

Editorial Page of the Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

PRESENTATION of the Departmental Committee's majority report on old age pensions in the British House of Commons, has not raised the same storm of protest or denunciation as the initial adoption of the first scheme by the Mother of Parliaments.

With the five shillings allowance to those qualified the cost to the British Government in the fiscal year 1916-17 was around the £12,000,000 mark and with the suggested changes the estimate calls for an expenditure of £41,000,000.

How glibly the subject of Old Age Pensions is discussed at this period of time, but harking back some thirty years ago that pioneer of the movement, M. Atkinson, surely knew what it meant to have stones placed in his path.

By many of those who knew him least he was considered as a misfit in his profession, lacking clients, but the real truth was that his adherence to the propaganda of pensions for the aged allowed of no time for the practise of law, and those who would seek his aid in a legal way realized they were looked upon as interlopers save and except they were prepared to listen to his very soul-mate.

It is readily realized how this pioneer was a model of sincerity when it is known that this world's goods and the old lawyer were strangers, with a frugal life as a necessity.

Perhaps delay in legislation of this kind may mean for this dominion even more advanced protection, and the workers have not effaced from their memory the report of the Mathers' Royal Commission which recommended immediate enquiry by expert boards into the following subjects, with a view to early legislation: State insurance against unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age.

It is not only in a personal sense that withdrawal of the charges would not be to the best interests, as whilst the arrested men necessarily stand in a pronounced position, the rank and file placed them in the position of directors of their affairs with a responsibility attached thereto.

MISTAKEN ZEAL.

THERE is in evidence among a certain section of workers an ill-defined plan to place the Winnipeg strike leaders in an embarrassing position if the course suggested by them of all charges being withdrawn was successful.

It is not only in a personal sense that withdrawal of the charges would not be to the best interests, as whilst the arrested men necessarily stand in a pronounced position, the rank and file placed them in the position of directors of their affairs with a responsibility attached thereto.

These men were arrested rightly or wrongly, the onus of proving the charges is on the prosecution, a fair trial with no favors should rather be the policy to pursue, and it can be safely assumed that this course of vindication is the only one that will be generally accepted by the rank and file of Winnipeg as well as elsewhere.

Magna Charta, dating from A.D. 1215, guarantees fundamental rights and privileges and it would be an abuse of these rights if a fair trial was not held for these men, and if innocent, allow the words "not guilty" to be pronounced that no odium shall rest upon them for the unfortunate Winnipeg happenings, with their ally of bloodshed.

SPEEDING THE PLOW.

"SPEED the plow" was at all times a favorite expression and one which could be assured of unity in thought, wherever expressed or echoed. We are apt to be getting dangerously near a regrettable discord, as the plow is seeking new fields to cultivate.

The last land to become promising and as a fact is past experiment, is the political "field." The farmer has now become so ruthless that he is not satisfied with getting the constituency but actually takes an election deposit from an honorable. "Speed the plow" but don't make too wide a furrow in the political "field," just wide enough for an eight-hour day.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

LABOR HALL FOR LONDON.

Considerable progress has been made in connection with the proposal to build a Labor Hall in the centre of London as a war memorial in accordance with the resolution passed at the London Conference.

Arthur Henderson, M.P., is chairman, and C. W. Boverman, M.P., hon. secretary of the Labor trustees, who have the matter in hand, while a scheme has not been prepared by the Co-operative Union, Limited, whose proposal is for the erection of a big hotel and restaurant, with a hall for 2,500 people.

The trade union movement has decided to raise £20,000 as its contribution, and the co-operative movement is willing to subscribe a similar sum or more.

The hotel would provide accommodation for labor leaders attending conferences in London.

OLD AGE PENSIONS RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE.

An old age pension of ten shillings a week to be paid to every citizen reaching the age of 70, irrespective of his means, is recommended by the Departmental Committee, in a majority report presented to the British House of Commons recently.

The pension is estimated to impose a burden upon the budget of £41,000,000 a year. Existing laws limit the grant of old age pensions to persons whose yearly means do not exceed £130 10s and to persons who have, through idleness, voluntarily failed to maintain themselves and their dependents.

During the war, however, these provisions as to maximum income, have been appreciably relaxed and an extra grant of two shillings and sixpence per week provided for.

The cost to the British Government of old age pensions in the fiscal year 1916-17, was about £12,000,000, and in 1917-18 about £18,000,000, owing to these extra war grants, as contrasted with £41,000,000 contemplated in this report.

RAILWAYMEN UNION'S OFFICIAL IS CHOSEN.

The National Union of Railwaymen has elected to the secretaryship of J. H. Thomas to £1,000 a year, and to give him the duties of the supreme administrative official of the organization.

Mr. Thomas, who has been in the railway industry since 1905, is a member of the executive committee of the British Railways Association.

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Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal—Calm.

TORONTO DOMESTICS ADOPT SCHEDULE.

The following schedule for domestic servants was adopted by Mrs. L. McGreggor, president of the Women's Labor League, and adopted by the Toronto Domestic Servants' Union, of Toronto, recently.

Weekly Workers. 1. An eight-hour day. 2. A six-day week. 3. A minimum wage of \$12 a week if living in, payable weekly.

Day Workers. 1. Eight-hour day. 2. Three dollars a day and time and a half for any time over the eight-hour schedule. 3. A hot meal in the middle of the day.

Mrs. Rose Hodgins, secretary, addressed the members and assured them that they need have no fear of a rush of domestic workers into Canada from the Old Country.

The time is not far distant when you girls will get by legislation all the things which make it necessary today to organize industrially. It is up to you to become members of the Independent Labor party and help to get representatives who will legislate in your favor.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE.

This letter came to the officers of the Philadelphia Women's Trade Union League and it is worthy of consideration by those who do not know just exactly what the work of the league is.

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Service Button Workers.

Notes of Particular Interest To Ex-Servicemen.

30,000 CANADIANS IN GRATUITY VOTE.

Thirty thousand Canadians who served in the Imperial Forces will participate in the vote for the equalization of the war gratuity, which exists between the Imperial and Canadian Governments.

The majority of the men who will benefit served in the Royal Air Force.

THE EDITOR DECORATED.

On Thursday last week the editor of the Canadian Labor Press, Lieut. (A-Capt.) J. A. F. Haydon, M.C., was decorated by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales with the Military Cross, won in the fighting in the summer of 1918.

The ceremony took place in the ball room of the Government House and was witnessed only by relatives. Lieut. Haydon enlisted in the Regulars in 1914.

After the capture of Vimy Ridge he was granted a commission and served as scout officer of the 42nd Battalion, I.L.C., until October 21, 1918.

He has the distinction of being one of the few officers who participated in all of the engagements in 1918.

He was captured by the Germans in the morning of the last day of the war.

REGINA VETERANS WANT MEMBER TO RESIGN SEAT.

Dr. W. D. Cowan, M.P. for Regina, is being asked to resign his seat in the Dominion Parliament.

This decision was made in the form of a resolution following the reading of a letter from Dr. Cowan, giving his opinion on the matter.

The resolution could not afford to adopt the gratuity plan of the G.W.V.A.

LAST OF DEPENDENTS HOMEWARD BOUND.

Eight ships will, between them, carry 2,000 Canadian dependents this month, which will about complete this class of traveller.

The first 1,000 parties to be conducted to Canada will be domestic servant emigrants, each numbering about a hundred. They will leave during the month.

LEGISLATION was the prohibition bill, which was taken up during the closing hours of the session. "The better the day, the better the deed," was the motto of the day.

During the war, prohibition has been operated under Order-in-Council, which ends automatically as soon as peace is declared.

This new legislation is an amendment to the Canada Temperance Act, better known as the Scott Act. Hereafter, if the Legislature of the province passes a resolution asking for the prohibition of the importation of liquor into the province, the Governor-in-Council will order a vote taken under the Canada Temperance Act in every county of that province, and if there is a majority in favor of prohibition being prohibited, such prohibition is enacted under special penalties.

As soon as peace is complete, therefore, prohibition will be "off," and there will likely be a next intake of greater or less duration, which will give everyone a chance to fill their cellars, if they so desire.

The session was devoted almost entirely to Government legislation. Only one private bill of importance received consideration, and to the credit of Mr. Samuel Jacobs, member of Jacques Cartier division, Montreal, it passed. It is proposed to refer an existing clause in regard to by-elections. In the past by-elections could be called at the pleasure of the Government, and if a seat was doubtful or the tide was running against the administration it could be held open indefinitely.

By the bill introduced by Mr. Jacobs, and which received the approval of Parliament, a by-election must be held within six months after a seat becomes vacant. In the future also a member cannot run for two seats at the same time, a frequent political dodge to hold doubtful seats by strong candidates. For instance, Laurier in 1911 ran in both Ontario and Quebec East, and Bolden in 1908 was a candidate in both Halifax and Carleton.

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PRESENT-DAY TENDENCIES IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

The nationalization of natural resources, public ownership of public utilities, more equitable distribution of wealth, and a purer democracy are the tendencies of the Labor movement today, as outlined by Mr. John Cameron, of the Independent Labor party, the speaker at the People's Forum on Sunday evening.

Mr. Cameron, always prominent in the Labor movement of the Capital, and who was brought into prominence in the recent Provincial elections by the substantial support he received from the voters of Ottawa West, gave most concise and extremely interesting address upon the "Present Day Tendencies in the Labor Movement." He stated in his opening remarks that one of the biggest questions of the present day was, where is Labor going and what does it want, and said that even the labor elite touch with the Labor movement found difficulty in answering the question. He outlined the early days of the trades union movement and illustrated its growth and strength, which had been emphasized recently in several fights with Capital.

From the local unions had sprung national unions, with their strength and financial backing, and finally trades councils, from which had arisen the demand for collective bargaining, which in the opinion of the speaker, was a perfectly legitimate aim, which would sooner or later prevail. He was not referring to the C.I.O. Union, which was a rebel from the International Trades Union movement.

The demand for the closed shop he explained was the outcome of the solidarity of the working classes, who, knowing that they had to have strong unions to create for them fair working conditions, believed that all workers should be a part and parcel of these unions, from whose efforts they reap the benefits they enjoy. He pointed out that industrial courts were being formed in Great Britain and Australia and believed that while they would undoubtedly prove beneficial in settling industrial disputes, the workers would not agree to accept their findings as final, that the worker would never give up his right to strike, if dissatisfied with his conditions, which is his right, as the only thing which placed him in a different position to the chattel slave of the past.

Captain Grant presided, and the audience, which was not so large as desired, enjoyed two finely rendered vocal selections by Mr. Keith Garrock and the organ recital by Professor Amadeo Tremblay.

ST. JOHN BOILERMAKERS RE-ORGANIZE.

J. Alfred Bourget, general organizer of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, addressed a large number of the St. John boilermakers and helpers at the special

Victory Bonds

Bought and Sold. Highest Market Prices. All Classes Stocks and Bonds Handled.

Correspondence Invited. Baird & Botterell Grain Exchange, Winnipeg.

FRIENDS OF LABOR

Union Drawn Steel Co. LIMITED. Hamilton Carhart Cotton Mills Limited. E. R. Wood Toronto.

Burlington Steel Co. LIMITED. Deloro Smelting & Refining Co. Limited. Dominion Express Co. J. Mackay.

Dominion Foundries & Steel Limited. The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. of Canada LIMITED. Steel & Radiation LIMITED. W. A. Cook.

Provincial Paper Mills Co. LIMITED. H. B. Johnston & Co. Ontario Soap & Oil Co. W. J. Sanderson, Prop. Toronto.

Toronto Plate Glass Importing Co. Gutta Percha & Rubber LIMITED. Hooton Chocolate Co. LIMITED. Toronto.

meeting there the other night. His talk, which was mostly along the lines of organization, was supported by Fred A. Campbell, president of the Trades and Labor Council. As a result, the local union, which has been dormant for several years, was again revived and got away to a good start with a strong membership.

STOP, NO NEED TO OPERATE "It's It" THE ANTI-SEPTIC... "Antiseptic Chemical Co." Sales Agency—Drawer A, Room 110, 123 BAY STREET, TORONTO, CANADA.

Schrader Universal Tire Pressure Gauge. The Schrader Gauge contains a large air chamber which has only one opening. During the operation of testing the air pressure, the air chamber of the tire and the air chamber of the gauge, become one combined, continued chamber, so hermetically connected that no leak, no matter how infinitesimal, is possible.