Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

HIGH COST OF LIVING WORLD WIDE.

NOT only are we in Canada suffering from the High Cost of Living but fellow workers in all parts of the world are crumpling under it.

The Canadian Government was one of the first bodies to act in the matter and during the last session of Parliament the Dominion Government passed legislation establishing a Board of Commerce with wide powers to deal with combines and to prevent hoarding as a means of unduly enhancing prices. The Board of Commerce consists of a chairman, an assistant chairman, and a third commissioner. These commissioners are to hold office for a period of ten years, and are given power and direction to restrain and prohibit the formation and operation of combines. The board has all the powers of a court, and will be able to proceed against a combine or alleged combine, either on its own motion or on the complaint of any citizen.

It is given large inquisitorial powers, including the right to demand from any firms or individuals returns of stocks of goods on hand. It may deal with any person or firm which accumulates or withholds from sale necessaries of life beyond an amount reasonably required for the use or consumption of his household or for the ordinary purposes of his business. An appeal from a decision of the board on a question of fact will lie to the Governor-in-Council, and on a question of law to the Supreme Court of Canada.

One of the most important features of the legislation is that the Board of Commerce will be able to proceed itself against persons accused of hoarding or of combining to enhance prices, or it may refer the case to the Attorney-General of a province with a recommendation that criminal proceedings be instituted.

France recently has been the scene of food riots and demands for lower prices. The Government took a hand in the matter and has virtually nationalized the retail business in its proposal to construct a thousand barracks for the sale of necessities at cost.

Among other products, the Government plans to sell the entire stock of American army supplies recently purchased by France.

Retailers, fearing Government competition, have asked that their stores be used instead of the proposed barracks and have agreed to accept the minimum prices fixed by the Government. The publicity to be given these prices is expected to render speculation impossible.

So, even before the proposed measure has been brought about it is having its effect and prices in France are already on the decline.

The French Government is also planning aggressive measures against restaurant prices.

With a view to reducing the high cost of living the Supreme Economic Council of the Allied nations is considering the control of the world's food supply. It is expected that a council will be appointed embracing the Allies, central powers and neutrals, for the purpose of controlling the world's food supply and fighting combines.

So pressing are the demands for a reduction in the high cost of living or an increase in the wages of the railroad employes to meet it that President Wilson asked the House of Representatives of the United States of America to abandon a proposed recess of five weeks.

Besides this the House Inter-State Commerce Committee has reported favorably a resolution directing the Federal Trade Commission to investigate the increased price of shoes and last week resolutions and bills designed to alleviate conditions of living were introduced in both Houses of Congress.

So we see that the high cost of living is not confined to Canada alone but rather is world wide and those "Dreamers" and "Time Wasters" in Canada who would throw over their International Trade Union affiliation in the hope of securing control of industry can best help to make prices decline by international action rather than by setting up a Soviet or any other form of "Red" Government.

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LABOR UP IN THE AIR.

IT has been claimed that "Labor is up in the air," in this period of unrest. This was perhaps an announcement made prematurely. Since the strike has occurred with the Aerial Mail Pilots the term may no longer be applied.

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THE BOLSHEVIEW-POINT.

JUDGING from what the "Bolshies" have done in Russia, and what they would like to do to make this world a "perfect Paradise," the Bolsheview-point looks quite warped. Check these items over and see how many of them you would like to have applied to yourself and your family right here in Canada:

The repudiation of democracy and the establishment of a dictatorship;

The confiscation of all land, forests, natural resources, live stock, and agricultural implements.

The confiscation of all banks and the establishment of a state monopoly of the banking business.

The confiscation of all factories, mills, mines, and industrial institutions and the delivery of the control and operation thereof to the employes therein.

The confiscation of all churches and all church property, real and personal.

Abolition of newspapers, periodicals and all mechanical facilities and machinery used in their publication.

The seizure of all public meeting places and assembly halls.

The confiscation of the entire estate of all decedents.

The monopolizing by the state of all advertisements of every nature, whether newspapers, periodicals, handbills, or programmes.

The repudiation of all debts against the Government, and all obligations due the non-Bolshevist elements of the population.

It would mean the establishment of a universal compulsory military service regardless of religious scruples and conscientious objections, as well as of universal compulsory labor.

The abolition of the Sunday School and all other schools and institutions that teach religion.

The establishment, through marriage and divorce laws, of a method for the legalization of prostitution, when the same is engaged in by consent of the parties.

The refusal to recognize the existence of God in its Governmental and judicial proceedings.

The conferring of the rights of citizenship on aliens without regard to length of residence or intelligence.

The arming of all so-called "toilers," and the disarming of all persons that had succeeded in acquiring property.

There would be discrimination in favor of residents of cities and against residents of the rural districts through giving residents of cities five times as much voting power as is accorded to residents of rural districts in such elections as are permitted.

The disfranchisement of all persons employing any other person in connection with their business, would be enforced, similarly of all persons receiving rent, interest, or dividends; also all merchants, traders, and commercial agents.

The disfranchisement of all priests, clergymen, or employes of churches and religious bodies.

The establishment of a judicial system exercising autocratic power, convicting persons and imposing penalties in their absence, and without opportunity to be heard, and even adopting the death penalty for numerous crimes and misdemeanors.

The inauguration of a reign of fear, terrorism, and violence.

Honestly now, doesn't the Bolsheview-point look just as it has been described as "Socialism in a Mad House?"

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SELECTIONS FOR LABOR CONFERENCE.

THROUGH J. B. Lachlan, District 26 of the United Mine Workers, Nova Scotia, have given intimation that they will not have representation at the conference at Ottawa, next month, save and except certain conditions are carried out or their manner of selection employed. Otherwise they will adopt the attitude of the child that will not play.

In the publicity to their viewpoint, they have either wilfully covered the true situation of system of selection or left unsaid what should have been published, that a correct idea may have been gained by the general reader. This is, however, a common vice of the telling of half the truth to bolster up excuses against selected officials with whom they disagree.

The facts, which cannot be gainsaid, are that the reflex of the voice of Labor is centred in the selected executive of the Trades and Labor Congress and in the intervals of conventions must carry on. In the selections that the Congress makes, it is confronted with the names of those chosen either by the local unions they serve or International office. Thus the choice is not with the Congress executive but by the rank and file.

It is well to note the selfish attitude the Lachlan faction seeks to adopt when it is recalled that out of the selection committee of five Congress officials, two-fifths or two out of five are members of the miners' organization, a ratio twice as large as they are entitled to. A fair mind must be convinced that the miners down by the Eastern sea not only want to control what is under the earth but seek to rule the voice of Labor above.

Bluntly—with two executive officers, Vice-Presidents Baxter and Rees, the miners have more than their share in the voice of the Dominion Labor movement and it is again apparent that having much they want more. They should be left severely alone to their spoilt child tactics.

ANOTHER JONAH GONE OVERBOARD.

—Morris in the Manchester Daily Mirror.

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

PRICES CANNOT GO DOWN.

"No one can imagine prices are going down much in the next year or two." Premier Lloyd George declared before the Agricultural Committee of the House of Commons. The shortage of raw materials and foodstuffs is too world wide to permit a reduction, he said.

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BRITISH DELEGATE PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION.

W. A. Appleton, secretary of the General Federation of Trades Unions of Great Britain, who was elected president of the International Trades Union Federation, was proposed for the office by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor. Appleton was chosen by 31 votes as against 18 for President Oudegeest, of the Dutch Labor Federation.

Leon Jouhaux, the French labor leader, was chosen first vice-president, receiving 30 votes to 19 for Carl Rudolph Legien, president of the German Federation of Trades Unions. Legien declined to accept the second vice-presidency, or any other office as, he said, the meeting appeared to despise the Germans. The Austrians also refused to participate as office holders.

* * *

TRANSPORT WORKERS COMBINE.

An important agreement between the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen and the London and Provincial Union of Licensed Vehicle Workers was finally confirmed at the annual conference of the former body, recently. The object of the agreement which is now in force is to enable the two unions better to protect the interests of their members employed by the London combine of tramways, busses and electrified railways. As far as London is concerned and the tramways, omnibusses, tubes, and all electrified undertakings over which steam trains operate, the two unions have agreed, in the event of any dispute with the employers of any section, to call out all their members. Prior, however, to a strike being decided on by either union, it must notify the other with a view to joint negotiations for the purpose of avoiding a dispute if possible.

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SAM GOMPERS TOO CONSERVATIVE?

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor and head of the American delegation to the International Trades Union Federation in session at Amsterdam, pleaded for greater rights for labor.

His address to the congress followed the report of a committee which said it could not accept the charter given labor in the peace treaty as a full expression of the workers' demands.

Mr. Gompers declared that he always had worked for improvement of conditions and demanded that labor should not be regarded as an article of commerce. He urged also that a Seamen's Act be enacted to permit sailors to leave ships when they were safely in harbor. He pleaded for the equality of women and men and the abolition of voluntary services.

German delegates disputed Mr. Gompers' argument, which they said, made appear that the European labor unions were too conservative.

They demanded that the workers strive for a realization of the Berne conference's programme, including the regulation of children's education, women's labor, shorter hours, Sunday rest and the supervision of home industries. This position was supported by Leon Jouhaux, the French delegate, who declared the worker's task should be to complete labor's charter as set forth in the peace treaty.

* * *

FATHER VAUGHAN'S DREAM —A JOKE.

Father Bernard Vaughan has recently opened fire on the labor leaders in Britain. He had some plain things to say to a correspondent when asked why he had recently said in a sermon that in his organized capacity the workman was horrid. Father Vaughan, with a twinkle in his eye, replied:

"I'll explain it by a little drama. I was lecturing before working men on my triple alliance—discipline, comradeship and work—when suddenly I dropped dead.

"I found myself in Purgatory getting a good frizzling, but when the cleansing fires had done their work I was carried on the wings of my guardian angel to heaven, where St. Peter gave me a kindly welcome and took me down the golden broad way to a central hall, where, among others, were millions of hand workers in tiers above tiers according to their individual merits.

"I then recognized the meaning of the words, 'blessed are the poor for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'

"As we passed out I noticed an annex with the wording over the entrance: Labor leaders only. I asked St. Peter the meaning of this arrangement, and he replied:

"'You see, all the labor men are so contented and happy in their various degrees of glory that if labor leaders were let loose they would try to get up a strike because there were notes of distinction among them. Would you like to have a peep?'

"'I just would,' I said, and the doors swung back upon their golden hinges and there before me was a glorious apartment, but nobody in.

"'Is there no labor leader here?' I exclaimed, and St. Peter replied: 'Why, of course, you knew it was only a dream because Mr. Smillie was not there.'"

* * *

THE ENGLISHMAN'S BEER.

Loud cheers greeted the announcement by Mr. Bonar Law in the House of Commons recently, that the Government has decided to end the career of the Liquor Control Board. There was even an attempt by one member to raise a "three-times-three," but the House did not respond.

An instant later, however, the House was ringing with critical cries of "Oh! Oh!" for Mr. Bonar Law went on to say that the board, "which has rendered great service," is to be replaced by a commission "under a Minister responsible to Parliament," and that a bill to effect this change will shortly be introduced.

Mr. Bonar Law added: "The Government has decided that all restrictions as to the quantity of beer which may be brewed should be removed. They are, however, of opinion that the restrictions on the gravity ought to be continued—(Mr. Will Thorne: "Oh, rubbish!")—but they have decided that the gravity of the beer in each grade should be increased by four degrees, and that the permitted average gravity of the output of any brewer should be raised by a like amount.

"The price of beer under 1020 gravity is to be reduced to 2d. a pint. The effect of these changes will be that the increased rate of profit derived by the brewers from their output will be spent in improving the quality of the beer supplied to the public, and consequently the Government does not propose to levy any additional duty which they would otherwise have been able to secure."

Mr. Will Thorne asked if it was not the opinion of the Liquor Control Board that the low gravity of the beer sold had been the means of driving the people to drink whiskey. He added that 1020 beer was not so strong as ginger-pop. (Laughter.)

Mr. Bonar Law said the Government intended to improve the quality of the beer. All he had said about 1020 beer was that it must be sold at a very low price.

Sir John Rees: Is it hoped that the gravity mentioned is to be the permanent gravity? May not the public look forward to having as good beer as they had before the war, because that is their expectation?

Mr. Bonar Law: I really have no power of limiting the expectations of the public. (Laughter.)

Capt. Ormsby Gore: Do the Government propose to make any change in the hours of sale?

Mr. Bonar Law: I have said nothing about that, but, of course, the House will understand that it is not intended to do anything at once.

Sir George Younger, head of the Scottish firm of brewers, stated that the beers brewed under the new regulations will still be about 20 per cent. lighter than the beers sold at similar prices before the war. As to the sale of 1020 gravity beer at 2d. per pint, this was such poor stuff that most brewers would be ashamed to produce it. — London Daily Mail.

COOKS' AND WAITERS' CONVENTION AT PROVIDENCE, R. I.

The Hôtel and Restaurant Employes' International Alliance will hold their annual convention at Providence, R.I., August 11, 12 and 13. A few days previous there will be a conference in Chicago on legislative matters which will come before the convention. This International is also parent body of the Bar Tenders' Unions, and dry legislation is expected to occupy a prominent place in the discussions.

GET READY FOR PROVINCIAL GENERAL ELECTION.

To the Secretaries and Members of all Local Branch Associations of the Independent Labor Party of Ontario:

Fellow Workers,—As the announcement of the date for the election of representatives to the next Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario may be expected at almost any moment now and it is self-evident that it will not be much longer delayed, it is imperative that you have not already done so, to immediately arrange for the calling of a special summoned meeting of your branch at the earliest possible moment to take action in connection with the election campaign.

In order to make this campaign as effective as possible, the various branch associations will be expected to act together in the closest co-operation in order to systematize the work and secure the very best results, and it is the desire of the Provincial Executive to keep in close touch with the various local branch associations, in order that public meetings may be arranged, election literature secured, and advice be given at any and all times that may be of assistance in carrying on the campaign along business lines, and with a well defined aim in view.

The experience of the past has amply demonstrated, especially in the case of new branches that have had no previous experience in the work, that much time, money and effort may be saved and better progress be assured if they act in co-operation with the Provincial Executive. It is more especially for this reason that this communication has been issued.

Up to this time the entire correspondence and work has devolved upon the shoulders of the provincial secretary, and it must be self-evident that it will be necessarry to provide him with some assistance if the work is to be carried on without unnecessary delay.

It is, therefore, hoped that you will get into the fight immediately. That you will form strong election committees and make arrangements to hold public mass meetings, enroll new members, and exert every possible effort to complete your machinery to put up a telling campaign. Kindly send in any information that you believe would assist the Provincial Executive in its plans.

There never was a time in the history of the working-class political movement when there was such a pronounced sentiment in favor of independent political action, and we should seek to take advantage of the golden opportunity that has presented itself. All that is now necessary is for every branch and every member to do their bit. We can set the province on fire with enthusiasm if one and all get on the job. If we start now we will have ample time to do our work effectively, but we cannot afford to halt or hesitate. You can aid by getting in touch at once. We want speakers in every constituency where Labor candidates are to be nominated, and by planning and pulling together we will undoubtedly have a number of straight Labor members in the next Provincial Legislature.

We want to help you, and we want you to help your Provincial Executive. If we pull together we shall win. Keep this in mind: Tell us what you are doing; tell us what we can do to help you. We mean business, and with thorough co-operation there will be no doubt of the result.

Will you kindly carry out the recommendations contained in this communication and immediately get in touch with the Provincial Executive. Write immediately to

JOSEPH T. MARKS,
Provincial Secretary I.L.P.
of Ontario, Labor Temple,
167 Church St., Toronto.

TORONTO THE HOME OF WAR PROFITEERS

"Toronto is the home of some of the war profiteers who have made millions, and the city is losing a great deal of revenue as a result of inaction," reads the concluding sentence in the memo sent on to Assessment Commissioner Forman by Mayor Church, in which he again impresses on the commissioner the necessity for getting after the "profiteers."

"I have sent on the names of a number of Toronto firms to the commissioner. Some of them were mentioned during the investigation at Ottawa, and others were named in Food Control reports," said the Mayor.

The Mayor declined to give the names of any of these firms for publication, or specify how any of them were to be assessed.

In his memo to the department the Mayor continues: "I would suggest that you read the evidence given at Ottawa before the Department and Select Committee of the House of Commons with reference to certain Toronto companies and the reports made to the Federal authorities by those companies. The department can have special counsel to take the cases before the County Judge."

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THE HIGH COST OF LIVING

Is more or less a question of scarcity of foodstuffs.

During the war destruction of world supplies was widespread. Millions of men were taken out of production. Shiploads of food were sunk by the score. The world's surplus stocks of cereals, animals, dairy products and other foodstuffs were depleted.

What is now needed is to BUILD UP AGRICULTURE. We require a larger proportion of people on the farms. By building up agriculture and exporting agricultural products, we will be able to pay our war debts.

Don's cuss about the price of foodstuffs. Go into the business of producing food yourself.

Manitoba Needs Thousands of Harvest Hands

To help with this year's generous crop. Come to Manitoba and try a season's farming. It is an independent, wholesome, profit producing life.

MANITOBA DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

Fuller information obtainable on application to the Immigration and Colonization Office, 439 Main St., Winnipeg.

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Besides its social and intellectual advantages, the Pelman System of Mind and Memory Training has made it possible for thousands of ambitious men and women to secure increased earnings. How this is done is told in booklets we will send for the asking. Proof is to be found in testimonials received daily. Here are two typical cases:

HIGH POST SECURED.
"After taking up Pelmanism for about three months," writes a Departmental Manager, "and working through about four lessons, I was offered a very high post in the firm in which I am employed. This necessitated my devoting the whole of my energies to starting and systematizing a new department, so that my time has been fully occupied. This advancement, which incidentally doubled my salary (which was not inconsiderable before), I attribute entirely to Pelmanism."

GAVE HIM CONFIDENCE.
"You will be pleased to hear I have been selected, and have accepted, a position which not only offers me an immediate increase in salary, but has also very good prospects. I am going into a Merchant's Office to learn his business, so that I can take charge when he is away. I feel confident that the methods I have learnt from you will be of great value to me. I certainly don't think I should have had the self-confidence to accept the position had I not taken your course."
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