

In the World of Labor

WHAT THE WHITNEY GOVERNMENT AND BREWSTER HAS DONE FOR WORKINGMEN

Has the Whitney Government and W. S. Brewster done anything to organized labor and the general betterment of all classes, both in our city and county? The answer is that they most assuredly have. To cite a few instances of what has been done to benefit this Riding and the working classes, it will be only necessary to say that among other things secured were:

A free Employment Bureau in the City of Brantford.
Two large additions to the School for the Blind, and thereby giving work to our citizens.

A bathery for bass and trout in the vicinity of the Village of Mount Pleasant, and which is generally conceded by experts to-day to be without a rival on the continent.

Then look at the bills put through the Legislature by Mr. W. S. Brewster, among which might be mentioned the Brantford Hospital Bill, under which ORGANIZED LABOR WAS FOR THE FIRST TIME given a representative on the Board.

Then there is the Bill, which in spite of strenuous opposition from the Gas Trust, as they might be called, which will compel the Brantford Gas Company as well as other kindred interests, to give pure gas to consumers, or else make way for some other company who would be willing to give the consumer a satisfactory service, and not one that is both dangerous to our health and comfort. The working people of this city have not forgotten the trying times that they went through when the sulphuretted article was first introduced in this city, and it is to the everlasting credit of Mr. Brewster that he took this matter up for the people and carried it through to completion.

Then we come to the

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

and in looking over the past record of the Whitney Government we find that it has enjoyed a memorable record during its term of office, a record of which any Government might feel justified in being proud of. Look for instance at that splendid piece of legislation passed at the last session of Parliament in the interests of the workingman, the Workmen's Compensation Act. Under this Act what do we find that is so beneficial to all classes?

Under this Act, every workman who becomes injured in any way will receive fifty-five per cent of his wages during the time that he is disabled.

Again, under this Act, in case of death, his widow and children will receive as high as forty dollars per month. There are other equally as favorable clauses and conditions in this Bill which make it without a single exception, one of the best pieces of legislation ever enacted for the benefit of the laboring classes in this or any other part of the world.

Coming still closer home in a matter affecting the ever needful curtailing of expenses so essential to-day in every workman's home, owing to the present high cost of living, we find that

CHEAP LIGHTING

to-day in Brantford is due in no small measure to the energetic efforts of the Hon. Adam Beck and the Conservative party of Brantford. You workingmen all remember the fierce fight that was put up against an existing and grasping monopoly versus Municipal Ownership. And you also remember that after a strenuous struggle, into which W. S. Brewster threw all of his efforts on behalf of Hydro Electric, that we won out. What has been the result of that fight, and how does it measure up in dollars and cents to your pocketbook. This has been the result and you know it, your electric light bills have been cut in two and in some cases less than that, and the City of Brantford to-day is acknowledged to be the best lighted city in all Canada. The advantages we now enjoy are the same advantages that the surrounding county districts will have in the very near future, and even its most bitterest opponents now concede that the Hydro Electric, which has been put into operation despite the most strenuous opposition imaginable, both financially and politically, is to-day one of Ontario's most valuable assets, and we workingmen have to thank the Hon. Adam Beck who was backed up by the Whitney Government, absolutely for this notable victory upon behalf of the people of this Province.

WHITNEY HAS KEPT HIS PLEDGES TO THE WORKINGMAN.

In regard to the pledges of the Whitney Government to organized labor. Have they been kept? Again the answer is an emphatic yes. Take for instance the Workmen's Compensation Act. Sir James Whitney gave his promise to a labor delegation that he would appoint a Commissioner to collect facts and present a report on the same. That was promise Number One.

Only last Labor Day, in the city of Toronto, a deputation from organized labor waited on Sir James and asked him to see that the Act should be passed during the then coming session of the Legislature, and Sir James promised that the Act would most certainly be passed at that session. This is promise Number Two.

Later on, after Sir William Meredith had presented his first brief of the Bill, and when the Manufacturers Association were up in arms over the measure, and doing all in their power to prevent the passing of this equitable and just piece of legislation, another delegation of organized workers waited on Sir James and asked that the Bill be passed exactly as recommended by the Commissioner, and telling the Premier that it had been reported that the Manufacturers Association had said that he and his government would not dare to pass the Bill through the House as it then stood. What was the answer and promise given by that grand, grim, yet honest, courageous old warrior to that labor deputation? Turning to the deputation, he gave them his solemn promise that the Act would be passed in all its essentials just as it was recommended by Sir William Meredith, despite the Manufacturers Association. And go through it did. This was promise Number Three. Each and every promise made by Sir James Whitney to the laboring men of this Province has been faithfully lived up to, and for each and all of the many things enacted in their favor, the working men of this city should, and will, give the Whitney Government credit for, and the best way to do this is to cast your ballot in favor of and elect W. S. Brewster as the representative of this Riding. Mr. Brewster has always shown a willingness to do anything in his power to further the interests of the laboring classes, and no petitions, asking him to use his influence or vote on certain measures, has ever been turned down by him. This is something which cannot be denied. He has never yet failed the workmen of this city in anything they have asked him to do. Is not a man of that calibre worthy of your undivided support? See to it, then, that your vote is cast in his favor, and in the favor of a Government which "has done things" for the betterment of all mankind.

Playgrounds

Never was a child born that wasn't born to play. As sparks fly upward, boys and girls must romp and run. It's in their blood. The Creator mixed the instinct with the stuff of which they're made. It is as useless as to attempt to thwart that impulse as to endeavor, like the mad old king, to sweep back the tides with a broom.

But the majority of our cities have grown up with never a thought for the child. Women say these are man-made cities, but children have a much greater right to say these are growing-up folks' cities. As Li Hung Chang said of New York they say of their home town, "I was left out when this place was planned."

Play strengthens the lungs, stimulates the flow of blood, toughens muscles, sharpens the wits, and breeds self-reliance. It is as impossible for a playless child to remain normal as for a workless man to escape degeneracy. Without play there can be no growth and the fresh start which nature gives every generation is lost when children cannot play. Because of this an eminent sociologist has declared "the lack of healthful play works as much harm as child labor," while another remarks, "the boy without play is father to the man without a job."

The urge to childhood action is irresistible, and where it cannot vent itself normally it will find a way out through abnormal channels. It is because facilities for healthful exercises is denied them that so many boys go to the bad and wind up in the reformatory. If they cannot play right they will play wrong.

Recreation facilities cost little in comparison with other forms of public effort, but they bring back the largest of returns. Who can tell what might eventuate if Brantford were to furnish enough play grounds to keep her children off the street? The child generation contains all the materials of future citizenship. No people can rise higher than its youth. In knee pants and short skirts the world's future, Edisons, Wrights, Florence Nightingales, and Mme. Curies, are now romping around.

May it not be possible that there are many such hidden away behind bashful exteriors who will some day prove to be Brantford's future leaders? You never can tell. John Trebonius always lifted his hat in the presence of children. "Who knows," he said in explanation of this peculiarity, "but that in this class here," he pointed to a class in school, "there may be hereafter learned doctors, sage legislators—nay! princes of the empire."—The Richmond (Ind.) Palladium and Sun-Telegram.

A Labor Representative

The sentiment is growing stronger throughout the province that in justice to the workers of Ontario the Government should see to it that one of the members appointed to act on the Board of Commissioners to administer the Workmen's Compensation Act should be a representative of the workers who are directly interested in its operation.

The Labor Educational Association of Ontario which meets in St. Thomas on May 25th, with 147 delegates, representing the organized workers from all sections of the province, voiced that sentiment in a strong resolution asking that the Government take such action.

We believe that the proposition is a fair one, and what is more, we trust the Government will see it in the same light.

Labor certainly has a right to expect that out of three members on the board one should directly represent the great working class, and there isn't any doubt but what Mr. W. S. Brewster will heartily support such a measure. Vote for Brewster.

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Labor Unrest Is Due to Low Wages

Speaking to the Canadian Club at Kingston, Ontario, recently, Hon. T. W. Crothers, minister of labor, made an appeal to the employers to pay the working men better wages which would be sufficient for them to provide for their families and have something for their old age. The labor unrest, he said, was due to low wages and failure to recognize the fact that the workingman had a heart as well as a mind, and that he had emotions as well as muscle. The speaker declared that labor unions had accomplished a great deal toward remedying this unrest, and had a great deal more to do. "I feel strongly on this point," added the speaker, "see to it that men get a fair wage. From my own knowledge and reports given to me, I know there are thousands of men reeling in the pride of wealth withholding from the workmen sufficient to provide them with a decent livelihood. Such employers should be ashamed of themselves."

Victory At Last

Once more the utility of persistent agitation has been amply illustrated by the decision handed down last Tuesday by the Ontario Railway Municipal Board giving the Toronto Street Railway Company until September 1st to submit plans which would do away with side steps or running boards upon the open cars.

For years the Street Railway Employees' Union, backed by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and the Toronto District Labor Council, has petitioned and agitated for the abolition of the deadly running board.

Too much credit cannot be given to Joe Gibbons the business agent of Division No. 13, for his persistence in this matter. Year after year he has presented the case of the railwaymen for the consideration of the Ontario government and when the question came before the present board his presentation of the case and list of casualties and accidents was of such a character as to completely refute the arguments of the company's representatives and convince the members of the board that drastic action was necessary.

He was ably assisted by Secretary Ald. W. D. Robbins whose testimony served to corroborate his statements.

This decision of the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board will set a precedent for every street and electric railway corporation in Ontario. It means that after many rebuffs and years of ceaseless effort victory has finally been achieved and the agitation so persistently maintained has been crowned with complete success.

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NEWPORT

Rev. W. Cook occupied the pulpit on Sunday evening and preached a good sermon.

Rev. Mr. Morrow will preach next Sunday evening.

Miss Hill is sending four candidates for the entrance exams, this year, Annie Atkinson, Mabel Phillips, Emma Houlding and Leo Casey.

Miss Taws and Miss Dawson of Onondaga were the week end guests of Mrs. Grace Atkinson.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Oberlin of city spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. F. Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Smith of Mt. Pleasant visited the Newport Sabbath school on behalf of the Sunday School convention being held this week at Mt. Vernon.

Mr. Bruce Charlton was the guest of Mr. Ellis on Sunday. The Newport Sunday school held their picnic on Wednesday June 10th in Mr. H. Kirkley's grove. The young men had a good game of baseball while the young ladies took quite an interest in the races. A both on the grounds added very much to the enjoyment of the gathering.

Miss Vera Smith of Brantford spent over Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Emmott.

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To a Fellow I'll Never Know

Here is a toast to drink to a fellow I'll never know—
To the fellow who's going to take my place when it's time for me to go.
I've wondered what kind of a chap he'll be and I've wished for his hand.

Just to whisper, "I wish you well, old man," in a way that he'd like to give him the cheering word that I've longed at times to give him the warm hand-lasp when never a friend I've learned my knowledge by their hard work, and I wish for his hand.

To the fellow who'll come to take my place some day when I am gone.
Will he see all the sad mistakes I've made and note all the things I'll ever guess of the tears they caused or the headaches that cost.

Will he gaze through the failures and fruitless toil of the underdog and catch a glimpse of the real intent and the heart of the valiant? I dare to hope he may pause some day as he toils as I have toiled, and gain some strength for his weary task from the battles I've fought.

But I've only the task itself to leave with the cares for him, and never a cheering word may speak to the fellow who'll take my place.

Then here's to your health, old chap; I drink as a bridegroom I leave an unfinished task for you, but God knows how I've dreamed my dreams as all men do but never a one came true. And my prayer to-day is that all the dreams may be realized for you. And we'll meet some day in the great unknown—out in the real world. You'll know my clasp as I take your hand and gaze in your eyes. Then all your failures will be success in the light of the new day. So I'm drinking your health old chap, who'll take my place when I am gone.
—Kansas City

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