

# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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**THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS**

THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS  
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Following in brief is an outline of our Policy:

1. The Canadian Labor Press supports the International Trade Union Movement, of which there are approximately three hundred thousand members in Canada.
2. The Canadian Labor Press supports the policy of the present Dominion Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.
3. In the interests of the Canadian Worker, The Canadian Labor Press believes that Canadian industry needs adequate tariff protection.
4. The Canadian Labor Press advocates fair play to employer and employee.
5. The Canadian Labor Press stands for the betterment of Trade Union conditions in Canada and the welfare of our country at large.
6. The Canadian Labor Press is independent in politics and free from any political influences.

### The Shoe Industry in Canada

On the front page of this issue of "The Canadian Labor Press," the shoe industry in Canada is most completely reviewed and it is the earnest desire of this paper that our supporters read and study this article most thoroughly as it is very typical of the situation prevailing in Canada at the present time in the majority of Canadian industries and demonstrates the necessity of closer co-operation in industry between employers and employees for mutual protection.

We are all affected by the critical development of foreign competition at a time when every effort should be put forth to protect Canadian industries if Canada is to maintain her status as an industrial country.

The shoe industry has played a very important part in the development of Canada as the article will show. In the year 1919-1920, the value of shoes exported from Canada reached the record sum of \$5,679,720—truly an amazing feat for one of Canada's most important industries, but the sad part of the story is the reaction which set in thereafter due to the unfair competition caused by inferior working conditions in other countries and the rates of exchange existing through the demonization of the places which allowed foreign shoes to be dumped into Canada at ridiculous prices, thus crippling the Canadian industry and throwing Canadian workmen out of employment.

### Prohibition in Ontario

After being able to think the matter over for the past three years, the working men of the Province of Ontario are about to have the opportunity of expressing their disapproval of the present temperance laws, legislation which was originally foisted on the public in 1916 without sanction of the voters and as a wartime measure; two referendum votes since that time, one in 1919 and one in 1921, were rushed upon the unsettled citizens and largely through the means of trick ballots, the original measures were sustained.

Now however, that the voting public of Ontario have had a chance to witness the evils brought about through the present system, we venture to say that many of those who through ignorance, voted for the legislation at the last referendum, will change their ballots accordingly.

When the present laws were rushed into force in 1921, prohibitionists tried to fasten the badge of disgrace on everyone who did not side in with their views, but now citizens use their own heads in discussing this all important question and have discovered that a person is not necessarily damned because he is not a prohibitionist. Even now, when the present campaign gets under way, the prohibition forces will try to rule the roost and thrust upon the people their bigoted and selfish views. Within the past few days, a prominent man in financial and business circles in Toronto, who is an ardent prohibitionist, has made the statement through the press that he does not consider a vote necessary, which is a far different view from that taken by the toiling masses who need and insist upon their glass of beer.

From the standpoint of the moral affect from present laws, we have a decided increase in dope fiends who end up with horrible crimes; the undermining of the health standards through imbibing illicit and poisonous beverages and a decided lowering in the standard of our social life; confidence in our fellowmen has been shattered and it has developed liars and a feeling of distrust which lowers the standard of moral responsibility.

From the standpoint of finances, the foreigners in the bootlegging trade are getting all the revenue which should go into the public treasury to help lower our taxes which have reached the breaking point during the past few years. The doctors are also getting money which they are not entitled to and which is a financial drain both ways. Business conditions during the past three years have been very bad and in Ontario especially, there seems to be a lack of interest in making progress and in the welfare of industry, which is the backbone of Ontario's success. Revenue which should ordinarily come into Ontario through the channels of business and in other ways is being directed to other provinces and we need privileges such as they have in Quebec to attract American finances which will offset Ontario's commercial disadvantages.

### Labor Conditions Satisfactory at Ontario Mines

(Continued from page 1)

and bonus system of work underground are followed wherever the work lends itself to these methods. In this way the efficient workman receives a greater return than the prevailing rate of wages.

An analysis of mine labor made early in 1923 by Balmer Neilly, secretary of the Ontario Mining Association, showed that 64 per cent. of all labor at mines in Ontario was British, 11 per cent. Italian, 6 per cent. Finnish, 5 per cent. Polish, 4 per cent. Austrian, 3 per cent. Slave, 2 per cent. American, 2 per cent. Rumanian, all other countries 3 per cent. Mill men, machinists, hostmen, etc., are practically 100 per cent. British. The foreigners are found principally amongst the unskilled labor on the surface and underground. The British workman is content to leave all pick and shovel work to the foreigners. He insists on a better class of work and better pay.

Mining in Ontario is neither a hazardous nor unpleasant. The walls of the veins are self-supporting; the mines are not wet, the underground temperatures vary between 42 deg. Fah. in winter to 48 deg. Fah. in summer; the use of water drills avoid the dust nuisance. The hours of labor underground are fixed by statute at eight hours face to face. Wages must be paid every two weeks. The conditions under which mining is carried on are covered by

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statute. Government mine inspectors see that these requirements are complied with. In addition, most of the larger companies have safety engineers or safety committees.

Two very stabilizing influences on mine labor in Ontario are the medical attention provided and the compensation paid for injuries received in the course of employment.

### Carry Leslie Case to British Comons

Resolution Is Passed by Amalgamated Society of Carpenters

Toronto, Ont.—At a general meeting of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, held in the Labor Temple recently, the following resolution relating to the case of a labor man named William Leslie, now being detained by the authorities, was passed practically unanimously:

"That this mass meeting of Amalgamated Carpenters condemn the vicious sentence passed on William Leslie and we demand his immediate release. Furthermore, that we notify our members of Parliament in Great Britain to take the matter up in the British House of Commons, and that we request the Clyde Labor members of Parliament also to bring pressure to bear on the authorities here for Leslie's release, whose chief crime, in the eyes of the law, is refusing to be employed and starve quietly; also to take up the crime of bringing immigrants here when many thousands are idle."

### Miners' Strike Still Deadlock

Little Hope for Re-opening Negotiations from Either Side Seen

Calgary, Alta.—H. Ostlund, of Lethbridge, who is solicitor for District 18 of the United Mine Workers of America, and who was a member of the Knowles' conciliation board two years ago, was in the city recently, as was also O. E. S. Whiteside of Coleman, late president of the Western Canada Coal Operators' Association, but neither was able to throw out any ray of hope that something might be done in the near future in the way of re-opening negotiations leading to a settlement of the present coal miners' strike.

"Of course I am looking purely after the legal end of the organization," remarked Mr. Ostlund, "and cannot speak for its officials, but it would appear to me to be but a question of marking time and waiting for some move to be made by the operators."

No Developments  
 Mr. Whiteside said there were no new developments in the situation. The operators had made what they considered to be a very fair offer and had only asked for a reduction in wages which was about half that recommended by the Knowles' conciliation board.

Advice received in Calgary were to the effect that forty-eight delegates representing approximately twelve thousand union miners in the Hocking Valley field in the States, recently unanimously adopted a resolution inviting mine owners and operators in that section to meet in joint conference to discuss amendments to the wage scale and working conditions with a view to expediting the cost of mining. It is understood that the operators have signified their intention of accepting the invitation, and the joint session will probably be held this month. Mines in that section of the American fields have been idle for months owing to inability to compete with other mining fields.

### Postal Strike Incident

Timmins, Ont.—One of the lumber companies of the Timmins camp had occasion to order some articles from a traveller, and after he had his order neatly written out he asked for a couple of pieces of slabs.

"What do you want with the pieces of slabs?" he was asked. His reply

was that on account of the postal strike in Toronto he had to get his orders by express, but as the express companies are not allowed to carry mail, the orders had to be weighed down sufficiently to have the general appearance of a bona fide express parcel. The traveller's letter went on its joyful way, appearing quite express-like, with pieces of slabs on each side, and an old shoe box for an envelope.

### Farmers Take Bulk of Help in Labor Mart

More Work Provided at Regina Employment Office Than Others in Province

Regina, Sask.—Regina topped the employment offices recently by placing 122 men and women in work. Moose Jaw came second with 95 and Saskatoon third with 75 found positions. Placements by other offices were Swift Current, 43; Yorkton, 22; Prince Albert, 22; Weyburn, 19; North Battleford, 18; Estevan, 7; Teachers' Exchange, 10.

Farmers supplied most of the work with 157 men taken on, while 49 general laborers were found employment. The railways absorbed 36 and lumbering 9. There were 78 domestics found positions and 35 day workers. Labor conditions continue quiet in

practically all lines throughout the province, farmers in some northern districts letting out men because of the continued dry weather having made it impracticable for them to carry on their summer fallow work. There is plenty of help available in all lines of business with a scarcity of vacancies.

At North Battleford there was a fair demand for farm workers to finish summer fallow work and a number of men engaged for the balance of the season to be sure of work.

### Customs Men Glad They Won Increase

Statutory Increase of \$120 for 1,500 Men

Ottawa, Ont.—Customs men throughout the country are very well pleased by the order-in-council which raises the statutory increases of certain classes, including about 1,500 men, from \$60 to \$120. It is a point they have debated since the classification in 1918, and on which they have constantly made representations to the department, the Civil Service Commission, and the Government.

"The measure is largely due to the indefatigable efforts of the Minister, Hon. Jacques Bureau," said Mr. T. H. Burns, secretary-treasurer of the Dominion Customs and Excise Officers' Association. "The Commission was most helpful in enabling us to present our case, and we had loyal support from the Commissioner of Customs, Mr. P. R. Farrow. It is a great satisfaction to our men."

It is stated that the main reason for the increase was the fact that these classes of customs officers do work requiring considerable initiative and without immediate supervision.

### Workmen Needed

Kingston, Ont.—Business was brisk at the Employment Office recently, with orders for first class carpenters, fitters-up on locomotives, stone-cutters, first class laborers, housemen, domestics and experienced farm help. Vacancies are still open for some of the above and the local superintendent would prefer local help if available before bringing outside help to the city.

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