

## THE TOILER

### Toronto District Labor Council

(Continued from page 2.)  
come the fortunes of the millionaires? Are they not extorted from the products of the industries classes? How is it that the man who works in the coal mines, the coal miners, get a command a fortune of a thousand dollars per day, while the average income of the industries classes is less than two dollars per day? Who is it pays all the taxation to-day? Is it the man who does nothing but draw his cents and dividends, or is it the man who sweats ten hours daily? Is it the man who does nothing, or the man who does everything? As we not face to face with the great fact that somewhere there is terrible injustice, which says to us, "So you can go to the world without the wealth, and to another set of men. You can get the wealth without the work?"

How does the method of taxation you propose affect this injustice? Does it mitigate it, or does it aggravate it? Which does it help, the coal miners or the coal barons? Does it help the bankers in New York, or does it help the Astors? Is it a tax which falls still more heavily on industry, or does it do anything to spread existing extortion?

To answer this question, we have but to watch the present development that is going on all over this continent. The men who get hold of the town sites, the greater timber limits, the valuable mines, are growing rapidly richer generation after generation simply by demanding from the people payment for access to the bounties furnished by the Creator for His children. Would it not be far wiser to try to get the taxes so placed on the values of the land, and the products of labor, industry, labor, that the growth of population? In this city labor has to pay ground rents varying from two thousand to fifty thousand dollars per acre yearly for the occupation of the land. With every addition to the population up goes the rent of the land, so that the land owner claims more fortune, while the laborer has to submit to greater tribute. Let this process continue, and in the coming generations, the hand of labor will never be relieved like the Crosses, while industry will still have to struggle for a chance to exist. Frequently we will not be any more than we are to-day. The prospect of this development is the severance of society into two distinct races, one enjoying all the advantages of civilization without bearing any of its burdens, the other bearing all the burdens and enjoying only the most meagre share of its advantages.

We can assure you that you have our most hearty sympathy. We would ask you, to consider these facts, especially if there is not a vastly better method of curing the industrial wrongs than by placing heavier taxes on everything that labor has to buy, and then flooding the labor market with the cheapest kind of immigration to reduce to the lowest price the only thing he has to sell, namely, his labor.

Yours respectfully,  
Secretary.

RE TARIFF ON PAPER.

Your committee also consider the letter from Mr. J. A. Cooper, requesting this Council to petition the Dominion Parliament to increase the duty on certain products, especially to the same rate as duty on unprinted paper. In reply to that letter your committee recommends that the following communication be sent:

John A. Cooper, Esq., Toronto:  
Dear Sir— I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 14th ultmo, asking this Council to pass a resolution to be sent to the Minister of Finance, to request that a duty be placed on printed paper equal to the duty already imposed on unprinted paper. You also state that this would not be an act of protection.

We have no intention to quibble at words, but permit us to call your attention to the fact that all taxes imposed in this manner are protective taxes of the worst kind.

Who is it to-day receives the greatest protection from our present methods of taxation? Can we give you the first example of any tax imposed by the Dominion Government which does not favor idleness and extortion? Are not the whole of the indirect, back-door taxes so arranged that they ultimately fall on the industry? While the population of this country has grown from a number not even precedent in the history of the world, while the insignificant towns of a century ago have grown into great metropolitan centres, with their stores of immeasurable wealth, have the laboring classes grown richer and richer as the wealth has multiplied?

Go to any city, and can we not witness the same terrible injustice? One set of men allowed to charge their fees and expenses, occupied the law and law offices. This means that part of society cannot do all the work and get little wealth, while these favored ones can get abundant wealth without the work.

Would it not show much more wisdom if you were to request the Parliament to remove some of the taxes which now bear with such force on the industries classes, instead of trying to get the injurious and "indirect" taxes still further increased?

With the enormous supplies of pulpwood and water power on this continent, why should there be any duty on imported paper? If, therefore, you make any request for a change in the tariff, would it not be better to ask for the removal of the duty from paper? Would not this method be far better than tax for

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W. E. Kephart, Secretary.

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