

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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WHERE WE WRITE. Our Edmonton friends find us as allies when they state "The section of Gompers over Lewis as head of the American Federation of Labor indicates that the skilled crafts have reached the conclusion that they must stand together in labor matters."

NOT TO THEIR TASTE. According to the Hamilton Herald the labor M.P.P. George Harlow is too vague simply because his pronouncements are not a line with their drifting policy, and thus is not understood.

Idle Time at Cape Breton Mines. Beginning in August the Cape Breton mines of the Dominion Coal Company will work only about half time, according to H. J. McCann, assistant general superintendent of the company.

G. O. M. to Visit Canada. President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor, will spend the greater part of August in Canada at the Grand Trunk Railway.

The One Big Union. "The One Big Union" which for a time received considerable support from certain elements within the Trade Union Movement in Canada and the United States, reached its climax in the big Winnipeg strike, and since then has almost vanished.

Thousands of Men. Save the price of a suit of underwear and several pairs of socks yearly by using our All Repair Super-Service.

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What fine things I could have done if I had co-operated with others for the common good. Before it is too late I will take a fresh grip on life. I will consecrate my business to service and invest my time in seeking the general welfare.

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THE SIX MEN OF DORSET

By JAMES LORD. President, Mining Department, A. F. of L. This rhyme is dedicated to Samuel Gompers, who has ever championed the "right to quit," as the sheet anchor of all the liberties of freemen.—J.L.

Since dream of empire drew mankind to serve the war god, Mars, And sons of men have warred for fame, for recompense or glory, Historians have immortalized a myriad cruel wars, And hard and minstrel thrilled the heart with stirring lay or story.

In fancy we see each pageant pass in grand array, With martial tread in harmony to some inspiring strain, The light of battle in each eye, impatient for the fray, Where each might meet a warrior's death, or victory attain.

I would not lessen by one thought a heart inspiring deed, That casts in life's great crucible the sacrifice supreme, Where man has served the cause he loves, what'er his race or creed, All men revere the thought sublime, the self-effacing theme.

But I would sing of heroism cast in more obscure mould, Of service to the common man that draws not grand applause, That, countering established thought, has courage to unfold Some thought of greater happiness in man's mysterious laws.

That will offend the "status quo," when "status quo" shall fail To guarantee the humblest should equality to strive To nobler heights as time and opportunity avail, And man's creative mind finds paths where freedom can survive.

Those six poor men of Dorsetshire, kin in adversity, Who toiled each day in summer's heat or winter's chilling blast, For that poor pittance that would scarce ward off dire poverty, Gazed thoughtfully on other men whose lives were happier cast.

Then up spake one of them and called his fellows to his side, He asked them what the future held in such vile servitude, Where, toiling through each day they could but meagerly provide For wife and weans life's meaneast fare, indelicate and crude.

"And when," quoth he, "disease shall come, and lay its blighting hand On one of us or those we love, how then, what is in store, When struggling on like galleys slaves each day upon this land, We scarce can keep grim nakedness and hunger from the door."

"Let us arise," he said, "and go, each one to take the stand, That to our weekly pittance one more shilling may be add, And when we've sought our masters out and given our poor demand, We'll meet again, tell our results, should they be ill or glad."

So these six men each fared him forth unto his master's hall, And urged in their respectful way their poor and modest plea, "We scarce can make ends meet," they said, "and should affliction fall On our poor wives, or little ones, in sore travail we'd be."

"Grant you our modest, poor demand, and blessings on you fall, Give us a little more of life, and we will harder strive To serve you faithfully, let task be great or small, Give us one shilling more," they said, "that we may better thrive."

Each master stood by haughtily, then sternly made reply, "Your insolence should bring you each before the whipping tree; We shall not pay you more," they cried, "and tell you instantly To get back quickly to your tasks or sorrier each shall be."

They met again at eventide, recounted their affairs, Resolved that each should service seek and other masters serve, Each should the other's hand, resolved that in their common cares They'd each stand by the other, their efforts to conserve.



They saw, more clearly than before, the great and shining truth, That men must not be tied to tasks, whether they willed or no; That freemen had the right to stop, and that they would, forsooth, When sense and welfare justified the right in doing so.

And as the years rolled by and children grew mature and strong, And in the fight for liberty their ideals firmer grew, They reared a monument to show the curious, questioning throng, How sacrifice is ever made and freedom runs on true.

And men who do the useful work throughout this world's domain, May read a lesson from this tale of heroism grand, And know that by their own best thought and effort shall they gain That need of life and liberty that's sought in every land.

So I would sing of heroic deeds that bring their good to all, E'en though reviled and crucified their pioneers we see, And these Six Men of Dorsetshire, who gave at freedom's call, Gave not in vain, but gave that this a better world world might be.

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