

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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RECOGNIZING THE UNIONS.

THERE are even yet some stiff-necked individuals who do not want to recognize the Unions. But their "day will be short"—much shorter than the eight-hour day of the Unions. In Britain this one thing has come—Recognition of the Unions—out of a confusing cloud of demands, ideas, claims of Organized Labor, Individualism, Public Ownership, State Socialism, Doctrines of Marx, Syndicalism, Public Ownership and Whitley Industrial Councils.

Our Government could do well to follow the lead of the old land with legislation, including a forty-eight-hour labor week, a minimum wage basis, discouragement of systematic overtime, extension of the short time work expedient to meet unemployment, an increase of State provision for unemployed workers, State provision of educational opportunities during unemployment, and a positive guard against the evils of child labor.

PEACEFUL CONQUERORS.

CANADIAN Farm Labor and Factory Producers of Food will be the eventual conquerors of Anarchy—when Food is needed to carry Peace and Contentment to the hungry peoples of the turbulent eastern hemisphere. The fertile places of Canada are springing green with little blades shooting up—blades that preserve instead of destroy life.

GOOD WAGES DRAW GOOD CITIZENS.

THE proposed immigration laws should meet with the approval of Labor and Capital. The bill generally debars criminals, vagrants, advocates of violence, spies and conspirators. There is no room in Canada for those who are opposed to law and order. The immense land of our fair Dominion is open only to the man from overseas who desires to become a law-abiding citizen and reap the benefits from the wealth of Canadian mine, field and forest at a wage that will enable him to live as a good citizen.

VETERANS WANT A DECENT LIVING.

TRUE Organized Labor will be aided in the fight for a "decent living," by the returned men who are here and still coming by thousands. A composite statement, taken from interviews with many returned men, is to the effect that the men in uniform are not coming back with ideas of violence, intent on grabbing more than their reasonable share. They are after a decent living, just that, and came back home for it because they felt that Canada is better fitted yet to give them what they could not expect in equal proportions in the old countries.

BRAIN JOINS BRAWN.

IF anybody has any doubt as to the upward trend of Organized Labor, look who's here. Allow us to introduce College Professors' Local No. 1, organized at the University of Illinois, and granted a charter by the American Federation of Labor. This seems to be recognition of the "Intellectual" as a bona fide member of the working class.

SUCCESS.

THE crowd passes by the man who is trying to explain why he failed, to gather around the little chap who is telling how he did it.

LUXURIES.

THE cost of living has got to such a height that Luxuries now seem to be the things that were necessities about four years ago.

POLITICS AND PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

By Special Correspondent. The past week has been an eventful one for the Canadian laborer. It has seen the resignation of a Cabinet Minister, Hon. T. A. Crean, Minister of Agriculture. On top of this is the general industrial unrest and the Winnipeg general strike, all of which are helping to keep up political interest despite the danger of hot weather.

The Finance Minister did not attempt to minimize our serious financial position. He pointed out that only by united effort could the nation meet the situation. However, he was optimistic as to the resources that the situation was a long way from serious.

Briefly, the Government's proposals are as follows: 1. The seven and a half per cent duty will be removed on all clothing. In addition the British preference will be increased five per cent, to its old position before the war.

AMERICAN WOMEN ARE ORGANIZED.

More than 80,000 women office workers have joined trade union organizations during the past year, according to reports received by the National Women's Trade Union League at its Washington office. These are for the most part stenographers, clerks, accountants, etc., in the various offices throughout the country, and in the various branches of the Federal Civil Service.

SASKATOON DELEGATION STATES O. B. U. BEHIND WINNIPEG STRIKE.

The delegation from Saskatoon, returned from Winnipeg last week, and advised all the men on strike to return to work, as they say the sympathetic strike is unwarranted. Conditions in Winnipeg are awful as a result of the action of the strike committee, they say. The report says: "We recognize the right of labor to organize as crafts and along industrial lines, and we recognize their claim to bargain individually and collectively, and we do not deny the right of labor, organized or otherwise, to strike as the last measure, after efforts have been made to bargain, consult, arbitrate or mediate have failed."

KEEP IN TOUCH.

There is no reason why every worker for wages should not be vitally interested in the trades union movement. The most potent reason at present is the reactionary tendency of the employers during this so-called reconstruction period. Unless the workers combat collectively the attempts to deprive them of the somewhat more liberal concessions they gained during the war, many an employer of Labor will not hesitate for a moment to cut wages and increase the length of the working-days.

ANDY'S ANSWER.

A man once asked Andrew Carnegie which he considered to be the most important factor in business—labor, capital, or brains? "Well," answered the canny Scot, "which do you consider the most important—iron, or a three-legged stool?"

INDUSTRY TURNED OVER TO EMPLOYEES UNDER FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

Going even a step further than the employee representation plan which is being inaugurated in a few of the large industrial plants in the United States, the Government has turned over to the employees under a form of government similar to that of the United States.

General Carr announces that the experiment is to be put into operation at once, and that its primary object is to avert any possibility of trouble between capital and labor. It is understood that the employees are much pleased with the proposal, and will enter into the plan with enthusiasm.

The miniature government to be set up in the mills is already outlined, and under it the employees of the factories will constitute a house of representatives, the managers forming themselves into a senate. The owners will comprise a cabinet in this new industrial enterprise.

MANY AWARDS UNDER COMPENSATION ACT.

The fourth year's operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act of Ontario is dealt with in a report just published. It shows that during the year \$2,514,448 was awarded for compensation, or \$11,698 a day, and \$265,546 for medical aid, or \$1,219 a day; the number of checks issued per day being 248 for compensation and 128 for medical aid.

Payment was made for 40,930 accidents, 357 of these being death cases, 2,548 causing some degree of permanent disability, 24,481 causing only temporary disability, and 12,252 involving only medical aid. It is estimated that over 190,000 workmen are covered by the provisions of the act. As the disability in serious accidents often continues into and sometimes beyond the following year, complete statistics can only be given for the prior year.

ORGANIZED WOMEN AGAINST CHILD LABOR.

Philadelphia women interested in child welfare spoke plainly and emphatically at a hearing before the House Manufacturers' Committee on the Hess Bill, which would amend the Child-Labor law by permitting children between the ages of 14 and 16 years to work in cigar factories. Miss Freda Miller, of the Women's Trade Union League, said that tobacco is bad for growing children, and that the plan of the cigar-makers was not to get young workers but cheaper workers. Mr. Gosney said he intended to claim that in order to keep their industry going it was necessary to train cigar-makers while young.

"NO NAME STANDS HIGHER."

Samuel Gosney, president of the American Federation of Labor, has been awarded the gold medal of the National Institute of Social Science for his achievements in behalf of humanity during the war. "There is no name that stands higher than yours in the cause of humanity," said George Gordon Battle in his presentation address. The medal is the highest honor conferred by the National Institute of Social Science. You have not only won the confidence of the people of the United States, but of the whole world.



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WAGES—HOURS—OUTPUT.

Lord Leverhulme explained his six hours' day scheme to a largely attended meeting held in Liverpool, of members of the Ship and Candle Trades Employers' Federation and the Central Employers' Federation.

Dr. A. F. Anderson, of Moscow, U.S.S.R., has just returned from a tour of inspection in the United Kingdom, and said every employer knew all too well that the great trouble at the present time, that one of the inevitable aftermaths of the terrible war, through which we had passed, was the state of unrest prevailing in the country, the striving after the unknown. Every employer knew, also, that unless something were done to allay this unrest, the future of all British industry was very gravely imperiled.

He proceeded to explain in considerable detail his scheme for a six-hour working day, and said that in all those industries where the overhead charges were equal, and not less than, the weekly wage bill they could change from an eight-hour single shift day to a 12-hour double shift day of six hours each, without adding to the cost of the product, and also without requiring any increased output from the employees per hour, that is, at the same time they could pay as much for a six-hour day as they did for an eight-hour day. In this way they would have the means at their disposal of introducing great variety into the lives of those who attended to monotonous process operations in factories, and he did not think for a moment that the extra leisure according to the working classes would be misapplied. With increased wages and shorter hours in the case of the workers, he believed it would be in the future. (Applause.)

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