

Editorial Page of the Canadian Labor Press

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SPEED UP!

TO speak of before-the-war prices and wages you would need to speak in one of the dead languages. A prominent American economist tells us that old prices—and consequently old-time wages—are a thing of the past.

Some there are who bemoan the passing of prices that prevailed before the war, and wonder when they will return. Some enterprises are financially bashful, and are holding back. Some employers complain because wages do not descend, while Labor rightfully resents any suggestion that wages be pulled down while prices still perch on the topmost rung of the Ladder of Living.

More expensive living is one of the bequests of the war. This year's Canadian dollar has quite a chunk chipped out of its buying power. We are living in a new world on a new economic level. Workers must earn more money to continue to live like civilized beings. This rule is unbreakable, and anyone who attempts to break it must risk being broken. We alter the situation only by accepting it and speeding up. No one should hold back an industrial, municipal or national undertaking that will employ Canadian Labor, Capital and Material. High prices should not retard but stimulate to greater effort. Energy, Time and Capital are wasted in waiting.

The situation cannot be dodged by refusing to recognize it. Hiding the Eyes in the sands of Neglect, like the Ostrich, will not turn the trick; but digging into the Sands of Difficulty with firm feet and tugging like the British Bulldog will win. This is a period for which the war is only partly responsible; the beginning was clearly discernible even before the first shot was fired in Belgium. It is one that communities and individuals must face with eyes open to the facts, and whatever readjustments are necessary to meet it must not be delayed.

Waiting is at best profitless; at the worst, it will prove disastrous. The only sound policy is to accept the new price level for what it is, put industry on its new footing—be fair with Labor—and speed up. Enlarge the warehouse, start the new factory, build good roads, erect houses for working men, and put the shoulder to the wheel in true Canadian fashion, and get the nation started towards its new era of prosperity. Waiting, worrying and wobbling are not Canadian traits, nor good business policy. Throw on the Power! Speed up!

HERE'S A RUM GO.

JAMAICA is about to ship \$2,000,000 worth of rum to the United Kingdom. That's enough to give both wets and dries a "rum" face.

THE WAR AGAINST FIRE.

FIRE prevention is one of the endeavors of Organized Labor in Canada. Fire prevention also promises to find employment for a great number of our returned soldiers. The United States Forest Service, a branch of the Department of Agriculture, will use an army of returned men to prevent forest fires this coming season. A unique, but very successful, test of artillery as a means of stopping a forest fire was made at an American military training camp before the armistice.

A railway construction engineer with a long experience where forest fires rage in Northern Ontario, advances a plan to form a force of about five hundred returned men, led by experienced fire rangers. The first duty of this forestry force would be to prevent forest fires starting. One new way of stopping a forest fire is to use shell fire from artillery.

Airplanes could be used for a patrol to keep the forests under observation. A wireless service on the planes would be a quick means of notifying the authorities that a fire had started. Perhaps in time these fire patrol airplanes might carry mail. Thus might the implements of warfare have their usefulness extended into the days of Peace. Besides many reasons for saving our forests, there is the very vital present need of conserving our natural resources. Timber means houses, factories, warehouses, ships—progress, prosperity and employment for Labor during these trying times of transition from War to Peace.

TRY CO-OPERATION AGAIN.

EMPLOYERS and Labor are finding out that Co-operation works well in solving industrial differences. Why not try the old reliable co-operation remedy in solving the Tariff disputes between the Grain Growers and the Manufacturers?

Canada is a self-contained nation, with room enough and prosperity enough for an ever-growing proportion of Manufacturers and Agriculturalists. The needs of each class should be considered in relation to the welfare of our country as a whole. We suggest co-operation as a means of bringing content out of contention.



Mr. J. A. Stevenson, formerly editor of the "Veteran" and at present a member of the Re-patriation Committee, was the speaker at the weekly meeting of the Party on Sunday, March 23. Taking as his subject, "Labor and the Farmers," Mr. Stevenson opened his address by stating that the greatest scandal of this vast Dominion was the fact that with all its resources and with a population of about eight millions, it was unable to provide for everyone within its borders in the manner that it should do. It was not because of any scarcity of raw materials or of agricultural resources, but owing in a large measure to faulty methods of supervision and control. Why should there be so many people and so much land? Why should we be growing up in this new country under conditions that which obtain in older and more populous countries? There must be a remedy, and he submitted that the only free trade should exist between Canada and the rest of the world, if manufacturers in large industrial centres in the country and to compete with each other what logical reason could be advanced, that should not enable them to compete with manufacturers in other countries, and that foreign manufacturers competing with them?

As Labor Views Parliament

Announcement was made in the House of Commons this week by Hon. J. A. Calder that a new Immigration Bill will be introduced shortly. From the standpoint of labor this is one of the most important measures of the session, as the labor world is naturally vitally interested in the nature of the Immigration Bill to be introduced during the next session. The details of the proposed measure have not yet been made public, but Mr. Calder intimated strongly that there would be closer inspection and inspection of immigrants than in the past. Without doubt immigrants from enemy countries will be barred for a period of time, and there will be closer inspection of all new settlers. Mr. Calder expressed the opinion that for the past fifty years we had been altogether too lax in our immigration laws.

As Labor Views Parliament

An interesting announcement to railway employees throughout Canada was made by Hon. J. A. Calder in the House last week. It was made in connection with an amendment in regard to compensation for employees killed or injured in railway accidents. Dr. Reid expressed the opinion that a bill should be passed which would make a uniform compensation system for all railway employees, and for employees of all railways. His statement which is as follows is worth quoting in full: "There should be a Dominion compensation system that would apply to the whole of the Government railways, and to all railways if possible, at all events, to the Government railway systems, so that if any employee was injured in Nova Scotia he would get the same compensation as an employee would get if he were injured in British Columbia or any other province. It should be uniform from one end of the Dominion to the other. I do not see how we can carry out that system by having different organizations on the Government railway system. I believe that those who are operating the railway system for the Government will have to take up and consider as soon as possible some policy which will be universal and which will apply throughout the whole system. The President of the Intercolonial Railway may be more advantageous than a similar organization on the Canadian Northern system, or vice versa. I do not think it will be in the interest of the railway to have one organization at one end different from another organization at the other end. My own feeling is that we should let matters rest insofar as these different organizations are concerned until we get the railway organizations all working together harmoniously, and then we can consider a scheme whereby an employee in Vancouver will get the same treatment and the same relief as an employee in Halifax or any other part of the country."

TOOLS.

One result of the war which is not at all insignificant is the importance of tools in present-day life. They are the instruments by which the will of man is expressed in all countries, and even the forces of nature are subjected to the human mind by their use. In the carrying on of the war, tools have proved indispensable agencies for facilitating and accelerating our progress. The tools of the military forces would have been without modern means of expression. The mechanic's part in this war has given the rise to tools and devices that were not made on the field of battle.

A RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS.

3 drachms of Unselfishness, 1 ounce of Good Cheer, 3 drachms of Heartiness, 3 drachms and no scruples of the Oil of Charity, 1 ounce of Infusion of Common Sense and Tact, 2 ounces Spirit of Love.

OLD-TIMERS.

First Hamilton Soldier (in restaurant)—How's your eye, Bill? Second Soldier—It'll match you to see, who goes back for the gammarke.

Sweets of Sobriety

They have taken away the workman's beer, and therefore they suggest that any kind of a sweet thing will make a good substitute. Hence these verses by a worker who longs for good beer again. Mother, keep the doughnuts ever handy to my fist— Molasses I must have, or else a drink; And poppie beer Wifey, add that to the list Of substitutes poured down the sink. Oh, serve me, quick, a flowing bowl of juice of sugar cane; My stiddle cakes with syrup cover deep; For sweetened hours and pudding my mind in pain; Pile high my plate with bonbons in a heap. A toddy is a torture, so fetch me marmalade; My cocktail glass stands dusty, as its shelf; For sweetened hours and pudding my mind in pain; Pile high my plate with bonbons in a heap. Daughter, get a hustle on, bring out the old fudge pan; Your doting dad is going on a spree; My hook jaws fill with honey, as from the comb it ran, My charet glass with jelly. Wow! Zippee!

This Happened Long Ago

Farm wages—\$10 a month. Eggs—\$1 a bushel. Mr. Ezra Hall, a farmer of Durham County, remembers some items of three quarters of a century ago, that make up his eyes. Speaking of wages—low wages? Yes. All wages were low then. The first store Mr. Hall wore he started by jacking potatoes at 25 cents per bushel, and then went to Newtonville, nearly twenty miles, for the cap. The usual wages for a farm hand were \$10 per month for eight months, and if there was no chopping to do the man worked for his board the other four months. The carpenter who built the Hall homestead worked for 100 days for \$1 per day, and furnished his own tools. The carpenter took his pay in a cream-colored horse that was valued at \$100, but of the kind that would be worth \$200 today. All the lumber in the house was planed by hand. Everything in the way of farm product was in proportion. He sold oats at 15 cents per bushel and has seen farmers' wages bring in baskets of eggs, and carrying a slip of paper with little household necessities—cream of tartar, coffee, tea, sugar, and butter. You can get enough cash out of the eggs to buy a postage stamp. If there was a balance even of five cents left over a due bill had to be accepted for this. He has seen a long row of bushel baskets, each heaped with eggs, lined up in a row. You can see the price farmers received for these when you could go into the store, and buy a bushel basket full, without counting, for a dollar. Oxen were relatively dear—\$190 for a yoke of well-broken ones—but good beef steers sold around \$25, and when he got \$40 for a 1,200-pound one he thought he had robbed.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION FROM DAN McCANN.

Mr. Dan McCann was interviewed recently by a reporter of the Canadian Labor Press Weekly News Letter. Just preceding the interview, Mr. McCann had been reading a recent issue of the Canadian Labor Press. His thoughts on labor naturally took the trend of the influence for good of Labor's news and the Canadian Labor Press. We are pleased to quote Dan below, since his views on labor matters are sound and well worth recording: "The Canadian Labor Press has passed its birthday as a monthly paper, and it is a great source of satisfaction to the subscribers of this labor paper. The weekly, said Dan with a great deal of satisfaction. "If the publication of the past can be taken as a criterion for the future, there is no doubt but that it will fill a want long left by the workers."

DON'T ROCK THE BOAT.

—London Daily Express: The abnormal conditions brought about by the war, the sudden rises in pay, enjoyed by young and inexperienced men, and the failure of the Government to explain the situation have all contributed to a condition which can be overcome by an early return to sanity on both sides in dealing with labor disputes. The trouble is that not only the Government has misled the men, but they have been thrown into confusion by so-called leaders who have not scrupled to stir up discontent and suspicion. If all sides will just sit down and think it all over before going to extremes in the road and doing their part, we doubt that nationalism and common sense, in the face of the dangers that threaten all Europe, will win easily.

BATTLE DEATHS 7,354,000.

Washington—Battle deaths during the war among all participants so far as available statistics show total 7,354,000, according to General March, chief of staff of the army. These figures represent only men killed in action or died of wounds. Russia led with 1,700,000. Losses by the other nations were as follows: Germany, 1,600,000; France, 1,385,000; Austria-Hungary, 800,000; England, 745,000; Italy, 480,000; Turkey, 250,000; Belgium, 102,000; Rumania, 100,000; Bulgaria, 100,000; Serbia and Montenegro, 100,000; and the United States, 50,000.

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INTERNATIONAL WORLD SCALE FOR SEAMEN.

The International Seamen's Congress has decided in favor of an international standard wage based on the minimum scale adopted recently at London, of \$75 per month for seamen and firemen. The congress voted almost unanimously to issue a mandate to the International Seamen's Bureau to call an international conference to meet the representatives of seamen and firemen, and to submit to it the motions dealing with employment, hours of work, food, hygiene, and safety which were adopted by the seamen's conventions at Paris and London.

GO SLOW.

London Daily Telegraph: Labor is riding the community very hard. The last thing which sensible people desire is a strike of any kind. Nor is there any need for it. The lumber of the lines is yielding. The strike fever and the new industrial start as never witnessed before, and we believe that there was a widespread desire on the part of employers to meet the requirements of labor on the new industrial Councils in the freest and most liberal spirit. But everything is being rapidly spoiled and ruined by the strike fever and by the restless impatience now being shown on all hands to force immediate decisions.

NO CURE, NO PAY

Can I do more than this to prove to you, at last after years of study, have a preparation that will cure Bronchitis, Coughs, Colds, Hoarseness, Bronchial Asthma. It is a wonderful remedy and I can prove it by the best people of Canada. Mr. Clarke, 716 Indian Road, Toronto, suffered thirty years with Bronchitis. It came when Mrs. Holmes, No. 1, Yorkville Avenue, Toronto, coughed for thirteen years, and she could not get any relief. Thousands of others too numerous to mention have benefited by this marvelous remedy. If you doubt me, try it at your own door and will only be too pleased to answer your inquiries. We know more powerful than any known mixture. One dose gives instant relief. Sold under an iron bound money back guarantee. One of the above ailments. Only by Buckley, the Druggist, 37 Dundas Street, East, Toronto. Price 25 cents per bottle. 15 cents extra for mailing. Three bottles mailed free for \$1.50.

Advertisement for W-S-S stamps. Text: "As Tom Moore says: 'It Pays You to Buy War-Savings Stamps and help to make Canada a Nation of Bond-holders.'" Includes a stamp illustration and price information: \$4.02 each during March, Redeemed for \$5 each in 1924.

Advertisement for Steele Briggs Seeds. Text: "STEELE BRIGGS SEEDS FOR BIGGER AND BETTER CROPS. All prices include postage." Lists various seed varieties like Beans, Carrots, Corn, etc., with prices.