



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



J. A. P. HAYDON, M.C., Editor. A. H. BLACKBURN, Circulation Mgr.

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

MORE IMMIGRATION FACTS.

ON many occasions during the past few weeks the Canadian Labor Press has presented facts concerning the activity of Canadian immigration agents in Great Britain. Apparently the Canadian Government is giving the matter consideration, and has at last recognized the fact that there is no need for further immigration to Canada at the present time. Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen, P.C., Prime Minister of Canada, has drawn to the attention of Mayor Church, of Toronto, an advertisement which has appeared in a number of British newspapers over the name of Dr. George C. Creelman, Agent-General of Ontario, announcing that "Ontario wants 50,000 farm workers and domestics next spring." The Premier has done this so that if there is any blame later because of the arrival of immigrants, who have been influenced by this advertisement, the blame will not be laid at the door of the Dominion Government.

It is recognized by everyone that the British Government is anxious to unload its surplus labor on the Colonies. Mr. Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Great Britain, recently made the announcement that the British Government, to relieve the unemployment situation in Britain, would have to devise some means of Empire immigration. This announcement, together with the advertisements of the Ontario Government, addresses by Canadian Government Immigration Agents, and other propaganda for Canadian immigration, is bound to have its effect in influencing a large number of people in Britain to come here. That farm labor is necessary in Canada is recognized, but unfortunately most of the farm labor recruited in Britain remains but a short time on the land. There are many reasons for this, and we do not purpose going into this phase of the question at this particular time. However, "Outlook," published in London, Eng., puts the case in its true light in a recent issue when it says:

"Canada's millions of untenanted acres cry aloud for human energy, not only for picked settlers but for any sort of healthy labor that will stay on the land. There lies the difficulty. What the Colonial Governments have to find is the means of inducing immigrants to remain on their holdings instead of drifting into the cities. When this problem is solved the Empire can absorb all the healthy manhood which this country (Great Britain) can spare for a century ahead. The three chief requirements are State organization, capital expenditure, and transport extension."

The Canadian Labor Press has oftentimes stated that labor in this country does not desire to place a barrier in the way of any worker in Great Britain, or elsewhere, from bettering his or her condition. We do say, however, that all intending immigrants should be told of the actual conditions that prevail in Canada, and not as they appear in the minds of immigration officials, who are more concerned in producing a large quota of immigrants than in the welfare of the immigrants and the workers of Canada.

The question of immigration is one that calls for the earnest consideration of the Canadian Government, the Provincial Governments and the Imperial Government. No doubt at the next meeting of the Imperial Conference the question of Empire immigration will be one of the most important questions considered. The International Labor Office has established an International Emigration Commission to study this important question, and in September a questionnaire was sent out to all nations, members of the League of Nations, relative to the matter. Already many of the nations have sent in their replies. Canada is perhaps the most vitally interested of all countries for we have the "last great west," and it is to Canada that the greater number of immigrants will seek admittance. It is, therefore, necessary that the Canadian Government and the Provincial Governments consider the question of immigration as a matter of paramount importance.

SECESSIONISTS FIGHT FOR OPEN SHOP.

WHILE many of the employers in Canada and the United States are working overtime devising means of destroying the International Trades Union movement, we have in Canada, unfortunately, some organizations of working men playing the game for the employers.

In Toronto a national labor organization has applied for an injunction "to restrain the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers, the Toronto Building Trades Council, and their officials, from attempting to procure or from procuring the dismissal from employment of, or the refusal of employment to the plaintiffs and members of the plaintiff union, by threat, intimidation, picketing, strikes, and other unlawful means."

The matter is now before the courts, and we do not purpose going into the legal aspect of the case. However, we wish to draw to the attention of the working men and women of this country some features of the move on the part of this so-called labor organi-

zation. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, which is the legislative body of the International Trades Union movement in Canada, has protested time and time again against the use of the injunction in industrial disputes. Yet we have so-called labor organizations applying in court for the use of a weapon they themselves have condemned. That is not all. The Labor movement of Canada, in common with workers' organizations in all parts of the world, has fought for the right of collective bargaining and the right to organize. The union shop recognizes these principles, and it is established by mutual agreement between the employer and the employees. The union shop is necessary in the establishment of democracy in industry. If workers are unorganized or if the union shop does not exist in industry what guarantee have the workers that the men selected to represent them will present their views? None, absolutely. Under non-union shop conditions the employer may employ members of the Communist Party, the Canadian Federation of Labor, the National Catholic Union, the One Big Union, independent unions, and non-union men. When the shop committees are selected, if the workers are permitted to do so which we doubt very much under non-union shop conditions, who will be the men's representatives? Each and every one of the above mentioned organizations have policies that in no way agree. The National Catholic Union, for instance, believes in individual agreement and compulsory arbitration. The One Big Union believes in sabotage. And so on down the line. There can never be harmony in industry operated under these conditions. Yet that is exactly what the non-union shop means. The union shop provides that all employees engaged in a particular industry be members of the International Trades Union movement. Through union shop conditions the members elect their own representatives to look after their affairs. All questions in dispute are submitted to arbitration, and no strike can occur until after every means of peaceful settlement have failed. However, the point we wish to make is that the union shop is established by mutual agreement between the employer and the employee. However, once that agreement is made the International Trades Union movement insists that it be lived up to in spirit as well as letter by all parties.

Workers in Canada will never arrogate the right to establish democracy in industry, and the recent action of this secessionist organization in Toronto is being watched with interest by the International trade unionists of North America. These secessionists, masking under the name of a Canadian Labor organization, are fighting the employers' battle by means the employers themselves are reluctant in adopting.

The only guarantee that workers of Canada have in protecting their rights is by strict adherence to the International Trades Union movement and loyal support to the policies the workers themselves formulate.

AGAIN LABOR IS WILLING.

MONTREAL, like all other cities in Canada, is suffering from lack of housing. The Montreal Star in a front page editorial, on Saturday, suggests that a conference of the employers and employees be held at once to devise ways and means of providing houses. The Star says "the trade unions and the makers of brick and other materials can solve the problem if they will face it."

The Labor movement of this country is at all times ready to co-operate with capital in an endeavor to solve our industrial problems. At the last session of the House of Commons a certain sum of money was set aside for the purpose of holding a National Industrial Conference. The Labor movement, through the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, signified its willingness to participate in such a conference. The employers, for reasons best known to themselves, refused to take part, with the result that up to the present time no conference has been held.

In Montreal the International Trade Union movement is just as anxious to have industrial peace and harmony as in other industrial centres. The Canadian Labor Press believes that the International Trade Unions will be only too willing to participate in a conference on the question of housing. However, a short time ago when a proposal was made at the Montreal Branch of the Association of Building and Construction Industries for the establishment of an industrial council the members of the employers' association voted against such a move. The Montreal Star's proposal is one that might bring results, but we are convinced that the establishment of democracy in the building industry of Montreal will be equally as beneficial.

Co-operation is better than conflict. Let the Montreal employers make the first move.

HANDMADE WEARING APPAREL VERSUS LOW WAGES

Mr. Joseph Melendez, a workman of Hermigueros, Porto Rico, has sent a short note to the secretary of the International Congress of Working Women regarding the very poor wages which are paid to women who employ fine Porto Rico lingerie and linen for American, Canadian and other markets. Mr. Melendez, who is in touch with these women workers, is very eager that some knowledge of the social conditions in this industry should reach the women workers everywhere. He explains that the work is mostly done in the homes, and goes on to say in his letter of December 20, 1920:

"Except for a small number of women in three or four cities who work in factories at 50 cents or \$1 for a 10- to 11-hour day, the majority are working by individual agreement, and the rest at the market price; that is, accepting figures written by the speculators here who have agencies nearly everywhere. "Nearly 145,000 women and girls are engaged in this industry and 96 per cent. are laboring at home. Girls at school after their classes em-

GREATER CO-OPERATION BY LABOR AND CAPITAL URGED BY LORD ROBERT CECIL

Labor Has Already Proven Itself Fit to Govern and Unrest Will Continue Unless Labor is Given Voice in Industry.

LONDON, England.—The only remedy for labor unrest, said Lord Robert Cecil in an interview recently to give Labor a share in the profits and in management of industrial concerns. Until Labor is represented on the board of directors, the present distrust and lack of co-operation between Capital and Labor will continue to be manifested. The true remedy for present conditions may be found in the inauguration of a comprehensive scheme of co-operation, whereby workers will be given direct interest in all industrial undertakings. Lord Robert, as a prominent British statesman who refused to be hampered by traditions of party politics, considers that the future prosperity of the Empire—in fact, of the world—depends upon the good relations between employer and employee, which can only be attained by hearty co-operation on both sides. "If the general public would only realize," he said, "that the welfare of the community rests on this vital factor of co-operation, there would be a swift end to all disturbances in the industrial world, and the present causes of embittered relations between Capital and Labor would be abolished."

Plea for Co-operation. Lord Robert is very emphatic that no stone should be left unturned that might conceivably lead to this indispensable feeling of healthy, honest trust, between the various elements of the community "for, undoubtedly, honesty of purpose is the only basis on which we can obtain hearty co-operation. The time has gone," he said, "when the employer, who uses his capital and brains, may be permitted to look down upon the manual worker." Both, he said, have the same goal—if they are honest—which is the greatest good to the greatest number. Manual workers and brain workers also, for that matter, will naturally require some concrete proof that fair treatment is to be given before their confidence can be gained.

The safest and surest plan to gain this confidence, Lord Robert said, was to admit the workers' representatives to the board of directors in all industrial concerns. The most prominent argument advanced against this plan, that no business concern would be able any longer to consider its operations confidential if this plan were adopted, does not hold water, he said, for in many cases it has already been adopted and found successful, both in Great Britain and America. Government recognition of the plan in the case of Italy was also cited by Lord Robert, who has every confidence that duly elected representatives of the workers, taking their seat on

the board of directors, will not be lacking in perspicacity and appreciation of where the interests of the business as a whole lie.

Old Prejudices Vanishing. A very important effect of the workers being on the board would be that each concern would see that their bookkeeping and financial status was such as would attract the best class of workers. Furthermore, there would be fewer cases where big concerns hide their approaching insolvency until the crash came, involving many wholly innocent people, who would thus be saved from serious financial loss. Two glaring instances of such disastrous results have occurred only recently. In conclusion, Lord Robert said that, day by day, old prejudices are being broken down, and this process was greatly accelerated during the period of the late war. Labor is even now proving itself capable of governing and guiding its own interests, which of necessity must ultimately be those of the community at large. "We are at a period of history where the manual worker must be taken at his full value and treated as a co-partner, and not as a serf. When this co-partnership is realized and acted upon, then we shall have in view the end of present disastrous industrial strife."

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