



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMME.

ELSEWHERE in this issue is published the legislative programme of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. There is nothing unreasonable about it. Indeed all of the legislation sought will materially assist in the progress of Canada. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada make it quite plain that the Canadian Government has a greater duty to perform than merely passing on to the competent authorities the recommendation of the Washington Conference of the International Labor Organization. The Canadian Government participated in the Washington Conference and had advisors from each of the various provinces. In due course the findings of this International Labor Conference were forwarded to the Canadian Government and on November 6, 1920, by order-in-council, the Canadian Government defined its position in regard to them.

The Trades and Labor Congress in this respect states:

"The Dominion Government, in our opinion, has a much greater duty to perform than merely carrying out the letter of the law by transmitting the findings of these International Labor Conferences to the several Provincial Governments who seem unwilling to accept the responsibility for action thereon upon them."
"And request that the Dominion Government invite the Premiers or other Provincial representatives with full authority to meet with them and reach a common understanding as to the obligations Canada has assumed by becoming a member of the League of Nations, and secure their co-operation to the end that these and future findings of the international labor body, may be dealt with as Treaty obligations if such authority does not at present exist."

In the Speech from the Throne on the opening of Parliament on Monday, it is intimated that unemployment insurance and old age pensions will be among the progressive measures introduced during the session. These are two of the requests of Labor.

With regard to the amendments to the Immigration Act, enacted during the Winnipeg strike, the Trades and Labor Congress request that these amendments be discussed on the floor of the House of Commons. Last session the Minister of Labor attempted to have them abolished in the Senate, but without success. Labor demands that they be discussed on the floor of the House of Commons when the Members elected by the people will have an opportunity of expressing their views.

The action of the Government during the recent dispute at the Toronto shipyards demonstrates more clearly than anything else the necessity for some definite declaration as to the meaning of the Fair Wage Law. The Labor Department, which should know the prevailing rates of wages, in all districts, in our opinion, should have unrestricted authority in determining fair wages.

Immigration changes are requested and we will deal with this phase in another article.

Affairs in the Civil Service of Canada are entirely unsatisfactory and the Trades and Labor Congress demand that democracy enter the Civil Service by the introduction of Whitley Councils, which will eliminate waste and will re-organize the service in an efficient manner.

Many other demands are made on the Government and we venture to say that not one of the requests will retard the progress of Canada. We are convinced that if the whole programme were put into effect at once that we will have a better Canada and a more contented and happy working class with renewed faith in constituted authority.

NEED OF AFFILIATION.

COBALT miners, who some months ago threw over their international affiliation, are confronted with a reduction in wages. The employers have simply abided their time and knowing that the miners have no union to assist them, propose reducing their wage standards. The Cobalt miners did not affiliate, as a body, with the One Big Union, but decided to carry on as an independent organization. Mr. Joseph Knight, the One Big Union's eastern organizer, stated in a recent address, that the One Big Union did not want the Cobalt miners to affiliate in a body, but that the miners in the Cobalt district were 100 per cent. O. B. U.

The Cobalt miners are receiving the same treatment as other unorganized workers. The Canadian Labor Press has repeatedly warned the workers of Canada to retain their affiliation with the movement that has ever protected the workers. The Cobalt miners were at one time a 100 per cent. international. Some "rainbow chasers" entered the camp and the "dreamers" won. The miners are now reaping their reward. We hope that the lesson will be a warning to others.

Despite the fact that the Cobalt miners have no organization they do not purpose laying down without a fight. They have applied for a Board of Conciliation and the Labor Department is in communication with both parties.

ARMOR BARONS STILL AT IT.

THE United States of America is preparing to build the greatest fleet in the world. This despite the great war which was to end all wars. The United States of America has not yet ratified the Treaty of Versailles and is not a member of the League of Na-

tions. This perhaps has much to do with the construction of armaments in the Republic to the South. Some of the most influential of the United States newspapers are calling for a halt. The Christian Science Monitor, an international newspaper, with no political strings, expresses the opinions of the working classes of all countries in a recent editorial under the heading "Vulcan's Marathon."

The editorial states:
"The present expenditure of the United States is ninety-three cents out of every dollar for past and present war services. What will be left for such insignificant requirements as education, or art, or trade, with the birth of the new battle-ship, it is difficult to see. At the present rate at which things are going, the prophecy of General Pershing seems likely to be rapidly realized, that so-called military security will be bought at the price of the obliteration of civilization."

"There is no reason to suppose that the armor barons are less active today than they were in the past. The doctrine of Admiral Sims that armaments are a question of relative efficiency, and that it is unnecessary to have on the spot a force greater than an enemy 3,000 miles away, for the purpose of defense, is not in the least likely to find favor with them. Mr. Daniels demands the greatest navy in the world, very much as the Kaiser once demanded the greatest army. He does not say whom it is to be used against, and there is no reason to suppose that he believes it ever will be used. The demand which produces the arms and means. If Mr. Harding wishes not extinguished by the Peace of Versailles, and Mr. Daniels as Secretary of the Navy, should know that the only man who ever built up a great military force, purely as a plaything, which he could not bear to see damaged, was the inventor of the Potsdam Giants. General Pershing and Admiral Sims, who have seen war, the greatest war the world has ever seen, face to face, and not only read about it in the newspapers, are unalterably opposed to the building of great military machines, which in the end always become uncontrollable. Nothing in the world is playing into the hands of the Bolshevik and the anarchist like the overgrown military estimates of civilized Christian powers. The men who find the money and the men who do the fighting are beginning to become restive with the statecraft which produces the arms and means. If Mr. Harding wishes to introduce a period of real progress and of true reform, he will set his face steadily against this Vulcan's Marathon race, and he will find that he is doing so at a time when the common people of all nations are prepared to listen to him."

American workers' opinion, expressed by the American Federation of Labor, is unanimous for the League of Nations. Workers in the United States, as in all other countries, see in the League the preventative for future wars. The United States armor barons want the great southern republic to remain outside so that they can continue to gouge the workers and build up immense fortunes at the expense of civilization. Workers in the United States are unanimous in their protest against the building of immense navies.

IMMIGRATION CHANGES NECESSARY.

FOR some months the Canadian Labor Press has been pointing out the defects in our present system of recruiting immigrants in Great Britain. In submitting the legislative programme of the workers of this country the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada states:

"Continual misrepresentation of booking agents and other interested parties in Great Britain as to conditions and opportunities in Canada, show the ever increasing importance of the establishment of a Central Immigration Authority."

The Trades and Labor Congress also protest against the practice of employers recruiting labor outside of Canada through private agencies and demand its abolition.

Vice-president H. J. Halford, who recently returned from Europe, where he attended the convention of the International Federation of Trade Unions and the Governing Body of the International Labor Office, states that 70 per cent. of the people accepted for emigration to Canada had selected Ontario as their destination. This statement was so important that the Canadian immigration authorities have issued an official statement on the question and are endeavoring to affix the blame to the Ontario Government. It makes little difference to the Canadian workers upon whom rests the responsibility, but it does concern Canadian workers when thousands of immigrants come to Canada at a time when grave unemployment is prevalent.

That many immigrants are brought to Canada by misrepresentation is established, but if there is more proof required we submit the following from the Toronto Telegram of February 9:

"A Scotch machinist engaged permanently in a Scottish ship-building plant, came out last September upon having been promised that he could earn \$3 per day in the shipbuilding plant in Toronto. He found no work at all. He obtained a few weeks' work at Collingwood, and is now in the relief lists of this city."

"In another case an electrical engineer was induced by the Overseas Settlement Office to leave his home in Scotland, being told of fabulous wages in Canada at his trade. He came and went as far west as Edmonton, failing to find employment. Returning to Toronto he was obliged to rely on this city for sustenance."

"Both these men left their wives and families in Scotland and are now, through no fault of their own, unable to contribute to their support. The only way in which they can get back to Scotland, where there is work for them, is to be deported as undesirable. These instances are cited as proof that authorities are not restricting immigration to farmers and farm laborers."

The question of immigration is one that calls for action on the part of the Canadian Government and the proposals of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will materially assist in this respect.

INDIAN LABOR EXPLOITED.

RECENT press reports from India indicate that organized textile workers in the Madras district are being locked out and fired upon by the police, because of their efforts to better working conditions.

On December 9 last a squadron of Madras police who had been detailed to guard a party of strike-breaking coolies at the plant of the Buckingham Mill Co., Ltd., without warning fired into a crowd of men, women and children, killing a boy of 11 and a young weaver of 16, and wounding fourteen others. These Hindu workers had been guilty of the heinous crime of asking for recognition of their union on the part of their European employers and for the re-instatement of fellow employees who had been dismissed because of trade union affiliations. The firm had replied to the request for recognition by locking out all their union men and filling their places with non-union coolie labor, for whom the state authorities gladly afforded "police protection."

Vivid accounts of political riots and Bolshevik demonstrations come out of India these days, but little or no mention is made of the industrial conditions under which the native workers are exploited for the benefit of their "white" masters. Such conditions as exist in India in the present day have been most potent causes of industrial unrest at various stages in the in-

dustrial history of all civilized countries, nor is there anything new in the methods adopted by the employers to maintain these (to them) highly satisfactory conditions. A little effort directed to the "christianizing" of European employers in India might not be entirely without results at this time.

SOLIDARITY.

BRITISH Building Trades Unions refuse to hang Canadian doors unless they bear the Union Label or unless they are accompanied by a certified statement under the seal of the Carpenters' Union that the doors were made under strictly union conditions. The British Health Ministry has notified importers of this action and has instructed them to supply doors made under union conditions. Already many Canadian firms have received orders from Great Britain with the clause regarding union conditions contained therein. One Ottawa firm is amongst those who have received orders.

The action of the British Building Trade Unions again demonstrates the solidarity of Labor.

WAGES AGAIN LAY BEHIND.

HON. T. H. JOHNSON, Attorney-General of the Province of Manitoba, in his report of the operation of the Manitoba Government telephones during 1920, lets in some more light as to the increase in wages and materials. Wages, as in almost every other industry, did not increase in proportion to the increased cost of materials. In the Attorney-General's report it is stated that wages increased 110 per cent. as against materials which increased 160 per cent. Yet we still have politicians, editorial writers, and employers tell us that labor and labor alone is responsible for price advances. We again repeat that wage advances have been an effect of price advances, not a cause.

O. B. U.'S FADE AWAY.

THE One Big Union that was launched amid a blare of trumpets nearly two years ago at Calgary has been dealt another smashing blow by the withdrawal of the British Columbia loggers, who announce they will be independent.

The One Big Union has now less than 5,000 members, mostly in Winnipeg, with small groups scattered throughout several cities in the northwest. When the O.B.U.'s organized their wild claims alarmed some trade unionists who overlooked former over-night attempts to uproot the International Trades Union movement.

WATCH CHILD LABOR CHAMPIONS.

OPPOSITION to the Adolescent School Attendance Act of Ontario, 1919, has developed. The press that always does the master's bidding is raising very strenuous opposition in Toronto to the carrying out of the act. In a bulletin issued by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada in November of last year, it was stated that this very thing would happen. Trades and Labor Councils were requested "to take such action as may be necessary to keep the question to the forefront in the minds of the workers."

Organized labor has persistently requested that the school age be raised to sixteen years and while the Adolescent School Attendance Act of Ontario, 1919, does not meet this demand, it does to a great extent. That many employers would be opposed to the carrying out of the act was expected as it will take out of industry many children between the ages of fourteen and sixteen years of age. Workers in all centres should insist that the spirit and letter of the law is carried out in the stages provided for under the act.

Took the "Wreck" Out of Recreation.

By O. F. Lewis.

Too many fatal accidents and wrecks were happening upon a big western railroad.

That railroad had, fortunately, a wise president. He studied the problem hard—then he built a string of cheerful, well-equipped club-houses for employees, all along the line of the road.

The president had taken the wreck out of recreation!

The president of a great transcontinental railroad in Canada made many years ago an unbreakable rule: "In case of long delay or of bad accident, feed the passengers!"

Women sometimes say, facetiously, about grouchy husbands: "Feed the brute!"

Man's body and man's mind require feeding on the right things. The satisfied mind ate. He satisfied body make the satisfied man.

When the unstarved or wrongly satisfied, hangings of the railroad employees for recreation were given decent chances to find pleasure, it took the wreck out of a situation.

When the delayed or grouchy passengers could eat, they become more amiable, more tolerant.

Strange how all-embracing in human life the longing for pleasure and amusement is! We work to live, not live to work. And when they mean they have reached moments of intense enjoyment.

The motion picture business is said to be the fifth largest industry in the United States. If all commercial amusement undertakings were lumped together, perhaps "amusement" would be our biggest national industry.

There are fewer people on Iowa farms today than there were ten years ago. But there are millions more people each year walking up and down under the glaring lights of the "Great White Way" in New York City. Why? Because cities are places where "things are going on."

The supplying of adequate and decent recreation is getting to be a problem of every community. Crime is seen to be lessening more and more from unhealthy, dangerous forms

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