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CANADA LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO

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Questions of the Day

AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT

BY JAMES WILSON

The individual liberty of the citizen is one of the boasts of the average Britisher, Canadian and United Stateser. How long this will remain so is exceedingly problematical owing to the attitude of the judges of all these lands. Injunction law is fast curtailing the liberties of the workers. What will they do about it? Have they yet come to realize their position? It is safe to assert that the vast majority of them have not. They not alone have not come to realize their position, and what they are being driven to, but they have not yet realized the powers they possess. We have organized labor and the socialist, the single taxer, the reformer of this evil and the reformer of that evil—reformers of all kinds known and several unknown ones, knocking at the wrong doors. Pilgrimages to this government and that one of annual semi-annual or at shorter periods of time, and all for the purpose of virtually going to the back door. This condition of things is what needs reforming first. It is going into the majority that they should rule under the Anglo-Saxon constitutions, and instead of going for the beggar's cold hand out it is within the power of the workers to send their emissaries in at the front door and upon the floor of the legislative hall demand that conditions be set right. Let all the reformers forget their special fads for the moment, and let them battle the cry "We must place reform men in the positions of power. They can all unite upon one issue, that of direct legislation, and with their men in power pledged to this one reform, all things must be given up to-date and no through it. Abuse of the privileged classes, the corporations and all the other oppressors in the land is just as availing as the pilgrimages to the governments. First know yourselves and then meet them, then the confidence which has been lacking will come to you, and the road to power will open to the class that should rule—the great majority.

The street railway employees are about making another try to better their conditions of employment. That is not to be wondered at, when we consider the difference between the workers of one year and a year or two ago. With the changes they desire I have no wish to deal just at the present moment. What is desired to be pointed out is that there should be no such mistake made as that of the company as was done at the time of the former difficulty. The men have an organization that includes all the men on the road worthily associated themselves in an organization which stands for the true principles of manhood. It is their business organization. It is the organization that not only looks after the common interests of the workers, but also looks after the interests of the community as a whole, but it does more—it looks after the interests of those who give fair returns to their employers. This being the case, it will be fair for the company to recognize this fact first, and as business men meet representatives of the union upon fair ground and give each side the opportunity to lay their case before the other and, if possible, come to an agreement, as most business men do, in the event of a disagreement upon one or more points, call in a special arbitrator, who may decide the issue from the standpoint of justice and with an unprejudiced eye. This is the only fair way of doing business, and with the proper representatives upon both sides I feel quite sure that there need be no discordant note nor any necessary for hard feeling on either side. The union has men specially trained in its business, and the company has its representatives, who would not be where they are to-day if they had not the special shilly shally to fill the void when they occur. Granting all this, then, it should not be very hard to find out how each side stands, and if they both cannot see their way clear to meet off at the same point, then let the other fellow tell them where they both must get on together.

The Berlin Wood Workers have decided to present a memorial to the Government of Ontario, and find out just what rights they have in this case of ours. It does seem as though the case, before the courts at the present time, should be settled to a definite conclusion, and the interests of the higher courts obtained upon the points in question. To do this it will require considerable money, and the other unions throughout Canada should come forward and help this little band in Berlin, as well as the other organizations in Toronto and London which have struggled along against fearful odds and have kept in the fight up to the present time. It must be remembered that whatever the outcome, it will be a benefit to the whole of organized labor in that the fight will not be fought over again by others. If it was ever reported out for labor to find out its true status in the land, it is much more so just at the present moment. It is safe to say that these injunctions are the greatest educating feature that we have ever had upon the economic stage, and they will

SHE WOULDN'T REGISTER.

(From the Pittsburg Kansan.)

"No, I won't register, and I'll never vote again," said Irene as she resentfully tossed her pretty head at an invitation to go and register for the spring election.

"Why what's the matter with you?" queried Laura, laughing, as she reached for her wraps to accompany some other ladies in a carriage that had called for them to go and register. "I think it just fun."

"It may be for you, but it isn't for me. I've registered and voted several times and never elected or helped to elect anybody. It's vexing and disgusting to study over what is best to do about voting and then have my vote thrown away," retorted Irene, with some warmth.

"O, please! nonsense!" replied Laura. "What's that got to do with it? I think it's jolly to register and vote, and be important and big, and have men chasing around after me for my vote, and tell me all sorts of stuff. You bet I'm going to register and vote every chance I get. What do I care who I vote for—what I want is the fun—no one don't be foolish; come along and register."

"Well, I won't, Laura—that's settled. If my vote don't amount to anything I am not going to vote at all. I'm through with being made a monkey of."

Irene and Laura are types of two very considerable classes of voters.

To Laura and her class the ballot has no significance. To them voting is merely a pastime, a joke, a by-word. During the campaign they are flattered by the attention paid them by office-seekers and voters, and enjoy the excitement by being caajoled, "seen," wheedled, smiled at and being considered important.

For a little season they are lifted out of their own natural insignificance and nothingness, and have the luxury of being regarded as somebody.

This is intoxicating and they enjoy it. With Irene and her kind it is different. To them the ballot is not a pastime, a joke, a toy, but an instrument through which they expect to give effect to their sovereign will. They have been taught that it is the very and the only purpose of the ballot, and unless it does so they have no use for it. If it does not do so it is to them a delusion, a snare and a fraud, and they demand results.

Why vote at all if their ballots are to be thrown into the waste basket?

In the end the thinking and honest believers in the reality and omnipotence of the ballot grow weary of being deluded, and tens of thousands of the best and most thoughtful citizens decline to either register or vote, just as Irene did.

The remedy for this is to so arrange our system of voting that every ballot will be effective.

That every voter will always be on the winning side.

Give the municipalities, to begin with, the Sure Vote.

The Effective Ballot.

Or, as it is better known perhaps, Proportional Representation.

Then will every intelligent, earnest, honest voter certainly go to the polls, while the triflers, the gargonians and the stupid class at home because they have not brains nor sense enough to cast an intelligent vote.

Woodworkers' Union, No. 326, at Pullman, Ill., has over 500 members, and this is where trades unions would never be tolerated—at least so said George Pullman in the early '90's.

As far as the money line put upon the Berlin woodworkers by Judge Meredith is concerned, personally not one of them will pay a cent. General President Malin is already on the scene, and will see to it that the money is forthcoming.

When the custom fallors at Peterboro presented their increase scale to the merchants, one firm, Camp Bros., not only immediately signed it, but sent a nice letter to the union, wishing it every success—a case evidently of live and let live.

In England the workers would not for a minute stand for labor candidates to attend the caucus of one of the predominant political parties, or to whom could be offered the leadership of a party in a province with the understanding that they should carry the labor vote. Over yonder a congress of labor members, or a committee for labor representation, has been formed. At a recent meeting the committee approved the nomination of the following candidates for Parliament: Jerry, representative of the postoffice employees; Peter Curran, gasworkers; for Jarro; Jowett, independent labor party; for West Bradford; James Parker, independent labor party; for Halifax; N. Snowden, independent labor party; for Blackburn; Will Thorne, gasworker and Social Democratic Federation; John Hodge, steelworker; John Ward, street paver; Keir Hardie, smoke in favor of passing a vote of reprimand against Richard Bell, member of Parliament, and known through the Taff Vale decision, as he is general secretary of the railway employees, and instead of fighting for the men, repudiated their action in no mistaken terms. Bell defended himself as ably as he could, and was assisted in his defence by John Ward. The last named delegate exclaimed: "Our aim must be to get a foothold in the Parliament. We should therefore not be so very particular in the choice of our means to that end. Against this opportunist policy Keir Hardie vehemently protested, saying: "We are not justified in using all means available to lead us to parliamentary victories. The test-stone of the method we are allowed to apply can only be a true and honest principle. Any deviation from this course would lead to ruin and disaster of the labor movement. Our aim is the foundation of a Parliamentary Labor party. An officer of his trade union, "The Labor Union," being put by the workingmen and against the aid of the Liberal or Conservative party, violates the fundamental principles of the committee." The vote of reprimand against Bell was carried with 650,000 votes against 154,000.

Are you alive to the fact that the question of child labor is becoming more and more a factor in the industries of the city of Toronto? This does not apply to the organized industries, but to the unorganized ones. If you have not already noticed this, just look about you in the morning, at noon and at night, and see them sending their way to and from work and home, just think how much better this is the only fair way of doing business, and with the proper representatives upon both sides I feel quite sure that there need be no discordant note nor any necessary for hard feeling on either side. The union has men specially trained in its business, and the company has its representatives, who would not be where they are to-day if they had not the special shilly shally to fill the void when they occur. Granting all this, then, it should not be very hard to find out how each side stands, and if they both cannot see their way clear to meet off at the same point, then let the other fellow tell them where they both must get on together.

STATE LIQUOR
The Adelaide Herald (South Australia) says: "Those who favor State control of the liquor traffic will have read with interest Chamberlain's advice to the people of the Orange River Colony to municipalize it. He advises that the profits go to the improvement of the city and the reduction of municipal debt. There would not be a six in the world to compare with Adelaide if the enormous profits made from liquor were spent in its beautification. If liquor, tobacco and all the transients were national or municipal monopolies and a moderate tax placed on land values, all other forms of taxation, so inequitable in their incidence, could be removed."

William Burleigh, London, residential organizer for the A. F. of L., accompanied by the indefatigable Joe Marks, of the Banner, responded to the call, "Come over and help us," and organized a Federal Labor Union at St. Mary's with a membership of 51, and another at Stratford with 60.

With a view of providing reasonable reading for their subscribers, the London Evening Engineers' Journal this month publishes a lengthy and well illustrated article on "Jerusalem, the Holy City," and a short story, "The Easter Bell," which also contains a number of interesting editorials and reports.

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That we did not have enough help to wait on the crowd that attended our opening at our Queen Street Store last week, but will be better prepared this week.

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- Red Cross Mince Meat, in tins, regular 15c for 6c
- Vim Life Chips, Quaker Oats, or Tilson's Oats 9c
- 10 Bars best Laundry Soap for 25c
- 3 large Bars Soap, extra quality 25c
- Squares Blue, regular 2c square, four for 3c
- Dome Lead, 3 domes in box for 4c
- Tapicoa, the very best, 5 lbs. for 15c
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DEVOTION TO MONEY-GETTING THE WORST SIGN OF THE TIMES.

By Dr. Timothy Dwight, former President of Yale University.

I heard a prominent graduate of one of our universities say that when he was a student many years ago there was in the student community almost a contempt for wealth. The thoughts and ambitions of the college men at that period were in the line of higher things than wealth; and in their estimate of one another they regarded this as nothing.

The whole life of the country has greatly changed since then. We have become a wealthy nation. We have passed from the simple life of a quiet town, as it were, to the luxury and abundance of a great city. The devotion of the people to money-getting has become so great as even to be alarming, and the one desire which seems to unite all men together is the desire to make something, in this matter of money, out of nothing.

There is surely no worse sign of the times in our day than this; but I believe that much of the old spirit still remains—at least so far as our judgment of men goes.

If the evil testimonies that are manifesting themselves so strongly among our people are to be checked and the glory of the old ancestry is to be preserved, the result must be accomplished through the influence of educated men. Those who go forth from the universities and colleges must show by their living, by the estimate of things which they manifestly form, by the energy which they display in the pursuit of the higher and nobler objects of desire, by their exaltation of learning and mental culture and of the power to do good service to the world and of honorable character above all external things, and if we may use the strong expression, by a contempt for wealth, what the true life for the nation is.

The young men of this generation are

in greater danger of being led away in the false path in this regard than were those who lived in former times. They need, therefore, the more carefully and constantly to open their minds to the higher influences of a university life.

May I not also say that they owe it to the future to keep alive these higher influences. The student's work is the student's life, and no higher obligation rests upon him than to pass on to other generations the true spirit which has been transmitted to himself.

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