

Editorial Page of the Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

A DOMINION-WIDE LABOR PARTY

During the week of the Trades and Labor Congress convention in Winnipeg, representatives of the Labor Party in the various provinces of the Dominion will meet to perfect the organization of the party on National lines.

It is not difficult to prophesy as to the general result of the next Dominion election. In Nova Scotia the farmers and Labor will more than hold their own. In New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island the same will very likely be the result, with the present government hopelessly in the minority.

The part that Labor will play in the next federal election is entirely in the hands of the workers themselves. The farmers have come to the realization that they have the power to assume control of their own political affairs in their own right and in their own name.

PUBLIC IS PAYING USUAL TOLL TO PRIVATE-CONTROLLED CREDIT

Financial oracles cautiously hint that "a factor in present conditions" are "those" banks that "unwisely loaned money to speculators" who have inflated prices, capitalized possible earnings and decreased the purchasing power of the dollar.

These hints hit the nerve center of finance, hysterical in wartime. But the truth must out. During the war a promoter would be assured credit if he said he could harness the sunshine and put a meter at the end of every ray and make the public pay.

Nothing was too venturesome. As profits increased, more stock was issued that these huge incomes could be "spread" over values that had nothing behind them but the promoter's high hopes. This process detracted the public's attention from inordinate gains, as the dividends were only "reasonable" when the amount of watered stock was not considered.

The collapse came with the armistice, when bankers began their "deflation" campaign.

This "deflation," or water squeezing, was accomplished by the banks refusing credit and calling in their loans. The promoters and business men threw other stocks and bonds on the market in a frenzied scramble for cash.

Thousands of the venturesome were caught and the whole structure tumbled, as even high-priced stocks and bonds were battered to pieces. The angry promoters and business men are now telling tales out of school and some of the bankers murmur. "Too true, too true," while all hands acknowledge that their former cries of "more production" and "high wages" are false.

The banks are not injured by the process, but business men are bankrupt, or verging on bankruptcy; millions of wage earners are unemployed, and agriculture is prostrate as a result of this wild-catting that is associated with every war.

The only ones who profit by the orgy are the financiers and their big business intimates, who secure the country's wealth through the "deflation" process.

The organized workers declare that "credit is inherently social" and that this power over the lives of the people should be taken from the control of private financiers, and become a government function.

As its historic reconstruction conference in Washington, December 13, 1919, the wage earners made that declaration and insisted that credit as now administered is "the center of mal-evil forces that corrupt the spirit and purpose of industry."

"We urge the organization and use of credit to serve production needs and not to increase the incomes and holdings of financiers," said labor.

INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY EXECUTIVE AND LABOR MEN

UNEMPLOYMENT DISCUSSED

Suggestions for giving definite encouragement to "Back to the Land" movement with a view to securing a real solution not only of the present unemployment problem but also of future difficulties of the same kind, are to be laid before the Government as a result of a lengthy conference between the executive of the Independent Labor Party of Ontario and the Labor members of the Legislature, held at the Labor Temple on Saturday afternoon.

While action may be taken on this suggestion at some future date with a view to placing it before the Government, the consensus of opinion at the meeting was against any immediate move along these lines. It was felt that the existing machinery provided by the banks and other financial organizations should be able to take care of the present emergency.

A committee was appointed to put the various proposals for the relief of unemployment into concrete form for presentation to the Provincial Cabinet at a meeting to be arranged. The meeting felt that immediate action should be demanded.

The idea of mobilizing the unemployed for work on any special work undertaken by the municipal, provincial and federal governments, in order to protect those within the province from an influx of boys from neighboring provinces was put forward and will be taken up further.

To render assistance in the North country, special proposals were placed before the meeting by the North Bay representative, L. W. Wilson. One of these was that the English and Northern Ontario Railway

and all nationalized railways be supplied with ties and Crow's lands by gangs of men under experienced foremen and under the same conditions as were in operation on Government road work. It was suggested that the Provincial Government urge the Dominion Government to recall requisites for lumber for supplying one million ties, now being advertised, and that these be provided by the province under the plan proposed, and that the same saw-logs and wood might be removed and sold to advantage, and in this way much good farming land would be cleared and settlement fostered.

Another proposal was for the building and graveling of roads within a radius of twenty miles of large centres of population, while another was that the T and N. O. Railway be extended through the district of Farry Sound to provide Northern Ontario cities and towns with direct access to Georgian Bay and the Great Lakes. It was also suggested that action be taken in the form of a road extension to James Bay. Still another suggestion was for action

There is a general feeling on the part of associated capital that the success of the International Typographical Union in its effort to establish a forty-four-hour week in the printing industry means the introduction of the forty-four-hour week in all other industrial systems where the employees are organized. It is also true that associated capital resents the "Rock of Gibraltar" Typographical Union in its endeavor to inaugurate the forty-four-hour week as essential to the establishment of the open shop, not only in the printing industry, but through out industry in general.

This feeling on the part of associated capital is inspired by the experience which the Employing Printers of America (Open Shop) have had in the past in their endeavor to establish an industrial democracy in the printing industry in the United States, for the International Typographical Union has stood like the "Rock of Gibraltar" against the efforts of the Employing Printers of America (Open Shop) to hamper the movement of industrial liberty and the betterment of conditions of work which the printer of America talks.

Certainly the success the Typographical Union has thus far achieved in establishing the forty-four-hour work week in more than 250 jurisdictions, representing a membership upward of 25,000, will eventually mean the abolition of the forty-four-hour work week for all the employees of the printing industry and their employers.

And if the same determination of the organization, and the fealty of its members, that have been features of the International Typographical Union's present and past controversies with employers are counterbalanced by organizations that may hereafter demand the forty-four-hour week, there can be no doubt but that the shorter work week will be quite generally accepted.

Success on the part of the International Typographical Union in inaugurating the forty-four-hour work week in so many of its jurisdictions is also a serious setback for associated capital operating under the name of the National Open Shop Association, in its endeavor to establish the open shop in the printing industry and throughout industry in general.

That the National Open Shop Association realizes the importance of the standing in the American labor movement of the International Typographical Union is shown by the vigorous little done in which it is co-operating with the Employing Printers of America (Open Shop) in their effort to defeat the introduction of the forty-four-hour work week in the printing industry and at the same time add thereto the introduction of the open shop. In several public statements issued either through its own organization or through the Chamber of Commerce, it has emphasized its stand against the forty-four-hour work week, and by intimidation and threats of business and financial boycotts it has succeeded in prohibiting in certain sections of the country the introduction of the printing industry from meeting with representatives of the unions in an effort to adjust the present difficulties existing between employers and employees in the printing industry, and has by these unfair means placed a barrier in the way of the printing industry in Ottawa in a chaotic condition.

The controversy no longer concerns the introduction of the forty-four-hour work week alone, but has developed into a life-and-death struggle for the preservation of the printing industry under the banner of organized labor, as against the autocratic rule of the open shop advocates.

There are obvious contingencies, therefore, in the situation against which it is proper and necessary for the International Typographical Union to take precautionary steps. It is easily conceivable that the National Open Shop Association might be compelled by the exigencies of the success thus far obtained by the International Typographical Union in its endeavor to establish the forty-four-hour work week, to change its attitude toward the present controversy and the experience of the American labor movement in the past might inspire a little confidence in the possibility of such an occurrence. But even if the National Open Shop Association should change their attitude toward the forty-four-hour work week, as it has thus far shown no disposition to do, there would be no assurance that this attitude would not subsequently be reversed, for associated capital is apparently determined to "take the labor" and to

in the near future with a view to establishing a power development plant on the French river.

At a meeting of the I.L.P. executive, held in the morning, the attitude of the organization towards the newly revived Ontario section of the Canadian Labor Party was discussed.

The following resolution was passed unanimously and later endorsed by the Labor members:

Whereas the I.L.P. has organized a political party in the Province of Ontario and now is the recognized Labor party of the province, and has its representatives in the Provincial and Federal Governments, therefore, we, the executive of the party, deem it would be inexpedient and probably fatal to the success of the political labor movement to relinquish our paramount position at such time as the Canadian Labor Party is properly organized; therefore be it resolved that until such time as the dominant political Labor party or parties get together and form a Canadian Labor Party, we, the provincial executive of the I.L.P., and the Labor members of the Legislature, determine the I.L.P. of Ontario will continue to be known as the political Labor party in this province.

The Labor members present were Hon. Walter Rolfe, Hon. Harry Mills, George G. Halcrow, Thomas Thomas, Dr. H. A. Stevenson, Frank Greenlaw, F. Swayze, K. K. Mouth and Wilson A. Crockett.

THE PRINTERS' ROCK OF GIBRALTAR

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crack it wide open," either now or at some future time.

Therefore, only through the negotiation of an agreement for the closed shop can the interests of the members of the International Typographical Union be effectively safeguarded, and that this agreement may be consummated and put into the printing industry the International Typographical Union stands ready to accept.

Some insurance agents, he said was bound to develop in Canada because of the experience the country is now passing through.

There is an opinion to-day current among the workers of the printing industry that this strike is "the greatest thing that could have happened." Evolution is constantly going on—social and political institutions are always undergoing greater or lesser modifications, to suit the changing economic and industrial status. The war came and the worker made supreme sacrifices—the capitalist class reaped vast profits. And now a readjustment is called for. He who sacrificed wishes to reap the fruits of his sacrifice. But, instead, capitalism is so gorged with profiting that its greed has been inflamed to limitless bounds. It wishes to deny not only what is the workers' share of right of sacrifice, but seeks even to destroy what the working class had gained by untold struggle before the war. Hence the working class and especially organized labor, must take stock. The trades union movement must be strengthened and policies dictated by capital. The man who furnishes the brain and muscle energy to industry must no longer be the slave and tool of the capitalist. Hence the struggle the worker has been taught:

(1) The worker is always expected to live up to his contract, while the boss breaks them at his own sweet pleasure in his own sweet way to wit, the verbal agreement made to our Negotiating Committee in 1919.

(2) The worker must arbitrate, but the employer only when it suits him, to wit, the 44-hour week agreed to in 1919.

(3) The worker can no longer depend upon the promises of the employing class and must strike for its own economic protection.

(4) As James Lynch points out, this struggle is teaching the work-ers the truth of the doctrine of the "class struggle." We are witnessing in this strike a solid banding together of all financial interests to back the employers. Also, we see the noble example of the entire membership of the I.T.U. cheerfully paying assessments to help the members of their class to victory. It is class against class—if our employers so will it—and since the

workers of the printing industry are on the side of progress, they are going to win.—S.E.

"YELLOW DOG" SCORED Buffalo, N. Y.—In denying an injunction to a printer employer in this city, the supreme court of Erie county scored the individual contract, known as "yellow-dog", which the employer alleged was violated by members of the Typographical union. "This court should not protect by injunction against lawful, peaceful acts a contract wrong perhaps from an unwilling employee upon the eve of a strike by which he agrees not to be a member of a labor or trades union or boycott. There are legal rights granted for the protection and welfare of himself and family."

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