

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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SLAVERY OF THE MIND

A man's mind is enslaved so long as he is content with a mere increase in wages under a precarious wage system. As a man's mind is enslaved until he rises in his manhood's might to overturn the entire system by which one man can live upon the toil of other men. The workers must come to see that the man who does not work is deserving of neither admiration nor respect.

ON LABOR UNREST

Midst the many thoughts advanced on the tension in the workers ranks the following by Jerome & Jerome is worthy of thought: There is abroad at the present time among the lower orders a reprehensible spirit which is generally alluded to as labor unrest. From Hodge, in his damp and dilapidated, but nevertheless picturesque, cottage, rearing his brood on \$3.50 a week, to the miner, the plutocrat of labor, who by eight hours labor a day under conditions which might have inspired Dante to add an extra circle to his inferno, and at the ever present risk of his life, earns as much in a month as would pay the annual subscription of a decent golf club, labor is moving in unrest.

SAFETY FIRST

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WANT MINERS ARRESTED Denver.—In a letter to district attorneys, the state industrial commission urges criminal action against miners who are on strike against wage cuts. The law provides that employer or employed shall not change working condition until the commission has been given a 30-days' notice. The Colorado Fuel & Iron company (a Rockefeller unit) slashed wages 30 per cent, and this violation of the law was not noticed by the commission. Then the workers struck, and the commission demands that they be jailed.

SECRET LAW MAKING DENOUNCED IN SENATE

Washington.—Secret law making by the conference system was denounced in the senate by Mr. Walsh of Massachusetts, who said this method destroys representative government, and makes it impossible for the people to hold their representatives responsible. "It is a form of autocracy," said Walsh, "and has all the evils of secret diplomacy."

LIVING COSTS

Official figures of the cost of living on November 1 show a further drop of 8 to 8 points since October 1. On October 1 the average level of retail prices in all commodities taken into account in the statistics (including food rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous items) was 119 per cent. above that of July 1914, so that the new figure will be 103 or 104.

WANT PROMISE KEPT

San Francisco.—The convention of the California state federation of labor has called upon District Attorney Brady of this city to immediately carry out his publicly made promise to assemble all of the new facts revealed in the Mooney and Billings cases and submit same to the governor.



Wash Day and Backache

WASH DAY is the least welcome day of the week in most homes, though sweeping day is not much better. Both days are most trying on the back. The strain of washing, ironing and sweeping frequently, deranges the kidneys. The system is poisoned and backaches, rheumatism, pains in the limbs result.

EDUCATION WEEK FAVORED BY LABOR

Washington.—Organized labor is called upon to observe American education week, December 4-10, 1921, in a formal communication to the labor movement, signed by President Compton and Secretary Morrison, by order of the executive council. "The purpose of American education week," it is stated, "is to arouse America to a fuller appreciation of the value of education for the making of better citizens and also to inspire a deeper and more abiding interest in the children of America."

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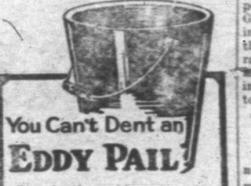
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HULL P.Q. STREET BY MEN APPLY FOR BOARD

Employees of the Hull Electric Railway Company have asked the Minister of Labor to appoint a board of conciliation to adjudicate upon the difference of opinion between the company and the men on the wage question, it was intimated. The order for 10 per cent. detraction in wages, posted 23 days ago by Mr. G. Gordon Gale, manager of the company, comes into effect. The employees contend that present conditions do not warrant a reduction in wages. The maximum hourly rate will be 39 cents instead of 45 cents as was paid heretofore.



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PRICES OF FOODSTUFF

Professor H. Mitchell's index number of wholesale prices for the month of November stood at 160.0, which is a decline of .9 per cent. from the previous figure of 161.5 for October, or a total decline of 46.3 per cent. from the peak reached in May, 1920, of 208.3 and an advance of 31.2 per cent. over the index for November, 1915, of 121.9. Among the twenty foodstuffs there were advances in eggs and cheese, and declines in flour, mutton, bacon, lamb, fish, granulated sugar, potatoes and oatmeal. Among the 20 manufactured goods, there were advances in rubber, galvanized sheets, lead, coal oil, pine and oak, while cotton and silver declined. The downward movement in manufactured goods seems to be at an end, but foodstuffs are still falling slightly.

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