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Saskatchewan Labor's Realm

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Justice, Truth, Fraternity. "Labor Omnia Vincit."
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Independent and Socialist

The results of the Ontario elections are fresh before our minds. Is there nothing in those results that appeals to working men of the Dominion and cries aloud for reflection of the gravest kind? In almost every constituency, Socialist and Independent Labor has each run for political honors. Each in his own mind convinced that the particular political faith he represents is the only one that will revolutionize existing economic conditions, and usher in the longed for reign of equity and goodwill to all men.

The Independent Labor man and the Socialist are the product of economic abuses. Each party has been inaugurated in order to take political control out of the hands of the creatures of corporate interests, and place them in the hands of self-respecting, honorable and upright representatives of the people, who will discharge the trust imposed in them by the people without regard to the considerations of manufacturers, professional politicians or corporations.

These two great parties, born of the people, and devoted to the interests of the people, each fighting for equal rights for all, and special privileges for none, are divided like two little children over the important question of which is the most suitable name with which to adorn the doll. The only difference being that instead of the children's doll of wood or sawdust the political doll is laboring men—suffering humanity given over to the tender mercies of the grafters and exploiters, to political schemers and subsidised creatures of Corporations and Trusts whilst the great organizations of labor fight out their little fight amongst themselves over a name. It is enough to make angels weep. Two giants contending between themselves as to the name under which they shall work in order to bring about the emancipation of the white slaves of Canada.

Verily, it almost looks as though mankind had gone mad, and should be got rid of by execution straightway. The balance of political power in the hands of these two great parties, and yet not a sufficiency of sense and reason to be found in all their glorious array that will bring them together under one banner to fight for the common end. Contending factions over a name while the people suffer in silence and in sorrow. Is it not time that this foolishness was done away with? Is it not time that the forces of labor were organized into one harmonious whole, so that it could march on like an unconquerable giant to victory in the end?

Saskatchewan, the greatest province in the Dominion of Canada, has shown the way. Here, Socialist and Independents have carried arms against each other for the last time. The scales have fallen from our eyes, and we see as men endowed with new sight. No longer will the people be ground between the two millstones of faction called Socialist and Labor, but at last will the true cause of the people be served by the people with the combined influence of the two parties under the name of the People's Political Association of Canada. The platform of the new organization embraces the principles of the Socialists and Independents alike, and the time is not far distant when the representatives of the people will be actually carrying out the desires of the people in our

legislatures. The platform and constitution of the new association will be found on another page of this issue, and it is earnestly commended to all labor and political organizations for their earnest consideration. The initiative and referendum is a clause that should appeal to all. By its adoption no abuse can creep in, as the will of the people must be obeyed at all times.

Workers of Canada! Now is the time to persuade your organization to become affiliated with the association that is open to Socialists and Independents alike, so that in future elections we will be saved the melancholy spectacle of seeing men with the same hopes and ideals contending with each other for the support of the people they are pledged to save.

Remember Toronto and—The People's Cause.

Trades and Labor Congress of Canada Saskatchewan Executive

A Retrospect

At the Twenty-third Annual Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, held in Winnipeg last September, the following delegates were elected to compose the Executive Council of Saskatchewan, whose duty it would be to look after the interests of the wage earners of the Province, and by their representations and efforts, endeavor to secure such legislation as would safeguard the laboring classes:—Hugh Peat, Vice-Pres., Jas. Somerville, Moose Jaw, Fred Gray, Moose Jaw, and Thos. M. Molloy, Regina.

The committee, conscious of the responsibility and trust imposed upon them, left the Winnipeg convention full of zeal for the cause of labor and with a firm determination to discharge their duties in a manner satisfactory to all concerned, and with credit to themselves. At a subsequent meeting held on December 14th, 1907, Thos. M. Molloy, Regina, was appointed secretary of the Executive, and was instructed to procure with as little delay as possible, copies of all labor legislation passed in the different Provinces of Canada, with a view to presenting to the Saskatchewan legislature, in concrete form, the requirements of the workers of this Province. This legislation was secured, and is now in the hands of the Secretary.

In December it was brought to the attention of the Executive that the prisoners in the Regina jail were being employed by the Government cutting ice on Wascana Lake for commercial purposes, whilst there were numbers of unemployed free men in the City who were in urgent need of employment.

Early in January, the Executive waited on acting Premier Calder and other ministers in connection with this matter, and after considerable discussion and correspondence, succeeded on January 27th in having the prisoners withdrawn and free laborers accorded the privilege of cutting the ice instead.

On April 27th, the Executive waited upon the Attorney General with regard to the insertion of a fair wage clause in all Government contracts, and also with regard to the introduction of a Workman's Compensation Act, and a Factory Act for the Province.

The representations of the Executive were promised consideration on that occasion, and subsequent events have proved that the petition of the Executive was not in vain, as it has been publicly stated by the Premier that a fair wage

clause now exists in all contracts of the Government.

The Factory Act and the Workman's Compensation Act were not so fortunately disposed of. It being alleged that the enormous amount of work before the legislature this session, and the discussion involved in some of the weighty bills that were before the house, precluded the possibility of these two measures of the Executive being brought to a successful issue last session. These measures, are, however, not finally disposed of, as they will be introduced again next session, when it is hoped they will be accorded that consideration which their importance and significance demands, to the end that they will eventually become law, and Saskatchewan will take its place with the other great Provinces of the Dominion, where such measures have been found necessary, and have consequently been adopted.

At the beginning of this month it was rumored that the Government had announced its intention of building the Broad Street Bridge by prison labor, and consequently the Executive waited on the Government for the last time that session, praying for reconsideration of such decision, if made, so that an opportunity might be given to hundreds of unemployed free men who had been reduced through lack of employment to an almost destitute condition. On this occasion the Executive was received by the Government with the same courtesy and consideration that had been accorded them on previous occasions, and their representations were carefully listened to. The Premier expressed his keen regret for the prevailing industrial depression, and assured the Executive that he had no idea that conditions in the City were as bad as represented, and further that it was not, and never had been, the intention of the Government to employ prison labor in competition with free labor when an abundance of the latter could be obtained.

Subsequently, Premier Scott has endorsed these statements in his public speeches, so that another right of labor has been maintained, and all workers in the Province, unorganized as well as organized will now reap the benefit of the work done by the Saskatchewan Executive of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Independent Politics

Moose Jaw favors Independent Politics but will have no Party

At a meeting last night in Hitchcock's hall of those who hold an independent view in politics, steps were taken to call an independent political convention for the constituency of Moose Jaw with a view to putting a candidate in the field for the next federal election. A committee was appointed to arrange for the holding of the convention. It consists of Messrs. O. B. Fysh (chairman), F. W. Green, Geo. Marshall, H. Woodward, W. E. Plestead, Ed. Stephenson.

There were in attendance at the meeting about forty persons. While the number did not seem very large, Mr. Green declared it was the largest that had attended a political organization meeting in the city this year, and he attended them all, Liberal, Conservative and Socialist.

It was expected that Mr. R. L. Richardson of Winnipeg would be in attendance to address the meeting, but for some reason he failed to arrive in the City. This did not mean, however, that there was no speaking. Speeches were made by Messrs. Green, Fysh and Stephenson. There was nothing rabid or extreme in any of the speeches. A quiet, sane view of affairs, such as any thinking man is likely to have, was taken. The speakers were all careful to explain that the idea was not to form a third party. Such a course would be absurd, since it was the evils of partyism that were being protested against. It was proposed simply to support a man who would support legislation for the benefit of the country as a whole, regardless of the party.

Mr. Green was made chairman of the meeting, and, in the course of a brief speech he said he was not in favor of extreme partizan spirit. Being independent, he had some difficulty in determining how an independent man should operate when political affairs are placed solely in the hands of two parties, one of which must be supported.

Mr. O. B. Fysh and Mr. Stephenson also addressed the meeting, the trend of their addresses being for an independent candidate without party ties.

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