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The Persistent Buzz

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THE final issue for this university year of the McGill Labour Club magazine is appearing today. The board for next year has already been appointed and the magazine's survival is assured. The present issue has been increased to twelve pages and shows in all respects decided improvement over the first two. It is more interesting because it deals with subjects near home and also the technical side of the magazine has received some attention.

The leading article deals with the Vitre Street municipal relief quarters about which so many conflicting opinions have appeared within the last few months. The article is a report made by a committee of the Labour Club, who have personally investigated the conditions existing in the Refuge. The report includes the subjects of food, night-shelter, sanitation and general treatment. The investigation seems to be fairly complete and quite thorough. For instance, the food was analyzed for caloric content by two physicians and conditions in the sleeping quarters were investigated personally, the committee dressing up for the occasion. The conclusions reached were generally unfavourable. In their opinion overcrowding and underfeeding exist, the sanitation facilities are inadequate and the treatment accorded the unemployed is not such as authorities have informed the public. The Labour Club is to be congratulated on the courage with which they have proceeded upon the investigation and the unhysterical and careful way they have carried it out. The weak point in the report is the lack of a conclusion which would summarize the results of the enquiry in a succinct and forceful manner.

Fred V. Stone in an article "The Golden Calf and Sound Money" makes out a good case for carefully controlled inflation of Canadian currency to the point of putting it on a sterling basis instead of the present gold standard. The article is well-written, lucid and non-technical, an achievement for an article of that type.

Professor L. C. Marsh proceeds in his second article on "Technocracy" with a criticism of that movement from the point of view of the trained economist and political scientist. His chief contention is that the analysis of the present economic state made by the technocrats is not adequate, that it does not cover the situation in all of its aspects. There are sides to the unemployment problem which can not and are not covered by the term "technological unemployment." Insofar as technocracy contributes toward interest in constructive social planning it is to be commended.

The strike of the ladies' garment workers in this city is considered by Albert Moellmann and he gives a fairly good review of the question. The front page title of this article is too blatant and "tabloid" for the rest of the magazine.

There is some good satire in "The Persecuted Persecutors," by H. Cramer, which humorously tends to question the sanity of "red-chasers" and preservers of the national honour.

In "Are We Yes-Men," Beatrice Ferneyhough puts in a plea for the critically minded student and defends well and clearly his justification in an institution of higher learning.

The sad state of affairs in the financial field of this country is revealed in excerpts from the holy "Financial Post," which have been arranged and presented in a novel manner.

"Why Provincial Rights" by Ewart P. Reid is an explanation of certain misconceptions as to the relation between the provincial and federal government in Canada.

(R. L.)