

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

J. A. P. HAYDON, M.C., Editor. A. H. BLACKBURN, Circulation Mgr. J. D. SULLIVAN, Business Manager

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

UNIQUE GATHERING

ON Friday and Saturday of the coming week a gathering of the Ontario workers' representatives, politically, will hold their convention at London. It is just the annual gathering, similarly called for a number of years past, but having a distinctiveness that makes it an epoch in Canadian workers' provincial assemblies.

Coming into the arena also was the ways and means by which the workers would secure direct representation to avoid the indirect system of the presentation of legislation requests. Now this notch of the progress ladder has been reached, permits of the coming convention being viewed from an entirely different angle to all its predecessors.

At all times serving the common interests was the objective, yet the workers' party of Ontario had knowledge that only through direct touch with making of laws could this be obtained. Thus, from the conventions of proposals chiefly was a central point of attainment of being enabled to make same effective.

At the forthcoming sessions a member of the Provincial Cabinet, the Hon. W. Rollo, will be in the presiding position over the London gathering. In attendance also will be some of his colleagues of the Legislative Chamber, members of the same party, carriers of the workers' trust, not alone at this convention, but also in the effective legislative field.

Another item worthy to recall is that during the interval of the last sessions a link has been formed with the rural representatives, making for co-operative effort of the factory and the farm, from which the future holds much in store, adopters of the Browning text that "Progress is the law of life."

Resultant from these annual gatherings, the end of the long trail has been reached. It is simply by the dogged persistency of the educational work performed that such a satisfactory situation has been attained, and if attendance in the past was worth while, when the furrow was in the making, there is now every incentive for the workers to be represented at the forthcoming conference. It is surely worthy of being called unique, in that there will be those in attendance holding the positions of making effective constitutional legislation considered desirable.

MAKING HAY

FORWARD movements of every conceivable nature are much in evidence at the present time, and amidst the many one is apt to lose sight of the immense advanced strides that are taking place in the International Trade Union organizations.

With a negligible number of exceptions, the craft unions are adding to their financial sinews of preparedness, and in the addition of new members the gains are rightly classed as phenomenal. Regarding the latter, they are not unlike the forward movements of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and the American Federation of Labor, a large number of the units of these legislative bodies having set a high mark to attain in increased membership.

Referendum returns from every angle speak plainly of the faith of the membership in the trade union movement, carrying with it the vote of confidence in its elected officials and their policy. It is impossible for any reactionary element to gain any crumb of comfort for their subject of decay and obsolete, if facts would be the guide. All evidence being to the contrary, tracks back to the wish being father of the thought and in partnership with ulterior motive.

It may be instanced the proposal of the executive board of the International Association of Machinists, that an assessment of \$1 per month, per member, be levied for a fund of approximately \$2,000,000 for the defence of its membership. This has received strong endorsement through a referendum vote of its membership, who in other words back up their belief of the movement by making for a substantial treasury.

The units of the international trade union cause never in its history showed more willingness to subscribe to the tenet, and forward movement is pronounced in every direction to the discomfiture of its enemies within and an assurance of greater respect from those without, who are called upon to deal with the organized workers.

FAILURE IN EVIDENCE.

AT a recent gathering in Winnipeg of the reactionary element, it was proposed to travel further afield, some of the cities of the neighboring republic having been suggested as fertile land for the Middlebyites to try their hand. This is after finding the trade unionist rank and file in Canada immune from the reactionary propaganda germ, the western territory, formerly considered strongholds of the dreamers, proving anything but receptive to the outfit of the destroyers. The gold brick game in workers' organization is at all times short-lived.

Wages and the Cost of Living

In submitting their claim for a 25 per cent increase in wages, the employees quoted statistics compiled by H. G. Dunn. According to this statement the price of 200 standard commodities have advanced from January 1, 1914, to December 1, 1919, in the proportion of 198 to 303, thus reducing the purchasing power of the dollar to practically 60 cents.

The increase in the cost of living in the principal Allied countries was the subject of a question by Captain Bagley in the British House of Commons recently.

The following statement shows the rise since 1912 in the average level of wholesale prices in the countries specified. In the middle of 1919 the average level of prices differed little from that of the previous year.

Table with columns: Commodity, 1912, 1919, % Increase. Includes items like 1 cord light wood, 1 pair men's boots, 1 pair ladies' boots, etc.

Service Button Workers.

Notes of Particular Interest to Ex-Service Trade Unionists.

RESERVE LAND FOR CANADIAN SOLDIERS

Canadian soldier-farmers will soon be able to settle in a large area of western reserve land, which has been thrown open through cancellation by the Crown, according to announcement by the Soldier Settlement Board.

DITOR RECEIVES MILITARY CROSS

While serving with the 42nd Bn. R.I.C. (Montreal), J. A. P. Haydon, the editor of the Canadian Labor Press, was awarded the Military Cross.

KAPUSKASING SETTLERS' COMMISSION REPORTS

"Give each settler the privilege of electing to remain in the colony," is the recommendation of the commission composed of W. F. Niekke, K.C., Lieut.-Col. John L. McLaren and Prof. John Sharp.

CONFERENCE OF LABOR AND SOLDIERS ON UNEMPLOYMENT

At the invitation of the Minister of Labor a conference was held recently under his chairmanship between representatives of the Parliamentary Committee of the British Trades Union Congress and of the National Federation of Discharged Soldiers, Comrades of the Great War, and the National Association of Sailors and Soldiers.

"LIARS"

An evangelist who was conducting nightly meetings at the present time, was the subject of the following evening he would speak on the subject of "Liars." He advised his hearers to read in advance the seventeenth chapter of Mark.

BRITISH TEACHERS AND EQUAL PAY.

Verona Hartshorn is a member of a joint committee of British M. P.'s and members of the National Federation of Women Teachers which has been formed to press through Parliament for equal pay for men and women. Lady Astor is among the other members of the committee.

VEHICLE BUILDERS' NEW SCHEDULE.

The British National Union of Vehicle Builders has succeeded in establishing the following new rates of pay: In towns rated at 12d per hour, there will be an advance to 1s 3d.

EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL WORKERS TO HOLD CONFERENCE.

An International Secretariat for the land workers of Europe is mooted, and a conference will probably be held in Amsterdam in August next. The Dutch Union has sent an invitation to the English organization, the Agricultural Workers' Union, which will in all probability be represented at the conference.

UNREST AMONG FRENCH MINERS.

A great effort is being made to settle the disastrous coal-mining strike which is now on both the French and Belgian coasts. Yes, Le Troquer, Minister of Public Works, and Paul Jourdain, Minister of Labor, the latter's meeting were a failure but were still sufficiently encouraging to make later conferences possible.

HERE'S TO WOMAN.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal—Cain. The British Labor Party is making a new move, with the object of stimulating the activities of working women in labor politics and focusing public attention on some of their most urgent needs.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

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LACE CURTAIN WORKERS' NEW SCHEDULE.

Negotiations were concluded recently between the employers' and employees' organization in the lace curtain industry, and wages of the operatives have been "definitely standardized."

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BRITISH TRAINED NURSES LINING UP WITH LABOR.

The trained nurses, perhaps the most educated and most articulate of all women workers, are now joining up with the international trade union movement in Great Britain.

POLITICS and PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

"It is not often that Government-owned services show a profit, but I am very happy to say that although we have only had 19 weeks, and some of them in commission but a short time, our earnings come out on the right side."

The above statement was one of the features of a lengthy speech by Hon. C. B. Baintyne, Minister of Marine and the Naval Service, on the progress of Canada's merchant ship building programme in the House of Commons yesterday.

The Minister stated that steel ships built in the United States had varied considerably in cost, but in most cases had gone over the \$200 mark. In British Columbia the same class of ships was being built for the Canadian Government at \$147.28.

The Minister also stated that the Government had contracted for 63 ships, representing a total tonnage of 358,425 tons and ranging from vessels of 10,000 tons to those of 2,500 tons.

Some agreement will be reached in a few days. Unhappily, even while these negotiations are proceeding, other matters in the Loire district have voted in favor of a general strike.

NATIONAL WAGE BOARD TO TAKE UP WAGE INCREASES.

As a result of the negotiations last week with the British Transport Ministry, the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, of Great Britain, has decided to refer its demands for increased wages to the Central and National Wage Board.

BRITISH WORKING WOMEN TO MEET IN LONDON.

The British Labor Party is making a new move, with the object of stimulating the activities of working women in labor politics and focusing public attention on some of their most urgent needs.

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SILVER advertisement for Quebec Mining Corporation. Text: "Over 30,000,000 dollars worth of silver and gold metal must be found." Includes details about shares and application forms.