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HUGH PEAT, EDITOR.
Justice, Truth, Fraternity. "Labor Omnia Vincit."

CANADIAN INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY

Meet in Winnipeg on Sunday last—Forceful Speeches by
Alphonse Verville, Montreal; Jas. Simpson, Toronto;
and R. C. Owens, Edmonton

As a prelude to the Labor congress, a mass meeting was held on Sunday last in the Bijou theatre. A. W. Puttee presided, being supported on the platform by Alphonse Verville, M.P., president of the congress; James Simpson, vice-president; Allan Studholm, M.P.P., Hamilton; P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer; W. H. Reeve, chairman of the reception committee; R. C. Owens, Canadian Society of Equity; J. H. McVetty, Vancouver; W. Lodge, Ottawa; R. P. Pettipiece, Vancouver; Chas. Lavoie, Hamilton; Hugh Peat, Regina; and Samuel Landers, Hamilton. The floor was full, and there was a great many people in the gallery. Much was said about Asiatic immigration, the opinion in opposition to which seemed unanimous, and an appeal was made for a white Canada. Stress was laid on the importance of running labor candidates at municipal, provincial and Dominion elections, and the secretary asked all classes of labor to join in framing a platform which would command general support. Samuel Landers, of the United Garment Workers, recommended woman's suffrage, while R. C. Owens, of Edmonton, advocated an alliance between the farmers and the working classes, whereby legislation would be controlled and capitalism thwarted.

Alphonse Verville, president of the Trades and Labor Congress touched on the existence of two large parties in the

Dominion and stated, that in his opinion there was room for a third party also, and that the interests of the country will not be recognised until a third party stands between those two great parties, who are now directing the affairs of the country.

One of the most eloquent speeches of the evening was made by Mr. Jas. Simpson, vice-president of the Trades Congress. He appealed to the workers in every branch of labor to unite on the common ground of interest and in the cause of progress.

Mr. Owens, of Edmonton, fraternal delegate from the Canadian Society of Equity, was the most imposing figure on the platform, and without doubt created the greatest impression on the minds of the vast audience who gathered to listen to the exponents of Labor. Full and erect, his long grey beard and grey hair reminding one of the patriarchs of old, with eyes half closed, and with an expression almost of prophecy on his face, he spoke proudly of his long connection with labor, and of his long struggle to educate the great mass of toilers to use their grand privilege of the ballot for the emancipation of their kind. As a representative of that great producing element in the community, the farmers, he predicted that the time was fast approaching when a solution to the problem of labor's oppression would be found in the co-operation of the farmers and the workers in every other branch of industry.

TWENTY-THIRD CONVENTION OF TRADES & LABOR CONGRESS

Convention is a Big Success—200 Delegates Present from All Parts of Dominion—Honore Jaxon throws New Light on Troubles of Western Federation of Miners

The twenty-third annual convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada was formerly opened at 10.40 a.m. on Monday in the Legislative Council Chamber, Winnipeg.

President McKim's Welcome

President McKim, of the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council, delivered the address of welcome, and, in his opening remarks, expressed the opinion that in all probability this convention would prove to be the most important one ever held in the Dominion of Canada. He stated that delegates were in attendance from every part of the Dominion from Halifax to the Pacific coast. Continuing, he remarked the wonderful progress of Winnipeg, and stated that since the last convention held in that city in 1898 the population had just doubled. In conclusion he said that every credit was due to the reception committee for the enormous amount of labor and time they had expended in order to make the delegates as comfortable as possible. He hoped that the proceedings would be conducted harmoniously.

Mr. Honore Jaxon, fraternal delegate of the Western Federation of Miners, was accorded a seat in the Convention, and was given permission to address the delegates and enlighten them as to the work and doings of that great army of toilers whom he had the honor to represent.

It was impossible, as was pointed out by several of the delegates present, to give Mr. Jaxon a voice or vote in the Convention, as by so doing, the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada would be creating a precedent and leaving themselves open to the liability of fraternal societies all over the United States sending delegates to this Convention and by so doing eventually outnumbering the delegates of the Dominion, which is certainly not a result to be desired. On that ground, therefore, whilst extending the heartiest fraternal greetings to our visiting brother, Honore Jaxon, it was decided to permit him to be present on the floor of the house with the other delegates but without the privilege of a voice or a vote in the meeting.

In his address Mr. Jaxon made a touching reference to the grand and noble response of the workers of this country to the appeal of the Western Federation of Miners for help and succor in their time of need. He further stated that the action of the workers throughout the length and breadth of this continent of America in so readily responding to their appeal for help would never be forgotten by the Western Federation of Miners, and that he was indeed pleased to note the great bond of fraternity existing between the workers of the world.

After considerable discussion regarding times for meeting, etc., the Convention adjourned till 2 p.m.

The proceedings of the Convention were resumed at 2.15 p.m., when the president introduced the Hon. R. P. Roblin, premier of Manitoba, who then addressed the Convention. He stated that he accepted promptly and with pleasure the invitation to address the delegates of the Congress. He held the opinion that no man is more deserving of good citizenship than is the working man. There is, he declared, no aristocracy in Canada, and that it is possible for every man, no matter how humble his position might be, to aspire to the highest positions attainable through his own efforts and by his own industry. Everything he declared had been made possible by good, hard, honest and intelligent work. Any organization that had for its aim such objects as these he could heartily endorse.

Human life, he continued, is a very involved problem, it gives everyone a different view or starting point. The chief object of 20th century democratic citizenship is to procure for everyone the necessities of life along with a few of its luxuries. He had the greatest pleasure in extending a hearty welcome, on behalf of the people of the province, to the Trades Congress of Canada. Every branch of industrial life, trade, commerce, finance, even churches, now sit in convention or unionism, and that the great underlying principle of this and other congress gatherings was to unite on one common platform for the betterment of all. Continuing, he made reference to the misery and great loss attendant on strikes and earnestly awaited the time when public opinion would be so molded as to make legislation possible which would put an end to strikes with their attendant misery. No wrong will fail to be righted by arbitration if public opinion is right when presented by good honest treatment of men. He hoped that the visit of the delegates to Winnipeg would be both profitable and pleasant and hoped that wisdom and counsel would bring success not only to unionists but to everyone in Canada.

In the absence of Mayor Ashdown Mr. Davidson expressed his pleasure at being present at the Convention and joined with the Premier in extending a hearty vote of welcome to the delegates of the Congress. He stated that all working men had a perfect right to join trade unions, that they had the right to work just so many or just so few hours as they desired, though he was opposed to any union interfering with his business or stirring up strife between labor and capital. The interests of capital and labor, he declared, were identical, and he, like Premier Roblin, thoroughly believed in arbitration.

Pres. Verville, in reply thanked the Premier for his welcome and good advice and hoped that at some future time the executive of the Trades Congress would have the pleasure of meeting him again and under as favorable and harmonious conditions.

Honore Jaxon and the Western Federation of Miners

Principle Before Dollars

H. J. Jaxon, fraternal delegate from the Western Federation of Miners, being invited to address the Convention, said the Western Federation of Miners arose from the inherent conditions of United States history. The American Declaration of Independence was a remarkable document. It had become the fashion to sneer at it, but it had played an invaluable part in the struggle for human liberty. When the United States was established there were two classes of people in the country—those who put principle above dollars and those who put dollars above principle. Among the former were the United Empire Loyalists, who left their

homes and special privileges and went out into the wilderness of Ontario and became the ancestors of those who spread through western Canada. The class that put dollars before principle did not go out into the wilderness, and they exercised a great influence on the framing of the constitution of the United States. The common people did not perceive that in gaining national independence their personal liberties were not taken care of, as they were here in Canada. They speedily became restless and began to move west. The descendants of the old revolutionists of 1786 constituted the greater part of the Western Federation of Miners, and it gave him (Mr. Jaxon) pleasure to extend the hand of friendship from those men to the descendants of the United Empire Loyalists. The same characteristics were common to both.

Mr. Jaxon cited four instances of infringement of the liberties of American citizens which the capitalists hoped to use as precedents in the east. The first of these infringements was the seizing of American citizens without process of law and putting them in a bull pen. This was in 1899.

Second Infringement

In 1903 there arose in Colorado an opportunity to make a second infringement of American rights of citizenship. The conditions of work in a smelter in Colorado belonging to the Standard Oil company were such that human life could not last more than five years. The Western Federation of Miners came to the help of the smelters, and a union was organized among them.

A Pinkerton man gave the names of every member of the union to the manager with the result that every member was discharged. Public opinion was with the men and the strike was ended to be renewed again in 1903 owing to the manager violating the conditions of agreement. Another bull pen was established in which the brainiest leaders of the district were placed constituting infringement number two of the rights of American citizens.

Mine Owner's Dupes

Italian miners were next introduced and along with them came Italian merchants, and local trade was suffering. At the election of peace officers, the two merchants' candidates and the capitalists' candidates began to tell tales of one another, and the Western Federation kept their ears open. The result was that while not a single member of the Federation of labor had been convicted, there were 23 men who were serving sentences as aiders and abettors of the mine-owners.

The subsidised part of the press of America gave very ample reports of the outrages the miners were said to have committed, but they said nothing of the conviction of the men employed by the mine-owners.

The mine-owners, dismayed by these failures, tried to affect by cunning what they could not accomplish by force. They proposed a conference between twelve men representing capital, twelve representing labor and twelve representing the public.

Drinking Blood

They got up a banquet and sent an invitation to the Western Federation of Miners. Haywood to his honor declined the invitation. He said "I decline your invitation. The wine in your goblets would turn into blood upon my lips. I should imagine I was drinking the blood of innocent children whose mothers you have outraged, and whose fathers you have murdered." They recognized that they had met a man whom they had to fight, who could not be overcome by

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