



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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OFFICIAL ORGAN-ALIED TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF OTTAWA. ENDORSED BY Hamilton District Trades and Labor Council, Hamilton Building Trades Council, Kitchener's Twin City Trades and Labor Council, Independent Labor Party of Ottawa.

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TO AVOID LABOR DISTURBANCES.

DURING the crucial period of reconstruction there must be no disastrous differences between Labor and Capital—no rending of our national industrial fabric. On harmony between employers and employees depends the solution of most of the problems coincident with transition from war-time to peace-time conditions. Co-operation there must be—and it must be genuine and whole-hearted. On real co-operation depends the present and future of Canadian Industry. For the good of the country as a whole there must be a meeting ground, a point where both Labor and Capital can meet each other half way. Both sides must be ready to make some sacrifices to achieve a great good later. There can be no quibbling or hair-splitting on either side; the issue is too big.

One of the most important of the many problems imposed upon manufacturers is how to act towards labor. Employers must set aside preconceived opinions and approach this question with open minds. Canada's new industrial policy should be in the direction of increasing skill and efficiency and stimulating production rather than constantly attempting to lower wages. Workmen should be brought closer to the problems of their employers. In the interest of both employers and workers the labor standards of this country must not be lowered. If the workers are met by their employers with the same spirit of sincere co-operation, which labor, in its organized form, seeks to inculcate, labor disturbances may be minimized.

VETERANS' VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

PUTTING the disabled veteran back into industrial life is a big job with many different angles. The decision by the returned man to undertake a course of industrial training must be a voluntary one; otherwise his whole heart will not be in the work. The earnest and ambitious student makes rapid progress. The man no doubt will decide to take up instruction if the future advantages of being a trained workman in some skilled trade are pointed out, and practical arrangements made for the course carefully explained to him. In considering whether veterans with certain types of physical disability can engage in a given trade, its present and future employment possibilities must be taken into account. If it is a trade dependent on any season, if the number of workers in any locality is so small as to make difficult the absorption of many newly trained men, or if the industry is on the wane rather than enjoying a healthy growth, such a trade should not be recommended.

A great aid in helping a soldier to decide about his future is acquaintance with the records of other men with similar physical handicaps, who have made good—men who have been trained and who are now holding jobs at substantial wages. When a man considers what marvellous results have been obtained in training blinded veterans at St. Dunstan's in old London and at the Canadian St. Dunstan's—Pearson Hall in Toronto—there is great inspiration for every veteran who retains his eyesight. Blinded men are learning to typewrite, to become carpenters, barbers, poultry raisers and to enter many other of the trades. If a blind veteran can re-enter industrial life,—what joyous hope there is for every veteran struggling under a less serious handicap! Some difficulty is found in the abnormal price that was placed on industrial labor in war time. Even a disabled man was able then to go out and earn a large daily wage in a munitions factory. Care should be taken that representations to the man, while encouraging, should be accurate. In deciding what trade a disabled soldier should pursue, the first effort should be to fit him for an occupation related as closely as possible to his former job. His experience should be built upon, not discarded.

The ideal trade is one in which the wage standards are high, the employment steady and the demand for labor constantly increasing. In choosing trades thought should be given to the employment situation following the war.

The section of the country in which a man lives also has a bearing on the choice of a trade in which he is to receive instruction. Thus, a Canadian living in Hamilton may be trained as a machinist; the same man, if a resident of a far western province, would better be given instruction in the operation of motor tractors for agricultural work. It is desirable that a man should be given his course of training in a locality near home. Here, friends will not be far away, and educational authorities will be in closer touch with the local industrial requirements and employment conditions. Very fortunately there are good vocational schools for veterans in all sections of the country.

A Letter For You

The Postman looms up large among the organized workers in Canada, from coast to coast. If this is the "Entre era of education—and it is—the Postman ought to be a winner, for he is a "man of letters."

The Posties in Western Canada are very strong. An ultimatum has been forwarded to the Ottawa Government by the Federated Postal Employees of Western Canada, that unless the increase demanded are in operation before March 31st there will be a general strike of all the postal employees of the Great Lakes to the Pacific.

Here's hoping that the men who serve us in all kinds of weather, get their increases. The big convention of the Posties will be held at Peterboro this year. Dinna forget it.

"BOLSHEVIK" WHO SAID BEER?

Rumors are getting strong—stronger than 2-1-2 per cent.—that Quebec is prepared to permit the sale of beer and light wines if the Dominion will permit their manufacture. The rumor is that an inquiry elicited the fact that there is no new development in the beer situation. There may be, if the members get busy, but so far as the Government is concerned, the decision is to renew for a year as it stands, the present enactment. What will come after is wholly up to the public.

There have been reports of a national plebiscite at the end of the year, and it is a possibility, but to that end no decision has been reached. All arrangements so far as to hold the existing order for the period of a year. The question is looming up in discussion here, and it is conceivable that the Ministry may get a few hints from their followers when matters adjust themselves.

It looks as if some Labor would vote for more and better beer.

COBALT INSTRUCTED ON FAIR WAGES CLAUSE

At the request of a deputation from the Cobalt Miners' Union, which attended a joint session of the Cobalt town council and board of trade, to discuss the sending of delegates from this town with the "On to James Bay" delegation, which is being organized by the extension of the T. and N. O. from Cochrane northward, the representatives from town insist on a fair wage clause being inserted in any contracts which may be made in the event of the project going through.

There was an animated discussion on the resolution covering the question, presented by Mr. J. Gorman, secretary of the union, and finally adopted on motion of Mr. H. J. Everett and Councillor Gaudreault. The labor men present maintained this was the most important part of the whole scheme. If the evils which they declared had existed when other railways were constructed, were to be avoided, which they were not, the time was clearly opportune to press the matter upon the Government. All agreed, however, on the principle, and the motion carried unanimously.

Cobalt has five official representatives on the delegation, the town council having agreed to pay the expenses of this number. The number of delegates to go caused a brisk debate, but it was determined that the Mayor, two representatives from the Miners' Union, and two more from the Board of Trade, should comprise the company from Cobalt.

HAMILTON 1919 TAX RATE 32 MILLS, HIGHEST IN HISTORY.

After ten days assiduous pruning of estimates, Hamilton City Council has levied a tax rate of 32 mills for 1919. An increase of ten mills over two years ago. The provincial war-tax of mill is additional. The controllers' task was no cinch. They had cut and carved the various estimates in an endeavor to keep the tax rate to a minimum, but after trimming the civic tree, 32 mills was the lowest they could do. Bad financing by past councils has precipitated the new high rate which, since announcement, has sent cold shivers down the backs of the city's over-burdened ratepayers. Even with 32 mills on the dollar, at the end of 1919, there'll be an overdrift against the city of \$140,000. Sufferers await the day when the city's official workers, employees, firemen, etc., for all are hungry after more pay. In the opinion of the C. L. P. some of the city's high paid officials should be left on the shelf, so that the civic boss will be free to give wage boosts to the firemen and low paid, so-much-per-hour, employees.

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"PASS IT ON."

Things are not always quite the same for every man about. On some the fun has never really shone. So if you've had a slice of luck and have a bit to spare. Just pass it on, old fellow, pass it on!

If you have an extra quarter that you can do without. Although it may be nice to gaze upon, It would look so much nicer in the hand of some poor chap. So pass it on, old fellow, pass it on!

Then if you know a little piece of someone's told to you. And you're not sure if it's true or no. Who is feeling sad and lonely, don't think of what to say. But pass it on, old fellow, pass it on!

Just keep your eyes well open to brighten up the lives Of those whose burdens seem to weigh a ton: A cheery word, a handshake, may be worth their weight in gold. So pass them on, old fellow, pass them on!

ORGANIZATION THE ANTIDOTE

In answer to a request for "literature or articles to combat bolshevism among workmen," A. F. of Secretary Frank Morrison made this reply:

"The only literature or articles issued from this office is in advocacy of the principles of trade unionism.

I believe that the principal cause for social unrest in our country is the attitude of greed and greed as represented by certain large employers of labor who refuse a living wage, insist on long hours and deny their employees the right to join a lawful organization in an effort to improve their working conditions.

Nothing can develop a mob spirit in this country quicker than the anti-union attitude of the steel trust, for instance. This corporation, through its control of small municipalities in Western Pennsylvania, has made free assemblage impossible in these communities by closing every hall to their workers. The principle applied by the steel trust on the Minnesota iron range, in the northwest lumber industry, and other employers of workers who seem to be guided in social questions by the attitude of so-called big business.

As force begets force the mob spirit of the employer is met by the mob spirit of the employe. The development of this spirit is logical when it is considered that because of the principle of non-resistance to act collectively through trade unions they possess no knowledge of the orderly development or the value of public opinion as a remedy for wrong. This public opinion can only be developed through organization, agitation and education. What is required is a movement so insistent that it will force the issue.

AID WOMEN MEMBERS FROM OVERSEAS

Attacks on trade union street carmen, Messrs. Harry Gosling, J. W. Ogden and James Gavin, have been appointed members of a provisional committee to advise the Minister of Commerce and Industry recently set up by the British Board of Trade.

The status of the trade unions in the Scandinavian countries has enlarged since the war's inception, and the present membership record is as follows: Sweden, 186,146 male and 14,467 female members; Norway, 92,089; Denmark, 179,284, of which 7724 are women.

The Amalgamated Association of British Government Employees, representative of the National Union of Railwaymen has agreed on an eight-hour day for these workers. Committees of both sides will review wages and other questions. The railwaymen have been asking for improved conditions and several weeks ago notified the government that the strike would be called off because of the war, was at an end.

By an overwhelming vote of 1,100 votes to 35, the London (England) Actors' Association recently resolved to go into liquidation in order to reconstitute itself as a trade union. As a trade union the actors will be in a position to demand fair contracts for the performers. Failing a satisfactory settlement of their grievances, the actors' trade union would be in a position to strike to enforce consideration of their demands.—Exchange.

WHY GOMPERTS WOULDN'T GO TO BERNE.

Samuel Gompers did not look with favor upon the Berne Conference because he and his labor associates objected to fraternizing with men who through four years supported cold blooded murders in Belgium, in Northern France and on the high seas. "They're hands stained red with blood," he said.

Instead of German Socialists regretting the things Germany did, we find them without a sense of guilt or of shame assuming a place as equal with the blameless. At the same time they are trying to dominate the Conference, just as though they regarded it as their own particular property.

It is high time these Germans were shown that they own the world. They are utterly unrepresentative of the aims and aspirations of the workers of the world.

Mr. Gompers declared that a truly representative labor conference would be held in London or Paris organized on a fair basis, including the labor and trades organizations of the allied and neutral countries.

QUEBEC PROVINCIAL LABOR BUREAU.

According to the official record of the Labor Bureau of the Province of Quebec, the number of unemployed in Montreal for the past week was 855 men and 37 women, and in Quebec there were 100 men. Both these figures are a slight increase over the preceding week. Slackness in the building and metal trades has been held responsible, and it is noticed that a number of unemployed registered are of the office type. The lumber camps have closed down and there will be no work of this kind for a few weeks. Snow clearing has absorbed much of the casual labor.

COLLINGWOOD HAS ORGANIZING CAMPAIGN.

Joint meetings of the various organizations, comprising the Ship Yard Federation, have been held at Collingwood, Crowded houses and success were the results of the efforts of the visiting labor speakers. These included J. Marsh, Niagara Falls; H. Harper, Toronto; J. Hunter and J. Platt, Hamilton; J. Bruce, Toronto.

MIDLAND WORKERS FORM FEDERAL UNION.

J. Platt, organizer for the A. F. of L. formed a strong federal union of unskilled workers at Midland, the number running into the hundreds. This was accomplished in conjunction with the general organizing campaign carried out at Midland.

LOCAL ITEMS.
William Hubble, Cleveland, Ohio, Journeymen Barbers of America National Officer, who has been in town for a week addressed a crowded meeting of members of local 121.

Ottawa "Celebrities"



ELOQUENT DAN.

This is the first picture of Dan McCann, with a new necktie, thinking out the words and music of a new speech. Dan makes a good speech, also sings well enough to be crowned "the sweet singer of Ottawa Valley." Dan uses his energy in the labor movement, but fellow well meet. Among his other accomplishments, he is a poet, writing in stove-pipe length. Here's his latest stove-pipe length, elbows included.

"The Canadian Labor Press is now a weekly publication, and all who read its columns—vow its credit to the nation. All labor news from coast to coast, blast away up the circulation. So rest assured what's needed most you'll get each Saturday. There's one thing, please do not forget. This press belongs to you, and all expenses must be met. So help to see it through. Blast away up the circulation. A little past a year. But all subscribers to it must confess it is sincere. Blast away up the circulation. Also send your own address; its the best one in creation. The Canadian Labor Press.

NEW BRUNSWICK COAL MINES CLOSE.

Practically all the coal mines in the Grand Lake mining field have been closed because of the unsatisfactory condition of the coal market. The mines in the vicinity of Minto alone, and the only mines that are now running are those of the Minto Coal Company. All that keeps the Minto Coal Company's mines in operation is the fact that the company has large contracts with the Canadian Pacific Railway. The Provincial Government has asked the Federal Labor Department to arrange for the employment of other mines used on the Canadian national railways in order to make it possible for them to operate.

OTTAWA HAS FEDERATION MEETING.

Marine Trades and Labor Federation of the Canadian Great Lakes and Eastern Canadian Shipyards and their conference in Ottawa on Thursday last. A vast number of delegates from the Atlantic seaboard, come within the scope of the Federation.

The trades represented are: Boatbuilders and Ship Builders; Electrical Workers, Machinists, Carpenters, Patternmakers, Laborers, Painters, Plumbers and Pipe Fitters, Sheet Metal Workers, Portable and Stationary Engineers.

The sessions are generally covered in two days, dealing with wage scales, conditions of work, and presentation to the employers. Steve Craig, Montreal, is chairman, and J. Marsh, Niagara Falls, secretary.

TORONTO STONECUTTERS' RESOLUTION.

A deputation of Toronto Stone Cutters' Union asked the Board of Control to endorse a resolution to the Provincial and Federal Governments, that in the proposed new work for Toronto, only Canadian stone be used, and that it be fabricated in Toronto to provide employment for citizens.

"It is according to the national policy," said the Mayor, and the resolution was held under presentation. "Anyone can pass that resolution with a whole heart," said Controller Cameron.

GANANOQUE WORKERS HAVE MASS MEETING.

On Thursday evening, the workers assembled in mass meeting with President Tom Moore as their guest, having for his subject, "Truismism." Crowded houses and the auspices of the organized Steel Workers, using effectively the time to forward the general organization movement of that town.

U.S. WOMEN WORKERS WANT RECOGNITION

With the members of the Women's Trade Union of the United States increased nearly 50 per cent in the various industries during the war, the big problem of the women's unions now is to get the national organizations of the American Federation of Labor to recognize the women workers, says Mrs. Raymond Robins, president of the National Women's Trade Union League of America.

The war took women into industries that they had not followed to any great extent before. Mrs. Robins pointed out, and in many cases they were recognized by the local unions, but have not been recognized by the national organizations in the various crafts. In some cases, the local organizations have taken the matter up with the international organizations, but the international officers have opposed taking the women into the labor organizations. The problem now is to hold the women's unions together, unless the international organizations agree to admit them. In some cases, local unions simply admitted the women for the week ending February 8, a reduction in their staffs of 389 persons. This reduction, the statement says, is of course, a slight one, less than two-thirds of one per cent of the number of employed, but it is slightly larger than the anticipated reduction of the previous week. If it should continue it would represent a considerable total for a full month.

Over 80 per cent of the net loss, according to the statement, occurs in Ontario, where the mining industry expected to lay off 153 men. Reductions of 90 and 93 were anticipated for the week ending February 8, a reduction in their staffs of 389 persons. This reduction, the statement says, is of course, a slight one, less than two-thirds of one per cent of the number of employed, but it is slightly larger than the anticipated reduction of the previous week. If it should continue it would represent a considerable total for a full month.

LABOR DEPT. RETURN ON CONDITIONS

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WEEK ENDERS' PENSIONS FAVORED IN HAMILTON.

On Thursday, February 20, Dr. W. A. Ridd, of Toronto, Secretary of the Ontario Government Trades and Labor Department branch, opened an enquiry in the court house in Hamilton, Ontario, representatives of local organizations respecting Mothers' Pensions. The statements submitted pensions for mothers of soldiers, either by their husband's death, illness, desertion, imprisonment or any other reason, urged by reputable citizens not be a continuing one, as from 308 firms show that they expected to add more than 60 employees to their pay rolls during the week ending February 15th.

