Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

THE truth must be approached from many angles and whilst the Canadian Labor Press at all times will guard its columns from insidious propaganda it must be realized that the publishers do not hold themselves responsible for the views of the individual whose name is attached to any article that may be published. While every effort is made to present a subject in an authoritative way, it should be remembered that the only expression of the Canadian Labor Press is in its editorials.

The Canadian Labor Press is desirous of receiving articles of general interest and fictional stories, and will be pleased to consider such matter as may be submitted for publication. All contributions should be addressed to

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TYPOS' HOME.

HIGH cost of living is no respecter of persons. It has reached out in all directions and institutions, however high their humanitarian objectives have felt the strain of the time in requiring an added income to cope with the situation, not in attempts to raise the standard, but in the actual maintenance of conditions of the pre-war period. In this respect the voluntary work has been pronounced for such as depended upon the fulfilling of their mission in this way and those who were enabled to have compulsion at their service had no recourse but to utilize same, however obnoxious to the affected.

The International Typographical Union members were recently called upon to vote on a proposal to increase their monthly contribution to their Home Fund from the present rate of twenty [illegible] thirty cents, and the withholding of asking for an increase to this late date of cost upheaval contains in itself one of the best commendations on the [illegible]nner in whic[illegible] [illegible]itution at Colorado Springs has been conducted, that could possibly be presented. The request to the members was taken only after responsible officials had presented their reports upon the Home and its needs at the Albany Convention and the necessity for an increased ten cents per member being made apparent. Those responsible for the decision to make the request had no other recourse when it was shown that the twenty cents per member contributed during the past year had not been sufficient to pay for the conduct of the Home's essentials.

The Home is, or should be, a matter of pride to the general membership, leaving aside the personal touch of what benefit may be obtained thereby, as it is now considered a monument to the International Trade Union movement, in the general concern taken in its membership by this organization, affording to other branches of the trade union family not so fortunately placed in this respect, a branch of splendid endeavor and success to be attained.

Comment on this referendum has been purposely delayed until after the actual vote was recorded, so that eulogistic comment on the Home and its necessities lends no part in (to be pointed) showing the interested members their duty in endorsation of increased financial support. It is our opinion that the result of the ballot will be an emphatic positive record and if unfortunately this advance prediction is not correct, then there may be no question that the claim for added support to the Home is misunderstood.

Bearing on this subject, responsible officials submitted to the membership the following pertinent queries, under a caption of "Vote for the Increased Fund for the Home:"

"Do you believe it is worth thirty cents per month to you to provide a home where the sick members of the Union may be properly cared for and restored to health?

"Do you believe that the International Union should continue to care for its aged and decrepit members in the manner in which they have been cared for during the past twenty-five years?

"Do you believe that the scope of the Home should be extended so that at no time will there be any question as to there being sufficient facilities to care for all members of the union who may require treatment in that institution.

"Do you realize that at any time misfortune may overtake you and that some indisposition may make it advisable for you to enter the Home and partake of its wonderful curative qualities?

"Do you realize that through this institution you may be able to protect your family for many years more than you could had you not something of this kind to fall back upon?"

* * * *

FOLLOWED A MAXIM.

BREAKING into the direct representation game in mild manner, the laborites of New Brunswick may be perhaps pardoned, remembering their close connection with the fishing industry. In this regard it is common parlance "that two at a time is good fishing" and this adage was followed in the election of two labor members to the Provincial Parliament.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brethers In the Motherland Are Doing.

OUR WEEKLY BRITISH LETTER.

WESTMINSTER, England (Saturday)—Something must have happened to the House of Commons during the recess. It seems to have more character than it had, and on three successive days of great importance it has acted not unworthily of its high traditions. The coal strike debate on Tuesday, October 19, was the first and best of the three. A strong sense of responsibility pervaded the House and molded every speech. The president of the Board of Trade, Sir Robert Horne, put the case against the miners' bald demand for 2s. with such effect that William Brace, the miners' leader, who followed him, was forced into a defensive attitude at once, but, none the less, he argued ably for recognition of the fact that if the miners were not entitled to 2s. unconditionally, they were still entitled to 2s. on a bare showing of the cost of living, which was plainly true.

The combined effect of these two speeches was to make each appear complementary to the other, and so it was natural for every one to say in the lobby and elsewhere that "Brace and Horne could easily settle it." To Mr. Lloyd George was left the ungrateful task of reminding the House of certain hard facts which even his favorite Minister, Sir Robert Horne, could not remove, but he conveyed the reminder without his wonted magic, almost harshly indeed, and thus earned for himself not too good a press on the following morning.

Debate On Ireland.

The Irish debate of Wednesday had more of the air and heat of party. Neither Arthur Henderson, for Labor, nor Sir Hamar Greenwood, for the Government, did anything to set a high tone to the discussion. Indeed the official attitude was quite devoid of effectiveness or candor. The demand made of the Government was a searching inquiry into the series of "official" acts called "reprisals" in Ireland. It was refused. The refusal itself was bad enough, but it was boldness itself compared with the justification of "reprisals" given first by the Prime Minister in his Carnarvon speech, and then by Sir Hamar Greenwood and Mr. Bonar Law this week.

For small-mindedness, Mr. Bonar Law stands out in gaunt and unenviable prominence this week, when a certain large-mindedness seemed to be the prevailing quality in the House. By contrast, Herbert Asquith's speech was powerful and sincere. There is a distinct rally in Mr. Asquith's stock at the moment.

At one point in the debate, the temperature rose suddenly. Lord Robert Cecil was discoursing at large on the foundations of freedom which are laid in respect for law—an excellent disquisition which would have lacked savor had he not given really good point to it by the remark, flashed out in passionate feeling: "Mr. Churchill cares neither for law nor for freedom." Thereupon cheers and countercheers rolled round the House and shouts of "withdraw" began to be heard. Lord Robert did withdraw the phrase, though not before saying that he could not withdraw a truism."

Unemployment Discussed.

Thursday was spent on unemployment, which threatens industry this winter. Upon the debate as a whole the observer in the gallery noted three things: first the workman-like quality and contact with the facts in most of the speeches; second the over-emphatic manner of the Minister of Labor, Dr. T. J. Macnamara, whose readiness of tongue somewhat exceeds his administrative capacity; and third, the freshness and wit of Austin Hopkinson, whose speeches are few and heard with pleasure, and whose party affiliation no one has yet discovered.

If during the short, but crowded, session of about seven weeks, the House maintains the promise of its opening days this week, there will be memorable developments before Christmas. Meanwhile there is some talk of a general election during the next three months.

C. S. M.

From Many Sources.

Democracy, far from being played out, is as yet a long way from being played in.

"The truth is that education (a question-begging term, by the way) is a gigantic hypocrisy."—G. B. S.

"Words awake imagination. Pictures kill it."—Thomas Burke.

"The theory of democracy, as I understand it, is to assume that every man is a good fellow until the reverse is proved."—E. V. Lucas.

"The Russians were better off under the old regime of 70 roubles a month than they are today on 70,000 roubles a month under Bolshevism."—H. V. Keeling.

"Drink is Scotland's greatest sin, said a prohibitionist speaker at Glasgow. The gentleman does not seem to have heard of haggis."—"Punch."

"Prospective employer: 'How old are you?'
"Applicant for post: 'Fourteen—and unmarried.'"—"Punch."

"We understand the 'shrewd division' of financiers is buying German marks. It's so patriotic and it pays."

"Our existing civilization is an unscientific struggle in which we deprive ourselves of liberty through lack of organization."—Chiozza Money.

"National organization means the simplification of control and the enlargement of organizing power."—Chiozza Money.

"The worst of all economies is economy in the payment of the teaching profession."—Dean Welldon.

"We pray for rain; let us pray for lower rates."—A Rural Guardian.

"I believe in preaching to the converted, for I have generally found that the converted do not understand their own religion."—G. K. C.

Now the calamity howler prances through the land, telling us that everything is wrong and that we want a change. It seems that business men are making too much profits and workingmen too much wages. Do we know what we want?

I. L. P. AND ONTARIO MEMBERS HOLD IMPORTANT CONFERENCE AT TORONTO

Meeting Held in Private But According to Report Harmony Prevailed—Decided That the Eight-Hour Day Was a Question For Federal Government.

Contrary to expectations, the conference held at Toronto on Saturday between the Labor group in the Legislature and the executive committee of the Ontario Independent Labor Party was a lovefeast, instead of a fault-finding affair. It had been anticipated that Hon. Walter Rollo, Minister of Labor, and Hon. Harry Mills, Minister of Mines, particularly the former, would be given a hot time, but according to statements given to the press afterwards, both ministers were complimented on the manner in which they were conducting their departments. Hon. Mr. Rollo will continue as leader of the Labor group in the Legislature. There was only one absentee from the gathering of Labor M.P.P.'s, Karl Homuth South Waterloo. The press was barred from the meeting.

Keep Close Touch.

President J. W. Buckley, of the Independent Labor Party, who presided, said his object in calling the meeting was to obtain closer co-operation between the Labor M.P.P.'s and the rank and file of the Labor Party, and he intimated that it might be an occasion for plain speaking. According to the statement given out officially, "one of the main results of the conference was the creation of machinery which would keep the executive and the Labor members in closer touch." After this they are to meet "as occasion arises."

The Mothers' Pensions Bill was one of the matters discussed.

It was decided to hold another conference on November 20th.

In a Solid Block.

R. H. Palmer, a member of the executive committee, said he expected that the meeting would be stormy, but instead harmony reigned. "They have agreed to go back in a solid block behind Hon. Mr. Rollo," he said. According to Mr. Palmer, Mayor M. M. McBride, of Brantford, did not raise any serious point during the conference, but claimed that the Labor group had not secured sufficient legislation during the last session. Mayor McBride's threat to leave the Labor group in the house and sit as an independent member was dealt with, and while no definite statement as to the outcome of the discussion was given out, it is understood that Mr. McBride led his fellow members to understand that he would not make a further move until the Labor group's programme for the next session was drafted.

The eight-hour day question was broached by President Buckley, but was not discussed. He claimed that the Ontario government should have appointed a commission to look into the matter, yet he took the ground that it was a question for the Federal parliament to deal with.

CAUSES FOR BRITISH MINE STRIKE.

A nation-wide strike of miners followed a referendum rejection of a compromise affected by the miners' officials, the government and coal owners. The vote was 181,428 for, to 635,098 against. The miners' officials had postponed carrying out a previous strike vote in the hope that an eleventh-hour adjustment might be agreed to.

The miners went into the last conference with nothing but a wage demand. They abandoned other issues and presented the one claim that an increase of 2 shillings (50 cents) a day is necessary to meet a 162 per cent. advance (government figures) in the cost of living. From the beginning of the war to date, miners' rates have been advanced 125 per cent.

The compromise, which was rejected by the referendum, provided for higher rates if more coal is mined. The miners agree that greater production is desirable, but refuse to accept the theory that a living wage should be regulated by output. They insist that the coal industry should assure them a living wage, and that the tremendous profits of the coal owners is proof that the industry can afford this increase.

Behind this strike is the usual story of exploitation and enormous profits by the coal owners. Recently the government appointed the so-called Sankey commission to investigate the coal industry, and it was understood that the commission's findings would be the basis for remedial coal legislation. Several reports were made, and all of them indicated dissatisfaction with present conditions. The miners' representatives favored nationalization of the mines, while other reports declared for state control.

Nothing came of the recommendations. Hearings by the commission showed that many coal owners had no title to their coal lands, which have been in their families for years. They only knew they had them and had no idea how they were acquired. This evidence, followed by the publication of terrific profits by the coal owners has added to the unrest. It is claimed that prices on export coal mean three times the profit of pre-war times, while the remaining surplus goes into the treasury to relieve from taxation those who would otherwise be compelled to pay.

The miners originally proposed that this surplus be used to raise wages and reduce the price of coal to English householders.

The miners are allied with the railway men and dock workers in what is known as the triple alliance. G. D. H. Cole, writing in the Monthly Circular of the Labor Research Department makes this reference to this combination:

"Clearly, one moral of the whole dispute is that the triple alliance needs thorough overhauling. When it was founded, the intention was that the agreements of all three sections should be timed to expire together, in order that all might be able to strike together if necessary, each section fighting its own battle with the support of all. This has never been attempted. Instead of one strike growing where three grew before, three strike possibilities still remain and each involves all three sections. This places an impossible strain on the loyalty of all the partners. Either there must be a real arrangement for simultaneous action by the three bodies on the consent of all three at once, or the triple alliance may as well be merged at once into the 'general staff.'"

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION.

There are two phases of the immigration problem which are becoming more acute. A few weeks ago, the number of immigrants reaching the port of New York was so great, that it was impossible for the immigraion officials at Ellis Island to handle the new arrivals. It was necessary to order some ships bringing immigrants, to anchor in the lower bay for forty-eight hours or more.

Immigrants are arriving in overwhelming numbers at a time when some of our industries have shut down their plants, claiming that there was no market for their goods.

Whatever the reason for the shut downs, the fact remains that while workers in this country were being laid off, thousands of immigrants were arriving on our shores each day, seeking employment. When labor is not fully employed in the United States or Canada, emigration should not be permitted from any country.

The second phase arises through the conditions created in California by Japanese. Other orientals are excluded from America, the Japanese are only restrained through the gentleman's agreement and the statistics prove that this agreement has not prevented the coming of many additional Japanese.

The Japanese problem is not only a Canadian, or United States question, it is a British and Australian, a New Zealand question as well, and it exists as a vital question not only because of economic, but because of social and political reasons. It is not only the fact that coolie labor is the most easily exploited, and that these orientals are willing to live under conditions which would be intolerable to American, Canadian, British or Australian standards of living, but in addition, the fact that the oriental does not become a part of the community, is unwilling to set aside the customs and methods of his native country—they segregate and colonize. They desire to enjoy all of the benefits of living in some other country than their native land, but show no desire to assume the burdens and responsibilities of citizenship or to become a part of the community by setting aside their previous customs, habits and traditions and becoming an actual part of the white peoples with whom they have come to live.

This same condition, although not to the same degree, is also true of some other aliens who come out to our shores.

The economic interests of our people as a whole make it necessary that immigrants should not come to North America while workers already here are out of employment.

The social and political welfare of our civilization demands that no immigrants should be permitted to come who are unwilling or unable to become as much a part of the community as those who have already built up our present form of civilization.—Moulders' Journal.

The March of the Hungry Men.

In the dreams of your downy couches, through the shades of your pampered sleep,
Give ear; you can hear it coming, the tide that is steady and deep—
Give ear, for the sound is growing, from desert and dungeon and den;
The tramp of the marching millions, the March of the Hungry Men.

As once the lean-limbed Spartans at Liberty's call came down,
As William's Norman legions through Sussex meadows went,
As Wolfe assaulted the mountain, as Sherman led the way
From Fulton to Savannah—as they, and more than they.

So comes another army; your wit cannot compute.
The man-at-arms self-fashioned, the man you made the brute,
From farm and sweatshop gathered, from factory, mine and mill,
With lever and shears and auger, dibble and drift and drill.

They bear no sword nor rifle yet their ladders are on your walls,
Though the houbek is turned to a jumper, the jambeaux to overalls;
They come from the locomotive, the cab and the cobbler's bench;
They are armed with the pick and the jack-plane, the sledge and the axe and the wrench.

And some come empty-handed with fingers gnarled and strong,
And some come dumb with sorrow, and some sway drunk with song,
But all that you thought were buried are stirring and lithe and quick,
And they carry a brass-bound sceptre; the brass composing stick.

Through the depths of the Devil's darkness, with the distant stars for light,
They are coming the while you slumber, and they come with the might of Right;
On a morrow—perhaps tomorrow—you will waken and see, and then
You will hand the keys of the cities to the ranks of the Hungry Men.

R. W. K., in Life.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal.—Calu.

CHILD RIGHTS GUARDED.

In a survey of juvenile court legislation in America the United States children's bureau calls attention to the new viewpoint of society toward future citizens.

Twenty-one years ago the relation of the father to his child partook of the nature of a property right. The courts could enforce this right, but on the other hand they were powerless to enforce the duty of the father to his child. Since 1899 every state has passed juvenile court laws except Connecticut, Maine and Wyoming, and these three states have legislated on questions usually included in juvenile court laws.

The extensiveness of this legislation, says the children's bureau, is the best evidence of the previous unsatisfactory viewpoint of the law.

Under the old law the delinquent child was dealt with in the same manner, with certain restrictions of age, as the adult offender. He was tried before a criminal court with all the formality and notoriety of a jury, sworn testimony and confronting witnesses. If found "guilty" the child suffered the penalty. If "not guilty" he went free. In no case did the law extend any constructive help.

Recent years, however, have recognized the right of a child to a reasonable minimum of care, of decency and of well-being. Consideration has been given the natural impulses of youth and to the adverse conditions under which the child may have been reared.

* * *

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY.

Approximately 2,400,000 women and girls are employed in industry in the United States, according to a report by the federal board for vocational education.

Since 1916 women in the iron and steel industry have increased 40 per cent.; in the automobile industry, 300 per cent.; instrument making, 200 per cent.; wood working, 100 per cent. The number of girls between 14 and 16 is between one-third and one-half of the total number of employed youth.

The federal board says: "The public needs to understand and face the facts of the presence of large numbers of women in industry."

The report shows that women and girls are going into these industries without sufficient training. Under the federal vocational education law of 1917 every state has an appropriation designed to be used for trade and industrial classes for women and girls and men and boys. It is stated that the Labor organizations of southern California are responsible for trade and industrial classes in factories under the direction of public school authorities.

* * *

WOMEN MAGISTRATES.

Women magistrates for courts dealing with children's cases are advocated in a report issued by the British Board of Education.

Juvenile offences against the law are on the increase in England. The old methods of punishment by whipping and imprisonment have failed. In 1910 the number of young persons sent to prison totalled 2,899; in 1918 it had increased to 5,000. Of all those who were punished by detention one-sixth were back in the court within a month. Whipping has proved even more of a failure, as one-fourth of the offenders reappeared in court within a month.

The English magistrates, it is stated, have not had a sympathetic understanding of child life and they have not been keen to avail themselves of the many facilities for considerate treatment placed at their disposal by the Children's Act of 1908. The principle of rehabilitation is recognized in law, but the practice has been neglected.

The report recommends that every court should have a children's probation officer. His duty would be not only to supervise cases himself, but to secure the co-operation of teachers, scout masters, officers of boys' and girls' clubs and other social organizations so that every child in his charge should be introduced to one or more of these agencies.

REINSTATE "NERVY" WOMEN.

Trustees of the public library at Cincinnati, Ohio, have reinstated seven women employes who were discharged because they asked for wage increases and then refused to apologize to the little upstarts who are temporarily occupying these positions. Organized labor took up the cudgels for the women, as did civic organizations.

TRADE UNION SCHOOL FOR WOMEN VOTERS.

What is believed to be one of the first trade union schools for women voters is to be started soon, according to report, in Cleveland, Ohio, by the local union of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. This local has about 2,500 members.

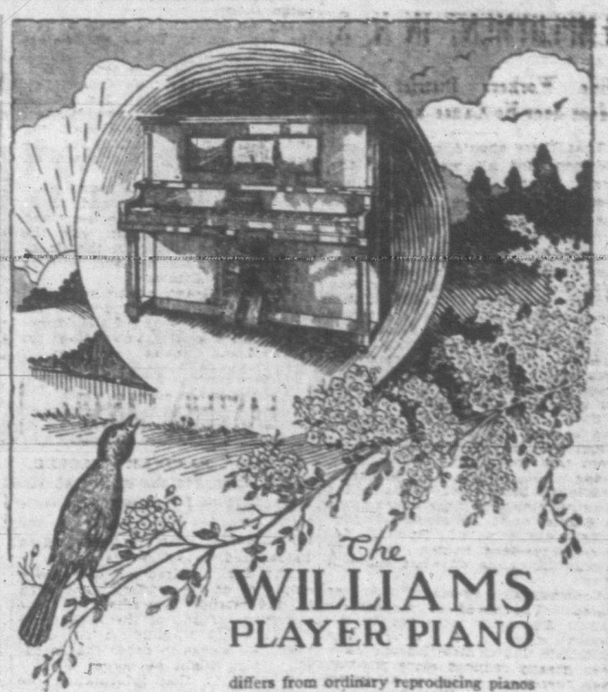
Evening lecture classes in civics and political methods have been announced. Instruction will be given not only to women of the cloak and suit industry, but to wage earning women in other trades, organized or unorganized.

* * *

HIGH-SPEED TYPING.

I do not know that the manager of any office is hankering for a girl typist who recites poetry while she is typing the copy of a letter at full speed, or who will carry on a conversation with another person while he himself is rapidly [illegible] to her dictated letter. If such a man exists, however, he can stimulate his secretary's ambition by pointing to the example of Miss Millicent Woodward, champion typewriter of Great Britain.

Miss Woodward, who is a quite young girl with ten years' typing experience, gave an interesting exhibition of her proficiency at a West End office yesterday. Using a typewriter with unlettered keyboard she wrote to dictation at a rate that would test the average shorthand expert severely. When blindfolded she still wrote with extraordinary rapidity, and she finished by typing a memorized sentence repeatedly at a rate of 234 words a minute. The machine and this typist might stand such a strain for a few minutes, but the speed and noise made one thankful for the humdrum rattling of the ordinary office typewriter. It was, however, an extraordinary demonstration of typist and typewriter efficiency. — Manchester Guardian.



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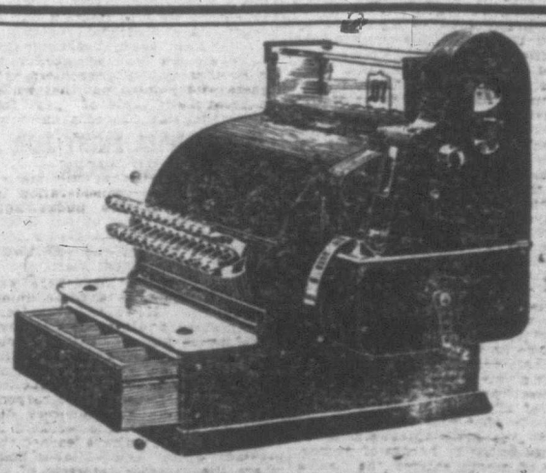

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