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## EDMONTON FREE PRESS

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### CAMOUFLAGE WON'T SAVE THE WRECK

Sir Robert Borden's ability to get into a political jam is only excelled by his ability to get "out from under" at the psychological moment. A man of ordinary intelligence cannot be actively engaged in politics without having acquired some knowledge of what is likely to transpire in the political life of a country under given circumstances. And no prophetic vision is required to learn that the present government is the most unpopular Canada has ever experienced. It does not require the skill of the professional politician to divine what will happen to the present administration when it goes to the country. Sir Robert has no desire to be in at the finish.

It is thought to save something from the coming wreck by the application of an art practised in the war, viz., camouflage. And so with a new leader, a new name and a new platform, the old guard will endeavor to carry on. But as the Journal very wisely remarked in Saturday's paper: "Canada itself is not the same country that it was six years ago. Its problems are different, and the temper of its people is different; and that, after all, is sufficient reason for the re-making of its politics." But camouflage will not do, and the Journal is wasting expensive white paper and ink in attempting to make the Canadian people of today believe that a fresh coat of red, white and blue paint is going to make any real change in a discredited political combination.

The "National Liberal and Conservative Party" has nothing new to offer. It is the same combination that has since its inception played fast and loose with the liberties and desires of the people. Under its maladministration free speech and free press has become an unknown quantity. No degree of outward disguise is likely to deceive Canadians at the next election. As the Journal remarked, "the temper of the people is different" and the government they will next elect is likely to be different too.

### MANITOBA—GROUP GOVERNMENT—COMPROMISE

The final results in the Manitoba elections show that twenty-one Liberals, eleven Labor men, nine Farmers, Eight Conservatives and four so-called independents are elected to the legislature. Deferred elections in two seats will make up the fifty-five members composing the House.

It will be instantly recognized that no one party can command a working majority in the new legislature, and some kind of group government must necessarily come into being. What will be its nature or composition is subject only to conjecture. But why not an executive Council elected in the same manner that the Winnipeg members were chosen, i.e., by proportional representation? The political interests of the people who compose the population of Manitoba are varied, as the result of the election indicates. It would seem, then, that the administration of the province should represent varied interests. In the new legislature compromise will be necessary. It is conceivable, therefore, that a basis of satisfactory compromise could more easily be arrived at if the executive council was representative of all the groups in the legislature.

And why should there not be compromise in the government of a province or nation? It cannot be denied that different groups of people have different interests. It is difficult to understand, then, why any one or two groups should control the government, while others have no power other than that of criticism. And yet it is impossible to conceive of every group having all its own way. Compromise would therefore seem to be necessary as long as different group interests exist. But in every walk of life compromise does take place and it would be impossible under existing conditions to conduct our economic affairs otherwise. As between individuals or nations compromise has ever been necessary. Why then should we fear necessary compromise in the government of our provinces or our country?

The above is of course based on conditions that now exist. It may be that some day the necessity for compromise will be eliminated, but it would seem that a common ground may only be found by the full political representation of all the groups that now go to make up the social and economic structure of society.

### HOW ABOUT THE MEN IN JAIL?

Three of the men elected to the Manitoba legislature last week are serving prison sentences for "seditious conspiracy," which is presumed to mean conspiracy against "constituted authority." Now what is "constituted authority"? The government, we say. And who is the government? The representatives of the people. And so in reality seditious conspiracy is conspiracy against the people.

But suppose the people approve of the persons who have, according to the law, been guilty of conspiracy against them—what, then? Are the people who show their approval of such men also guilty of "seditious conspiracy"? Or does the approval of the people automatically make the convicted men not guilty? This is a puzzle we'll have to submit to the Hon. "Artful" Meighen.

The fact remains that the people of Winnipeg have chosen three political prisoners as their representatives in the legislature. One other successful candidate had stood trial for seditious utterances. The question that naturally arises is: What is the government going to do about it? If the men are kept in prison they cannot represent the people in the legislature. It would appear, then, that if the members are not released that the government is guilty of "conspiracy" against the people of Winnipeg. And if the elected men are released, and it is inconceivable that they should not be, it surely would not be just or reasonable to keep the other men in prison, they having been convicted on the same charges.

### PARADING UNDER FALSE COLORS

The Free Press has been asked why we persistently oppose the so-called One Big Union. It is a fair question, and one that we have no desire to avoid answering. We oppose the O.B.U. because it is founded upon false pretences. It claims to be an organization functioning for the benefit of the workers and has no record of accomplishment to substantiate its claim.

We are willing to take Labor papers as evidence. Glance over any paper controlled by the international movement and the reader sees multiplied instances where the workers have gained more wages or better conditions through their international unions. But a careful reading of an O.B.U. paper will fail to reveal anything of the kind. The columns of such papers are used largely to slander and vilify individuals who are really accomplishing something for the work-people of Canada. The Free Press will not be found attacking individuals. But it will be found opposing and condemning any force that is operating under false colors. We are only interested in organization of the workers that will benefit the working class. Any organization that is pretending to do that, and yet can show no evidence of anything but plans to disrupt and disorganize, will continue to receive opposition from this paper and the body it represents.

### THE PUBLIC AND ITS RIGHTS

The platform of the Democratic Party is somewhat less ambiguous in its dealing with the relations between Capital and Labor, than that of the Republicans. The declaration of the Democrats is as follows:

"Labor and capital are both entitled to adequate compensation, and each has the right of organization, collective bargaining and speaking through representatives of their own selection, but neither class should take action which jeopardizes the public welfare."

While Mr. Gompers may not doubt be pleased about the party's stand on collective bargaining, there may be some question in his mind as to what the politicians mean when they say: "Neither class should take action which jeopardizes the public welfare." We presume that strikes jeopardize the public welfare, and the "action" in a strike is on the part of the workers. A strike, however, in its final analysis is usually the result, not of action, but of inaction, or the failure of an employer to meet the reasonable demands of his work-people.

We hear considerable about the protection of the public's "rights." But the public has no right to demand that any part of the people should be made to suffer in order that others might not be inconvenienced. If the public has "rights" it also has responsibilities and the only way in which strikes and resultant inconvenience can be eliminated is to remove the cause of strikes. No mandatory order to the workers forbidding them to strike will solve the question. As long as there are members of the employing class who deny to their work-people the right of a living wage and the time for proper leisure, there will be protests on the part of the toilers that no law

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### 100 Pairs. Wo's Oxfords, Boots & Pumps

This lot consists of a quantity of odd lines and sizes from our regular stock. The season's newest styles are included. Whether you prefer Oxfords, Pumps or Boots, the chances are we can fit you. In black, brown and white; 100 pairs to be closed out tomorrow morning. Regular values to \$16.50. July Clearance Sale at

**\$8.85**

### Table of Children's Footwear to be cleared

We've loaded a table with a quantity of odd lines in Footwear for children. Included are Running Shoes, Canvas Slippers, Sandals and Boots. A good assortment of sizes. Regular values to \$3.50. Sale Price at

**\$1.69**

## The Hudson's Bay Company

will be able to prevent. If the "public" does not wish to be inconvenienced by strikes, it must guarantee to the workers the things for which they strike. And invariably these are just rights that are denied by the employing class of society. Does any person know of a fight for justice or freedom wherein the "public" has not been inconvenienced?

### EDITOR'S NOTES

Why didn't they call it the "National Liberal, Conservative, Farmer, Labor and miscellaneous party"?

The workers are entitled to the opportunity for education. We must continue to agitate for a wider use of the country's educational institutions.

Judging by press reports of the proceedings, we would advise Manager Stark to make a strong bid for one of the U.S. party conventions as a midway attraction in 1924.

Says the Halifax Citizen: Lenin's comment and opinions on "Democracy" are certainly not reassuring to say the least, and bring to mind the old adage that "autocracy at best is very little different from autocracy at its worst."

If there should be a federal election this fall, wouldn't it be the proper thing for every trade unionist in this city to be a member of the Labor Party? Think it over, because the party will nominate the Labor candidate and conduct the Labor campaign.

Readers of the Free Press should feel free to make use of its columns. Contributions on any subject of interest to the workers are always welcome. The only kind of contribution we refuse are those containing indefinite charges against, or attacks upon, individuals.

Following the success of Walter Smitten and the local bricklayers in securing a first class agreement in this city, including a wage of \$1.25 per hour, the B.C. organ of the O.B.U. carries a most bitter attack upon Mr. Smitten. All of which is quite characteristic.

### CIVIL SERVANTS WILL SOON RECEIVE BACK PAY CHEQUES

Ottawa.—Back pay cheques for 15 months will be paid to civil servants in the next two weeks. The total amount, according to an announcement in the house of commons, will be about \$4,000,000, that being the estimated cost of ante-dating the civil service classifications.

The individual amounts paid will be the difference between a civil servant's former salary and that awarded him by the classification schedules.

It is possible that two cheques will be issued for each person, one covering the year from April 1, 1919 to April 1, 1920, and the other for April May and June, 1920.

About 45,000 cheques will be sent out from the auditor-general's department.

New York longshoremen have decided not to call out the deep sea longshoremen in sympathy with the coastwise men but the deep sea men have been warned to be on their guard against handling coastwise goods and the union will raise \$500,000 to break the Merchants Association drive against unionism.

### NORRIS GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE UNTIL NEXT SESSION

The Winnipeg Evening Free Press says:

"It was stated at the parliament building Tuesday that unofficial conversations between the lieutenant-governor and the provincial cabinet ministers, indicated clearly that Sir James Alkins would not grant another dissolution of the house unless it was rendered necessary by a government defeat or resignation.

"Opinions expressed by members of the cabinet," stated the Free Press, "indicate that the government has decided, at least temporarily, to continue to administer the affairs of the province until the next session when the real strength or weakness of the party can be determined."

The British Co-operative movement played an important part in the railway strike of last September by making available locally at several thousand centres sufficient cash to pay immediately the half million pounds of strike pay that was required and by honoring food drafts of the unions when local shopkeepers refused them.

### DULUTH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT STARTS CAMPAIGN

The trade union movement has started an organizing campaign, which includes the distribution of much literature, written in the following snappy style:

"No man or woman who works for a wage or salary can afford to go it alone these days. You can't get anywhere as an individual. You are simply lost in the great whirl of big things. We are living in an age of organization, and the worker who does not belong to a trade union is out of step with the times.

"Profiteering, abnormally high prices and other evils of which we complain, are the direct or indirect result of organization and combination among those who control the things you must buy to live and thrive.

"Without organization the wages of workers are subject to rise and fall according to the condition of the so-called labor market, and without regard to the cost of living. Organized labor gives stability to wages and working conditions.

"Think this over. Join a union. If

### THOUGHT CANADIAN SOLDIERS SULLEN AND DISSATISFIED

Milwaukee.—"I am afraid I must say that the recent A.F. of L. convention in Montreal accomplished little for labor. At least that was my view of it, and for this reason I believe there is a crucial time confronting organized labor all over America that very few realize," said Frank J. Weber, Trades' Council delegate, upon his return to this city.

I am convinced from all I have been able to observe, that the capitalists are preparing for a concerted attack on national and international trade unions as soon as the newly elected congress comes in. The trouble is that very few labor men suspect what is coming, and this fact was shown in the convention."

Weber brought back some interesting facts about the returned Canadian soldiers. He represented them as sullen and dissatisfied. While they fought for democracy they intimate that they have lost a lot of the democracy they already had in Canada.

There is no union of your trade or calling in this vicinity, why not start one?"

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