

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

THE truth must be approached from many angles and whilst the Canadian Labor Press at all times will guard its columns from in-labor propaganda it must be realized that the publishers do not hold themselves responsible for the views of the individual whose name is attached to any article that may be published. While every effort is made to present a subject in an authoritative way, it should be remembered that the only expression of the Canadian Labor Press is in its editorials.

The Canadian Labor Press is desirous of receiving articles of general interest and fiction, and will be pleased to consider such matter as may be submitted for publication. All contributions should be addressed to THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS, Journal Building, Ottawa, Ontario.

FIREFIGHTERS' LEGISLATION.

BEGINNING with the year 1921, the Fire Department's Hours of Labor Act comes into force, the first session of the Labor-Farmer Government of Ontario being responsible for this, among its many other beneficial measures enacted.

Section 2 of this act provides that firemen must have 24 hours off duty every week and that in cities where the two platoon system is in vogue the 24 hours' release at the change of the platoons shall not be regarded as a day off duty for the purposes of the act. Besides providing penalties for evasion, the act supercedes resolutions or bylaws of affected municipalities of a contrary nature.

With the adoption of legislation the fireman would appear to be coming into his own in this particular sphere that the home ties the fabrics of our progress path, may no longer be in the nature of a myth and known only to the firefighter through the knowledge that other workers are in enjoyment of same. The reduction of hours of duty has come to the firefighters in very tardy fashion, they having been overlooked possibly more than any other section of worker, although always admitted to be of the first calibre of citizen and front rankers in the essential class. Perhaps this heretofore nonrecognition of their rights to fair recompense and reasonable hours of duty may be laid to their own door chiefly in the neglect to band together under the trade union banner, but this is now a fault removed so that in the very nature of things the attainments of recent date are explained.

Having secured rights they must be jealously guarded and there must be no trucking or trading of the firefighters with the civic bodies to eliminate any of the advantages secured to date. Before the enactment of the day off in seven other benefits had been gained, and these must not be traded off because favorable legislation is secured. There is now apparent sinister designs to attempt to nullify the legislation under review which must go unheeded by the firefighters, or trimmings encouraged will find a possibly more undesirable situation than now existing.

The gains to date must be held, the Ontario Government legislation must be an addition to these benefits as anticipated when the members of the Provincial House voted yea, to the one day off duty. The question of extra cost was relegated to the background when the Ontario members sanctioned the measure, the matter of the firefighters being entitled to same was the first consideration, and the law must be operative beginning with the year 1921. Affiliation with the organized movement guarantees to the firefighters faithful allies, who will be prepared to assist in destroying and disrupting any contrary movement having for its objective the depriving of rights already secured from whatever source these attempts may be fostered and advanced.

FROM MANY SOURCES.

Lady Bonham-Carter declares that Lloyd George is double-jointed mentally and morally.
 "It is in leisure that the real spontaneous self is set free,"—J. L. Paton.
 "What the world needs today is a new holiday-making ideal,"—T. A. Lennard.
 "A man does not care for sympathy, at least except when he is in trouble,"—Dean Inge.
 "A shipwrecked sailor buried on a ship's deck.
 Hides you set sail:
 Full many a gallant bark when he was lost,
 Weathered the gale,"—From the Greek.
 "The cost of living is still rising. Food, which a month ago was 152 per cent. above pre-war prices, is now 153. And now rents are going up 30 per cent.,"—Justice, London, Eng.
 "There are 250 Belgian prisoners of refugees in Russia and 1,500 Russian in Belgium. An exchange has been effected, but owing to shipping difficulties has only just been arranged."
 "With a view to deceiving the simple-minded Armenian peasants these Bolshevik agitators were carrying on their flags the portrait of Karl Marx, whom they represented as Khirmlin Hahria, the great patriot, dear to every Armenian,"—New Europe.

Have Accepted Bolsheviks' Challenge

Organized Labor stands ready to battle against the Bolshevik design to hold control of the Labor movement in Great Britain will not allow itself to be replaced by Communist propaganda, bound to obey orders from the Central Committee of the Soviets. It will not be a fight, but they expect to win. Warned by the recent resolutions of the Third International at Moscow pledging itself to absorb the Labor movement and make it the tail of the Communist kite, leaders of unionism are already strengthening their lines.

"We've accepted Soviet Russia's declaration of war against the British union leaders," declared W. A. Appleton, the British union leader. "We're prepared to fight the fight to a knockout. I've got a copy of the resolution of the Third International demanding that all the trade union leaders of the world expel Labor leaders with anti-Bolshevik sympathies. We're issuing a reply. It will be signed by the International Trades Union Committee, including J. H. Williams of France, Martens of Belgium and myself. It will meet the feeling of Samuel Gompers, the American leader absolutely. Our reply points out that leaders of the trades union movement are the ones who accomplished the real work for the industrial classes, while the Soviet's theories are mere soap-box oratory."

O. B. U. ADVOCATES ARE REVIVING OLD THEORY

Machinists Are Special Objects of O. B. U., Says President.

"One Big Union advocates are reviving an old theory and imagine they have discovered something," said President Johnston, in opening the convention of the International Association of Machinists at Rochester, N.Y., recently.

"The apostles of destruction," said President Johnston, "seek to undermine the present labor movement and preach what they claim to be a new form of organization, while the truth is that the theory that they expound is an old exploded one that has been tried again and again and as often as it is tried just as often has it failed."

"The so-called leaders of these ramp organizations are playing the same game in that they are seeking for a time in dividing the workers, and there is no doubt at times certain employing interests have secretly aided such organizations with so-called support of the labor movement as to make it impotent."

President Johnston stated that the O. B. U. conference at New York, June, was attended by 34 persons, after months of propaganda, and thousands of communications. The executive board of this world association of nine persons, six of whom are machinists.

"Our association," said President Johnston, "is the principal object of their attack in the United States. The preponderance of their officers are machinists, so beware of the subtle individual in your midst who is seeking to divide our organization."

FAULTY CONSTRUCTION.

Uncontrolled fire is no respecter of persons, places or surroundings. Fire is a good servant, but a bad master. Having to cope with such an agent, the subject of fire prevention necessarily covers almost all the ground; as we must stay it from as many angles as produce the menace.

Defective flues, broken and crooked chimneys or those surrounded by woodwork are dangerous and frequently cause fire.

Your life is in jeopardy from such conditions, especially at night. Shingle roofs are the cause of most conflagrations. A spark from a chimney on a shingle roof, if it is curled, moss-covered and dry, will quickly cause a fire.

Where you have no real way to fight a fire and where a fire usually means a total loss, take no unnecessary chances.

With the existing tendency toward careless and inefficient workmanship in general the observance of close supervision in all building work is imperative. Contractors, architects and builders should use their influence to compel efficient and careful inspection during construction, not only as a safeguard for the owner and the occupants, but for their own business reputation.

APPOINT BOARD FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES.

The Minister of Labor has established a board of conciliation to hear the differences between the Canadian Pacific, Grand Trunk and Canadian National Railways and certain of their employees, being clerks, timekeepers and checkers, members of the International Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Freight Handlers and Station Employees. The members of the board are: E. McQuinn, Montreal; J. H. Williams, Toronto; and J. H. Williams, Toronto. The board is to be composed of three members, with a chairman, for the employing companies, with a Laurence, M.P.P. of Montreal, for the employees. The employing companies not having made a nomination for the board, Mr. Gillen was appointed for the companies as required by the statutes.

Professor Goods thinks Lenin and Krasin "men of extraordinary qualifications for the posts they are occupying." The emphasis is on the extraordinary, both for qualifications and posts.

The only failure a man ought to fear is failure in leaving to the purpose he sees to be best,"—George Eliot.

"We cannot direct ourselves of responsibility,"—J. H. Thomas.

"Steward," said a friend on a big liner swinging into the stream, "when will the bar be open?" "As soon as we have passed the Statue of Liberty sir,"—Sir John Foster Fraser.

CO-OPERATION GROWS AMONG WAGE EARNERS

Committee Appointed at Baltimore Convention Still Functions.

Reports to A. F. of L. headquarters indicate that the co-operative movement is interesting trade unionists in every section of the country. The movement has been stimulated by the appointment by President Gompers of a committee on co-operation, under instructions to the Baltimore convention, four years ago. This committee still functions. It is composed of George W. Perkins, president of the International Clearing-House, London, Wm. D. Milson, president, Amalgamated Street Car Men; John H. Walker, president Illinois State Federation of Labor; James W. Sullivan, New York Typographical Union; and Arthur E. Holder, former legislative representative of the A. F. of L., and now a member of the federal board for vocational education.

These committees are veteran trade unionists. They have been earnest co-operators for years, and know the pitfalls and failures of co-operation that are not founded on correct principles.

The committee urges unionists to accept the Rochdale principle of co-operation, "slow and steady" in their preliminary moves.

The Rochdale plan provides for recognition of prevailing market prices, and the selling of goods at a profit is used for deduction of interest on capital stock, for depreciation, for reserve, for education, and for the payment of dividends to the members of the society in proportion to the amount of their purchases at the store.

The committee believes that the plan is a practical one, and that it is a year's A. F. of L. convention, this reference is made to co-operation. Trade unions secure fair wages. Co-operation protects the wage earner from the profiteer. Participation in these co-operative agencies must of necessity prepare the worker more effectively in the mass of the people to participation of the industrial, commercial and political problems which continually arise.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal—Cain.

EDUCATING UNIONISTS. The International Union of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union in New York, is creating widespread interest among the members of that organization.

The primary object of the union is to educate the women of the city in public schools and will be under the control of committees representing affiliated localities.

Practically every branch of study, from the sciences down to the English language, will be taught. In the last issue of Justice, official magazine of the International Union, it is declared that the importance attached to this educational movement "may be seen from the fact that at our last convention the primary object of the union has been designated for this purpose."

"What is the purpose of our international educational work? Is it to make professors out of the workers? No. It is to educate them, to supply the bit of education that the workers missed when they were young? To certain extent, yes. But it is far from being the primary object of the union. The little education is not of such importance as to be worth all the trouble and energy. The prime object of the union is to prepare the workers for the high standard of a big corporation disorganizes with the board on the matter of policy and insists that he is right, they part, but there is no difference—only a difference of opinion. Why then should the clerk or other minor wage or salary earner feel a stigma rest on him when his employer has no further use for him? There are so many reasons possible for the break. The probability is that but for this false shame over being fired the worker would long before have spoken up and told his employer some home truths. Because an employer does not want a man it does not follow that the man is inefficient, and knowing himself to be efficient, and knowing himself to be self-respect for his employer's liking in such a case it is an honor and a tribute to be fired."

NOT CONSIDERED SERIOUS OFFENSE TO STRIKE WOMAN.

A Calgary magistrate does not consider it a serious offence to strike a woman on Saturday.

Joint proprietor of the Ritz Cafe in Calgary, was arrested last Saturday and fined \$5 for resisting arrest, \$5 for striking a policeman, \$1 for striking a girl.

Walters' Union was supposed to be the cause of Maloney's pugnacity, which may account for the clemency shown by the magistrate. The dispute occurred last week when the management of the Ritz Cafe repudiated their agreement with the union and demanded that the secretary remove the union card from the restaurant. The members of the union walked out, accompanied by a non-union member. The non-union member returned for her wages on Saturday evening, when Maloney struck her. Several persons witnessed the incident; the police were notified. Maloney was arrested and held in custody, and incarcerated for the night. The unusual leniency of the magistrate prompted Aid. Fred White to raise the question in the City Council, but was answered by the mayor that the city authorities have no jurisdiction over magistrates as they are appointed by the Provincial Government.

MOTHERS' PENSIONS BOARD ADOPTS RATE.

The Mothers' Pensions Board of Ontario has adopted the following temporary rates for widows and children: Widow with five or more children, \$55 per month; widow with four children, \$50 per month; widow with three children, \$45 per month; widow with two children, \$40 per month.

County: Widow with five or more children, \$45 per month; widow with four children, \$40 per month; widow with three children, \$35 per month; widow with two children, \$30 per month.

About 1,000 applications for mothers' allowances have been received by the pensions board.

The principle of the act is that the allowance paid to those women eligible under the provisions shall be sufficient to enable the mothers to provide proper home life, proper food and proper clothing for their children.

Before the commission can accomplish its task it is necessary that the applications for allowances passed upon by them, the reports of the investigation received by the board, and the allowance to be paid decided upon by the commission.

IN POLITICAL SCRAMBLE NOVA SCOTIA WAGE EARNERS PLAY WITH FIRE.

The Madlows campaign against the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and its officials continues in Nova Scotia. On the eve of the Windsor convention, Secretary J. B. McLachlin, of the United Mine Workers, District 26, issued a statement to the effect that the mine workers of that district would advise their international to withdraw from the Trades Congress of Canada. All the accomplishments of the Trades and Labor Congress are being retarded by the actions of some of the leaders in the East.

The Independent Labor Party of Nova Scotia is assisting in this insidious campaign. Some of the workers are negotiating deliberately or unconsciously, the movement which was established for the protection of the wage earners. As we have pointed out from time to time the Independent Labor Party was established primarily for the advancement of the International Trades Union movement on the political field. However, in an anxiety to advance some political opportunists the movement which was organized for the workers' protection is being neglected. Some speakers were allowed on the I. L. P. platform during the recent campaign in Nova Scotia who were avowed advocates of the O. B. U. The Canadian Labor Press made this statement some weeks ago and it has caused the Sydney Trades and Labor Council some concern. Professor Robinson of the Labor College of Glasgow was brought to this country by the O. B. U., and lectured in various parts under its auspices. Mayor M. M. McBride, M.L.A. Brantford, informing us that after listening to one address by this gentleman he (McBride) refused to continue speaking on behalf of the N. S. Independent Labor Party should this man be retained in that district. It was then that

Professor Robinson's services were dispensed with. When the Canadian Labor Press asked some weeks ago if this were so we knew that if the answer were truthful it would be "yes." No one can doubt the sincerity of purpose of the Canadian Labor Press. We have been, since our inception, an International Trades Union newspaper and we will not alter that course. We will support all independent labor political bodies provided they function in accordance with the policy of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. There is need today, as never before, of strong independent political labor parties conforming with the policies of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. Resolutions as passed in Nova Scotia will not alter the course of the Canadian Labor Press. We will continue to do in the future what we have done in the past, and will not be swayed from our moorings by any group, or groups, of political opportunists. We issue an International Trades Union newspaper and will continue to do so. In their determination to secure Governmental control the wage earners of Nova Scotia, as in other sections of Canada, should not forget their industrial organizations. Apparently this very thing has happened in Nova Scotia. At the Windsor convention of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labor, a communication was received from Secretary Sexton stating that "due to the apathy on the part of the officers, disinterestedness of the leaders of organized labor in Nova Scotia and insufficient support of the Labor Unions in the Province, the Federation lacked success."

In conclusion we wish to offer this advice to the workers of Nova Scotia: "If you are not satisfied with your industrial organizations which are of primary importance, give loyal support to the elected heads of the movement."

ON BEING "FIRED"

By Roy Carmichael.

The other day a friend of mine was "fired." To hear him talk of it you would have thought he end of the world had come. The disgrace was almost more than he could bear, and he pled with me to soften the blow for him by writing a paragraph in his local paper announcing his forthcoming departure for other fields in such a way so as to make it appear that he was going to a new and much more important position. Above everything else he wished to keep his friends and neighbors from suspecting that his severance from his job was not entirely voluntary.

I could not help reflecting that here was a concrete illustration of the end of our employment system in non-unionized occupations. The worker who has no union to back him lives ever beneath the shadow of his employer's displeasure. For him being "fired" means disgrace, and to avoid that calamity he is willing to endure more contumely, subordination and loss of independence of spirit and become in reality a wage slave.

Yet what are the facts? An employee who sells his services is surely entitled to the same respect and consideration as a business man who sells his product. A business man finds his customer, discontinuing the purchase of his wares he will inquire the reason and make use of such as he can to win him back. But if the customer does not want his wares the seller does not feel disgraced. He finds a market elsewhere. The high official of a big corporation disorganizes with the board on the matter of policy and insists that he is right, they part, but there is no difference—only a difference of opinion. Why then should the clerk or other minor wage or salary earner feel a stigma rest on him when his employer has no further use for him? There are so many reasons possible for the break. The probability is that but for this false shame over being fired the worker would long before have spoken up and told his employer some home truths. Because an employer does not want a man it does not follow that the man is inefficient, and knowing himself to be efficient, and knowing himself to be self-respect for his employer's liking in such a case it is an honor and a tribute to be fired."

In these days there is work of some kind for every efficient man, and there is no need for any worker to allow his employer to crush his spirit and deprive him of his self-respect. Let him hold his head up and uphold his rights as a man. Then if the clash comes, and the employer shows that he prefers a slave, the parting will add dignity to the employee's march. It will be to him as a badge of courage, and a stimulus to greater things.

Let the man who has been fired review that attitude. If he is convinced that he has saved his respect and that with it he can bring to a new employer proof of his efficiency he need not hang his head when applying for another post, and erasing "let it be supposed he was 'kicked out'" of his former job. If asked why he left he can answer that one business man can give another. He can, if he wishes, admit that he was fired. But let him do it boldly and proceed to give the reason.

One never hears of a union man whining that he was fired. He is "laid off," and if so he understands the circumstances and knows that there will be work elsewhere. He does not feel disgraced and knows he is not. Above all he realizes that so long as he performs his duty faithfully he is not at the mercy of an employer's whim. He cannot be influenced by the fear that he will be persecuted if he does not make himself his employer's body servant as is the case with non-union men. He will neither have his salary reduced nor have advance withheld. His employer respects him because his union keeps its pledges and has the strength of will to stand up for him, and number which will enable it to take a stand against injustice.

"An American, on looking at his London hotel bill, observed, 'Say, there's a mistake here.' 'Mistake, sir, where?' said the clerk. The Yankee replied, 'I've got more money than this.'"—Sunday Times.

Burning the Nation's Wealth

Every hour of the day and night THE TORCH OF CARELESSNESS brings destruction to somebody's property in Ontario.

The Work of Fire Prevention should appeal to every workman and mechanic who wishes to protect his job.

Two out of every three Fires occur in our homes.

The average fire loss for the last three years in Ontario is over One Million Dollars a Month. AS A CONTRIBUTOR to the payment of this enormous sum have you tried to STOP IT? Special effort should be made during

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, OCTOBER 9, to remove all Fire Hazards and take every possible precaution to Prevent Fire.

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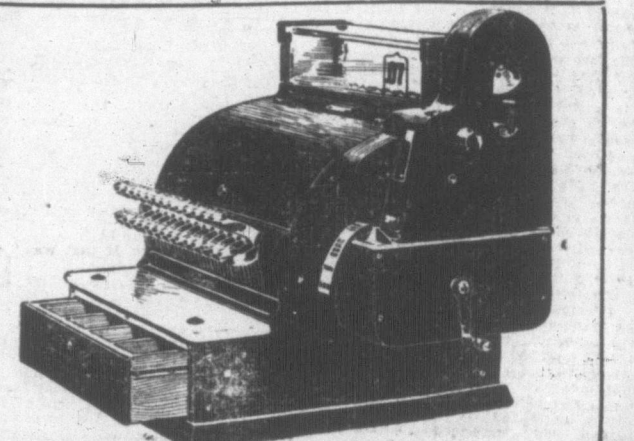
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