

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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The Canadian Labor Press

A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER. LEADERS of the anti-international trade union movement in Canada have made room for strange bedfellows through their reactionary policy and programme.

GAIN "STRONG" ADHERENT

LEADERS of the anti-international trade union movement in Canada have made room for strange bedfellows through their reactionary policy and programme. It is of such dimensions that the most radical dreamer can find shelter within the fold.

No better example of the strong arm fallacy is shown in the latest addition to the ranks. James Larkin, discredited Laborite overseas, has been found guilty of criminal anarchy by the Supreme Court jury in New York.

Whether Canadian retrogressives will consider expressions of approval from Jim Larkin as adding to their calibre may be allowed to remain, but there is this point to be made with certainty that the knowledge that this Labor outcast selects them and their policy as his ideal will act as a boomerang to the thinking worker who may have flirted with their ideas.

"WE TOLD YOU."

IN dealing with the Ontario Labor Party annual meeting, held at the beginning of April, the attitude taken in regard to tariff question interjection in the platform was dealt with in these columns.

This is exactly what has transpired with the first move by the Hamilton Labor Party, who have gone on record as being in direct opposition to the decision reached.

In the decision reached by the Hamilton Laborites, none may question the sincerity of purpose, their record being such as to stand pre-eminent in the workers' cause.

To Burke is credited the statement that "you can never plan the future by the past," but if such idea had been forgotten, of what may eventually show a sharp cleavage, the path of wisdom would have loomed up large, and enthusiasm not allowed to carry out ideas contrary to good policy.

Whilst claiming to be correct in prophecy through the making of a safe guess we are agreed that the tariff is too serious a question to be ignored. The position we took at the time and still maintain is that no provincial gathering can give Federal decisions in vital matters.

Agents Wanted. We want a local representative in every town and city in Canada to take yearly subscriptions for the Canadian Labor Press.

POLITICS and PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

By J. A. P. H. We have the Acting Premier's word for it—there will be no social and labor legislation introduced at the present session of the Dominion Parliament.

Answering Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King in the House of Commons on Thursday afternoon Sir George Foster said that there was no very contentious legislation to be introduced during the balance of the present session.

In regard to the decisions of the National Industrial Conference and the International Labor Conference the Acting Premier was not so outspoken but he leaves it more or less to our selves.

Ernest Lapointe, Quebec East, asked if there would be no legislation arising out of the activities of the labor conference, which sat at Washington last autumn.

The present Parliament is completely out of touch with the great producing masses and while Labor, through its official mouthpiece, the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, has placed its programme before them there does not seem to be any action forthcoming.

Labor's sole representative in the present House of Commons, Angus McDonald, recently announced in the House that week-end speeches from the cross-benches.

Replying to C. G. Power, Quebec South, who asked if the employees of the Quebec arsenal were receiving lower wages than other workmen employed in similar occupation in the district of Quebec.

The question was then referred to the Hon. the Minister of Labor, with a request that he enquire into the matter of wages at the arsenal, and an order-in-council was subsequently passed on the 12th of February.

By a majority of only two votes, the Railway Committee of the Commons last week refused to grant a charter to the Pabos Amqui and Edmundston Railway Company to construct a 248-mile road through the interior of the Gaspé Peninsula.

Especially critical of the bill were Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, leader of the Opposition, who, as Deputy Minister of Labor, drafted the Lemieux Act, and Angus McDonald, recently elected Labor-U. F. O. member for Temiskaming.

demanded a board. He thought it had policy to give the Government responsibility for such investigations.

Amendments proposed to the Lemieux Act were again before the House on Tuesday and again they remained unpassed.

Mr. Meighen said that if a strike occurred, it affected all the members of a union, even though the trouble might have been a very small one in the first instance.

Mr. McDonald, of Temiskaming, urged that the amendment would provide individual properties in a mining camp from making applications for a board.

A clause to provide a minimum fee of \$4.00 per day for witnesses' attendance and expenses was adopted.

Mr. Meighen explained that the provincial scale varied to such an extent that the Minister of Labor had found it necessary to make a uniform rate to protect a workingman called as witness in industrial disputes.

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SOVIET CODE OF LABOR LAWS PROVIDES FOR COMPULSORY LABOR FOR ENTIRE POPULACE

Beautiful Straight Jacket Soviet Russia! And This is the Ideal to Which the Workers are Commended.

It will be interesting to organized working people in the United States and Canada accustomed to the daily practice of democracy, accustomed to exercising a voice in the working out of their own destiny, to read the Code of Labor Laws now in effect in Russia.

16. The assignment of wage-earners to work shall be carried out through the Departments of Labor Distribution.

17. A wage-earner may be summoned to work, save by the Departments of Labor Distribution, only when chosen for a position by a Soviet institution or enterprise.

18. An unemployed person has no right to refuse an offer of work at his vocation, provided the working conditions conform with the standards fixed by the respective tariff regulations, or in the absence of the same by the trade unions.

19. An unemployed person who is offered work outside his vocation shall be obliged to accept it, on the understanding that he will continue this work only temporarily, until he receives work at his vocation.

20. Labor conditions in Government (Soviet) establishments shall be regulated by tariff rules approved by the Central Soviet authorities through the People's Commissariat of Labor.

21. Excepting the remuneration paid for overtime work done in the same or in a different branch of labor, no additional remuneration

in excess of the standard fixed for a given group and category shall be permitted, irrespective of the pretext and from under which it might be offered and whether it be paid in only one or in several places of employment.

22. Persons receiving excessive remuneration, in violation of Section 43, shall be liable to criminal prosecution for fraud, and the remuneration received in excess of the normal (standard) may be deducted from subsequent payments.

23. The production standards of output adopted by the valuation commission must be approved by the proper Department of Labor jointly with the Council of National Economy.

24. The Supreme Council of National Economy, jointly with the People's Commissariat of Labor may direct a general increase or decrease of the standards of efficiency and output for trade-unions and for all enterprises, establishments and institutions of a given district.

25. Those who have not closed their minds on the question of Sovietism would do well to read in an excellent pamphlet by William Trent, a description of the old Quarter Sessions of England. In these times the effort was made to fix wages, to standardize them, and to prohibit payment of anything above a fixed amount.

Beautiful Straight Jacket Soviet Russia! And this is the ideal to which the workers of the American continent are commended. But the workers of America prefer a guarantee of freedom to a decree of bondage.

A TRADE UNION ARGUMENT.

The Cotton Factory Times of Great Britain prints this trade union argument:

"Another class of workers who have long stood on their dignity as superior persons are the mill engineers. In some towns they have had a sort of union of the friendly or mutual order, where technical papers have been read, etc. But they have never been aggressive nor even practical in the matter of wages and working conditions.

Hence it is not surprising that the under men and firemen, who have organized on real union lines, have attained a rate of wages and working conditions pretty near equal in many cases, and even superior in some cases, to those of chief engineers. It is rather amusing to read that in the Rochdale district some engineers have threatened the mill owners that if they don't get better pay they will form a union.

What an attitude for a body of intelligent men in the twentieth century. Like the mill officials generally, they have trusted to the generosity or justice of the employers only to find that the employers generally only recognize the organized power to enforce a demand when wages, etc., are in question.

An Open Letter re Fuel Situation

To Readers of The Canadian Labor Press:

The Oakoal Co. (Canada) Limited, whom we represent, are in receipt of a letter from the Fuel Administrator for Ontario, reading in part as follows:

"The assured shortage of anthracite coal during the coming season, consequent to abnormal demand, increased difficulties in mining and transportation, and accentuated by high prices, will undoubtedly force a large number of consumers in Ontario to depend upon substitutes for their requirements.

"Recognizing the important part your industry must take in stabilization, also in eliminating to the greatest degree possible seasonal difficulties, I would urge you to put forth every effort in the speeding up of your output, so that every ton possible may be available to meet the demand.

"In this period of unrest, the greatest possible co-operation is essential, and I will depend on the results of your efforts to assist me in successfully averting sufferings attending a coal shortage."

The plant will be producing in July or August, a fuel superior to anthracite coal—a fact attested by Government analyses as well as by hundreds of demonstrations given in this City, Ottawa and Montreal.

No other industry in Canada deserves such co-operation, and no other industrial that we know of will pay more steady and certain dividends. Co-operation is essential, as the Fuel Administrator says, and while co-operating to insure against fuel famines you are insuring yourself big returns on your money—which will multiply in value.

Shares are five dollars each, preferred and common. We advise you to secure at least ten of each before the price doubles, as it is certain to do.

Yours truly, H. J. Birkett & Co.

Address, 502 C. P. R. Bldg., Toronto.