

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

Patronize White Laundries Who Employ White Labor

THE AUTOCRAT OF TRADE

Without in any way wishing to withhold from the Government credit for its desire to impose taxation in a way least calculated to interfere with trading conditions, we think that a little closer co-operation with the trading interests in the country would have prevented much friction and have saved Parliament from placing itself in an unfortunate and invidious position.

While Canadian wholesalers and retailers realized to the full that revenue had to be derived from taxes affecting their businesses they were anxious that such taxes should be imposed and collected in a manner that would not unduly complicate the ordinary routine, and, bearing in mind the numerous returns already demanded from them, we think that their anxiety was not unjustifiable.

From a perusal of the reports of various Trades conventions we gather that the Trades Associations were desirous of giving the Government officials all possible assistance in order to arrive at a mutually satisfactory basis for such taxation, but that this assistance was practically declined, at all events not made full use of. The result has been ill-feeling, friction and in some instances legislation so worded that it is presenting difficulties, almost daily, where difficulties need not have existed.

But of far greater significance is the action of Parliament in delegating to one individual duties and responsibilities which it should, itself, undertake, or at least see carried out by a competent body of men familiar with the problem to be solved. In section 13 of "An Act to Amend the Special War Revenue Act of 1915" the Government introduced a principle which we venture to say cut the very roots of British liberty, and fills us with misgivings for the future. The section reads in part as follows:

Provided further that the excise taxes specified in this section shall not be payable on goods exported or on the sales of goods made to the order of each individual customer by a business which sells exclusively by retail under regulations by the Minister of Customs WHO SHALL BE SOLE JUDGE AS TO THE CLASSIFICATION OF A BUSINESS.

That it was beyond the abilities of Parliament to define and classify the trades it proposed to tax according to their classification we find it difficult to believe, but that nothing remained but to hand over autocratic power to one man, however capable and responsible, we cannot believe at all, and we feel sure that the Honourable Members had no conception of the morass of difficulties into which their action may lead them.

They have, on the face of it, made the Minister of Customs both plaintiff and judge. He can claim taxes from any retailer whom he cares to designate a manufacturer, and, despite countervailing evidence the defendant has no redress. This is a "Star Chamber" method which we thought had gone out of fashion with the Stuarts and would never be revived while British ideals prevailed in British legislation.

We regret it sincerely. As an error it is lamentable, but as a precedent it may prove to be as disastrous to Canada as any act of the Prussian junkers was to Germany.

AMERICAN LABOR NEAR BANKRUPTCY

Says W. Z. Foster. "Industrial Solidarity" Scores Statement.

What Wm. Z. Foster pretends to know about the American Labor Movement he has already put into several profitable books. What he really does know he has yet to write says "Industrial Solidarity." An organizer continually on the pay roll of the A. F. of L. like Foster, can't be expected to tell all that he really knows. He is neither so disinterested or wonderful as to be entirely free from the operation of the laws of economic determination.

Just now, Foster has let loose on a world already plagued with too much intellectual dishonesty, another book, entitled, "The Bankruptcy of the American Labor Movement." The title is new, but the stuff of which the book is made is substantially old. For Foster blames the bankruptcy of the American labor movement on the radicals and revolutionists who, as he says, withdrew from it. Foster contends that, if they had remained the American labor movement would not have been bankrupt; but paying enormous dividends to the working class instead.

Now this is, to say the least, naive. It certainly isn't profound. It is mistaking a cause for an effect. It fails to realize that the American labor movement is bankrupt because the capitalism of which it is essentially a part, is also bankrupt. Founded on the capitalist principle of mutual-interest, property, contracts, etc., etc., the American labor movement cannot think beyond their preservation; or organize and operate beyond their limits. It is in the same boat as capitalism itself, which is intellectually ham-strung, and consequently, can't think out a solution and intent on self-preservation only, come what may. To this end its upholders prosecute the radicals and revolutionists, ostracize, imprisoning and outlawing them. And so with its reflex, the labor movement. It forces out the radicals and revolutionists for the same reasons; sided and abetted therein by the capitalist press, pulpit, and institutions generally. The radicals and revolutionists don't leave the A. F. of L. unions because they have to. They don't "pull out;" but are put out. They are fought tooth and nail and thrown out. The history of the American labor movement is full of incidents proving these statements.

Sex is not, as we are sometimes almost led to believe a pathological condition which can be separated from the rest of life; it is an element in human nature conditioned by the personality and character of the individual concerned.—Time and Tide.

WHEN STAMP TAX MUST BE PAID

Official Rulings Given on Many Points Concerning New Receipt Tax.

Regarding the new stamp tax on receipts of \$10 and upwards the Department of Customs and Excise has issued the following rulings on questions which have been addressed to the Department:

Counter sales slips and cash register tickets are not taxable, provided no words implying or stating acknowledgment of the receipt of the payment of money appear thereon.

Pay-rolls—signature of employe therein being receipt for wages—taxable in respect of each such signature.

Receipts for payment of legacies are taxable. A receipt for money in a deed or mortgage is taxable.

Receipts for payment of taxes except those given to, or by, the Dominion Government or Provincial Government are taxable.

Individual freight bills and periodical statements of same, acknowledging receipt of payment, are taxable.

Customs house brokers' receipts are taxable.

Letters forwarded by mail, also postcards, acknowledging the payment of money, are regarded as letters and cards and not subject to this tax.

All insurance policies, whether fire, life, marine or casualty, wherein the payment of money is acknowledged, are taxable.

All insurance receipts, acknowledging the payment of money, are taxable.

Receipts drawn out in Canada, but not valid until countersigned in Canada, are taxable.

Voucher checks and checks with receipts endorsed thereon, when drawn upon or addressed to a bank, are not taxable as receipts.

Remitters counterfoil, being part of a taxable express money order, is not taxable as a receipt.

Persons, or firms, who desire to have receipts stamped by means of a die, may make application for stamping to the Department of Customs and Excise, under regulations which have now been established.

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NOWADAYS GIRLS OLD AT TWENTY

Says Dr. Agnes Savill. Cocktails and Excitement Wreck Nerves

Society girls and cocktails and women who are worn out at the age of 20 formed, the theme of a lecture given by Dr. Agnes P. Savill, of the London (Eng.) Skin Hospital and of the skin department of the South London Hospital for Women, at the Institute of Hygiene recently. Her subject was "The Danger of Society to Health."

Dealing with the society life of girls, Dr. Savill said that a girl who left school for business life might not have an excessive amount of daily work, but she usually had to make exhausting journeys to get to it. The girl who went to a university was unable to overstudy or to study all day and indulge in social functions till late at night, while the girl who could command the sources of her parents' wealth, left school for a life of continual excitement, which resulted in mental and physical deterioration.

"Nowadays," Dr. Savill said "the girl dispenses with a chaperone, and even if she retains the old high standard of chastity, her mind too often becomes poisoned, her ideals recede, she accepts the inferior outlook on life, and when she marries the standard of her relationship to her husband, home and children is not a high one."

Continuing, Dr. Savill said: "I have seen some of these girls after a few years of society life age by ten years, and before the age of twenty, as worn out and nerve tired as if they were forty. The hectic life of continual excitement, the absence of all repose, all time for meditation, the perpetual change, the cigarette smoking, irregular and unwholesome meals—no wonder these girls become the prey of disease. And though the physical consequences are disastrous, even of greater importance is the evil effect of this life upon the character."

"Many people find that there is a greater nerve strain involved in keeping up a conversation of small talk than in discussing a serious topic, or in the more connected conversations of intimate friends. These society girls have their brains and mental equipment adjusted to this level of scrappy exclamations early in life, and it spoils their subsequent development and their capacity to reach a better stage of intellectual growth."

"Society life is responsible for deficient sleep and the consequent deterioration of the entire nervous system. It encourages the pernicious habit of the too frequent cigarette, it encourages the girls to take cocktails and whiskies and sodas, which ruin their digestion, impair their livers and upset the balance of the nervous system, and it encourages them to take rich foods, which upset the rhythm of the body."

The parents of the modern society girl are to blame in some measure for this condition of things, according to Dr. Agnes Savill. The parents have it in their hands to postpone the downfall of modern civilization, she told the Institute of Hygiene, since civilization itself has its foundation on those individuals who possess the virtues of stability, high purpose and unselfishness.

Some men grow a beard to decorate their faces, others try to modify whenever they cannot decorate. In any case, the man is rash who removes his facial adornment after it has become familiar to his friends. One such man called upon his aunt after parting with his beard. The maid did not recognize him and plainly doubted his word, so he gave her his card. His aunt received him with amusement.

"You're sure you know me?" he asked. Mrs. didn't.

"No," said the aunt mirthfully. "She said there was a strange man, who looked like a gentleman but he had one of your cards."

The great modern need is to educate the people.—G. K. Chesterton

MAY MARKET CROP ON DIFFERENT PLAN

Minister of Agriculture Will Discuss Suggestions of Western Grain Growers.

Alternative proposals for the marketing of the wheat crop in the prairie provinces will probably be discussed by the grain growers of the West at their annual conventions during the next month, and out of these discussions will be evolved a plan which the western farmers will hope to see in effect for the marketing of the 1923 crop, in the opinion of Hon. W. R. Motherwell, minister of agriculture, who has just returned from spending the Christmas and New Year holidays at his home in Saskatchewan.

The proposal of Premier Dunning in regard to the building up of an export agency by the farmers themselves has plenty of supporters in the West, Hon. Mr. Motherwell stated, but there are also many supporters of the legislation provided last year by the federal and provincial governments under which a compulsory board was to be formed.

Asked what he thought were the new features of the Dunning proposals, the minister of agriculture stated that two of the most important features, in his opinion, were those providing for the merging of the export branches of the existing organizations without interference with the internal machinery of each and the distribution of profits on the basis of business supplied.

The latter, he declared, was a principle which had not been recognized in any of the co-operative marketing proposals with the exception of the Saskatchewan Co-operative Creameries. Under this proposal, any surplus after certain fixed profits had been deducted, would be distributed to the producers of the grain on a basis similar to that of the 1919 wheat board, when participation certificates were issued. By this means, the farmer who supplied the largest volume of business to the exporting agency would receive the largest share of whatever profits there might be for distribution, regardless of whether he was an actual shareholder in the corporation.

Whatever plan was finally favored by the Grain Growers through their organizations, however, any further move so far as the federal government was concerned, would have to emanate from the West, Mr. Motherwell believed. The federal government last year had provided the machinery for a wheat board, but the Grain Growers themselves had been unable to find men to operate such a board. There was little the federal government could do at present unless the Western Grain Growers or provincial government laid new proposals before it for action.

It was Saturday night. In the gutter stood a large, red-faced woman. On her ample form was displayed a card bearing the words: "Disabled Policeman."

Passers-by stopped to read the card and drop coppers into the woman's outstretched hand, and soon formed a crowd, and at last the inevitable man in blue appeared on the scene.

"What's this?" he asked the woman, pointing to the card.

"It's all right, officer" replied the woman. I disabled him last night, so I'm just collecting the fee."

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A DANGEROUS GANG.

A group of agitators who call themselves the Workers Party of America have just closed their annual convention in New York after declaring that henceforth there is to be a "Soviet America." Before adjourning they sent a cablegram of greeting to the Moscow Soviets, and passed a resolution urging the United States government to recognize Soviet Russia.

This impudent body went so far as to give out a statement urging all the workers of the United States to join in a "social" revolution, and expressing the hope that communism would spread rapidly to every country in the world. They asked the wage earners of America to affiliate themselves with the Red labor internationale, explaining frankly that they would make every effort to influence the millions of laborers in the United States to work hard for a Soviet Government at Washington. This, they said, would mean a "dictatorship of the proletariat." And they further declared that "it will be the task of that government to take from the capitalists the control and ownership of the raw materials and machinery of production—and to establish collective ownership." In other words, they would have the farmers, the owners of life insurance policies and Liberty bonds, war savings stamps and other securities, and the owners of homes, consent to have their property and money taken away from them and thrown into the communist pot.

It is inconceivable that in an enlightened country like the United States such propaganda will be tolerated for a moment; and yet the public will have to be on guard if the Red movement is not to make headway. The 7,000,000 farmers in the United States own land, buildings and live stock to the value of more than seventy billions of dollars. There are \$27,000,000 savings accounts with deposits amounting to nearly twenty billions of dollars. Probably the life insurance policies held by 64,000,000 people total more than forty billions of dollars, to say nothing of the billions of dollars represented by small liberty loan bonds, war savings stamps and other securities. It is these people who are asked to throw away all that they have for the sake of embracing the doctrine which has reduced Russia to its present deplorable level and caused a state of misery there such as the world has never known before.

The great mass of the American people will be quick to reject such a doctrine as that offered to them by the Reds. But the great mass of American people should be as quick to co-operate in any effort that is made to crush the ugly head of communism wherever and whenever it appears. If these agitators were in Soviet Russia, which they profess to love so well, they would not dare to speak of the Soviet government as they speak of the government of the United States. If they are so enamoured of the communist system why do they not go to Russia where they would have it in all its glory? Certainly they should not be permitted to expound their hideous doctrine on this continent. In Canada, as well as in the United States, it should be made increasingly plain to the Reds that their talk of revolutions will not be tolerated.

Few of us realize the half savage, half childish nature of the impelling instinct which causes us to love a bargain to collect things for collecting sake, to resent the trespass, to enjoy combative games, to feel uplifted by a patriotic song.—Evelyn Underhill in the "Pilgrim."

A school should lay under contribution all that kindles the mind.—Spectator.

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