

# CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

A National, Sane Labor Paper

True Confidence and Understanding Between Employer and Employee Absolutely Necessary to Industrial Peace.

VOL. VII. \$1.00 Per Year. National and Rational OTTAWA, ONT., MONDAY, JUNE 15th, 1925. Live News and Views Single Copies 5c. No. 35.

## STATE SOCIALISM A DANGEROUS THEORY

### Economically Unsound—Heavy Tax Burden and Reactionary in Labor Relations

By Anti Statism

It is a wonderful tribute to the influence the policy of State Socialism has upon the public mind in Canada when one considers the various classes from whom the cry of further "Public Ownership" goes up.

The argument that the State can best conduct enterprises of a nature termed "Public Utilities" is an old and very fallacious one. With the unthinking public the idea seems to be thoroughly impressed that the State can carry out certain works in a cheaper and better manner than the private individual can do.

It is obvious to every thoughtful man that the State must pay when taking over any enterprise and that the manner in which it can finance public utilities is by raising loans upon which it must pay interest and of which the citizen taxpayer must bear the burden.

A little reflection will convince any average citizen that he does not save any money by the State taking over the operation of a public utility. A little further clear thinking will enable him to see that State ownership may cost him more than private ownership. Private ownership at present takes all the risks attendant upon any venture, but if the State wishes to embark upon any enterprise, and through the progress of industrial science the particular enterprise becomes obsolete then the citizen taxpayer must foot the bill. For example, twenty years ago, if any municipality had conceived the idea of municipalizing the old carriage hack or car then the taxpayers of the present day, would have been ruefully contemplating the modern taxicab. The outstanding advocates of State Socialism in Canada, point to the Ontario Hydro Electric Power Commission as being a successful confirmation of their claims. From the labor viewpoint, this is very doubtful and before labor gives its endorsement to any scheme of State Socialism it must carefully consider what will be the effects to the workers.

Now if there is any one thing in which the Hydro-Electric Commission of Ontario has failed start from any general economic or political aspects. It is in its attitude to the employes under it. In the evidence before the Gregory Commission in Ontario of March 21, 1922, there is calmly recorded by the Chief Operating Superintendent of the Hydro Electric Power Commission, the attitude in general adopted to the workers. One thing the workers of Canada have fought for and believed in, is shorter hours as a means of getting more leisure. According to Mr. Don Carlos, the attitude of the Ontario Hydro is that the longer the employes work, the better for them because it keeps them out of mischief. This is a direct slap in the face to organized labor, with its high ideals and principles and it is a proof of the peculiar mental inconsistency of men that in spite of this some portions of the Labor movement still support the Ontario Hydro Electric Commission.

Some critics may say, it is so, why is the Hydro seemingly successful. There is a reason for its apparent success and it is because that the Hydro has always been conducted upon Teutonic philosophical lines. Events have shown us that one thing the Teutons possess is a genius for organization based on State authority, with the result that they are successful for a time in some lines and it is due to no more coincidence but a strict adherence to this policy that the Ontario Hydro has apparently scored a success. This attitude of course is antagonistic to the fundamental principles of democracy and it would be imagined that in a democratic country such as Canada, this could easily be perceived. The consequences that flow from this theory necessarily breed trampling down of democratic institutions, hence it is no wonder that often the cry has gone up from representatives of Ontario municipalities and the labor movement that the Ontario Hydro Electric Commission was autocratic in policy. State Socialism is not something new but an old, old theory and its effects can be seen in the history of ancient Peru where it was in vogue for several centuries with all the adulation for State control and authority that its modern advocates love with the result that all initiative and enterprise was stifled and when the virile Spaniards came to Peru they found the population an easy conquest.

### Church Building Is Booming

Olympia, Wash.—No fewer than forty-four large church buildings are in course of construction in this state. Architects busily preparing plans for many more say it is the greatest building year for religious societies. Practically every hamlet, village, town and city has one, or more houses of worship under way.

### How U.S. Combats Trade Unionism

"Yellow-dog" contracts, in which the employe must sign a contract that he will not join a trade union while he is in the employ of the company, or even when he has left it, are becoming increasingly popular among American employes. Its dangers are intensified when there is close local amalgamation among employes—and this also is steadily strengthening in the States. Thus, in Toledo, all the electrical contractors have combined to enforce yellow-dog contracts. The classical instance is, however, Marion, Ohio, which is known as the "American Plan City." The employes of Marion have a 100 per cent organization; merchants, banks, newspapers are all members of it. They have a central office, which keeps a card index of every male and female employe, with their wage rate and "the kind of worker they are." As soon as an employe takes on a new hand, his record is sent to the Central Office. These wage earners are not permitted to leave one employer and secure employment in another undertaking in the same city without the written consent of the first employer. A bill is at present before the Senate Legislature to abolish "yellow dog" contracts, which is being strongly supported by the State Federation of Labor.

### Ask That Wages Have the Priority

Kitchener, Ont.—At the annual meeting of the Ontario Labor Educational Association held here, the following officers were elected: V. Sullivan, Hamilton, president; vice-president, W. Vasey, Toronto; J. Marks, Toronto, secretary-treasurer; executive, E. J. Followee, Belleville. L. O'Connell, Toronto; J. Marsh, Niagara Falls; N. R. Attey, St. Catharines, H. S. Mitchell, Hamilton; W. Powell, Brantford; P. Ackerknecht, Kitchener; W. Steles, St. Thomas; Wm. Guy, Guelph; J. P. Hayden, Ottawa; D. Everett, Waterloo, and E. Angliss, London. London was chosen for the next annual meeting.

A motion was passed calling upon Premier Ferguson to correct the alleged intolerable conditions being enforced by the contractors on the new Government building in Toronto, as was one asking the Ontario Government to amend the Mechanic Liens Act so that wages would have priority over everything.

The Government will also be asked to enlarge the Ontario Mothers Allowance Act to include the mother of one child, to reduce the desertion period to two years, and to relax the restrictions regulating cash and property assets.

The Association turned down a motion to affiliate with the Workers' Educational Association of Canada.

## British Labor's Emigration Policy

By A. MacInloch, Author of "Woodworking Tools and Machinery," "Woodworking Machinery and Horsepower" Member of Amalgamated Woodworkers' Union, Great Britain

(Staff Correspondent to the "Canadian Labor Press" in Great Britain)

Glasgow, May 27.—It is evident from recent public statements here that the British Labor movement insofar as its official leaders and rank and file are concerned, has considerably modified previous views toward emigration to Canada.

J. H. Thomas, Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, who is being widely spoken of as the next Premier in a Labor Government, issued a public statement recently concerning the settlement and development of the Empire in which he said "that Canada must have more people and that the empty lands of the Dominions are a danger to the Empire." Mr. Thomas pointed out that while the British Treasury has power to spend fifteen million dollars annually for emigration, not more than two and a half millions has been spent in any one year. According to Mr. Thomas, the people of the Dominions must get together and find means of providing money in conjunction with the British Government, if the development and settlement of the Empire is to progress. Mr. Thomas' viewpoint can be heard a good deal amongst the working class of Britain, but tremendous damage is being done, to Canada by the misleading and false statements published in the daily and weekly newspapers in Britain. Here is a recent letter in the "Glasgow Evening Times" supposedly from a tradesman who has been in Ontario for a year and a half.

"The conditions prevailing in Canada at present are worse than awful—they will not give you a start at a machine unless you have papers to prove that you worked one in Canada, as they have no use for Old Country papers—if you get a job on the railway gang the wages are twenty-five cents an hour, for two months"—there was not one farm job to be had.

This is a fair sample of the stuff published in some of the British newspapers and to Canadians, knowing scarcity of farm labor and the real rates of wages paid, also the avidity with which Canadian employers will engage British tradesmen because of their skill, it must sound amusing. There seems to be at present a continual campaign against Canada in the British Press though by whom it is engineered it is very difficult to find out. Conditions here have not changed much since my last article. Unemployment is still over the million mark and it remains to be seen whether the effects of the new budget introduced by Churchill will be any better than those of previous years and whether the proposed insurance system will be any improvement upon the dole.

### Construction in Gary at a Standstill

Gary, Ind.—Building construction in this city is at a standstill as a result of the stand of fifty members of the Gary Building Contractors' Association in supporting the master plumbers in the refusal of an increase of \$1 a day to the plumbers. Between 3,000 and 4,000 members of the building trades are idle. Members of the contractors' association then got behind the master plumbers, with the result that all building operations were halted. Both sides threaten to stand their ground until the other recedes.

### Distributed \$450,283

Benefits From Workmen's Compensation Board During May

A total of \$450,283 is given by the Workmen's Compensation Board as its award to injured workmen and their dependents during the month of May. Of this sum \$373,767 was for compensation and \$76,516 for medical aid.

Accidents during the month showed an increase over the previous month, there being 4,623 in May, as compared with 4,342 in April. Fatalities numbered 35 in May as compared with 28 in April.

## Canada's Immigration Policy

### CANADIAN LABOR LEADERS OF BRITISH BIRTH INCONSISTENT IN OPPOSITION TO IMMIGRATION

Almost daily cables from British correspondents of Canadian papers point to the fact that emigration from Britain to Canada is likely to be smaller this year than for several years. It is alleged that the wearisome red tape delays on the part of the Canadian Government to settlement schemes in Canada cause many of these who are thinking of migrating, to change their minds and remain in Britain. It is further alleged that severe restrictions amounting almost to a complete ban on European emigration are placed upon intending emigrants from Europe by the Canadian Government. It is true and there seems no reason to doubt it, then the responsibility upon the Canadian Government. One would imagine, that knowing the pressing need of greater population in order that the sibility for retarding the welfare and prosperity of the Dominion

We need more immigrants—we need more capital—we need more industries—we need more farmers, and we can only get them if the Canadian Government puts in force a wiser immigration policy than that at present in existence. Canada has received so many slams in Great Britain, not from the working class, but from the investing and employing classes due to the disastrous policy followed by Canada in latter years so far as attracting capital and workers is concerned and the only way in which the matter can be remedied is by a complete reversal of the present policy. It is up to the Canadian Government to reverse its policy upon this matter. WHAT IS THE GOVERNMENT GOING TO DO?

The "Canadian Labor Press" has pointed out before that Canada must have greater population, that the tax burden per capita must be reduced; therefore we feel that the immigration policy of the present government in Canada is nothing short of disastrous and will certainly be remembered to the Government's disadvantage by the people of Canada in the years to come.

If it is admitted that the Government may find statements from a few labor leaders in support of their immigration policy such expressions of opinion are very far from being the opinion of the majority of the workers in Canada and sound somewhat inconsistent when the cases of these labor leaders are considered. In almost every case the birth place of those who give expression to opinions opposing further immigration is in the British Isles and one may conceivably wonder what would have happened to the Labor movement of Canada if restrictions had been placed upon immigration during the years these labor leaders emigrated to the Dominion. It is certain that they would probably have still been in Great Britain and the Canadian Labor movement would not now be receiving the benefit of the "vast" wisdom of which they are the repositories and which they feel is absolutely necessary for the salvation of Canadian Labor. Whilst they may feel their wisdom necessary, the "Canadian Labor Press" knows that the great majority of Canadian workers are dubious as to its value and take no pains to conceal that insofar as they are concerned, they refuse to believe in an anti-immigration policy.

In the steel industry a comprehensive agreement between the two national groups is being delayed by the fact that whereas the French steel capitalists are organized in one body—the famous Comite des Forges—the Germans are divided among a number of rival groups and syndicates.

### Green Fights Waste to Save Wages

New York.—Pres. William Green, A. F. of L. talking on elimination of industrial waste to the National Civic Federation, said:

"Labor is interested in the successful management of industry because it reasons that with the introduction of economy processes, in the development of efficiency and increased production, the cost of manufacturing and production can be reduced without lowering the standard of the workers or reducing wages."

Speaking of the causes of industrial controversies Green declared that if employers would accept trade unionism as an essential part of industry strikes for organization would be eliminated. Green is not a member of the Civic Federation, the United Mine Workers' Union, of which Green has been an officer, forbids membership in the Civic Federation to its officials.

### Shopmen Endorse Co-operative Plan

Stratford, Ont.—At a largely attended meeting of the shopmen, under the local system federation, which includes the shopcraft of the C. N. R. the co-operative plan of operation was heartily endorsed. The meeting was addressed by Capt. O. S. Byers, Jr., consulting engineer of the railway employes department of the American Federation of Labor and by J. Corbett of London, secretary of the system Federation. They explained the B. and O. system and gave a very good idea of how the plan would work out on the C. N. R. lines.

At the conclusion of the address the meeting went on record as thoroughly approving of the co-operative plan of railroading.

### Catholic Unions and Intern'l. Office

The International Federation of Catholic Trade Unions recently held a General Council meeting at Baden-Baden. This meeting passed a resolution concerning the relations of the Catholic Trade Union Movement to the International Labor Organization. It was pointed out in this resolution that it is necessary to safeguard the interests of minorities in the various countries, and that the International Catholic Trade Union Movement has always supported the work of the I. L. C. and it urges very strongly that the Catholic Trade Union Movement shall be given seats on the Governing body, in the Commissions and on the Office staff.

It should be noted that the International Labor Organization has to our certain knowledge, always recognized and safeguarded the rights of minorities. With regard to the demand for representation, it will be remembered that part XIII of the Peace Treaty expressly lays down that in addition to representatives of the Governments, Labor and employe-international Labor Organization, byers must be represented in the I. L. C. "the most representative organizations of the workers and employers." So that, if there is no representative of the Catholic trade unions in the Governing Body, it is because they do not institute "the most representative organizations."

### ASK FOR MADE-IN-CANADA GOODS

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Every time you pass a Made-in-Canada Dollar over the counter—ask for Made-in-Canada goods!

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The Made-in-Canada idea is good for everybody; it is a stimulant for Canadian raw materials, Canadian labor and Canadian capital. All sections of the Canadian working world reap the benefit; it keeps all the workers busy in the various manufacturing industries; the earnings of the industrial workers buy the produce of the workers on the land. It is good for all classes. It banishes or greatly reduces the unemployment problem.

Insist on Made-in-Canada products and you will bar out the competing wares of cheap, sweated, slavish labor of Europe and Asia. Low wages make low ideals. Union labor has been for years and is battling for high ideals. High ideals come only where the workers are paid and treated in a highly civilized manner.

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