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IDEALS LABOR IS STRIVING TO REALIZE

None Can But Commend Them and Give Aid in Their Attainment

AIMS ARE HUMANITARIAN Labor a Great Force for Good and is Deserving of Support of Everybody

There is much misunderstanding in regard to what Labor is trying to do. From charges made both by our supposed friends, in the ranks of Labor, and by unscrupulous employers, one might think that Labor was a destructive agency. To its friends, and to the public at large, its worth and its nature should be emphasized.

To superficial observers Organized Labor's ideals consist of nothing more than higher wages, shorter hours, more and more control, and additional rules and regulations affecting employment. We want the public to understand the ideals that guide Organized Labor and influence it more profoundly than anything else.

Directing Ideals

For generations Labor has been struggling for recognition of its services. It knows and is trying to make the world know that without it human life cannot continue. The struggles of Labor have been bitter and long. The failures have been many and its successes all too few. But steadily Labor has grown more enlightened. Now it asks its right for a share in its results, that shall enable the laborers to develop themselves as women and men, as mothers and fathers, as sisters and brothers.

Essentially Humanitarian

The labor movement is essentially humanitarian. We are opposed to waste, against waste of human life, of human abilities, it supports the possibilities in the way of intellectual and moral development. It sees great rewards going to the few and a bare living or no living at all, going to the multitude. Moreover, it sees the few weakened and degraded by surfeit. We now offer our hand for the betterment of the whole race.

International Scope

We are international in character and scope. The boundary line to the south does not exist. Delegates of the United States and Canada as members of one organization. They have but one trade constitution, one set of officers. There is but one treasurer into which they pay their dues. And so far as the activity as trade unionists is concerned, they are the members of but one organization.

Appreciate Education

No group in the community has realized more keenly that education is essential to their welfare, and that without education their ideals are unattainable. Trade unionists look upon education as one of the corner stones upon which the structure of the labor movement is created. Education in its broadest sense, is one of the ideals of Labor.

What are wages and what do they mean to the wage earner? They are the man's life; they are the factor that determines what measure of decency, of comfort and opportunity in life. The amount of wages says whether the home shall be a back room shack, or a modern home with all the necessary conveniences surrounded with pure air and sunshine, and conducive to health and comfort. The dollars which come in the pay envelope determine the quality and quantity of food which shall enter the home. Wages are also a real factor in determining the physical, the mental and moral standards of the overwhelming majority in all cities.

Why Shorter Hours

We desire shorter hours so that we have sufficient vitality left to enjoy the society of our families and our fellow workers. The exhausted bodies caused by long tireless toil cry out for rest. Unless man has time for self-development the standard of life of the mass of the people will go downward and backward instead of upward and forward.

The Russian situation is a real object lesson of an oppressed and degraded race.

Mortality will not thrive in unsanitary habitations; neither will it develop on bad or unwholesome food. If we are to have a better generation and consequently a better nation, we must prepare better surroundings in which the future citizens are born and reared. Let us keep a watchful eye on the introduction of sweated conditions into the community, for the boys and girls of the sweatshops will be the parents of a generation of unskilled workers.

AFFILIATIONS ARE EVER INCREASING

Many New Union Men Added to Co-operative Efforts of Organized Labor

The recent affiliations with the Trades and Labor Council of Edmonton show distinctly the upward movement of the organization barometer. The locals recently affiliated and applying for affiliation have good membership rolls. The list reads: Dairyworkers Local, 170 members, expected membership at an early date about 300. Telegraphers, membership about 50, and Policemen's Union about 70 members are affiliations pending. The work of organization goes apace, and the Trades Council is confident of easily outnumbering, by new affiliations, any membership of the affections of which may be alienated from the Central Council through the activities put forward in the interests of something foreign to Organized Labor as at present constituted on its solid foundation.

NO TIME FOR ABUSIVE CRITICS

Constructive Policy Moving Forward is Purpose of Labor Men

Regular readers of this paper will not be looking in this issue for something of a "comeback" nature in reply to critical statements printed in the other Labor papers and circulated in the city during the past week.

Any "comeback" we have to make is made here. While it may not be to the liking of our critics we know what we have to say is the true sentiments of the membership of the Trades and Labor Council have to express, and is their attitude towards those, who in the great advance being made toward democracy, and who in that march claim to be in the front line, striving toward that great ideal, would seek to satisfy some queer disposition and classify some people as inferiors. To those who find pleasure in criticism without any constructive value and lacking the true spirit of co-operation, we have only sympathy. It is not ours to scorn them or quarrel with them, which in the end achieves nothing. By straightforward dealing along constitutional lines we have progressed, grown strong and will continue to grow and our work with us; and by the only route known to us we know we will always be successful. And in that success we find much work of merit and cannot afford time for indulging in words and actions that lead nowhere.

To those who glory in denunciation of us, let the glory be theirs, we refuse to furnish our cause and efforts on behalf of our cause, by getting down to any level such as mark the standard of those who attack us. We cannot be angry with them. We try to be big and manly enough to be so tolerant toward them that our tolerance will be repaid in progress to prove that after all the reaction of unfair criticism of our attitudes will solidify our ranks and strengthen and further vindicate the true purposes and ideals of Organized Labor in Edmonton, as exemplified through the Trades and Labor Council. We claim to know our business, the privileges that are ours and the duties and obligations devolving upon us.

ENDORSATION OF AMALGAMATION

The Executive Committee of the Alberta Federation of Labor unanimously reaffirmed the stand taken by the Medicine Hat Convention, where they endorsed the executive recommendations on the question "The Necessity of Closer Relationship Between Members of Craft Unions." Believing that the interests of the workers in allied craft unions would be better served by closer relationship, we recommend that our members use every effort to bring about a consolidation of activities by an amalgamation of different allied international organizations.

NOVA SCOTIA MINERS ENTER AFFILIATION

Beginning June 1st, the organization of miners of Nova Scotia will become a district affiliated with the United Mine Workers of America, according to announcement of J. B. McLachlin, secretary of the A.M.W. The action of the Nova Scotia mine workers is particularly pertinent at this time, owing to the great activity in that locality to bring those miners into the One Big Union which it is hoped to organize. The Nova Scotia workers apparently have decided to attach themselves to an organized going concern.

DISPUTE STILL UNSETTLED

The dispute between the Alliance Power Company, operating the municipal power plant, and the machinists and helpers, stands practically where it has been lingering, following argument of the case by men and company before Fair Wage Officer Harrison on Saturday last. Managing Director Taylor, Superintendent Cope, Assistant Superintendent Thompson, Time Keeper Gold, and the company solicitor, H. H. Hyndman represented the company. For the men three machinists along with the grievance committee of Lodge No. 817, and M. Somerville, Grand Lodge representative. The issue revolved around the McAdoo scale and the date of its inauguration.

BETTER WAGES

Moline, Ill.—Painters have secured a union-shop agreement and a new minimum that advances rates to 75 cents an hour.

HIGHER WAGES, LOWER COSTS RECOMMENDED

Manufacturers' Association Sees Necessity for Readjustment of Economics

MEANS TO PROSPERITY

No Danger of Over Production of Commodities Are Within Reach

Speaking to the associated manufacturers and merchants of New York state, at Syracuse, Vice-President Barolo, of that organization, urged that the federal government create a board composed of an equal number of manufacturers and workers engaged in manufacturing processes to consider "those matters which are comprehended in the term 'industrial relations,' and which have caused what we know as industrial unrest in an effort to compose these differences which have grown up."

"While the war has been won so far as fighting is concerned," he said, "it will not have been really won until there has been set up a means for reasonably adjusting, in each country, those matters of a social nature which cause the greatest unrest."

Purchase Wage Is Low
"Dollar-wages are now high, but the purchase-wage is low, so that what has been gained by the workers in comparatively high wages has been lost through the higher cost of commodities."

"How much better it would be if both high wages and lower costs prevailed. This is the thing to work to."

"The present industrial supremacy of this country is largely due to finding a way to accomplish things and I am not prepared to admit that the limit has been reached."

"Except in abnormal periods like the present there is never over-production; I believe the trouble is under consumption and that unemployment results therefrom."

No Danger of Over-Production

"I do not believe that there will be over-production until human wants in the way of material things are supplied and this need never trouble this generation."

"We have known all these years that if people had more dollars and if things cost less more purchases would be made. It is time for us all to see to it that we work toward this end, for we are doing now the very opposite and the industrial world is in chaos."

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ALL LOCAL UNIONS TO GIVE ATTENTION

So that every week regularly we may get a line on the activities of every Local Union, we would earnestly request that local secretaries or a correspondent in every local furnish us with news of happenings every week for publication in the Trades and Labor Council Paper—The Edmonton Free Press. We desire to feature Local Labor News, and that we may be accurately informed, Locals are asked to furnish this matter and hand it in to Secretary Farmilo. Please give this matter prompt attention and oblige. Please give home address and phone, if any, of person from whom this news is to be received. Cut this out and present at Union meetings.

PRESS COMMITTEE, Trades and Labor Council.

SAMUEL GOMPERS SERIOUSLY HURT

Broadway Surface Car Struck Taxicab in Which He Was Riding

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was seriously injured Sunday afternoon, when a taxicab in which he was riding was struck by a Broadway surface car and hurled 20 feet to the curb. It was ascertained that two of Mr. Gompers' ribs had been fractured, his right hip sprained, and that he had suffered severe body contusion. Despite his advanced age, sixty-nine years, the doctors declared that there was no likelihood of the injuries proving fatal. Mr. Gompers' condition is reported today as improving satisfactorily.

HAMILTON PAINTERS' STRIKE NOW SETTLED

Hamilton painters and decorators have won a strike after nine days' idleness. An eight-hour day and an increase of seven and one-eighth cents an hour, making the scale 52 1/2 cents, is the basis of settlement. The most material gain of course is the recognition of the eight-hour day. For years the union men had been striving to get the eight-hour day. Now it is recognized. One firm however, insisted on working the union men eight hours but non-union men nine hours. The union men in this instance as many others, gave assistance to their unorganized fellow men and the entire crew quit, about twenty. That job was tied up at last accounts.

IN TORONTO, CANADA, PLASTERERS HAVE ADVANCED THEIR MINIMUM RATES TO 70 CENTS AN HOUR, EFFECTIVE MAY 1. THE AGREEMENT WAS SECURED WITHOUT SERIOUS DIFFERENCES WITH THE EMPLOYERS.

In Toronto, Canada, plasterers have advanced their minimum rates to 70 cents an hour, effective May 1. The agreement was secured without serious differences with the employers.

PRINTING TRADES MOVE CLOSER AFFILIATION

Mass Meeting Decides to Submit Referendum to Various Locals

IMMEDIATE PROPOSAL

Believed That New Step Will Be Factor of Strength and Benefit

At a well attended and enthusiastic mass meeting composed of the membership of the four unions connected with the Allied Printing Trades Council, held on April 26th, it was decided to take immediate action toward a federation of the Typographical, Pressmen, Bookbinders and Stereotypers Unions of this city.

The meeting was held under the auspices of the Allied Printing Trades Council and was presided over by President W. L. Francis of that body. The following resolution was passed before the meeting and was adopted without a dissenting voice.

"Resolved that this Mass Meeting composed of members of Edmonton Locals of the Typographical, Pressmen's, Bookbinders' and Stereotypers' Unions, request the Allied Printing Trades Council to take a Referendum Vote of all its affiliated membership as to whether or not they are in favor of the formation of a Federation of Printing Trades Unions in this city, for the purpose of negotiating (subject to ratification by the unions affected) all agreements at the same time and collectively, as agreed upon by representatives of the five International Unions at a recent conference; and be it further resolved that a two-thirds majority of those voting on the referendum will be necessary for sanction to proceed with the formation of the Federation, provided, however, that there must be a clear majority in each of the affiliated unions; and be it further resolved that should the referendum be carried in the affirmative, the basis of representation on the Federation be the same as that prevailing on the Allied Printing Trades Council."

The referendum vote is now being taken and if carried in the affirmative the Federation will be formed in the course of the next few days.

PASS THREE-PLATOON BILL

The New York state assembly has passed the fire fighters' three-platoon bill. A referendum rider to appease cities now financially overburdened removes practically all opposition to the measure.

LABOR WILL HEAR MOORE AND BRUCE

Arrangements to be Made For Meeting When Commission Sits Here

The Industrial Relations Commission, with President of Congress T. Moore, and J. Bruce, Canadian international representative of the Plumbers' Union will be in Edmonton on the 6th of May. It is expected that a meeting of trade unionists will be arranged to be addressed by both Mr. T. Moore and Mr. J. Bruce. These gentlemen have been active in the interests of Labor for many years, and they will have some real information for the Labor men of this city. Get out and hear them Tuesday the 6th of May.

EIGHT HOUR DAY IS RECOGNIZED

Swift's Employees Arrive at Amicable Working Basis With Management—Same Pay

As a result of presenting a petition to the management, the employees of the Swift Canadian Packing plant in this city have been granted the eight-hour day with same wage as formerly paid for ten hours. Such was the request made by the petition. An employee of Swift's asked concerning the new arrangement by a representative of the Edmonton Free Press remarked: "Yes, we have the eight-hour day, but we do about as much work in the eight hours as we formerly did in ten." The employee was not aware that he was talking to a representative of Organized Labor's Press; neither was he aware that he gave testimony of a contention made by Labor, and acknowledged by leading efficiency experts of the world today, i.e., that eight hours is the maximum time a laboring man can efficiently and satisfactorily work without over-fatigue of mind and body; and that ordinarily a body of workmen will month in and month out turn out as much finished product on an eight-hour shift as on a ten-hour shift, everything taken into consideration.

The granting of an eight-hour day by Swift's is in addition a further evidence of desirability of collective bargaining, as benefits derived are mutual.

STATEMENT OF METAL TRADES

Calgary Workers Consider Position Imposed as Hardly Just

The Metal Trades make the following statement to all concerned, covering the facts relative to their position in the present trouble. A notice was sent the employers giving 60 days in accordance with agreement, that we wished to negotiate a new schedule. This was sent February 10th, and they had until April 10th but during said time refused to discuss it, so a meeting of the Metal Trades was called, at which it was resolved to notify the employers that we would work 44 hours per week starting April 14th if they refused to discuss same.

The employers still refused to discuss schedule, so the Metal Trades went on eight hours per day April 14th, but on April 15th they were locked out. The Fair Wage Officer, Mr. F. E. Harrison then called a meeting of Metal Trades and employers to discuss their differences at which meeting the employers agreed that the employees could go back to work on the 44-hour week pending a settlement in Toronto and Winnipeg also that they would take the schedule under consideration by June 1st. The above proposition by the employers is grossly unjust, inasmuch as they want to make us dependent on Toronto and Winnipeg, seeing that the employers are all working in conjunction from East to West, but would keep Calgary apart from taking concerted action by binding us to stay at work until June 1st.

CRITICISMS UNFOUNDED

One of the members of the editing committee of the Free Press has received a communication from a correspondent to the effect that the paper is giving support to the Moderation League. Also a number of personal accusations are made at the same time. The criticisms are unjust, untrue and unfounded. The Free Press stands for nothing but advancement of the cause of Labor, first and last and all times. Nobody can utilize it directly or indirectly for personal, political or any other kind of aggrandizement. Be not unduly concerned.

CARPENTERS SECURE INTERNATIONAL CHARTER

The first International Charter to arrive at Renfrew, Ont., has been secured by the Brotherhood of Carpenters. The new union starts off with the elite of trade on its membership roll, including the mayor of the town.

SAILING WITH FALSE COLORS; IS RECOGNIZED

If 'By Their Works Ye Shall Know Them,' They Are False Proprietors

MERE CAMOUFLAGE

Time All Labor Makes Close Scrutiny of Actual Facts Re Publications

It is high time for Labor, whether organized or not, and for the workers and thinking people generally, to ask themselves how much longer publications of the "John Bull" and "Jack Canuck" type shall continue to find readers and to derive support from men of democratic sympathies and aspirations.

A large portion of the influence which papers of this type possess would appear to be derived from their readiness to "expose" evils in the political and commercial world. But a very little reflection should make it clear that their own high estimate of their power and usefulness in this direction is a ludicrously exaggerated one. Their own admissions in their answers to their various correspondents reveal this clearly. They tell one reader that "the threat of exposure in our columns was sufficient to make so-and-so draw in his horns," while another is informed that he has himself to thank for being swindled "we have been warning our readers against this firm for ten years," and so on. If this be the case, what about the dread of exposure by this all-terrible censor? It clearly does not exist; for if it did, by this time, trade swindles would have been "exposed" out of existence. Yet, as we all know, they flourish as mightily as though these all-powerful journals were unknown.

And what use do these publications make of the influence which is acquired by these spurious pretences? When the late Sir Wilfrid Laurier contended for the right of people to be consulted on the conscription issue, the front page cartoon of "Jack Canuck" reproduced him as trying to "throw a monkey-wrench into the machine." In one sense it was certainly right. He was trying to "throw a monkey-wrench into the machine" of Autocracy, by demanding that such a measure should be submitted to the people; and in this he was in strict accordance with the professed object of the Allies, in fighting Germany. It is vain to write "open letters" to offending persons, and dominating aldermen and cheating country storekeepers, if at the same time those men are to be slandered and vilified who are seeking to remove the systematic causes which create and foster these—

which are only symptoms. This brings us to the consideration of the attitude of "John Bull" in the issue of March 29, 1919, toward the miners and their leaders in Great Britain. We find there an article entitled "Smillie's Smelly Sentiments" a shallow form in keeping with a shallow argument. We shall make no attempt to bring forth anything of our own in defense of Robert Smillie, further than to say that before any man attains to such standing as the head of a vast Labor organization, he has had to prove his capacity for high office, and has had to run the gauntlet of a large number of competitors whose claims to the supreme position are in length of service and subordinate standing equal to his own. It has yet to be explained how a man so utterly negligible (according to the Prophet Bottomley) ever rises to the top. But it is interesting to note that Robert Smillie appears very differently to honest men who have met him face to face. As regards his intellect, and we might add, that of Labor representatives generally, he and his fellows have disposed of the clap-trap argument that the "lower classes," the workers, are "lower" by virtue of a species of survival of the fittest. That the "upper classes" are on top by reason of superior mental endowment.

And the same paper, March 27, 1919, contains a sketch of Robert Smillie which speaks for itself whether in face of some of the disclosures which have been extorted from reluctant witnesses, the "opinions and hypotheses" and "appeals to witnesses" to say whether if they began life again they would prefer to be miners rather than accountants, manufacturers, ironmasters or coal merchants' are as "immortal" as the Christian World considers them to be, are open to grave doubt.

REPRESENTING LABOR BEFORE COMMISSION

Wheatly and Smitten Appointed by the Alberta Federation of Labor

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alberta Federation of Labor, F. Wheatly and Secretary Smitten were appointed to appear before the committee on Industrial Relations, who will be in Calgary on the 5th of May.



Education Dispels the Foes of Labor—Prejudice, Violence and Fear.—After Rebase in N.Y. World