

# CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

A National, Sane Labor Paper

True Confidence and Understanding Between Employer and Employee Absolutely Necessary to Industrial Peace.

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## COMMUNISM--A Dangerous Parasite in Canada

### Constitutes a Serious Drag on Sane Organized Labor and Stands in the Way of Successful Arbitration of Labor's Difficulties

#### NOVA SCOTIA MINERS WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO GAIN THEIR DESIRES IF THEY WOULD THROW OFF THE SINISTER INFLUENCE OF COMMUNISM WHICH IS WOVEN INTO THEIR VERY SOULS THROUGH THE INSIDIOUS PROPAGANDA OF THE COMMUNISTIC LEADERS AND THEIR UTOPIAN PAPER "THE WORKER"

"The Canadian Labor Press" has repeatedly issued warnings against organized labor allowing itself to be used as a cat's paw to further the interests of Communism in Canada. Communism is a disease which is ruthless in its ravages and has for its object the destroying of the country's Industrial and Social fabric.

Reason, which is a paramount force in the life of mankind, is unknown to the Communists and therein lies the danger of allowing Communism to become a part of us. The long drawn out struggles of the Nova Scotia miners, furnishes a striking illustration of how Communism can work disaster upon the very people whom they are supposed to be helping. The plight of these poor men is terrible and their graves are being dug by Communism which has scourged the very souls of the miners and permanent relief and peace cannot be possible until the men remove this parasite which is sapping their life blood.

Many will ask why the miners adopted the unsound doctrine of Communism and Radicalism which has led to their unfortunate position and the answer to this is found in the occupation of the coal miner; his peculiar form of work leaves his mind in a receptive mood for education, news, information about current events or anything you may call it, be it either for good or bad and unfortunately it has been for bad for when he leaves his work in the mine, he is gathered into the fold of the Communists' ranks and the whisperings of these agitators has fallen on fertile ground without the man using his own reasoning powers as to the feasibility of the doctrine.

Now the Nova Scotia miners are as fine a type of manhood as can be found anywhere and if they had but the guidance of strong men leaders, we believe they could have avoided their present difficulties. The pen is mightier than the sword and we commend the Nova Scotia miners for holding aloof from unfair underhand tactics in the present struggle, but we strongly believe it would be in the interests of the miners if they would come to their senses and get together with their employers and discuss the situation in a most thorough manner. There are always two sides to any story and in order that we may be in as strong a position as possible, it is most essential that we learn the other man's viewpoint. The meeting held in Halifax last week between the officers of the Mine Workers and the officers of the Corporation as arranged by the Hon. E. H. Armstrong, Premier of Nova Scotia, was a step in the right direction, but it did not go far enough as the men would not consider any

proposal that did not exactly comply with their preconceived notions and these preconceived notions are the result of years of effort on the part of the Communists whose ideas of progress are based on Revolution and not Evolution. The officers of the Corporation endeavored to point out but without avail, why it is necessary in the best interests of the miners themselves, as well as of the various coal companies and the province at large, that there should be a reasonable reduction in the scale of wages paid to the miners of coal in Nova Scotia. These are well known to everyone who has followed the discussion of the matter and may be summed up in a few words. It is not possible to find a market for the output of the mines, or even a reasonable percentage of that output, at prices that will permit the companies to continue to pay the rates of wages fixed by the 1924 contract. With a reasonable reduction from those rates the companies could ship a sufficiently increased amount of coal to furnish work to a larger number of men for a greater number of days and to pay each man employed a larger amount of wages in the year. In the aggregate a much larger amount would be disbursed and everybody, miners included, would be much better off at the end of the season. Whether the miners believe what the corporation states to be true, is another matter, but if they believe it or not, it is up to them in their own interest to investigate to the fullest and either prove the statements false or substantiate them, and if they find the company is telling the truth, it will prove that negotiations are well worth while. The corporation states that every possible means of reducing the cost of production has been put into effect. Reductions in staff and in salaries have been carried to the utmost limit of expediency, and unless there can be a reduction in the amount paid per ton for the extraction of coal from the mine, operations must cease and the industry collapse.

### Johnson's Charges Against Willard's Found Groundless

#### CHOCOLATE MANUFACTURERS COMPLETELY EXONERATED BY MINIMUM WAGE BOARD

In a finding which completely exonerates the Willard Chocolate Company from any charge of "systematic or deliberate plan for underpaying the employees," the Minimum Wage Board finds that the stories which were the basis of extended investigation at the Parliament buildings last summer were entirely unreliable. The charge was principally launched by two brothers, Allan and Cyril Johnson, Cyril having been timekeeper for the company and alleging that he had personally falsified certain entry cards under instructions from his superiors in the company. The District Trades and Labor Council later took up the matter at the Labor Temple. After remarking that it was only after a sharp business dispute that the Johnsons began to publish their charges, the report, signed by the Chairman, Dr. W. J. Macmillan, says that the fact that Johnson had admitted being a participant in the scheme for falsifying cards made necessary very close scrutiny of his evidence, and thus examined, "it is seen to be inconsistent and unreliable." After going into all the points which caused the board to doubt the accuracy of the story, the report adds: "Besides, the whole scheme is patently so ill-conceived and impracticable that it is incredible that any man, particularly one capable of managing a large business, however unscrupulous in intent, should have adopted it." In regard to a particular instance of falsification submitted by Johnson, of a girl being discharged and re-engaged at a lower wage, the board "finds that the story of this alleged episode of falsification which formerly the substance of the representations made before the Attorney-General and of the articles published in The News Mirror, is disproved by the evidence." Regarding the charge that numbers of girls were deliberately underpaid, the board asks if the company had planned systematically to underpay its employees, why did it continue to pay comparatively high wages to so many of them? Furthermore, the guaranteed rates which the company gave its piece-workers are inconsistent with a policy of ruthless wage reduction. While the board does not minimize the importance of errors which may have crept into wage payments--the wages being a girl's living--"there is," the report says, "a vital difference between an error and a deception."

#### FAVOR OLD AGE PENSIONS

The Veterans' Reunion Council, meeting at Military Headquarters, Toronto passed an important resolution unanimously asking support for introducing old age pensions into Canada.

### DRAPER AND FRANCO TO I.L.O. CONFERENCE

#### CAN. GOVERNMENT APPOINTS SECRETARY OF TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS; SAIL MAY 1

Ottawa.—P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, has been appointed by the government as the Canadian workers' delegates to the seventh international labor conference which opens at Geneva, Switzerland, on May 10, 1925.

The Canadian government recognizes the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada as the most representative body of workers in the Dominion, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles by which the International Labor Organization was created, and the Congress is therefore asked to name the workers' delegate to each annual conference of the International Labor Organization of the League of Nations.

The chief technical adviser to the workers' delegate will be Gustave Franco, chairman of the Quebec provincial committee of the Trades and Labor Congress. Mr. Franco was appointed chiefly because of the fact that workmen's compensation legislation will occupy a major portion of the time of the forthcoming conference. He was the representative of the international labor organizations on the royal commission which recently made an exhaustive study of the question in the province of Quebec and is thoroughly conversant with the subject.

Mr. Draper represented the Canadian workers at the peace conference in Paris at the close of the war and was the workers' delegate at the First International Labor Conference at Washington, D. C. in 1919. He speaks both English and French fluently and is well known in international labor circles. The Canadian workers' representatives expect to sail from Canada May 1.

### Attempt to End N.S. Mine Strike

#### Province to Adopt Lemieux Act and Enforce Same in Present Dispute

Halifax, N.S., April 30.—Premier Armstrong, introduced legislation in the Provincial House designed to prevent and settle strikes and lockouts in the industrial life of Nova Scotia. The legislation, if enacted, is capable of being used to provide the necessary machinery for adjusting the outstanding wage dispute between the British Empire Steel Corporation and its employees, which enters its ninth week tomorrow.

The bill makes applicable to Nova Scotia upon its enactment the provisions of the Lemieux Act found ultra vires of the Dominion Parliament by the Privy Council, and further provides, part 2, upon proclamation of the Lt.-Governor-in-Council, for the setting up of a permanent Arbitration Commission as a court of last resort for the settlement of labor disputes.

### Effects of Free Trade in Great Britain

Mr. Arthur Kitson, in an article in The National Review, published in London, England, says in part:

"Three-quarters of a century's experience of Free Trade and the gold standard, which has resulted in keeping millions of our population continually within sight of starvation and has reduced us within a single generation from the first, to the third place in the great international trade rivalry, ought to convince the most obstinate Cobdenites that his theories are no longer applicable. During the war our industrial rivals, America, Germany, and Japan, built up enormous works, and have brought their manufactures to a degree of perfection far in advance of ours. "Instead of depending upon us for manufactures, these countries are now able not only to supply their own markets, but their surplus products are being offered at such prices in foreign markets that it is doubtful whether we shall be able to compete successfully. "This is quite new, and all our trade theories which have done duty for us in the past have little or no bearing on our present situation. "Prosperous trade depends upon effective demand for goods and the effective demand can only exist in countries where money is comparatively plentiful. "The average American workman lives on a far higher scale of comfort than that prevailing in this country. America produces more than one-half of the world's steel and steel products. Millions of American workmen own their own homes, have a telephone and motor-car, and other comforts of which the English workman scarcely dreams. According to The Mail, New York alone has vastly more buildings in progress than the whole of the United Kingdom. There is surely some reason for this striking contrast. As a well-known American Journal The Manufacturers' Record, says: 'The British Empire has been falling behind and signally failing to keep pace with its former relative position in the world of trade and with the growth of the United States.' It adds: 'England has gone on a basis of low wages at home and still lower wages in India and elsewhere. It has made a fetish of cheapness and is reaping the inevitable result. On the other hand, the United States has worked on a basis of high wages, protected by high tariffs, and the abounding progress and prosperity, prevailing in America are the inevitable results of that policy.' In short, American prosperity is built on protection. Comparative Figures The above figures show a great decrease in purchases abroad of raw materials to be manufactured by workers in Canada in 1924 as compared to 1923. In the first nine months of 1923, the retained imports of wool, tops, wools and waste, estimated grease basis, were 36,935,324 lbs.; in the same period in 1924, this was reduced to only 21,281,285 lbs. (Continued on page 2)

### New Deal for Labor

Charleston, W. Va.—Governor Goro, the new state executive, has started anti-union coal owners and other elements hostile to organized labor by inviting the organized workers to join with him and other citizens in discussing problems of interest to the commonwealth. Never before has a governor of this state taken such action. In referring to the high ideals of West Virginia citizens, the governor paid a high tribute to organized labor during the war and expressed his confidence that labor will contribute the same service in solving the problems that has resulted from the war. In his inaugural address the chief executive let it be known that he is opposed to the guard system and private armies maintained in Logan and other anti-union counties of this state. "Such authority," he said, "can be vested safely in but one agency, and that is government itself, and encroachments upon the authority of government I do not and will not approve."

### DOMINION TRADES CONGRESS AND IMMIGRATION

In the April issue of "The Canadian Congress Journal," appears an editorial article concerning immigration from Great Britain and which constitutes a totally undeserved attack upon "The Canadian Labor Press."

The article in question, which is headed "Misrepresented Again," and apparently written by the editor, Mr. Tom Moore, takes exception to statements on immigration which appeared in our March 31st issue and at the same time states that the paper has no right to talk for the workers of Canada concerning that question. Evidently the editor failed to understand the policy of our paper or in order to gain a quasi popular applause, willfully interpreted the policy of "The Canadian Labor Press" in an erroneous manner.

The portion referring to us stated that "a self-styled labor paper, claiming to have a member of the staff engaged in making known to British workers, Canada's labor immigration policy" and goes on to quote certain statements in our issue concerning the contrast of attitude of organized labor officials in Canada between immigration into Canada and Canadian immigration into the U.S.

The statement made by us in our March 31st issue that organized labor officials in Canada had protested to Washington against the United States applying the quota law to Canadians and at the same time protesting to the Canadian government against the admission of further immigrants into (Continued on Page 2)

### Fleischman Was Labor's Friend

Washington, D. C.—Resolutions of condolence paying tribute to the late Julius Fleischmann, head of the Fleischmann Yeast Company, as a friend of organized labor have been passed by Local Union No. 48, Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers' Union. After declaring that Mr. Fleischmann earned for himself an enviable reputation as a man of high honor and sterling integrity, the resolution says:

"Whereas, his recognition of the American principle of the right of his employes to organize, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, to enter into agreements which were observed in spirit and letter, made him one of the foremost of humane employers of this country; therefore be it Resolved, that organized labor has lost a friend, the Yeast Workers' Local 48 a kindly and benevolent employer and society one of its most upright citizens."

#### KANSAS BARS JAPANESE

Topeka, Kan.—The state legislature has passed a Japanese exclusion bill. It prohibits the orientals from owning or leasing land in this state.

### Disarmament in the Netherlands

In Denmark the Government is considering a scheme of disarmament, and now in Holland also the Social Democratic Party is following this excellent example. Let us hope that other and more important countries will pursue this path. But in the meantime, labor throughout the world has every reason to rejoice at these two strides forward, and to use its influence in the press on behalf of disarmament.

The Dutch draft bill aims at converting the army and navy into "Security Guards." The number of soldiers to be recruited per year would be reduced from 19,500 to 3,000 for the army, and provisionally 1,000 for the navy. The time of training would not exceed 4 months. If the draft bill became law, it would mean the disbandment of 270,000 reserves. The present land force is about 300,000, the permanent Security Guard could then be about 30,000 men; and to maintain it at this number there would need to be about 3,000 new recruits per year, and 3,000 released from active service. Reservists would be liable to be called up for 10 years. They would be paid when actually on service, and they would receive a small remuneration during the period when they are civilians liable to be called up. All professional soldiers not required for the new army would be disbanded, due regard being paid to their legal claims for compensation. The chief duty of this Security Guard would be to fulfill Holland's international obligations in case of an outbreak of war between countries bordering on her. Holland would have to demonstrate clearly her intention to remain strictly neutral. There is no question of the defence of the country. The Security Guard would not be called upon to fight the forces of any regular army. It would be lined up along the frontier and would do the duty of Holland towards any belligerent country, namely, disarm any troops which crossed the frontier, and protect persons living near the frontiers from any troops fighting in the neighborhood. It would also be used to quell disturbances within the country when the ordinary police were too weak to keep order.

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