

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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UNCOVERING THE ENEMY.

PRESIDENT TOM MOORE recently visited the western stronghold of the reactionary trade unionists, which by design or accident happens to be the City of Winnipeg at present. Any movement of this nature being of the mushroom variety may change its location at irregular intervals but just at this juncture the spotlight is being played on the Prairie City, and it is claimed as the radiating point for the activities of the antis.

To the workers seeking logical and lawful advancement the message delivered at the meeting of the Winnipeg Trades Council found a responsive chord. It went further in that the practical sense, as expounded by President Moore, made for encouragement in the determination of the rank and file of the representative trade unionists to continue in the progressive van of the International movement.

A continuance of the unfair tactics, today anticipated, it being now a habit, was in generous evidence from the reactionaries. Decrying of the Trades Congress and its elected officers is a part of the opportunists' propaganda, their unreliable and biased sheet being made a vehicle for misrepresentation of President Moore's statements, charging betrayal and treachery to the doctrine of the straight trade unionist principles he preached.

One splendid feature of this visit, however, has been the drawing out of the antis to further show their colors they attempt to hide, and this continued baiting will deprive them of their discreet policy to date carefully practised of beclouding their revolutionary objective when attempting to make converts of the unwary.

It was after the Calgary convention that one of the western representatives wrote in the International Journal of his organization in the following strain: "Did any of your members attend the Calgary convention, elected and sent to represent your local to what was considered a Western Trade Union Congress? If so you were not long in attendance to find out that what was being dished up to you was a lot of Socialist bunk."

President Tom Moore in his utterances at Winnipeg followed out the platform of the Trades Congress, enunciating the policy which was endorsed by his selection unopposed at the last convention at Hamilton. There can be no deviation from this course of rational progress. To those who oppose co-operative policy it will have the salutary effect of continuing to show effort minus result, whilst the leaders of the International movement continue to produce the goods in tangible form.

CONFERENCE AT OTTAWA.

THIS week the conference on the co-ordination and unification of Labor legislation is in session at Ottawa. The Canadian Labor Press published a short summary of the proceedings up to Wednesday evening. The conference got down to business on Wednesday when it reached the committee stage. Next week we hope to be in a position to publish some of the conference's decisions.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal.—Can.

U. S. CIVIL SERVANTS' WIVES DEPRIVED OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

The depriving of political activity by federal employees has been extended to the wives of these employees by the United States Civil Service Commission.

The commission has changed the Anglo-Saxon theory that a man is innocent until proven guilty by his accusers by holding that where the wife of a federal employe is politically active the husband must prove that he is not engaged in political activity by proxy.

Under this order if John Jones, a postal employe, is married, and his wife takes time from her household duties to solicit votes for a congressman who is pledged to favor better conditions for postoffice employes, John Jones is guilty of entering into collusion with his wife to evade the order against political activity and can be dismissed from the service.

The post office department has notified postmaster and employees of this order, which follows: "Prohibited political activity by an employe does not consist exclusively in direct, open, personal participation in political affairs. What a classified employe is prohibited from doing independently and directly he may do indirectly and by collusion or co-operation. Collusion is a fact always open to proof and often presumed from the relation of the parties and the manifest motive behind the supposed beneficial results to the persons involved.

These and the other women who will be Labor candidates have a knowledge of present day domestic problems far in advance of the average woman and, in most cases, probably considerably above that of their future men opponents. All are good speakers and as the Labor party will place them in strong Labor constituencies their chances of success are considered very favorable.

HATCHING.

"Talking of hens," remarked the American visitor, "reminds me of an old hen my dad once had. She would hatch out anything from a tennis ball to a lemon. Why, one day she sat on a piece of ice and hatched out two quarts of hot water."

"That doesn't come up to a club-footed hen my mother once had," remarked the Irishman. "They had been feeding her by mistake on sawdust instead of oatmeal. Well, soon she laid twelve eggs and sat on them, and when they hatched eleven of the chickens had wooden legs and the twelfth was a woodpecker!"

WOMAN PRESIDES AT SHOP ASSISTANTS' CONFERENCE.

The 25th annual conference of the National Amalgamated Association of Shop Assistants and Clerks was opened at Glasgow on Easter Sunday. Miss Mabel A. Talbot presided, this being the first time that the Shop Assistants have had a woman president at their conference.

INADEQUATE WAGE STANDARDS OF MONTREAL WOMEN WORKERS.

The problem of finding living accommodation within their means for the vast army of business and working girls of Montreal, who are without homes in the city, is becoming every day more acute, owing to the scarcity of houses, the increase in rent coming into force with the first of next month, and the consequent upward trend in the cost of food, and other living necessities. The problem is more acute for the girls of the Protestant faith, as the Y. W. C. A. is at present the only agency which is attempting to deal with it on their behalf, and the secretary in charge of that work, in discussing it yesterday, said that in spite of greatly increased housing accommodation in 1919, and the addition of 200 supervised boarding houses to the former list of 150, there were still girls being turned away daily for whom it was impossible to provide permanent accommodation. In all, 3,100 girls were provided with permanent homes by the association last year, and 1,000 of whom could be housed in the central buildings.

The difficulty of making the salary paid to the majority of these workers cover living expenses was explained, as the average wage of the girl clerk in the stores and offices ranges from \$50 to \$60 per month, while some, it was stated, receive even less. On the average a suitable room cannot be obtained under \$15 or \$20 a month, food is reckoned at \$1 per day, at least possible expenditure, so that the margin is very narrow in most cases. The association finds it possible to supply a room and two meals per day at rates varying from \$20 to \$24 per month, the residents of the central homes having the advantage of the lounge, rooms, gymnasium and libraries.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY WILL HAVE MANY WOMEN CANDIDATES.

When the next general election for Parliament is held—some say in three months and some three years—the Labor party will have at least a dozen prominent women in the field as candidates for the House of Commons. Labor headquarters here has already promised a number of noted women with political ambitions that they are to be run and their constituencies will be allotted them as soon as it is time to begin electing members.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

BRITISH MINE STATISTICS. The total number of persons employed at mines and at the quarries under the Quarries Act in the United Kingdom and the Isles of Man during 1918 was 1,072,903 (1,029,687 at mines and 43,215 at quarries), or a net decrease of 12,568 persons as compared with the preceding year—a decrease of 12,152 at mines and 416 at quarries, says the general report by the chief inspector of mines. Of those employed at mines 807,056 worked underground, and 222,951 were females. There were 1,284 separate fatal accidents in and about mines and quarries, causing the loss of 1,487 lives, an increase of 31 fatalities as compared with the previous year. Of these accidents 1,210, causing the loss of 1,430 lives, happened at mines, and 64, causing the loss of 67 lives, happened at quarries; or, expressed in terms of the number of persons employed, the death rate from accidents per 1,000 persons at all mines was 1.375 for surface and underground workers, and 1.693 for underground workers alone for 1917. The death rate per million of tons raised at mines under the coal mines act during 1918 was 5.86, as compared with the average of 5.08 for the decennial period 1908-17.

INSURANCE IS COSTLY. The British Government's unemployment insurance bill, which increases the worker's contribution, is being vigorously protested, and figures prove that overhead charges consume about 75 per cent of the total income. Previously the worker paid 2-1-2 pence weekly to obtain 12 shillings when unemployed, and it is now proposed that he pay 3 pence to get 15 shillings.

During the year 1917-1918, the total benefits paid were \$275,640, while the cost of administration, salaries, etc., was \$2,189,755, or six times the amount the workers received.

WORKERS' PUBLICITY WINS. Wide circulation is being given the story how railway workers' publicity defeated the Government in the recent strike of these employes. When the strike started practically every newspaper in England was against the strikers, who were charged with being bolshevik revolutionists, etc. The railway men enlisted the services of many writers of repute and standing, cartoonists were secured, and wide distribution was made of attractive posters explaining the men's wage demands. A system of letter writing was started and full advantage was taken of moving pictures. The strikers main-

Service Button Workers.

Notes of Particular Interest to Ex-Service Trade Unionists.

MANTOBA VETERANS ASK GOVT TO LIMIT RENTALS. The Provincial Government in a resolution passed Thursday by the executive of the Manitoba Command of the Great War Veterans' Association, is asked to immediately enact orders-in-council restricting house rentals throughout the province and to take action to prevent landlords from discriminating against tenants with families.

WORKING SONG OF A COUNTRY WOMAN.

By Elizabeth Blandin. The linen's blowing in the sun. The orchard's all a-bloom. The sun is white, the bread is light, And garnished every room. Then sing, sing, sing. While the goodly bread I knead. The world is wide; on every side There's a many mouths to feed.

STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING 1919.

Thomas J. MacNamara, Minister of Labor, told the House of Commons last week that the strikes and lockouts reported to the Ministry of Labor during 1919 aggregated 1,412. The total number of persons directly or indirectly affected, said the minister, was 2,330,000. The aggregate duration of the disputes was 34,430,000 working days, figuring on the basis of individual loss of time.

U.V.L. NEW OFFICIALS.

Major Wm. J. Morrison, superintendent of the Toronto Municipal Farm, was elected president of the Grand Army of United Veterans at the recent sessions of the first convention in the Labor Temple. The major was in the G.A.C. and has a splendid record during the war with the Eaton Machine Battery.

Windsor Street Railway Adopts Novel Scheme.

Adopting a new system of conciliation to end the strike between the company and its employes, which has for years been a serious handicap to successful operation of the street railway system in Windsor, the Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission on Saturday appointed Ernest Thorn, business agent of the carmen's local union in the Border Cities, chief of the efficiency department. The appointment followed a recommendation from the union officials, whom the local management of the railway took into their confidence before creating the post.

Thorn, who will be known as "inspector of efficiency," will conduct a class of motormen and conductors, in which courtesy and the proper operation of cars will be taught, and will also be charged with the duty of insisting on this policy being carried out while the men are at work.

Service Button Workers.

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testation, which shows the door wide open. Widows, orphans and mothers of the fallen are to be given life honorary membership. Fees were settled on the basis of \$2 for initiation and \$2 per year. According to the estimate \$9,000 new badges will cost the association \$3,000. The cost to the individual was proposed to be 25 cents. It was agreed that any member who is a Government official shall not be eligible for election to office in the organization.

THE NUMBER.

He lay by the roadside, groaning and writhing with pain. A policeman came up and asked him what was the matter. "I ate one—I ate one," moaned the sufferer. The policeman was puzzled at first, but quickly grasped the situation. "Poison!" he muttered. All poison death during the influenza epidemic was necessary to discover which poison the sufferer had taken in order to administer the right antidote.

GREENSBURG Pa.—Westmoreland County is besieged with searchers for a "whiskey tablet" which renders a rare drink dissolved in water. Miners started the tip.

CHICAGO.—Charles Tegtmeyer, contractor, smashed the pay telephone to bits when it continued to take his money and gave him the wrong parties. He paid for the damage.

The union label is the "In Hoc Signo Vinces" of the crusade to rescue the child from the workshop, factory and mill; the woman from the sweatshop and tenement house, and the millions of labor from the clutches of greed, degradation and poverty.

One of the unsatisfactory things of this world is a sensible love letter.

AGENTS WANTED

We want a local representative in every town and city in Canada to take yearly subscriptions for the Canadian Labor Press. An excellent spare time proposition with unlimited possibilities. For full particulars address Canadian Labor Press, Agency Division, Room 110, 123 Bay Street, Toronto, Ont.

An Open Letter re Fuel Situation

To Readers of The Canadian Labor Press:

The Oakoal Co. (Canada) Limited, whom we represent, are in receipt of a letter from the Fuel Administrator for Ontario, reading in part as follows:

"The assured shortage of anthracite coal during the coming season, consequent to abnormal demand, increased difficulties in mining and transportation, and accentuated by high prices, will undoubtedly force a large number of consumers in Ontario to depend upon substitutes for their requirements.

"Recognizing the important part your industry must take in stabilization, also in eliminating to the greatest degree possible seasonal difficulties, I would urge you to put forth every effort in the speeding up of your output, so that every ton possible may be available to meet the demand.

"In this period of unrest, the greatest possible co-operation is essential, and I will depend on the results of your efforts to assist me in successfully averting sufferings attending a coal shortage."

The plant will be producing in July or August, a fuel superior to anthracite coal—a fact attested by Government analyses as well as by hundreds of demonstrations given in this City, Ottawa and Montreal. Appreciating the seriousness of the situation, and the fact that the first plant will be producing approximately 200 tons per day, at an assured profit of \$1.00 per ton, which means a return of 30 per cent to you on an investment, we ask every reader of this paper to invest say one or two hundred dollars in The Oakoal Co. (Canada) Limited, to insure this increased production.

No other industry in Canada deserves such co-operation, and no other industrial that we know of will pay more steady and certain dividends. Co-operation is essential, as the Fuel Administrator says, and while co-operating to insure against fuel famines you are insuring yourself big returns on your money—which will multiply in value.

Shares are five dollars each, preferred and common. We advise you to secure at least ten of each before the price doubles, as it is certain to do.

Yours truly,

H. J. Birkett & Co.

Address, 502 C. P. R. Bldg., Toronto.