

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

J. A. P. HAYDON, M.C., Editor. A. H. BLACKBURN, Circulation Mgr. J. D. SULLIVAN, Business Manager.

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REJECTING DECISIONS.

UNDER any circumstances and at any time repudiation of settlement of dispute endorsed by selected representatives of the workers is a matter of regret. Happily such incidents are of infrequent occurrence, and to this reason may be ascribed the use that is made of same by the opponents to the workers' cause. It further shows that in the selection of the representatives implicit confidence goes with the selection, and whatever may be the outcome of the final agreement, that those who have advocated the Labor side of the cause are given credit for having sanctioned the best possible results obtainable, even if some are not considered of a just nature, to whom they apply.

In these isolated instances it is sometimes a rather difficult matter to fathom reasons for rejection of leaders' recommendations, realizing full well that those who are benefited by the attendance at conference have a first-hand knowledge of vital information from which to draw conclusions in the making of settlements. An allowance for this position by the majority of the organized workers involved is one of the guarantees of assurance of the final findings being accepted.

In the unanimous award of the McKinnon Arbitration Board, on which J. C. Watters represented the mine workers, appointed to settle the wage dispute between the Dominion Coal Company and their employees, such a case of rejection has actually happened. Involved in this is the open hostility to their counsel, President Baxter and Secretary-treasurer MacLachlan. Whether the award is of such a nature or otherwise to merit this action, is not so much the principle involved as the repudiation of their officers, which is a matter of regret.

One of the causes for this situation may be ascribed to the preaching of these same officers, who on their return home from the Hamilton convention, went out of their way in assailing the selected leaders, and claiming their lack of faith in their integrity. They were thus guilty of peddling just exactly the medicine that is now being returned to them in such copious doses. The chickens have come home to roost, and now may the lesson be seen, that those who seek to lead and hold confidence, must expound this lesson in its general application to International Trade Union movement, and the officers selected constitutionally.

OLD AGE PENSIONS.

QUITE a number of the international organizations have successfully carried out the old age pension system, and the benefits derived therefrom can be imagined only by those who contribute to such a fund, but the realization is left to those especially who are aided over the stile by such financial assistance as this fund gives not in charity dole, but financial aid to which the recipients are entitled.

The International Typographical Union instituted this branch some 13 years ago, considered largely a step in the nature of experiment, but the success attained in this venture has been rather remarkable. Not only is weekly payment made to the aged of 60 years and over but the incapacitated members whose cases are not suitable for the treatment at the Union Printers' Home, are also given \$6 per week. The members have recently voted favorably to increase the sum to \$8 per week.

At the present time more than 1,200 members are enjoying this financial benefit, but full provision has been made that during the present year the reserve fund will be at the million dollar mark. This proves positively the passing of the experimental stage and permanency assured as long as the necessity exists.

The question of hours and wages does not cover the activities of International Trade Unionism, but as in the case of old age pensions the benefit of the membership from every angle finds a necessity observed and just as surely attended to in practical manner.

FIXED IT UP.

WINSTON CHURCHILL, Secretary of War, has declared that Labor was unfitted to govern "over" one. Having apparently heard this voice, intellectual workers in Paris have formed an organization recognized by the Labor forces. This new gathering is formed of dramatists, engineers, scientists, teachers, artists, poets, song writers, journalists and dramatic experts are also eligible. This action will prevent any plagiarist in France from repeating Winston's opinions there.

BENEFITS OF SOVIET?

GEORGE LANSBURY, former Socialist member in the British House of Commons, now visiting in Russia, gives information by his first telegram, "That the blockade and civil war have let loose disease and want of every description." This news coming from one of their kin, should be sufficient answer to our reactionary friends of the Dominion, who persistently expound on the glories of a Soviet Government. Lansbury has rendered them a service eye-opener, or will they continue to dream?

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE. Labor Minister Horder, of Great Britain, has introduced an unemployment bill in the House of Commons which proposes to extend insurance on a contributory basis to substantially the whole employed population of the United Kingdom between the ages of 17 and 70.

CHILDREN NEEDED.

Mr. Justice Darling made strong comments recently when W. O. Gardner (49), of Southampton, was sentenced to 12 years penal servitude for performing an illegal operation on a young Southampton girl. Sentences of five years and 18 months, respectively, were passed on W. E. Eason (42) and George Titman (34) for aiding and abetting.

FARMERS LEARN.

Speaking to branch members at Ekington, W. E. Bancroft, organizer of the British Agricultural Laborers' Union, disclosed an extraordinary effort of the farmers of Yorkshire to oppose the shorter working week. These gentry contended that farms could not be carried on at less than 63 and 45 hours, and that they would have to submit to the 54 hours in operation or pay overtime, they promptly reduced the hours. The farms are still working.

FRENCH MINERS POSTPONE STRIKE.

The Council of the French National Federation of miners has decided to postpone the strike called for March first. This action was taken, it is announced, to give the Government sufficient time to consider the demands of the miners.

SACKED IF JOINED UNION.

Mr. Wakefield, the Nottingham, England, correspondent of the Daily Herald, who excited the comment of Mr. Justice McCardie in the case of the Divorce Court recently that he worked till 11 o'clock at night. Mr. Wakefield told me that \$9 needed to be paid to a private house under conditions of great secrecy, and initiated into the Lace Makers' Union. Discovery meant the sack in the next days, but he is as such thing as a non-unionist now.

APPRENTICES ARE HELPED IN BRITAIN.

Although comparatively little has been heard about the work, no fewer than 49 separate schemes, including between 700 and 800 apprentices in operation in Great Britain for assisting young fellows whose apprenticeships were interrupted by the war. Some 23,000 apprentices are taking advantage of the conditions offered by the government through the Ministry of Labor and about 800 are accepted weekly. In a certain number of cases the difficulty is to find an employer to take the place of one who has gone out of business.

POLITICS AND PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR.

Activities of the week in Government circles have been centered around the opening of Parliament on the 26th inst. Considerable attention has to be paid to the arrangements for the session being held in the new buildings. The work is being pushed day and night and the woodwork, such as galleries, etc., now being erected, is one of the principal operations.

PEACE AND PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR.

For some considerable time it has been confidently hoped that the Government would bring forward some of the advanced social and labor legislation agreed upon at the International Labor Conference at Washington. However, in Government circles we learn that the Labor legislation at this time is being regarded as the work of a minor character. This will not satisfy the workers of Canada, who have been tolerant for a long time.

PEACE AND PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR.

The Dominion Trade and Labor Congress, recognized by the Government as the official mouthpiece of Labor in Canada, recently laid its legislative programme before the Dominion Cabinet. When these proposals were made it was expected that legislation would be forthcoming to remedy many of the existing evils in the industrial fields. The Government has before it



BURNING THE BRIDGE BEHIND HIM. — From the Columbus (Ohio) Labor News.

Service Button Workers.

Notes of Particular Interest to Ex-Service Trade Unions.

EX-SERVICE MEN ARE NOW BEING EMPLOYED.

Labor conditions throughout Canada, are improving insofar as the ex-service man is concerned. Reports of the Information and Service Branch of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, show a reduction in the number of unemployed recorded. In Saskatchewan it is reported that the number of unemployed is actually below the average usually shown in this period of the year.

EARL HAIG URGES 'VETS' TO COMBINE.

While Earl Haig is pleading all over the country for employment for ex-officers and regretting the large number of employers who have not done their duty in this respect, he also frankly refers to a certain number of rotters who are doing great harm, fellows who won't work or are unemployable. Marshal Haig says the ex-officers' association is on the watch for such to show them up. He adds: "I am confident we shall get what we want better by combining than by listening to the promises of this or that political party."

AMERICAN LEGION WANTS LARGER GOVERNMENT GRANT.

The United States is going to see a bigger gratuity drive on the part of the returned soldiers. Reversing the position taken at the caucus in St. Louis recently, the executive committee of the American Legion has come out flat-footed for "adjusted compensation" for service men in the late war. France will be brought to bear on Congress.

NINETY-FOUR PER CENT. SOLDIERS REHABILITATED.

Ninety-four per cent. of the ex-soldiers graduated from the vocational training classes of the Soldier's Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, when speaking at a meeting of the Catholic Women's League at Montreal.

Mr. Conductor, cut out the "By Belts."

Some day the motorman may think you mean it and start the car while passengers are boarding.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal—Cain.

BRITISH WOMAN'S OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE.

Miss Mary MacArthur, secretary of the National Federation of Women Workers of Great Britain, upon her return to England after attending the International Labor Conference at Washington said that she was satisfied that a good start had been made, in spite of the unfortunate circumstances in which the conference had been held. It was greatly to be regretted that the United States had not been officially represented.

The very chilly reception the congress met with in Washington, she thought, did chiefly to three things: President Wilson's condition, the attitude of certain senators, and the serious Labor position due to the strikes among the iron and steel workers and the coal miners.

For once, she continued, the United States failed to live up to its reputation for magnificent hospitality, and with the exception of a trip to Washington's tomb the conference, as a body, was not entertained either by the Government or by any public bodies.

Miss MacArthur has a high opinion of the women in the American Labor movement. They are, she says, most active and very enlightened, although they are not so well organized as in Great Britain. She referred with particular gratification to the amount of unanimity that had been displayed at the conference, saying that the conference had adopted a standard far in advance of anything that had yet obtained. Of course, she pointed out, it still remained to be seen whether support the various Governments were prepared to give to the reforms adopted when they were laid before them. She also referred to the advance made by the Asiatic countries, particularly Japan, in regard to hours of work, night work, and the employment of children.

Japanese Government, personally thanked Miss MacArthur for the part British women had taken in getting women represented. If it had not been for their action, she told Miss MacArthur, the Japanese Government would never have thought of sending a woman to the conference.

THE PRAYER FOR WOMEN WHO TOIL.

O God, we pray Thee for our sisters who are leaving the ancient shelter of the home to earn their wage in the factory and the store and the press of modern life. Save them from the strain of unremitting toil that would unfit them for the holy duties of home and motherhood, which the future may lay upon them. Give them grace to cherish, under the new surroundings, the old sweetness and gentleness of womanhood, and in the rough mingling of life, to keep their lives unharmed. Save them from the terrors of after want, Teach them to stand loyally by their sisters, that by united action they may better their common lot.

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