

# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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**The Canadian Labor Press**  
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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

## 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. For some time past it has been heralded that an official of the Trade Congress would not dare venture into this territory where the International Trade Union Movement was most prone to attack. Notwithstanding this prophecy it met the fate so common to the visionaries of incorrect guessing and the progressive workers of Winnipeg had the pleasure of seeing and hearing President Tom Moore.

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. This carries with it the determination to legitimately squelch the wreckers' efforts, and saving the misguided dupes effectively in the citadel, in similar manner to what has been accomplished in other centres of the Dominion.

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. In President Moore's advocacy of co-operation and co-ordination they countered with the statement that "up-to-date Labor repudiates co-operation with the boss. Co-operation on the part of Labor leaders is treachery and betrayal," an explanation being omitted as stated by President Moore that co-operation and co-ordination did not imply submission.

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. Coating the red goods they peddle with a union covering is considered the best veneer.

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." This opinion was generally acknowledged by the trade unionists in attendance, despite the attempt to disguise by the decision to name the anti-movement union.

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. Any other policy contrary to co-operation, advocated by any Congress official, would be betrayal of trust to the rank and file of the Dominion's workers, who place trust in their hands when selecting them to office.

## 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 fact that he may benefit through his wife's action is proof of his guilt, although she is exercising a voter's right.

The post office department has notified postmaster and employes 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 relationship of the parties and the manifest motive. It is the result of concerted beneficial results to the persons involved. If a husband or wife of an employe in a competitive position enters into political activity for the benefit of such employe the presumption of collusion is immediate and strong and casts upon the employe the burden of overcoming the assumption by affirmative proof.

"The commission is of opinion, therefore, that evasion of the rule by indirect means through the action of wife or husband will be found the easiest of all forms of collusion to discover, establish and punish."

### BIG CONFERENCE OF LABOR WOMEN.

far short in its provisions for the Labor Women met at the Memorial Hall last week under the chairmanship of Miss Mary MacArthur. Several hundred delegates were present, representing every woman's organization connected with the British labor movement. Arthur Henderson, M.P., and other parliamentarians, leaders of labor, attended in an advisory capacity.

Reports of the Washington International Labor Conference were made. A resolution was passed endorsing the Washington Conference and calling upon the Government immediately to introduce legislation giving effect to recommendations therein contained. The resolution stated, however, that while endorsing the Washington conference as the first step toward the creation of international social and industrial law, the conference considered that it fell far short in its provisions for the continued part-time education of all boys and girls up to 18 years of age, and for the general prohibition of night workers.

### WOMAN PRESIDES AT SHOP ASSISTANTS' CONFERENCE.

The 25th annual conference of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants and Clerks was opened at Glasgow on Easter Sunday. Miss Mabel A. Talbot, president, presided over the first time that Shop Assistants have had a woman president at their conference. The annual report and balance-sheet shows that the trade union membership has increased by 35,335 during the year, and now stands at 87,029.

### 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 electioneering.

### Practically all of the future women Labor candidates have a national reputation as social workers and reformers and most of them were pioneers in the campaign for women suffrage in Great Britain. On the list as made out so far are

## 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 43,216 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 225,926 above ground. Of the latter 17,751 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-

## 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.

### Notes of Particular Interest to Ex-Service Trade Unionists.

#### MANTOBA VETERANS ASK GOVT TO LIMIT RENTALS.

#### WORKING SONG OF A COUNTRY WOMAN.

#### STRIKES AND LOCKOUTS IN GREAT BRITAIN DURING 1919.

#### U.V.L. NEW OFFICIALS.

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

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

#### THE NUMBER.

#### 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.

#### 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.