

# CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

A National, Sane Labor Paper

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

VOL. V. \$1.00 Per Year. National and Rational OTTAWA, ONT., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th, 1924. Live News and Views Single Copies 5c. No. 38.

## Sane Labor Prevails at Congress Convention

### Tom Moore Again Re-elected President of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress of Canada

#### RESOLUTION ADOPTED FAVORING GOVERNMENT CONTROL IN ONTARIO

The Annual Convention of the Congress has come to a most successful close at London, Ont., with a sweeping victory for the sane and sane side of organized labor with that most liked and capable individual in the person of Tom Moore again leading the workers along the path of progress, despite very active opposition on the part of the radicals and disruptors, who met with overwhelming defeat after long and lengthy debates.

Following a heated argument in which twenty or thirty delegates from all parts of the country took part, a resolution was carried on Sept 15th at the 40th annual convention of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress by an overwhelming majority, censuring Hon. James Murdock, Federal Minister of Labor for his attitude towards organized and unorganized labor during the past year.

This resolution, which is number 2 in the list of 66 which await the discussion of the Congress, and which was sponsored by the Toronto Local 27, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, was actually a request that the Congress "demand of the Federal Government, the bringing into effect of the Washington conference in the matter of the establishment of an 8-hour day." Deletion of a phrase accusing the Minister of hypocrisy in his dealings with labor was recommended by the resolutions committee, but was finally defeated after a debate on the floor.

Equally definite was the expression of the Congress on the matter of unemployment insurance. A resolution was brought in by the Ontario Provincial Council of Carpenters, urging on the Federal Government the immediate enactment of an unemployment Act "suitable to this country and similar to that already proven successful in Great Britain." The convention was unanimously in favor of the provisions of this resolution.

Immigration and unemployment will be discussed fully at a later stage in a number of resolutions dealing specifically with these subjects. A resolution was passed, however, demanding from both the Federal and Provincial Governments an immediate start on all public works so as to use the Government funds for work rather than charity.

**To Protect Canadian Marine**  
The introduction of a resolution from the National Association of Marine Engineers, protesting to the Federal Government the issuance of any orders-in-council permitting "Norwegian or other foreign ships or crews to operate in Canadian port waters and trade," met with the general approval of the delegates. The only criticism was the suggestion that what Delegate Kavanagh of Vancouver called the "shameful condition" of the firemen, officers and seamen of the Canadian Merchant Marine should have been recognized by the framers of the resolution.

Sarnia Trades Council fathered a resolution urging discontinuance by both the Government and private employers of an age limit of 45 years in the hiring of new men. The Ontario Provincial Council of Carpenters brought in another, requesting the Ontario Government to institute an 8-hour day on all its work.

The Edmonton Trades Council urged a greater co-relation if all bodies of unemployed and advocated the principle that the first charge upon industry was the adequate maintenance of the workers engaged upon it. All of these resolutions passed without opposition.

**President Protests**  
In the forenoon Tom Moore, president, presiding, entered a vigorously worded protest against the belief that the Congress was in any way controlled or under the influence of a foreign element.

"There is absolutely no foundation for this belief," he stated. "The Congress is unfettered by any outside connections, and is entirely free in its formation of policy. At the time of the recent postal workers' strike this lie was aired. The sole reason for the Congress and the motive of its being is to better the living conditions of the Canadian worker. It is altogether a Canadian institution for Canadians and is in no way beholden to any foreign force or persuasion."

Mayor Wenig, Frank White, M.P.; Rev. Quintin Warner, juvenile court judge; Gordon Ingram, president of

which he was quoted as saying there was no unemployment problem at present.

"Mr. Murdock," he said, "had to fall back on the British North America Act in dealing with this question. He said there was no legal responsibility on the part of the Federal Government for any unemployment in the country, and when we suggested that the Act be amended, he refused to consider it."

Delegate Kavanagh, of Vancouver, speaking on a resolution to prevent foreign ships competing with Canadian vessels in the coastwise trade, stated he had a good deal to say about the Asiatic question on the coast, but that he would reserve it until it came up in the discussion on the resolution dealing with immigration later in the week.

**To Discourage Age Limit**  
In supporting the resolution to discourage the age limit of 45 years, Delegate Walton, of Sarnia, asked whence the teachers of the younger generation were to come if all the older men were forced out of the trade? At the same time he appealed strongly for a return to the apprenticeship system as the best training for all workmen, and this, especially in the building trades.

Laborers left wing opened a drive in two directions on the second day of the Congress, on the consolidated positions of organized and established labor organizations.

In the morning they advanced under the banner of the One Big Union, and in the afternoon of the efficiency and effectiveness of labor of the executive of the Congress at Ottawa. In each case, after a lengthy debate, they met with overwhelming defeat.

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## ENGLAND LACKS BUILDING WORKERS

London, Eng.—The reason there are not enough houses in England is because there are not enough skilled workmen to build them.

This is the conclusion the government has reached after vain attempts, since 1919, to cure the housing shortage by paying a bonus for each new dwelling constructed. Houses have been built right along, under the scheme—all the houses have been built, authorities say, that it was humanly possible for all the bricklayers, plasterers, slaters, carpenters, etc., in England to build.

But there just were not, and are not, enough craftsmen in England to build in a few years enough houses to offset the shortage resulting from the war years when there was no building at all.

**Build Building Force**  
Therefore the present government has decided to take a new tack in attempting to meet the house-shortage problem. The idea now is to try to create a much greater force of building trades workmen in England by putting into training as soon as possible a large force of apprentices, and continuing to feed a stream of apprentices into the building trades hopper, until, throughout the country, there is created a sufficiently large trained force to build all the houses England needs.

This is the idea of Minister of Health Wheatley, whose department has jurisdiction of the housing problem. Everyone is agreed that it is a perfectly splendid idea—if the unions of the various building trades

will agree, and if they will accept the proposed swarm of apprentices and teach them the trades and turn the new men out to compete with the old established workmen.

Upon the attitude of these unions hinges the solution of the English housing shortage, and upon the solution of that problem depends, perhaps, the avoidance of serious manifestations of social unrest, it is believed by authorities.

The question seems, largely, to be whether the Labor government can get some of its own most powerful labor unions to "play the game" in carrying out this government plan.

Despite the great general unemployment in England, statistics show that virtually all men in the house-building trades are employed, and have been since the war. Officials in the Labor department say that every bricklayer, plasterer, carpenter, etc., in England is at work if he wants a job. Unskilled workmen cannot build houses if they tried, and the union wouldn't permit them to try if they could. The only way to get more skilled workmen for house-building is to have the unions take them in as apprentices and teach them the trades.

The fear of the unions, or at least of some of the building trades union men, is that they will jeopardize their own future jobs if they turn loose upon England an army of house-builders. "What will happen when all the houses are built? Then we'll all be out of work," they say.

The advocates of the Wheatley plan reply that it will be years before the

existing shortage can be overcome, and that thereafter the demand for new houses to meet the increase in population, and for repairs to old houses, will give every house-builder a job.

Before the war the building trades unions limited carefully the number of apprentices they would accept. They maintained at all times a total supply of skilled workmen just sufficient to meet the normal demands for new building each year.

Perhaps, in fact, they kept the force somewhat below requirements in order to insure sufficient work. Their theory was that the building trades give "seasonal work" only—that during bad winter weather and rainy periods house-builders have to lay off; therefore during the fair period when they can work they must be sure of employment at good wages.

Therefore England came out of the war with a greatly depleted force of house-builders. Many had been killed in the war. Not many apprentices had been trained. Only a limited number have been trained since the war. Meanwhile, no houses had been built during the war, and far from enough have been built to meet demands since the war.

So, accepting average estimates, England needs something like 500,000 houses. The money and materials can be secured. But skilled men to do the work are not available. The Labor government is trying to persuade Labor unions to train this force—and thereby avert a possible social crisis.

## Reject Efforts to End Strike

Lethbridge, Alta.—District 18, U. M. W. of A. strike is now in its fifth month with no signs of settlement. This field is tied up completely except for a number of small mines that do very little shipping. The men are known to be extremely low in funds. A little relief is coming through now and then from the International, but the amounts are small and the miners are not at all satisfied. An effort made by Frank Wheatley, president of the Alberta Federation of Labor, to get the opposing factions together was rejected.

## Safety Education in Can. Cement Plants

The following information has been contributed by Mr. W. J. H. Cam, power and safety engineer of the Canada Cement Company, Limited. Good progress has been made in the last four years by the Company in teaching safe habits to their workers. The plant in Montreal, which employs over 600 men, presents the following figures:

Lost time accidents, 9; Accidents per million man-hours, 4.5; No accident months, 8; Compensation per cent. of payroll, .46; Production per man-hour, 133.

The records of this plant demonstrate that systematic education along safety lines will reduce accidents, save compensation expense, reduce production cost by increasing labor efficiency, and reduce labor cost by decreasing labor turnover.

The Port Colborne plant of this Company, which in the four years 1920 to 1923 had 42, 56, 16 and 21 accidents to date in 1924. In the West, the Exshaw plant near Calgary, had 14 accidents in 1920, 8 in 1921, 2 in 1922, none in 1923, and 1 to date in 1924.

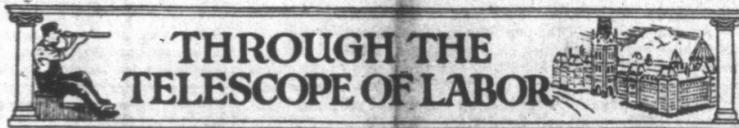
In the words of the safety engineer of the Company: "Safety work pays because it convinces the workers that the employer is out to give them a square deal, and thereby develops their pride in the plant and loyalty to the Company."

## Municipalities Must Provide Own Relief

Government Will Not Accept Responsibility for Unemployment Situation

Calgary, Alta.—The Federal Government will not accept responsibility for the unemployment situation in Canada. It will not give relief because the Government believes that this is a matter for the municipalities concerned and again because the government has not set aside any money for this purpose.

This was the answer of Hon. James Murdock, Minister of Labor, to the local Trades and Labor Council. The council enquired what the government was going to do to help alleviate the situation this winter.



## THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

### THE OTTAWA DAIRY

It is just twenty-four years ago since a new idea in milk efficiency came into existence in Ottawa. Previous to 1900 some 80 milk wagons and carts, of a score or more varieties, some of them not any too inviting in appearance, used to wear out the streets of the city supplying the people with milk. These were the days of the unsanitary open milk can and the old quart and pint tin measures. In those days not only was the method of supply unsanitary, but there was a great amount of overlapping. It was a common sight then, as it is to-day in other less up-to-date Canadian cities, to see half a dozen milk wagons in the same block, the drivers pouring milk from their open measures to the open pails of the householders on the doorsteps, where the festive fly could get in its deadly work on the susceptible milk.

But suddenly there came a change. Among the men who were supplying the city with milk were a number of the most influential and progressive farmers in the Ottawa district. These men had begun to realize that the existing system was wrong. A meeting was called. It was held in the Court House and at that meeting some sixty of the best known producers banded together to cut down overhead costs and to introduce more sanitary methods.

**Company Launched**  
The Ottawa Dairy Company was the outcome. A joint-stock company of the producers was organized. Mr. Bingham, the present general manager, who had a happy combination of farm and business experience, was put in full charge of operations. That the company make a wise choice is shown by its wonderful growth and success.

The first effect of the new company was the almost immediate disappearance of the more objectionable milk vendors. Almost from the start the company secured nearly three-quarters of the city's milk supply, for the people took kindly to the closed bottle idea and the general cleanliness of the new methods. What centralization meant as regards the milk supply is shown by the fact that, through the company from the start secured nearly three-quarters of the city's supply, it was able to handle with twenty rigs the routes which eighty rigs had previously been required to cover.

The company's twenty-four year story has been one of steady growth. Their property on Somerset Street, just west of Bank Street, has at various periods since 1900 received new buildings, and from time to time their operations have been extended in new directions. About 1905, after the milk business had been firmly established, the company branched out into the ice cream business. A few years later a butter branch was developed, cream for the purpose being contracted for at points as far as a hundred miles around Ottawa. These operations reduced the overhead expenses and permitted the company to supply milk to the people at a lower cost than they otherwise could have done.

**Great Output**  
Four years ago the company erected a large plant at Russell, from which a supply of cream is secured for its ice cream and butter purposes. To-day the company's butter business totals over a million pounds a year. The milk branch last year totalled over twelve million quarts. Practically all the milk for this large output comes from a number of the best dairy farms within a radius of ten miles from the city. The company also produces a large quantity of milk on their own dairy farm, near City View. This farm is over 800 acres in extent and is one of the finest in Eastern Ontario. The company have over two hundred and fifty cows of their own on this farm.

To get the milk to the city from the City View farm and from the farms of their other producers, the company own and operate thirty large motor trucks. As an evidence of the growth of the business and of the city, it may be said that while at the outset the company operated twenty delivery rigs and had a roll of forty men, it now operates one hundred delivery rigs and has a roll of over three hundred employees. Where the company had thirty horses in its stables twenty years ago, it now stables two hundred.

**Relations With Men**  
The company have pride in their fine plant and their scientific methods of milk distribution. They also have pride in the cordial

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## Jury Recommends Boiler Inspection

The Coroners' jury which investigated the cause of an accident near Kemptville, Ont., on August 12th, when three men were killed as the result of a boiler explosion in a cheese factory, recommended "that the Provincial legislature pass and enforce a law requiring inspection of all steam boilers by competent inspectors at least once a year." The evidence at the inquiry showed that the boiler was sold to the factory five years ago, and that it had not been inspected for four years. The Steam Boiler Act of Ontario provide for the inspection of every steam boiler during its construction; and for the inspection of boilers when repaired, sold or exchanged. The Minister of Public Works may also employ any boiler insurance company registered in the Department of Insurance, or any inspection company engaged in the inspection of steam boilers during their construction, required by the regulations, a report to be made within fourteen days. The provisions of the Factory, Shop and Office Building Act (Revised Statutes of Ontario, 1914, chapter 229) in regard to the inspection of boilers, are as follows. The section quoted took effect on January 1st, 1919:—

"57. (1) No boiler in a factory, shop, bakery or office building or in any other building on any other premises or in any other place or in a highway or any other public place shall be operated or used unless the same is insured in some boiler insurance company, registered in the Department of Insurance, or has been inspected within one year by some person authorized in writing by the Deputy Minister of Labor

"(2) Every such boiler insurance company shall annually on the thirtieth day of November, transmit to the chief inspector, a report of the boilers in Ontario, insured by it, and when the insurance is cancelled the company shall forthwith give notice thereof, to the chief inspector.

"(3) Whenever the inspector is of the opinion that a boiler is in such position, or is so located or operated as to be dangerous to life or property he may, by written notice to the owner and employer, and to the person operating or using such boilers, direct that that use of the boiler shall be discontinued until it has been inspected as provided in subsection 1 and a certificate has been given by the inspector that the boiler may be safely operated.

(4) A factory, shop or office building in which a boiler is used in contravention of the requirements of this section, after such notice from the inspector and before a certificate has been given as provided in subsection 3, shall be deemed to be kept so that the safety of the persons employed in the factory, shop or office building is in danger.

## I. W. W. Fighting Among Themselves

Chicago.—That no split in the ranks of the Industrial Workers of the World will follow the temporary disagreement between the two groups at the headquarters is the statement of Secretary-Treasurer Tom Doyle of the organization. "The members will not stand for the disruption of our union," Doyle said, "and if we are left alone the little flurry will soon blow over."

The flurry was over the suspension and subsequent ejection from the headquarters of 5 members of the general executive board on charges of disruption. The suspended five refused to appear to answer charges. There have been informal negotiations looking toward reconciliation.

The ousted members will remain expelled until the 1926 convention unless the rank and file call a special convention or peace is patched up otherwise.

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