

# Saskatchewan Labor's Realm

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THE SASKATCHEWAN LABOR'S REALM

A Weekly Labor and Social Reform Newspaper.

Justice, Truth, Fraternity. "Labor Omnia Vincit."

HUGH PEAT

EDITOR.

THE twenty-third Annual Trades and Labor Congress of Canada will go down in history as the most memorable and important one since the inception of the organization. Numbered Congress amongst the list of delegates attending that convention will be found the names of three representatives of organizations which had hitherto held aloof from the deliberations of the congress, and by so doing had, in a measure, crippled the usefulness of the body as a thoroughly representative council of the wage-earners and producers of the Dominion.

Up to the present time the farmers of Canada have taken little if any appreciable amount of interest in the trades union movement. That they are now beginning to realise that their interests and those of the wage-earners in other branches of industry are identical, and that a nearer relationship with the consumers is desirable is evidenced by the presence at the Winnipeg convention of a delegate from the Alberta branch of the Canadian Society of Equity.

The Ontario farmers are prepared to enter into nearer and more direct business relationship with the wage-earners of that province, and they will in all probability in the very near future follow the lead of the Alberta farmers and become members of the farmers' union and seek affiliation with the congress. By so doing they will become a valuable acquisition to labor's forces. Mr. R. C. Owens, the delegate of the Alberta farmers, had been associated with the labor movement in Chicago for a quarter of a century before entering into the strenuous though freer and more independent life of farming. He stated that the wage-earners of the country, that is the tradesmen and artisans generally, had been wont to look upon the farmers as a class apart, a body outside their jurisdiction altogether, but he spoke with the knowledge of a vast experience backed with the conviction of that knowledge when he stated that if there was one body of men who could truly claim to be workmen—to be producers—that body was the farmers. They had been content to plow their lonely furrow long enough. They had suffered the indignities and bitter fruits of isolation too long, and were now fully convinced that the true solution of labor's problems was in the hands of the wage-earners themselves. He rightly stated that if the working men of the country were not satisfied with the present system of legislation they had no one but themselves to blame. The vast bulk of the electors were the wage-earners, and if they have no more sense than to send representatives to parliament whose interests are diametrically opposed to their own they deserve all they get, and in common decency should suffer the consequences of their folly uncomplainingly. Labor will have her wrongs righted when she rights them herself. So long as the laboring classes are content to agitate for legislation in their interest for three hundred and sixty-four days in the year, and then on the three hundred and sixty-fifth day foolishly insult their manhood and independence by casting a party vote, so long must they be content to eat the crumbs that fall from the master's table.

The growing representation from the Western Miners' Unions is another sign of progress. Hitherto these unions have entertained the belief that the Congress was associated in some manner with one of the big political parties now in existence, but they are beginning to recognise the value and utility of the Congress as a factor for enforcing good and necessary legislation in the interest of the workers of the Dominion, and before many months

are past it is safe to predict a greater affiliation with the Congress from the Western Miners' Unions than ever before.

For the first time in the history of the Congress, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers had delegates present. This body has always maintained that their organization was so perfect and thorough that there was no necessity for them to affiliate with any other body. Their delegates were present at the formal opening of the Congress and took an active part in the discussion of the Lemieux Bill. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers is one of the strongest unions in the world, and their affiliation with the Congress is certainly a step in the right direction, and one that will prove of mutual benefit to all concerned.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER'S answer to the Trades and Labor Congress on Sept. 21st was no surprise. In fact no other answer could reasonably be expected when the action of the Government in refusing to take cognizance of the warning of the royal commission appointed to enquire into the Japanese question is considered. As pointed out in the article from the Toronto Mail and Empire on another page, the government were well informed of the trouble that was likely to accrue from an unrestricted influx of Japanese to this country. The Jap pays no fair share of the taxes. He brings with him neither wife nor children. He is bound by contract to return to his own country at the expiration of three years. Whatever he makes here he takes away again. And yet, in spite of the knowledge of these facts, the Government asked that the British treaty with Japan be applied here. Small wonder then that the premier felt bound to evade the request of the Trades Congress of Canada, and deemed it his duty to live up to the treaty which has proved so eminently satisfactory to the Japs, and so detrimental to the interests of the white man in British Columbia.

We note with pleasure the interest evinced in our doings by the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. That noble army of long suffering martyrs accuse the government of pusillanimity in dealing with the Asiatic problem. They aver that the Government is afraid of the trade unionist vote, and are terribly afraid that there might eventually be found some enlightened individuals in the Federal Parliament who will be able to see through the narrow-minded selfish motives of that illustrious body of twentieth century autocrats, and begin to recognise at last that the world does not revolve at the will of the C.M.A., and that there are other interests besides theirs which it might be to the advantage of the Government to look after and recognise.

As stated at the recent convention of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, there are only 50,000 men directly represented by the Trades Congress of Canada, and in all probability their united vote would not have any appreciable amount of influence in the election of candidates for federal or provincial honors. At the same time it might be as well for

them to understand that the Congress represents 150,000 working men of Canada indirectly by affiliation of local unions to the different trade councils, and this, combined with the recent affiliation of the farmers' union, the Locomotive Engineers, and the Western Federation of Miners, will constitute a bulwark of defence against the machinations of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association which will ultimately bring them to their senses, and cause them to descend from the high horse and self assumed position of dictators to the Government and recognise that there are other and greater interests in the country to be considered than their own.

So far from the Government being afraid of the Congress vote, as was stated at the C.M.A. convention, it would appear that the Government entirely disregarded the claims of the workers, and the recent reply of Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the Congress on the Japanese question should allay any suspicion that may exist in the minds of the manufacturers concerning the partiality of the Government to the wage-earners of the Dominion. The delegates to the Congress fully understood the premier's reply, and whilst recognising that he could not do otherwise than uphold the policy already adopted of unrestricted Japanese immigration, it was at least expected that some definite statement would be made instead of evading the question entirely.

THE Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and the United Brotherhood

of Carpenters held a conjoint meeting on Thursday night to consider the report of the Trades Council delegates who met the executive officers of the Builders' Exchange on Tuesday last. After considerable discussion the report of the Council was adopted, and it

was unanimously decided that the men return to work on the conditions proposed.

It was understood that the Builders' Exchange will enter into negotiations with the delegates from the different unions through the Trades Council at an early date, so that contracts can be drawn up between the several bodies to come into effect at the beginning of the year, and to be of twelve months' duration.

MR. R. L. Borden's speech at Nelson, B.C., on September 28th, was a very welcome one to the people of British Columbia. If he had been carefully

studying the platform of the Canadian Labor Party and trying to adopt its principles he could not have done so more effectively than he did in his Nelson speech. He praised Premier McBride for the stand he took for better terms, and approved his withdrawal from the Ottawa conference. He promised enquiry into the British Columbia trouble if returned to power, and blamed the Government for entering into an agreement with Japan without limitations. Government ownership of public utilities was one of his strong points, and he advocated other methods which the Labor Party of Canada are seeking to have adopted. It is doubtful however, whether he will win many new adherents to his cause.

for the electors of British Columbia are men of advanced thought and are convinced that direct representation through a third party consisting of Labor men is the only certain way in which the interests of working men will be truly served.

A VERITABLE epidemic of fatal accidents seems to have visited the city during the last five weeks. Several cases have been reported

Fatal Accidents and the question of inquests concerning the same was raised at the Trades and Labor

Council meeting on Saturday last. A resolution was adopted and forwarded to the Attorney-General asking him to enforce the law with regard to inquests in the case of all industrial accidents which occur. There are no doubt many instances where the cause of death is so evident that the coroner's decision is all that is necessary and the services of a jury can be dispensed with. At the same time if a more rigid enquiry was instituted into the cause of any accident resulting in death and a heavy fine inflicted in cases where adequate provision had not been made for safety, it is safe to assume that accidents as a result of carelessness or neglect on the part of the persons responsible would be avoided.

Mr. McMackin, of New York State, Labor Commissioner, recently issued a report that should keep the open shop advocates still for some time. He says: "The attempt to discredit the principles of trades unionism under the guise of an open shop has signally failed. The public has been told that a union shop may be a truly open shop so long as the union is left open to all competent workmen; whereas the non-union shop in which every workman is compelled to drive a bargain single-handed with the employer soon becomes a sweat shop. With the union's power broken, the just and humane employer is powerless to keep wages and hours up to the former standard in the face of the competition of wage-cutting rivals."

The miners working at the A. R. & J. Company's mines have appealed to the department of labor for a board of conciliation under the Lemieux act to settle the dispute between the men and the company. It was arranged that a board of arbitration consisting of two members chosen by the company and two by the men, and Chief Justice Sifton as chairman, should sit and decide the dispute, but this fell through. The men had their two representatives there two weeks ago, and the district officials of the United Mine Workers' association have been in Lethbridge most of the time since then but the company would not meet them.

District President F. H. Sherman and local officers of the association waited on the officials of the company, but could get no satisfaction, and so application to the department was made last night. Meanwhile the men will continue at work.

The labor department is advised that the Rosamond Woolen Mills strike at Almonte is settled. The two hundred employees return to work at once. They were effected through the lockout resultant on five warpers striking for higher wages. Three of the warpers agreed to go back at the old wages, but the other two refused and have been replaced by others.