

Today we are all anxiously awaiting the dawn of a New Era in this year 1920 on the threshold of which we stand—an era of happiness and contentment for the worker—of harmony between the different units of society.

During the year there took place at Washington the first International Conference of its kind, which laid the foundation for a better understanding between the worker, Labor, and the Governments.

The provisions acknowledged at this conference have not yet been put into effect, but the year 1920 will see this advance made in the progress of the world.

Canadian Organized Labor, during the past year, joining hand in hand with other workers, not yet organized, has definitely entered the field of politics through the Independent Labor Party, the ranks of which are open to all who earn their own living through their own efforts.

The I. L. P. has met with considerable success in Ontario, and has enabled Labor to form an integral part of the new Ontario Government. In the forthcoming municipal elections in that province it is expected that Labor will be equally successful in returning its quota of representatives, as it was in several cities in the west.

The old year is well nigh spent. As the New Year dawns, will you give a few brief moments to reflection to what you can do for the cause of the worker in the year to come?

CIVIL SERVANTS AND LABOR

A VOTE is to be taken throughout the Civil Service Federation, the corporate body of Dominion Government employes throughout Canada, comprising over 20,000 members, as to whether the Federation shall or shall not affiliate with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

The Canadian Labor Press is not attempting in any way to influence the vote, but are pointing to the absolute necessity of taking such a vote, and the necessity of every member expressing his opinion in this referendum.

The question is one of the greatest importance. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is undoubtedly the major representative body of workers in the country. The acknowledgment by the Canadian Government of the labor provisions of the Peace Treaty, and their forthcoming enactment by legislation is of paramount importance to everyone in the country who earns his or her living.

Chapter I, Article 4, of the Labor Convention and General Principles as incorporated "in the Treaty of Peace (Part XIII, Sections I. and II.), Articles 387-427," provides that:

"The members undertake to nominate non-Government delegates and advisors chosen in agreement with the industrial organizations, if such organizations exist, which are most representative of employers or workpeople, as the case may be, in their respective countries."

The Dominion Trades and Labor Congress was recognized as the real mouthpiece of Labor in the country by Senator Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labor, speaking for the Government in the following terms, the occasion being the Congress convention at Hamilton, in September:

"May I refer to another important point in my judgment, and that is that in all forms of organization there must be order and control, and that if a Government of this or any country is going to successfully and satisfactorily co-operate with labor, it must be through some central agency; and the Government of Canada, and, I am sure, all of the Provincial Governments, share that view, that the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is the real organized mouthpiece of labor in this country, and is recognized as such."

INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE.

During the months of October and November, representatives of the Government, the employers and the employees of all nations participated in the League of Nations week at Washington attending the general conference of the International Labor Organization of the League of Nations.

At this conference the Canadian workers' delegates, Secretary of State, Hon. Newton Wesley Rowell, K.C., M.P., and Hon. J. D. Sullivan, M.P., were very prominent part in the discussions and it is safe to say that his knowledge and ability helped largely in bringing about the settlement of the many perplexing problems that confronted the conference. On the question of a shorter workday he was the outstanding delegate, and after many committees, meetings and sessions of the conference the draft convention was finally approved on a compromise. However, on the convention's final adoption President Tom Moore of the Dominion Trades Congress, substituting for Delegate Draper, made the position of the Canadian workers quite clear when he stated that Canada would accept this convention as the minimum and not as the maximum measure.

During the conference the bulk of the debate fell on the workers' delegation, due to the fact that the United States Government had not ratified the Peace Treaty. This deprived American workers participating in the conference and their ideas had to be shouldered by the Canadian delegation. However, Canada has proven her ability to carry out her obligations as a worker and the Labor clause of the Peace Treaty in spirit as well as in letter.

Hon. Newton T. Rowell, K.C., M.P., president of the Privy Council, speaking for the Dominion Government, stated that Canada would carry out to the full its obligations as embodied in the Treaty of Versailles and the Treaty of St. Germain.

This week we received the full text of the draft convention and recommendations adopted at the International Labor Conference and regret that we have not space to produce them in their entirety in this issue but will do so at our very earliest convenience. However, as the shorter workday is of primary importance we give our readers the draft convention in full herewith.

Draft Convention Limiting the Hours of Work in Industrial Undertakings to Eight in the Day and Forty-Eight in the Week.

The general Conference of the International Labor Organization of the League of Nations, having convened at Washington on the 29th day of October, 1919, and having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the application of principle of the eight-hour day or the 48-hour week, and having determined that these proposals shall take the form of a draft international convention, adopts the following draft convention of the International Labor Organization in accordance with the Labor Part of the Treaty of Versailles of 28 June, 1919, and of the Treaty of St. Germain of 19 September, 1919:

ARTICLE 1.
For the purpose of this convention, the term "industrial undertaking" includes particularly:
(a) Mines, quarries, and other works for the extraction of minerals from the earth.
(b) Industries in which articles are manufactured, altered, cleaned, repaired, reworked, painted, dyed, adapted for sale, broken up or demolished, or in which materials are transformed, including shipbuilding and the construction, installation, maintenance, repair, alteration, or reconstruction of any such work or structure.
(c) Construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, alteration, or reconstruction of any such work or structure.
(d) Transport of passengers or goods by road, rail, sea or inland waterway, including the handling of goods at docks, quays, wharves and warehouses, but excluding transport by hand.
(e) Transport of passengers or goods by sea and on inland waterways, except that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to persons employed at sea and on inland waterways.

The competent authority in each country shall define the line of division which separates industry from commerce and agriculture.
ARTICLE 2.
The working hours of persons employed in any public or private industrial undertaking or in any branch thereof, other than an undertaking in which only members of the same family are employed, shall not exceed eight in the day and forty-eight in the week, with the exceptions hereinafter provided for:
(a) The provisions of this convention shall not apply to persons holding positions of superintention or management, nor to persons employed in a confidential capacity.
(b) Where, by law, custom, or agreement between employers and workers' organizations, or where no such organizations exist between employers and workers' representatives, the hours of work on one or more days of the week are less than eight, the limit of eight hours may be exceeded on the remaining days of the week by the amount of the competent public authority, or by agreement between such organizations or representatives, provided, however, that in no case shall the provisions of this paragraph shall the daily limit of eight hours be exceeded by more than one hour.
(c) Where persons are employed in shift work, the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any one day and forty-eight hours in any one week, if the average number of hours over a period of three weeks or less does not exceed eight per day and forty-eight per week.
ARTICLE 3.
The limit of hours of work prescribed in Article 2 may be exceeded in case of accident, actual or threatened, or in case of urgent work to be done in machinery or plant, or in case of "force majeure," but only so far as may be necessary to avoid serious interference with the ordinary working of the undertaking.
ARTICLE 4.
The limits of hours of work prescribed in Article 2 may also be exceeded in those processes which are required by reason of the nature of

at present covered by the factory acts administered by the Government of India, in mines, and in such branches of railway work as shall be specified by the provisions of article 6 and 7, of this convention. In other respects the provisions of this convention shall not apply to India, but further action concerning the hours of work in India shall be considered at a future meeting of the General Conference.
ARTICLE 5.
The provisions of this convention shall be brought into operation in accordance with article 19, in the case of the following industrial undertakings:
(1) Carbon-black works,
(2) Acid works,
(3) Tanneries,
(4) Paper mills,
(5) Printing works,
(6) Sawmills,
(7) Undertakings for the handling and preparation of tobacco,
(8) Surface mining,
(9) Foundries,
(10) Machine shops,
(11) Dyeworks,
(12) Glassworks (blowers),
(13) Gas works (firemen),
(14) Slaughtering and slaughtering, and to not later than 1 July, 1924, in the case of the following industrial undertakings:
(1) Mechanical industries: Machine shops for engines, safes, scales, beds, ladders, shells (sporting), iron foundries, machine tools, shops, plate works, manufacturing of hydraulic apparatus.
(2) Constructional industries: Lumbering, cement works, plasterers' shops, tile yards, manufacturing of bricks and pavements, potteries, marble yards, excavating and building works.
(3) Textile industries: Spinning and weaving mills of all kinds, except dye works.
(4) Food industries: Flour and gristmills, bakeries, macaroni factories, manufacturing of wines, alcohol, and drinks, oil works, breweries, manufacturing of ice and carbonated drinks, manufacturing of confectioners' products and chocolate, manufacturing of sausages and preserves, slaughterhouses and butcher shops.
(5) Chemical industries: Manufacturing of synthetic colors, glass works (except bottles), manufacturing of essence of turpentine and tartar, manufacturing of oxygen and pharmaceutical products, manufacturing of flaxseed oil, manufacturing of glycerine, manufacturing of calcium carbide, gas works (except the firemen).
(6) Leather industries: Shoe factories, manufacturing of leather goods.
(7) Paper and printing industries: Manufacturing of envelopes, record books, boxes, bags, bookbinding, lithography and zinc-engraving shops.
(8) Clothing industries: Clothing shops, underwear and trimmings, workshops for pressing, workshouses for bed coverings, artificial flowers, hats and trimmings, hat and umbrella factories.
(9) Woodworking industries: Joiners' shops, cooper's sheds, wagon factories, manufacturing of furniture and chairs, picture-framing establishments, brush and broom factories.
(10) Electrical industries: Power houses, shops for electrical installations.
(11) Transportation by land: Employers on railroads and street cars, firemen, drivers and carters.
ARTICLE 12.
In the application of this convention, the date on which its provisions shall be brought into operation in accordance with article 19 may be extended to not later than 1 July, 1924.
ARTICLE 14.
The operation of the provisions of this convention may be suspended in any country by the Government in the event of war or other emergency endangering the national safety.
ARTICLE 15.
The formal ratifications of this convention under the conditions set forth in Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles of 28 June, 1919, and of the Treaty of St. Germain of 19 September, 1919, shall be communicated to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations for registration.
ARTICLE 16.
Each member which ratifies this convention engages to apply it to its colonies, protectorates and possessions which are not fully self-governing:
(a) Except where owing to the local conditions its provisions are inapplicable; or
(b) Subject to such modifications as may be necessary to adapt its provisions to local conditions.
Each member shall notify to the International Labor Office the action taken in respect of each of its colonies, protectorates and possessions which are not fully self-governing.
ARTICLE 17.
As soon as the ratifications of this convention have been received by the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, he shall then be bound only upon those members which have registered their ratification with the secretariat. Thereafter this convention shall come into force for any other member, at the date on which its ratification is registered with the secretariat.
ARTICLE 18.
Each member which ratifies this convention agrees to bring its provisions into force on or before 1 July, 1921, and to take such action as may be necessary to make these provisions effective.
ARTICLE 19.
A member which has ratified this convention may denounce it after the expiration of ten years from the date on which the convention first comes into force, by an act communicated to the Secretary-General of the League of Nations for registration. Such denunciation shall not take effect until one year after the date on which it is registered with the secretariat.
ARTICLE 21.
At least once in ten years the governing body of the International Labor Office shall present to the General Conference a report on the working of this convention, and shall consider the desirability of placing on the agenda of the conference the question of its revision or modification.
ARTICLE 22.
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The Canadian Labor Press is endorsed by the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association and by the Independent Labor Party.

The Canadian Labor Press stands by the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress of which Mr. Tom Moore is president, and Mr. P. M. Draper is secretary-treasurer.

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