

# CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

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## MONTHLY TRADE REVIEW

With the winter almost at an end, business in the Dominion continues to show little change worthy of note. In British Columbia, the coast section is said to be comparatively active, the interior dull, and the lumber industry throughout the Province doing a good business. The Prairie Provinces have brought more goods this season than last in all lines; they are now getting to a time of year when new crop prospects will be the controlling factor in trade. Ontario finds manufacturing and wholesale business very uneven. Western Provinces better than in 1923, but the Eastern section of Canada hard to sell goods to. The same applies to Quebec. In the Maritime Provinces, more favorable conditions in the lumber, fishing and coal and steel industries have not yet exerted an influence sufficient to stimulate general business, which continues to be quiet.

In the East, collections in many cases are not being well met. From Quebec west, they can be considered fair, current bills being comparatively well paid in the Prairie Provinces. To sum up, buying throughout the country has been for immediate requirements only, and credits have been extended with some care, so that, although general sales are not large and business cannot be called prosperous, the situation has not the weak features of recent years.

### Maritime Provinces

Trade in general has been somewhat slow, due to the setback received earlier by the miners' strike in Cape Breton, and unfavorable lumbering weather. Both these conditions have improved, and the outlook for the spring months is encouraging. The coal miners have been back at work for some time, but have indicated that they are dissatisfied with the wage agreement which settled the strike, and it is hard to predict what the outcome will be. In the meantime, production is going on steadily and buying power is being given to the workers.

Due to the mild weather, logging operations were held up for some time, but later heavy falls of snow enabled operators to increase their activity, and the net result has been an exceptionally heavy cut in New Brunswick. The English market for lumber is dull and it is expected that most of the cut will be absorbed by the American market, where a good demand is in evidence. The outlook is promising. The market for farm products has been rather inactive during the past month, but potatoes are finding a ready market in Cuba at fair prices.

Recent advances in fish prices have not compensated for the low prices obtained last season, and unless there are indications of an exceptionally strong market in the future, it is probable that the fishing fleet will be reduced in number still further.

Collections in the Maritime Provinces continue to be only fairly well met.

### Quebec

Agricultural conditions are practically unchanged. The demand for hay has fallen off somewhat, but oats have been a little stronger. Business in the interior of the province is being hampered by the breaking up of the country roads.

Conditions in the manufacturing industry are uneven. Many plants are quiet. Orders have not yet come in freely enough to warrant a feeling of safety. This is believed to be a temporary condition and increased activity is looked for towards the opening of navigation.

Wholesale business is quiet. Retail buying is of the hand-to-mouth variety which characterizes the rest of the country, but in common with other sections of the Dominion, some optimism is noted regarding the spring trade.

Collections are reported to be fair, but some districts are making a poor showing.

### Ontario

Heavy falls of snow benefited the areas sown to fall wheat, but storms to some extent interfered with lumbering, and this season's cut is likely to be smaller than was expected. Feed is plentiful on the farms, and many farmers, instead of fattening cattle for sale, are turning their attention to milk cows, apparently seeing more profit in this end of the business.

Manufacturing industries as a whole are probably in a better position than they were a year ago, but very few are running at full capacity, and spring orders are slow in coming in. Dullness in the boot and shoe, woolen and agricultural implement industries is offset by increased activity in the automobile industry, and improvement in cotton lines, flour, paper and steel.

Wholesale business has been quiet for the past month, buying being for immediate needs only. With many shelves cleared by midwinter "sales," retail buying in many lines of goods may be expected to improve in the Spring.

Collections are still unsatisfactory, and, all through the Province, it is reported that renewals are the order in most cases.

### Prairie Provinces

In the West, there is evidence of brighter business prospects. Bank clearings in every case show an increase over last year and wholesale and retail business is better than it was in 1923. The past winter has seen heavy snowfalls. The surface ground has been in a favorable condition to absorb much-needed moisture, and with an early spring in prospect, farmers should soon be on the land.

The past season's wheat crop has placed farmers in an improved position, but the continued low price will have the effect of keeping before them the advisability of diversifying their products as opportunity offers. Greater interest is being shown in dairy stock, and this should result in a gradual increase of such fodder crops as clover, alfalfa and corn. The increase in duty from 30 cents to 42 cents a bushel on wheat going to the United States is viewed with animosity, since it is believed that the old rate was effective in keeping out all wheat except the quantity absolutely necessary to the United States milling industry.

Western flour mills are operating at full capacity, chiefly for export, and their grain requirements will substantially exceed those of last year. Collections in the city districts are improving, current bills being quite well met, but the amount of old outstandings being reduced is disappointing. Business failures show a marked decline over 1923.

### British Columbia

General business on the Pacific Coast may be said to have been fair in February, and to have improved during March. Collections are slow in the interior of the province, but are good near the coast. Bank clearings are increasing and retailers are optimistic regarding the spring trade.

The demand for lumber has been below expectations, and Japanese and Australian demand has fallen off somewhat during February and March, the Californian market also having been less active since the middle of February. Water borne trade with eastern ports provided the best business during February, with a promise of continuance through March. The United Kingdom continues to absorb a substantial amount of clear and long timbers. Recently, ocean freight rates to the Atlantic Coast via the Panama Canal, after being appreciably lower than rail rates, advanced, and

the course of shipments has a tendency to change. This increase has been an adverse factor in the lumber trade. While general reports on the lumber industry do not seem particularly optimistic, all the mills are busy and many of them are working two shifts.

Small catches of halibut, due to bad weather, have not given the fishermen much profit, in spite of steady prices. The herring catch has been satisfactory and the salmon market, with the exception of Sooke, has improved, although a substantial part of the 1923 pack remains unsold.

### What the Workers Want

From the Workers' Point of View

(From The Daily Herald)

What the workers want, not in Britain only, but in all the countries of the world, may be summed up in two words—the same two words which the French use to express their demands. They want Reparations and Security.

The suffering and loss inflicted upon the inhabitants of the districts devastated by war did not approach in intensity those which the workers of this country have borne with marvelous patience during the past three years. If it is right that the former should be compensated, the latter can prove a far stronger claim.

Mr. Fred Bramley did well to remind the audience which listened to his address at the Cavendish Club last night of the Capital Levy imposed on the workers in 1921. They were induced, by promises that "better trade would follow reduced costs" to consent to wage cuts amounting to one thousand million pounds a year. Thus in three years they have contributed out of their own pockets as much as the well-to-do will be asked to give out of their abundance by the other Capital Levy.

To a very great extent, far greater than is generally understood, this vast reduction in the purchasing power of the mass of the nation has contributed to swell the number of our unemployed. Mr. Baldwin, who, because he reeled out some observations, familiar to every type in economics, is hailed by his kept Press as the first scientific student of the problem, did not mention this cause of unemployment in his

analysis. Has he failed to notice what happened in the United States? Even without this pointer, it must be apparent to every sincere investigator that to reduce the purchases of a People by one thousand millions a year must necessarily have a depressing influence on industry and trade.

These are the damages for which the workers want Reparations. Further, they want Security. It is the fear of being turned adrift which has converted so many of them to Socialism. They see that the Capitalist System has broken down. It cannot provide for the needs of the nation. As a method of organizing production and employing all available labor it is ineffective and obsolete.

Those who are comfortably situated have only lately begun to understand this. The workers could not fail to discover it, since they were the first to bear the consequences of the breakdown. For a time they did not realize what had happened. Now, every day, more and more of them are realizing it, and are resolving that we must make our way towards a different system, one which will give them the security they are determined to have.

This is the result of education. In spite of the obstacles put in its way, it has enlightened many minds. That is why we must counteract by leisure and by opportunities for culture and recreation what Mr. Bramley calls "the terrible monotony of modern history."

Here again is an evil of which the consequences are as yet only dimly suspected, often among the workers themselves. In a reconstructed society it will be guarded against as carefully as today we guard against accidents and infectious diseases.

### AGITATORS WOULD SCRAP CANADIAN RAILWAYS

Canada is the world's greatest railroad owner. In the Canadian National, Canadian Northern, Grand Trunk and Grand Trunk Pacific railways. Canada has invested hundreds of millions of dollars.

If that investment is to pay, traffic must go on East and West.

If Canada's protective tariff is reduced, traffic will flow North and South instead of East and West.

And then Canada's magnificent railway system might just as well be scrapped.

**TAXES FROM CANADA'S CITIZENS PAID FOR CANADA'S RAILWAYS.**  
**PROTECT YOUR RAILWAYS BY PROTECTING YOUR TARIFF.**

### Will Protest the Sliding Scale

Building Trades Union to See Executive—Demand Fair Wages

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Montreal Locals, announces a wage rate for the season of eighty cents an hour. This is an advance of five cents over last season's rate. The International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Montreal Locals, also announce a wage rate of eighty cents. These prices have been submitted to the Builders' Exchange.

Protests against the low rates which are being paid to laborers in the east end of the city by certain contractors, were forthcoming from international union locals yesterday. "To my knowledge," J. O. Gagnon, business agent for the carpenters declared, "three or four contractors in the east end of the city are taking advantage of the labor situation to employ men at twenty cents an hour. This rate was offered to men to work on the repair of a school. They were asked to commence on Monday and the wage offered was twenty cents." Every building utility should have a fair wage clause in the contract, Mr. Gagnon said.

man working in the east end should work for ten cents an hour less than a man working in the west end."

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### Tom Moore Sends Word to Meet

100 Delegates Here at Ont. Section, Canadian Labor Party

Hamilton, Ont.—Delegates from all over Ontario assembled at the Labor Temple this morning for the opening of the fifth annual convention of the Ontario section of the Canadian Labor Party. When Miss Mary MacNab, member of the Executive Council for Hamilton and district, opened the convention, there were about 100 delegates seated.

Among those present were Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, M.P. for Centre Winnipeg; Mr. W. C. Good, M.P. for Brant County; Ald. Frank MacKay, London, Ont.; Mr. Jack MacDonald, Toronto, president of the Workers' Party; Mr. J. L. Counsell, K.C., city, representing the Fabian Society.

The following ladies were among the delegates: Mrs. L. McGarragh, Toronto, executive member; Mrs. John MacDonald, Toronto, Women's Labor League; Mrs. W. Burnard, London; Mrs. Rose Hodgson, Dundas; Mrs. L. M. Davenport, president of the East Hamilton Labor party; Mrs. Woods, East Hamilton; Miss Mary MacNab, Mrs. Alex Gilmore, London; Mrs. George Eddy, London; Mrs. E. Scharf, Toronto, and Mrs. A. Grandahl, Toronto.

### Name Committees

The various committees were as follows:

Resolutions—Rev. A. E. Smith, Toronto, convener; Ald. Frank MacKay, London; Arthur Mould, London; Ald. Sam Lawrence, city; Mrs. L. M. Davenport, city; Mrs. Florence Custance, Toronto; Mr. Joseph Corlett, London.

Credentials—Mr. John Young, Toronto; Mr. Walter Swift, Toronto, and Ald. John Colbert, London.

Audit—Mr. R. Riley, city; Mr. Bert Purrey, city, and Mr. R. H. Cox, Toronto.

### Tom Moore Can't Come

Tom Moore, resident of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, communicated his regrets at being unable to attend the convention. In his letter Mr. Moore mentioned that he was in Fredericton, N.B., attending a convention of the New Brunswick State Federation of Labor, which necessitated his presence at a conference with the Provincial Government. President Moore stated that he hoped that a thorough understanding and closer cooperation between the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and the Canadian Labor party would result from the Hamilton convention.

Miss Mary MacNab, in an appropriate address, extended a hearty welcome to the delegates. After saying that she hoped the spirit of the late Allan Stodholme would descend upon the convention, the speaker asked that the delegates would observe good fellowship and brotherhood.

### Greeted by Ald. Atchison

Ald. Charles I. Atchison, in behalf of the City Council, expressed the hope that the delegates' deliberations would be fruitful and profitable to the Ontario Labor movement.

President Humphrey S. Mitchell extended fraternal greetings from the Trades and Labor Council. Ald. Sam Lawrence and Mr. J. Roberts, president of the Labor Temple Association, also bade the delegates welcome, and wished the convention every success. "Be on the job and give the Labor movement the best you have in you, and fight for the united front against capitalism," declared Ald. Lawrence.

### Tells of Body's History

Prior to declaring the convention duly opened, President Harry Kirwin gave an interesting sketch of the Ontario section of the C. L. P. since its inception in 1918 in Toronto. "Inside the folds of the C. L. P.," said Mr. Kirwin, "we have built a record of our biggest fights will be to educate the masses of thought and opinion." Ontario being the banner industrial Province, emphasized the speaker, should take the lead in building up the political labor movement in Canada, which movement at present was a vehicle suitable to take care of all making tremendous strides. "One can take the trades unionists to interest themselves in political action in order that we may be able to build up a successful Labor party," said President Kirwin.

### Urges Closest Bond

Addressing the convention, Mr. W. C. Good, M.P. for Brant County, said there was a section of the farm-

### Canada a Prosperous Country

Canada—the wonder nation of the world—healthful, happy and prosperous, has just passed from the best year in its history to a new one which holds more in store for this great country even than its predecessor. Those who have an insight on the economic conditions of Canada, one year ago predicted that 1923 would shatter all past records for prosperity both in the agricultural and industrial world. This prophecy became a reality, even beyond the fondest hopes of those "prophets." Now these men predict an even greater prosperity for the farmer for the business man, for the manufacturer, for everybody, in 1924 than ever before. The prediction will become a truism, there is no doubt.

In Ontario, Quebec, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island agriculture, manufacturing, forestry, mining, construction, fishing and trapping, the primary industries of Canada, have never known a greater growth. Pessimists, of whom there are many in Canada, will challenge this statement but they cannot challenge government figures, government reports. Figures do not lie.

During the year, just passed, Canada exported alone: Lumber, \$82,000,000; Paper, \$79,600,000; Wheat Flour, \$60,000,000; Wood pulp, \$41,000,000; Animals and Meats, \$39,500,000; Fish, \$27,500,000. These figures were gathered from various government reports, and leading periodicals. They are authentic. Totalling the figures for just the primary exports of Canada, it is found that \$332,600,000 were paid into this country for those products which were shipped to other countries. In other words that amount, the largest in history, is in the hands of Canada's farmers, her miners, her fishermen and all others who were in some way responsible for producing the exported goods.

Much of this amount has gone back into businesses so that 1924 will be more prosperous than 1923. The money that was made during 1923 in Canada will aid in making 1924 more prosperous and the 1924 earnings will go on to make 1925 a banner year. Canada's great prosperity can only be followed by even greater prosperity in each succeeding year.

A farmer may argue his wheat crop has been poor—and possibly it has. It may have been a mighty poor year for certain individuals but listen to this: "Canada's wheat export alone for the 12 months, ending September 30, 1923, amounted to 225,746,861 bushels, valued at \$259,445,816, while for the same period in 1922 they were 160,637,898 bushels, valued at \$194,577,125." More than a 60 million bushel increase.

The foregoing figures show that while the individual farmer, here and there, may have had a poor wheat crop, the total wheat crop of Canada was the largest in history.

"Evidence given before the United States tariff commission shows American railway rates would carry a bushel of wheat 35 miles for one cent, while under the Canadian rate one bushel of wheat can be carried 66 miles for one cent. Thus Canadian producers save 44 per cent. over the American producer."

"Business in all mining camps in the north is booming." "Coal, which may be abandoned, is again full to capacity."

In both exports and imports the 1923 figures are considerably greater than those of 1922. The year's total trade is approximately \$28,000,000 ahead of 1922.

Pessimists, of which there are many in the Dominion, scoff when told of Canada's prosperity. Despite the pessimistic outlook of those who are not acquainted with the facts Canada will forge ahead by leaps and bounds, every indication shows. The pessimistic age through which we have passed will be replaced by the period of optimism this year. There can be no quibbling over facts and figures. They prove, beyond all doubt, that Canada is prosperous and that Canada's prosperity and growth is just in its infancy.

"Canadian commercial insolvencies (business failures) were less numerous during the year just passed, and smaller losses were involved than in the preceding year." Another indication of prosperity.

About 250,000 horsepower was added to Canada's development during 1923. Other projects planned or under construction will add 750,000 more.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics report shows that employment was more extensive in 1923 throughout the nation than in the two previous years.

A slight let-up during the first days of January was followed by an increase in jobs at the latter part of that month. Men will be steadily in demand in all industries until late in the year, if present conditions are any criterion.

What more convincing evidence could be produced that Canada and Canadians are prosperous? If anyone complains to you of the alleged great industrial depression that is sweeping Canada or the thousands of failures don't let them continue. Acquaint yourself with the facts. They prove prosperity.

Make it your business to "sell Canada" to Canadians. Farmers, business men and others have not had a "tough" year of it as the pessimistic propagandists would have you believe. The new year is already beginning its journey. You prosper with prosperous Canada.

ers desirous of divorcing the political movement from the industrial movement. "I am taking distinct issue with that group," said Mr. Good. "I have had an uphill fight to keep that view to the front among the farmers' organizations. I have been encouraged by what I have heard here (the convention) that there should be the closest bond between the industrial and political movement."

J. S. Woodsworth, M.P., Speaks  
"The political movement must be attached and based on the industrial movement," said Mr. J. S. Woodsworth, M.P. for Centre Winnipeg, who followed Mr. Good. The speaker thought that what must be avoided in Canada with the political labor movement was the identification of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. "We must safeguard the movement by recognizing the exact situation as it prevails," he added. Applause followed when Mr. Woodsworth said the fullest affiliation with all industrial organizations was required.

In passing the speaker mentioned that the Progressive Party at Ottawa was by no means a unit. "Some of the Progressive members are fundamentally close to the Labor movement," he said. "Although Labor has only two representatives at Ottawa, by virtue of the support we get, we are stronger than is imagined."

### LABOR PARTY REPORT

Dundas, Ont.—At the semi-monthly meeting, Friday, March 14th, of the local Labor Party, the members chosen as delegates to the Ontario section of the Canadian Labor Party Convention, which takes place in Hamilton, March 22nd and 23rd, were: Mrs. Rose Hodgson, president; Mr. Leslie Coldrey, secretary-treasurer; and Mr. Geo. Hodgson. Other members of the Party will likely represent their respective trade union organizations on this occasion, and Dundas will no doubt have a good showing of delegates at the convention. Mrs. Hodgson is a member of the Ontario Executive and will attend a special meeting of that body on Friday afternoon in Hamilton to prepare for the convention. After the Saturday afternoon session the Hamilton Labor members will entertain the delegates at a banquet, and on Sunday a mass meeting will be held at the Labor Temple, where prominent labor speakers will be heard.