



# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

## NOW FOR CANADA'S INITIATIVE

More and more will be pronounced the injustice of having unemployment in our Dominion and the situation already tense is running swiftly to a point of social unrest that merits the name of danger. The welfare of the people is the first call not alone on the State but upon every individual unit that comprises the state, and there is no running away from the problem but rather an impelling the face the same and find a satisfactory solution.

It is not sufficient for us to say that the unemployment curse is world-wide, or we are more happily placed than other sections of the globe, rather it is a call for that initiative with which citizens of this Canada of ours have been given credit for in tight corners, and a utilization of that faculty in solving this way-down-low black cloud. A policy of drift leads to unknown dangers carrying to the thoughtless a justified fear. A Moses there must be arising to check our present industrial depression. Whatever this leadership calls for must be given in quick service, whether this may carry us to the more purchasing of "made in Canada" goods or tariff readjustment such as labor suggests, is not material so long as the black cloud is dispelled and we are enabled to substitute substance for shadow.

Let the factory chimneys belch forth their smoke, let the sound of the hammer be heard, let the saw and the trowel with the energy behind let despairing unemployment to flee and let every branch of labor join in the revival from the morose and unrest to happiness in our Dominion and all that such a condition implies. Whatever impediments in the way of this correct state of social life let us join hands in their removal. Canada's initiative is on trial it can be shown in the demand to give manufacturers orders and labor taking its place in the filling or same.

## SUCCESS IS SPELLED IN CO-OPERATION

Did you ever stop to think what the word "cooperation" really means? It is derived from two Latin words, co, meaning together, and opere, which means to work. Cooperation is working together! That is very simple, and yet it contains a truth so profound that men have not yet fathomed its possibilities. The great institutions of civilization are all based on cooperation. Without it there could be no family life, no churches, no schools, no government; society would be plunged into the abyss of hopeless anarchy, and human progress would become impossible. But what if we carry cooperation to its logical conclusion, and insist that there is no more reason why men should not work together for the common good in industry and international relationships than in the home, the school, and the maintenance of government? What would happen to industrial autocracy, to privileged monopoly, to war? Cooperation says that they, too, belong to a common civilization. The crucial issue before the world civilization today is just this: shall we cling to the jungle law of competition and continue to cut each other's throats, or shall we strive to construct civilization on an enduring cooperative basis? This is not a dream. It is hard headed realism. Unmitigated competition is leading straight to more war, more industrial strife, more social ruin. By cooperation alone can men work happily and peacefully together to create a higher civilization.

## HOW LABOR DAY ORIGINATED

Various are the claims as to how the first Monday in September became Labor Day and perhaps in the future a voice in our Dominion will become claimant for its inception and adoption. We may however be happy in the knowledge that it is recognized as a Dominion holiday and the knowledge as to responsibility for same be left in the discard.

From our conferees across the border there is a host of claimants for the man who accomplished it. According to Mother Jones, the idea of Labor Day originated in the mind of Jack Price, a Lonaconing, Maryland, Miner, who with Terrence V. Powderly was reviewing a parade of the central labor body in New York City, in 1884. The parade over two miles long so impressed Price, that he turned to Powderly, who was General Master Workman of the Knights of Labor, and said: "Why can't the organized workers of the country set aside one day a year as Labor's Day and have parades and demonstrations like this all over the country?" Later Powderly and Price talked the matter over. It was discussed in many cities and eventually became recognized as a legal holiday. It was first observed officially in 1886, two years after the inspiration came to Price, says Mother Jones.

Another writer states the Labor day idea was originated by P. J. McGuire, for many years first vice-president of the American Federation of Labor.

At a meeting of the New York City central labor union, held on May 8, 1882, McGuire urged the propriety of setting aside one day in the year as a general holiday for the laboring people. He suggested that it be called "Labor day."

The idea was adopted by the central labor union, and it staged a Labor day parade and festival on the first Monday in September, 1882.

The A. F. of L. endorsed the national Labor day holiday at its 1884 convention, held at Chicago. The convention unanimously adopted the following resolution, introduced by A. C. Cameron, delegate from the Chicago trades and labor alliance:

"Resolved, That the first Monday in September of each year be set apart as a laborers' national holiday, and that we recommend its observance by all wage workers, irrespective of sex, calling, or nationality."

Through the activity of the state federation of labor and the central labor bodies the Labor day demand spread from city to city and state to state.

Many municipal councils and state legislatures made it a legal holiday.

Oregon was the first state to accede to labor's demand that Labor day be made a state holiday. The Oregon Labor day law was signed by the governor on February 21, 1887. The legislatures of Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York also made Labor day a state holiday in 1887. Connecticut, Nebraska and Pennsylvania followed in 1889; Iowa and Ohio in 1890;

shire, South Carolina, Tennessee and Washington in 1891; Alabama, Louisiana, Utah and Virginia in 1892, and California, Delaware, Florida, Minnesota, Rhode Island, Texas and Wisconsin in 1893.

In the meantime A. F. of L. officials sought congressional legislation to make Labor day a legal national holiday, in conformity with the resolution of the 1884 convention.

In his annual report to the 1894 A. F. of L. convention President Gompers said:

"National Labor Day—It affords me pleasure to be able to report that the demand made by the A. F. of L. for making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday passed congress and was made a law on June 29, 1894."

## CARLYLE'S DEFINITION OF MENIAL

CARLYLE MAKES CLEAR WHAT MENIAL CALLING REALLY IS

Men talk about menial callings; but what is a menial calling? I will tell you. It is a calling that makes a man mean. And the moment any calling makes a man a man, he has dignified and glorified it. Show me the chrysalis first, and what a prejudice I have against the butterflies! But show me the butterfly first, and after I have seen that, how beautiful the skin looks out of which it was hatched! I carry the beauty of the thing itself back to that from which it came, and by association dignify it. And I honor a man that has built himself up in avocations where no one suspected such a thing; that has dug up treasures where none but such an ingenious, industrious and patient man could have done it.

## UPHOLDS EQUAL PAY EQUAL WORK

The biggest business woman in Great Britain, Viscountess Rhonda, has the solution for the problem confronting England's 2,000,000 spinners. In a line it is:

"Equal pay for equal work."

Only by giving these women the fullest equality with men in business, says Lady Rhonda, can the nation meet the situation precipitated by the war, which left the country with 2,000,000 women than men—women without any hope of marriage. Lady Rhonda is a director in 56 corporations and entirely in control of a good many—steel, iron, coal and steamship concerns.

But these are only a part of her interests.

When the women of Great Britain were fighting for the vote, she was one of the militants who led the campaigns and were arrested and jailed. As a pal and confidante of her father, who at that time was simply D. A. Thomas, she accompanied him on an important war mission to America. They were on the Lusitania when it was sunk by the Germans, and both had a miraculous escape from death. She wields an able pen those forces in often felt in the feminist journal, "Time and Tide," and she is now engaged on a biography of her late father.

**Surplus of Women**  
 Unless these 2,000,000 women without a chance to wed want to sponge on others, they must go out to earn their own livelihood," said Lady Rhonda.

"The women who have the brains and the ability must have just as good a chance as a man and must have just as fat a cheque in her pay envelope."

"Even where a woman has as much ability as a man, or even more she is handicapped today by old customs and prejudices."

"This will change radically when big business men treat their own daughters as they do their sons."

"When men train their daughters to share the business with them and to carry it on after their retirement or death, a new era will have begun for women."

That is how I got into business. My father had only one child, so he began early to train me to carry on the business. I became his confidante, his pal, even in a way his adviser.

"I got to know all the ins and outs of the business. I went everywhere with him. The result was, when he died, I didn't have to entrust my affairs to someone else. I was ready to carry on."

**Using the Vote**  
 "People often say that women have done very little with the vote now that they have got it. Of course, that is sheer foolishness."

"For a long time we have been occupied intensively with wartime and reconstruction problems. But women will make their influence and their power felt in Britain, in America, wherever they have a vote."

"You may talk about your work, international, but the truest international I know of is the universal solidarity of civilized women-kind concerning certain things."

"These primarily deal with questions that have to do with children and especially their protection. Naturally, you will find us always insisting upon newer and more stringent and sweeping laws for the protection of children."

"The other groups of things upon which women are agreed is that in all spheres of life there must be equality of opportunity and of pay between men and women."

**England's Problems**  
 "Every nation has its own problems. Over here a group of us are fighting for what we call our program of six points:

"First—More stringent laws relating to assault upon little girls."

"Third—A change in the laws dealing with the unmarried mother and her child, to make the father share the responsibility."

"Fourth—Laws giving the mother as well as the father a chance at the guardianship of infants."

"Fifth—Equality of pay for men and women teachers."

"Sixth—Equality of pay and opportunity for men and women in our civil service."

Quebec plans to enforce three

## ARE "BIG FIVE" AFTER CONTROL OF ALL FOOD?

New York, Sept. 16.—The efforts of the California Fruit Growers' Association to obtain a modification of the consent decree of the department of justice so that the "big five," packers can enter the grocery business has called forth a blast from the treasurer of the National wholesale grocers' association. In effect the treasurer declares that the appeal of the fruit growers is inspired by the packers, with the object of abolishing the consent decree, which prohibits the packers from engaging in the handling of groceries. He points out that if the decree is modified as desired by the packers, the decree will be hampered by the packers. "The decree," he says, "covers tea, coffee, sugar, cereals; in fact, everything from soup to nuts." The packers will then be in position to control the entire food industry, and can dictate prices all along the line. (This would put the wholesale grocers practically out of business so far as trade in canned goods is concerned. It would also have the effect of making the silent consumer contribute a little more of his mite to the "big five.") The really big question involved in modifying the consent decree is, "Are the big five seeking to control the food supply of the American people?"

In recounting efforts by Thaddeus Stevens in 1834 to establish the common school system in Pennsylvania, the North American recalls methods that are applied today. The editor says:

"Powerful interests were implacably opposed to popular education upon the ground that it would tend to level class distinctions and endanger the sanctity of property, and they inspired a widespread agitation for repeal. They are able to capitalize discontent which arose when it was realized that the new system would involve heavier taxation, and the state was soon convulsed by a struggle between the advocates and opponents of free schools. In countless communities the conflict split business and social groups into factions, disrupted church memberships, even divided families; there were sections where boycotted or ostracism threatened any man who dared to champion the principle, and where the enemies created persisted for a generation."

Mr. Daugherty says that "the experience of the past shows that in most cases full, accurate, reliable publicity of the facts has been sufficient to compel an adjustment of these cases," meaning industrial disputes. Mr. Daugherty evidently thinks facts are absolute. Most facts are relative and not absolute.

In addition to having committed himself to an un-democratic principle which is repugnant to the whole American concept of social organization and conduct, the attorney general fails to find the truth in history.

## DAUGHERTY FORECASTS ACTION TO CHAIN LABOR MOVEMENT

United States Attorney General Daugherty, addressing the American Bar Association, in which the lawyers are 100 per cent organized, said:

"It is an undisputed fact that the public have a right to know what the quarrel is about in every actual or threatened strike or lockout and similar controversies."

He said further that "there should be some definite agencies in government" for finding these facts and for making an "impartial findings" and went on to conclude that "compulsory jurisdiction over these two factors to compel them to submit to an inquiry of this sort is not only desirable but just."

Mr. Daugherty apparently sought to forecast enactment of legislation for the United States patterned after the discredited Lemieux act of Canada and the Industrial Disputes Act of Colorado.

Mr. Daugherty suggests that at first the investigation should be compulsory and acceptance of the findings voluntary, because he thinks our present study does not quite warrant compulsory awards. His intention is, however, that after further study and experience there should be binding awards.

United States cabinet members do not go about the country offering their mere personal opinions. They are understood as voicing the viewpoint and policy of the administration of which they are part.

Attorney General Daugherty's Bar Association speech forecasts legislation intended to compel workers to submit their aspirations and their demands for justice to compulsory investigation and award. Compulsion always is followed by punishment for violation of the compulsory order.

In principle compulsion is wrong. In practice it will not work.

In principle compulsion is autocratic. In practice it will not be accepted by free people.

Let the warning be sounded. This vicious proposal, so frequently exposed by the American Federation of Labor; so repeatedly denounced by the great lovers of freedom, so consistently discredited in practice, again threatens our people.

The men and women of labor must be on guard.

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The "experience of the past" does not show that industrial adjustment has been brought about by full and reliable publicity. In the first place, it does not show that there has been full and reliable publicity in our great industrial disputes. In the second place it does not show that the forces of greed have cared much for the barbs of truth, even when those barbs have been accurately hurled.

Even the United States government, of which Mr. Daugherty is an important part, having in its possession full information about West Virginia, gathered by costly investigations, is unable to act with effectiveness. And it has not even seen fit to publish the facts brought out by the most recent investigation.

Finally Mr. Daugherty wants laws "making such controversies impossible" when public sentiment shall have been sufficiently crystallized.

Finally, then, what it all comes down to is compulsion for the workers, involuntary servitude, slave labor.

Always the advocates of compulsion, the hand-maidens of autocracy, the guardians of greed, come to that. They want it made impossible for workers to protest against injustice. They want it impossible for workers to withhold service under conditions which they find unjust and intolerable.

But the American labor movement says to Mr. Daugherty and to all who come preaching compulsion, "We will not have it. We will maintain freedom at all costs. America must and will remain democratic."

Be on guard, be alert, be prepared to resist in every proper manner such encroachments upon your freedom and your democracy.

And always proclaim the great, fundamental truth that voluntary agreement, as practiced in organized American industry, is the only means to industrial peace and progress and the only means by which American freedom can be maintained.

The American way is to achieve willingly through co-operation as the result of agreement; not unwillingly in protest against autocratic edict and compulsion.

Labor wants facts and has made a long and difficult fight for what ever legitimately will facilitate publicity for facts. In announcing himself a recruit to this cause the Attorney General would have done better had he refused to ally himself with those who seek the perpetuation of industrial autocracy under the reactionary banner of compulsion by legislation, because in supporting the second proposition he has made his support of the first proposition fruitless.

## "STAMPEDE" STRIKES HARMFUL TO LABOR

Indianapolis.—"Unauthorized or stamped strikes," says the United Mine Workers' Journal, "cast discredit upon the union and prevent its progress. There are men within the ranks of the union who are cunningly contriving to destroy the labor organizations from the inside. These men must be made to conform to the discipline of the trade union movement by carrying out trade agreements." The "stamped" strike is a basis for providing evidence to legislative committees on which hang compulsory arbitration law "can't strike" legislation and other legal methods to enslave labor. The persons usually responsible for the know the purposes for which they are hired, and they are on the job to deliver the goods.

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