

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

J. A. P. HAYDON, M.C., Editor. CHAS. LEWIS, Circulation Manager. J. D. SULLIVAN, Business Manager.

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER. FALSE PROPAGANDA.

LABOR is now losing the vantage, or disadvantage, point from many isolated positions it formerly occupied, when it was considered in the class of interloper in forging its way to have a voice in the legislative law making. One pronounced charge against advanced workers' policy was that by representation legislation only of a class nature could be the outcome, therefore detrimental to interests of all.

Formerly the worker was the only target, but now right at hand our friend, the farmer, is being made to walk this same plank, with the arrows of class legislation being directed through previous attitude and anticipated movement. Whether the mind of public representation is so permeated with this selfish thought or it is used for the purpose of personal ends, cannot be accurately estimated, but in any event clearing away this class legislation propaganda, whilst a difficult task, is a necessity, that public service can be estimated at its true worth, and the aspirations of permanent sections enlisted in the army of advancement for common good.

Labor and the trade union movement has struggled against the opposition cry in this respect, and fought it successfully in the only way, by results that today, especially in the trade union movement, the purpose of the organization of the workers is conceded to be in the country's interest, in the interest of each unit, benefiting those not directly affiliated through a standardization of conditions and values. The period of time of existence, the continued increase to its numerical strength, is self-evident that class legislation is an unknown system in the Labor movement, as a programme with sectional plank would have been the germ for self destruction.

Labor is not class legislative. Its fundamental principles are to a betterment of the entire community, and although its mission may be at times misunderstood, it well understands the point of objective the benefit of all as against the enrichment of the few.

PLACED ON THE MAP.

CANADA came right along in telling stride at the Washington conference, when selected to a position on the governing body of the International Labor office. First appearances were again deceitful, as the possibility of the Dominion securing a coveted position in this regard, seemed almost of a hopeless nature, and a forlorn task to accomplish. Happily the unexpected has happened and we find Canada taken into partnership in one of the biggest moves even in these modern times of great happenings.

This position was not secured by what is often termed a fluke, but by a strong majority vote of conceded right, and an analysis of the vote taken clearly bears out this contention. The ballot for the four vacancies shows the following: Spain, 29; Argentine, 26; Canada, 20; Poland, 16; Denmark and Rumania, each obtaining 9 votes; Norway, 4; India, 3; Cuba and Sweden 1 each.

And yet another success came to the Dominion when Secretary-Treasurer Draper, of the Dominion Trades Congress, was selected as representative on the governing body of twenty-four, of which number six directly represent the workers.

Behind all this evidence of success must lie expended energy of the Dominion's representatives, directed into a correct channel, that has proven of such telling effect to produce results, from which this country must take a great degree of pleasure and satisfaction. The balloting took place in open forum, but we can well imagine that President Tom Moore and Secretary-Treasurer Draper, with their loyal assistants, laid the foundation for the ultimate results, and the workers of this Dominion must have the faith in their choice of leaders strongly fortified by this latest achievement.

"THERE'S A REASON."

PURITAN voices of the reactionary element of our western clime, were in strong evidence when Sam Gompers spoke with his usual courage of conviction and stated that harsh prohibition measures were to some extent responsible for the Bolshevik tendencies in isolated evidence on this continent. "Holier Than Thou," was the trend of remarks to Gompers' statement by these westerners, who never lose an opportunity to attack the leaders of progress in the trade union movement.

There is apparently a reason for all this prohibition goodness on the coast, as the Attorney-General in public statements claims "that the condition has become intolerable," through the ease with which two-quart orders could be filled. Not the eight-hour law, but an eight-ounce law is now mentioned and this may bring back to reason the reactionaries.

POLITICS and PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

By Special Correspondent. With the return of Sir Robert Borden from holiday in the South, and of Hon. C. W. Bennett from the Washington Labor Conference, things political are beginning to warm up at the Capital. The Government announced that the next session will be called early in the year, and the next few weeks will have to be occupied by the Cabinet in preparation of legislation.

The coming session promises to be a vital one. There will be such controversial and important legislation, while with the growth of a substantial cross-bench group led by Hon. T. A. Crerar, who has now definitely assumed the leadership of the Third Party in the House, the Government will be far from rosy. During the past two years, the Ministry has always been able to depend on a certain number of members, but since it trends cautiously, anything might happen in the coming session.

The three most important legislative measures in sight at present are the Franchise Act, bills growing out of the recent labor movement in Ottawa, and the later one at Washington; and the Government's shipbuilding and naval programme. The Franchise Act is a particularly controversial measure with a decided difference of opinion as to its merits. The Government itself has not yet reached a decision, and may even have difficulty in framing an act which will be satisfactory to the divergent elements in the Cabinet. There is a strong sentiment in the Cabinet, which apparently has the backing of most of its members, that all alien-born men who are disfranchised under the War Times Election Act, should continue to suffer the penalty. In this position they will evidently be largely supported by the O.W.V.A. On the other hand, the Liberals are strongly in favor of retaining the franchise to every man who lost his franchise in 1917. The western agriculturalists have expressed themselves about similarly. There will also be the question as to whether Provincial or Dominion lists are to be used. One argument is that under the Dominion statutes all women now have the vote; while in the Provincial lists they are still not on the provincial franchise. So far as the women are concerned, new Dominion lists would seem to be the better plan.

Labor legislation promises to be much to the fore. The Government has already promised that it will effect a reduction in the recommendations made at the Ottawa Joint Conference of Em-

ployers and Employees in October. At the time the International Conference has been held at Washington, which, among other things, has recommended the eight-hour day for all workers in an industry on behalf of the Canadian Government, strongly supported the resolution, so that it is presumed that the Cabinet will endeavor to crystallize their views so expressed into legislation.

From the standpoint of Labor, this coming session of Parliament should be one of the most important in its history. Before the next session assembles, it is very possible that Labor will have a representative on the cross-benches. There is a by-election in Toronto, and the seat of the late Hon. Frank Cochrane. Labor is proposing to put a candidate in the field, and should it be elected in the next election, his chances will be good. At present there are two members of Parliament representing themselves in the Parliamentary Guide as Labor representatives. One is Alphons Verville, of Montreal, but he is not a member of the party, and has voted pretty consistently with the present Opposition. The other is Charles R. Harrison, of Ottawa, who was elected in 1917 as a Labor-Unionist. He is a passenger conductor on the C.P.R., and is a member of the Ottawa Railway Conductors' Co. P. R., he has always sat on the Government benches, and has not taken a cross-bench position since.

The present outlook is that the Government will introduce a policy for the placing of the shipbuilding industry on permanent terms. The Government's naval policy will also, in all probability, be laid before Parliament. It is not yet clear whether both these questions will prove highly controversial. Both the shipbuilding and naval policies will be subject to the criticism of the next couple of weeks by the Cabinet. Since the war Canada has built up a large public-owned mercantile marine, and it is now under construction for the Government and the question now arises as to the continuation of this policy. The feeling is strong here, that it is impossible for the Government to continue to build up a large mercantile fleet, largely to keep yards going through the coming winter, but the opinion of the Ministers seems to be that in future shipbuilding should be left to private enterprise. It is admitted, however, that under the present uncertain conditions, private capital will have to be given some encouragement, and that the Government will have to take this shall take. Since the beginning of the war a dozen or more large plants employing thousands of work-

ers have been built up on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and on the Great Lakes, and it is felt by the Government that in the near future it will be necessary to take some special measures to deal with the situation. The Government has already announced that it will take some special measures to deal with the situation. The Government has already announced that it will take some special measures to deal with the situation.

standards; better education, better housing, better sanitation; in fact, better everything that concerns our everyday life. MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO GIVE UP FEELINGS. James Henry Thomas, Labor member of Parliament, will introduce a bill in the House of Commons next Wednesday to empower the King to accept the surrender of any territory. The desire of the late Viscount Astor to remain a member of the House of Commons is the subject of the bill. LABOR'S AIMS AND ASPIRATIONS. In the current number of the Journal of the Overseas Club, Arthur Henderson, the well-known labor leader, discusses labor's aims and aspirations in respect to the future of the world. He states that the labor party is pledged to the principle of the free government of the world. He has drawn upon all schools of political and economic thought, and where a policy or method has been applied by experience, has absorbed it. That same tendency marks its imperial policy. Labor is certainly not indifferent to the potential utility of the great alliance of free states of which the Empire in its best days was the forerunner. It is not all its traditions for the principle which has made the real strength of the Empire, namely, conciliation. It is not all its traditions for the cause a full degree of self-government has been accorded to states like Canada and Africa and South America. It is not all its traditions for the commonwealth of such unity. Labor stands for the extension of that principle of conciliation by a central authority. The British Empire becoming an empire in the old sense of the term—a central government exploiting subject peoples, whereas the labor party stands for the extension of that principle of conciliation by a central authority. It is not all its traditions for the commonwealth of such unity. Labor stands for the extension of that principle of conciliation by a central authority.

It could only be hostile to the interests of the workers as workers, and ultimately, of course, to the Empire itself, and would, sooner or later, mean its disruption. Labor is as much in keeping with the best traditions of the British Empire, this tendency towards free government communities as it is hostile to the worst traditions of British imperialism, traditions that lost us the American colonies, traditions which, nevertheless, from 1866 to 1914, has tried in the interests of commercial exploitation. Happily the worker's interests, as well as his humanity and decency, are being protected by the labor party schemes for promoting in Africa and elsewhere schemes based upon the utilization of servile labor. I have no doubt that the labor party, in the ranks of the self-governing dominions are as much alive to the danger of certain tendencies in an unbridled labor party as are the workers at home. POISONS. 1. Keep poisons in "Poison Bottles." Then your sense of touch will warn you when your hand touches the poison bottle in the dark. 2. Keep all poisons in a locked cupboard. Then there is no chance of children getting at them. 3. Get a light before you take a dose of any medicine. Then you can see what you are taking. Look well to the needs of the school children of today. They will be running the nation a few years hence.

Service Button Workers.

Notes of Particular Interest to Ex-Service Trade Unions. "GOOD-BYE 'SMOKES'" When the old Sgt.-Major brought me the news that you had returned to the country, I was glad to hear that you were back in the country. I was glad to hear that you were back in the country. I was glad to hear that you were back in the country.

MUNITION WORKERS THANKED The thanks of His Majesty King George to overseas workers who volunteered during the war to work in British munition factories and shipyards are voiced in the following message by His Excellency the Governor-General from Lord Milner, Secretary-General for the Colonies: "Now that the repatriation of overseas workers who volunteered their services for the production of ships and munitions during the war is completed, I am commanded by the King to request you to give publicity to His Majesty's appreciation of the services rendered by the men who volunteered from Canada. He understands that the excellent behavior of these volunteers, and the fact that they have earned by their work the highest praise."

MOST ENEMY ALIENS HAVE LEFT CANADA. The deportation of enemy aliens held prisoners of war in Canadian camps is almost complete. Over 2,000 Germans and Austrians have already been sent home via Holland and other neutral countries. A small batch of about 250 still remain to be sent to their fatherlands. These for the most part are at Kapuskasing. Most of them take away a comfortable sum of money. They will be paid 25 cents a day while employed in the camps. They will have behind several well-cleared and well-kept farms. They will be sent to Ontario and elsewhere which will be used for experimental farm purposes and as a nucleus for further settlement in these regions.

SOLDIERS REPLACE STRIKERS? Delegates from the Iron Moulders' Union to the Hamilton Trades Council reported at last Friday's meeting of the Trades and Labor Council that 15 returned soldiers have been taking a course of vocational training, had started to work in several Hamilton foundries, thus taking the place of the moulders on strike for seven months. It was further stated that the Government was paying the men and had not the foundries. After Hon. W. R. Rollo had counselled the delegates, it was decided to instruct the Secretary to write to the various War Veterans' organizations, drawing their attention to what was going on. The Soldiers' Re-employment branch will also be notified.

NATIONALIZATION OF RAILWAYS. R. J. Deachman addressed the Canada Forward Club at the first meeting of the season held in the University of Toronto. He pointed out that the nationalization of railways would be justifiable if it produced greater efficiency in the administration of railways; if it checked the tendency of railway corporations in the political and economic life of the country; or if the vesting of the means of transportation in the hands of a public authority would be for the life and welfare of the community. He opposed the argument that the handling of the British and American railways by their respective Governments was in any way an example of a failure of Government ownership. The times were different, the conditions were exceptional and the enormous increase in the cost of operation were all factors which at that time operated against the success of the plan of Government ownership. His main claim was that the question of operation by Government or corporations was, after all, a secondary consideration. The real problem lay in the financing of the railways. He made a comparison between the highway and the railway and claimed that precisely the same means should be taken to finance the railways as was done in regard to the highways. The highways and streets today are, he said, built by a direct taxation upon land values and the application of this principle should be made to the railways. Tracks and right-of-ways are Six Months FREE. Shows how to invest your savings and funds systematically and scientifically. Guarantees profits. Absolute safety guaranteed. Send name, address and age to MARCEL TRUST CO., Dept. C.L.S., Montreal.

TORONTO NURSES WILL STAND BEHIND DEMANDS. Special nurses on duty in Toronto hospitals are willing to compromise with hospital boards on a ten-hour day but not on the demand for a hospital which has expressed a willingness to compromise with them. On inquiry at the various hospitals the Board of Health, the superintendent will give no opinion on the subject, preferring to "sit tight" waiting for the nurses to take a definite stand. The graduate nurses' unanimous decision to compromise on the ten-hour day came about at the annual meeting of the Ontario Nurses' Association. Nurses held last week in the Central Y.M.C.A. building, College Street. It was held behind closed doors, but this session was given to the press the following morning by the secretary, Miss Caruthers: "We will stand firm for a ten-hour day in the hospital, but we will stand behind our demand until we get it." "We are quite willing to give a ten-hour day to our special nurses, but we will stand firm for a ten-hour day in the hospital, but we will stand behind our demand until we get it."

SAMUEL GOMPERS DENOUNCES "DIRECT ACTION." Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has denounced the "direct action" policy of the British Trades Union Congress and has urged a constructive policy. The direct actionist philosophy, he says, is to "strike at the ballot-box with an axe," or to use the strike to secure political demands which could not be obtained otherwise. "The political system in Britain, Canada and the United States, offers a better opportunity for arriving at decisions on political questions," says the proponent. "It is the conviction of the American people, and specifically of the American working people, that political democracy, as we know it, is the best form of government yet devised. It must not be endangered." "The strike weapon is too valuable to be thus misused," the labor leader said.

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CITIZENS' LIBERTY LEAGUE Ottawa Branch Headquarters, Room 112-Union Bank Building Telephone Q. 7800. Join the LEAGUE, and help to protect yourself from tyranny. The League is now conducting a campaign for membership. If you have not received an application card for membership, call at the office of the League, or of the Honorary Treasurer, C. T. de la Plante, 35 Sparks street, and put your name on the roll. Membership fee \$1.00. BUT, a subscription, however small, in addition, is desired from those who feel able to give it. The League, like other organizations, must have money to carry on its work.

THE OBJECTS OF THE LEAGUE The Law of the League is to secure more Liberal Legislation in opposition to Prohibition Measures. It advocates the Sale of Beer, Wine, and Spirituous Liquors under proper restrictions. It is opposed to a return of the open bar as previously existing in Ontario. It advocates the Right of Citizens to choose their own recreations and Intellectual Improvement. The League stands for and is at all times prepared to fight for the liberties and the rights of the people. The League is non-partisan and non-sectarian.

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