

# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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**THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS**

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Following in brief is an outline of our Policy:

1. The Canadian Labor Press supports the International Trade Union Movement, of which there are approximately three hundred thousand members in Canada.
2. The Canadian Labor Press supports the policy of the present Dominion Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.
3. In the interests of the Canadian Worker, the Canadian Labor Press believes that Canadian industry needs adequate tariff protection.
4. The Canadian Labor Press advocates fair play to employer and employee.
5. The Canadian Labor Press stands for the betterment of Trade Union conditions in Canada and the welfare of our country at large.
6. The Canadian Labor Press is independent in politics and free from any political influences.

## The Gasoline Agitation

CONSIDERABLE agitation is going on at the present time in the city of Toronto for the purpose of having the city engage in the business of supplying gasoline at retail prices to motorists. Ostensibly the idea is to give Toronto any benefit of cheaper gasoline, at present being supplied by a few refineries in the United States.

But the motive behind it is really deeper than appears on the surface. The facts are that a few United States concerns have a surplus of gasoline at the present time and they intend to make that surplus a weapon to capture the Canadian trade from the firms already established here. Once that is done prices will go up again, probably beyond what they are now. What should be Labor's attitude to such a price war? At first sight it will be said that they should welcome anything that would reduce prices. But should they? Labor must first look at the conditions existing in the United States plants and then compare them with the conditions under which the workers are employed by the Canadian firms, and if that is done then the advantage, so far as the worker is concerned, is overwhelmingly in favor of the Canadian firms.

Investigation shows that their workmen are treated well, of which further proof can be found in the fact that their workers have been with them for years, that a great deal of self-government exists throughout their plants in connection with conditions, that employees are taken into consultation and have a voice in the industry, and that by means of insurance and welfare methods the worker is in an excellent condition as compared with the same class of labor in the United States.

There is also another aspect to be considered and that is the Canadian companies have plant equipment, the manufacture of which has put millions of dollars in wages into the pockets of Canadian workers and if we are to build up Canadian industry, then it is better to have these plants working at full time than to have them idle and buy our gasoline from the United States.

LABOR MUST STRENUOUSLY OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL TO HAVE THE CITY OF TORONTO ENGAGE IN THE GASOLINE BUSINESS, because its effects would be to damage Canadian industry which is doing good work, and because it means adding more unemployment to the present situation without giving the benefit of cheaper gasoline to the consumer, and in fact, without any return benefits at all.

"Those whom the gods would destroy they first made mad," says an Eastern proverb, and surely it is madness for Canadians to agitate for a condition that would help to cripple Canadian industry at a time when we all ought to be thinking out ways and means to build it up.

## Prohibition and Moral Rights

WHILST many arguments are advanced on economic or quasi-economic grounds in support of prohibition, it still remains the case that the principal basis put forward in its defence is that of morals. Morally it is declared by clerical supporters and social service workers to be irrefutable. The right of man to take intoxicating liquors must give way to the greater right of the community to abolish what in their opinion is an evil.

Close analysis, however, shows that this basis has not the soundness its supporters declare. Let us take the common agreement by all moralists as to what a right is. A right is defined as a moral power of action inviolable from interference with a due observance of the moral law. It will be noted that a right is not liberty to do what one wants provided one does not interfere with the liberty of another, for, as will be obvious if we accepted that, then each would have the liberty to commit adultery, for example, provided we allowed a like liberty to others. It follows, then, that the right of liberty to do what one wishes must be subservient to moral laws.

Now the right to take beer or whiskey is a perfectly valid one and the act of drinking is morally indifferent until carried to excess. But our prohibition friends declare that it is evil and leads to the abuse of liquor and therefore ought to be prohibited. Here we come to the flaw in prohibition reasoning. It is a very modern error into which they fall and it is this, that the abuse of a social institution is a legitimate reason to abolish the use.

It is the reasoning underlying the Socialist attack on property. The use of private property, it is urged, is abused and leads to very great evils, such as poverty, slums, etc. and therefore the institution ought to be abolished.

The use of drink leads to intoxication, declare the prohibitionists therefore it ought to be abolished. All moral arguments advanced in support of prohibition are based on the assumption that man derives his rights from the organized community and Western civilization spent 19th to 1918 in opposition to this doctrine on the battlefield.

The act of drinking is neither morally good or morally bad, all being dependent on the circumstances under which it is done. If a man spends for beer or whiskey that which ought to go towards his family's upkeep then morally he commits a wrong action, for he violates the rights of his family to live. If he drinks to excess and becomes intoxicated, then he commits a moral wrong against himself for he degrades his own personality.

If, however, he drinks moderately without violating the rights of others, then he is acting morally for he is exercising a moral power of action with regard to the like rights of others and with a due regard for the observance of moral standards.

The arguments of prohibitionists then are seen to be unsound morally and what is needed instead of the Ontario Temperance Act, is a movement to inculcate greater self-control and greater knowledge of true morality.

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### Will Help to Relieve Unemployment

Brantford, Ont.—With a view to relieving unemployment here, the Board of Works will proceed at once with the construction of the dyke around the Grand River to the west of Ontario Street, with the rate of wages to be forty cents an hour, and at an estimated cost of \$31,000. A start will be made as soon as possible. No civic employees will be used, save to oversee the work. The dyke around the property back of the swimming-pool will reclaim fourteen acres of land useless at the present time, and the land so reclaimed would probably be double the capital expenditure of the dyke. Over 95 per cent. of the estimated cost of \$31,000 will be expended for labor.

Vancouver, B. C.—Japanese fishermen have given the cannery bosses of this province notice that they won't accept a cut in the scale of fish prices and the bosses have replied that if they don't white workers will be hired to take their place.

## Toronto City Council Helps Canadian Prosperity

ACCORDING to reports in the daily press, Toronto Civic Fathers are liable to adverse criticism because they awarded a tender for a new pump to the John Inglis Co., Toronto, at a slightly higher bid than that tendered by a United States firm.

Why any criticism should be made "The Canadian Labor Press" fails to understand. Either we are going to build up Canadian industry or we are not. If we really are, then one way to help do it is by purchasing Canadian-made products. If we do that we keep our own workers employed and help our own market. Every purchase made outside Canada of goods that can be made by Canadians is so much wealth lost to Canada.

It will be argued that if we keep to this policy we shall have to pay more. That is not vital, for we must be prepared to sacrifice a little if necessary now so that we help our own people and if we do that it will come back to us a hundredfold. Canadians must take the long view in this matter and instead of being criticized the Toronto City Council is to be commended for their foresight. Anyone who knows Canadian engineering products does not need to be told of the excellent qualities inherent in the machinery made by the John Inglis Co. who bear a world-wide reputation. Toronto citizens know that they will receive full value for their money, and that the work will be done under conditions that will be fair and equitable.

## The Hydro and its Enemies

IT is common knowledge in Ontario that Labor has always given approval to the Hydro-Electric project. It is true that sometimes Labor has criticized the judgment of the Commission especially in connection with Labor relations. Yet with all that Labor asserts its faith in the sincerity, integrity and regard for the public good as guiding keynotes of the Hydro-Electric and especially its chairman Sir Adam Beck. "The Canadian Labor Press" thinks it necessary to reiterate these views at the present time because signs seem to show a fresh surge of criticism due to the error of an individual.

As a writer in this week's New York "Nation" points out, after an exhaustive inquiry by the Gregory Commission, they reported that the staff was a highly skilled and efficient one, and that there was not the slightest trace of graft or dishonesty which could be discovered in the operations of this huge project since its inception.

It is well that Labor should realize this deeply so that they can champion the Hydro when it is attacked. All great organizations of men have their weak links in some of their members and the Hydro is to be congratulated on its remarkably clean record.

With a personnel such as the Hydro has, composed of men like P. A. Gaby, W. W. Pope and others, who for real integrity and efficiency in the public service stand second to none. Men whose very ardor has been fired by the example given them by Sir Adam Beck, the citizens of Ontario are bound to receive still greater benefits in future.

## ILLICIT LIQUOR TRAFFIC IN TORONTO

(Continued From Page One)

vides girls for illicit intercourse, and has been in the trade since 1916. Her reason is that "she has no other means of livelihood."

Case No. 10—Man, native born; trade: bartender, has been connected with liquor traffic all his life, and now runs a restaurant. Has no prison record.

Case No. 11—Man, British born; lives in one part of city and engages in the traffic in another. Trade: furniture maker; supplies girls for illicit intercourse. No prison record.

Case No. 12—Husband and wife, native born. Husband works during day; wife manages business. Husband's trade: carpenter. Has no prison record. Reasons: "wants to make money."

Case No. 13—Man, native born. Trade: painter. Gambles as an additional means of livelihood. House is used as a place of assignment. Reasons: "claims that he cannot get a good living at his trade." No prison record.

Case No. 14—Husband and wife, both foreign born. No trade. Family aids in business. Makes business sole livelihood. Claims that, in spite of fines for breaches of the O.T.A., has made considerable money. No prison record.

Case No. 15—Man and woman, native born, living together unmarried. Man's trade: carpenter. Woman practices prostitution. Income derived partly from illicit liquor traffic and partly from prostitution. No prison record. Claims that good living is made.

Case No. 16—Woman, widow with grown-up family. Native born. Living in god residential locality. Home used as house of assignment, will procure girls for illicit intercourse. Does not keep liquor on premises, but if telephoned will arrange for supply. Claims it is only way she can support home. No prison record.

Case No. 17—Man, foreign born. Trade: chef. Supplies meals with liquor; high-class clientele. No prison record. Claims that he is making money.

Case No. 18—Partners, both male, one of Canadian birth and foreign parentage; other of Canadian birth and parentage. Both have overseas service record. No prison record. Trade of one, chauffeur; other has no trade. Houses where liquor sold as place of assignment. Will supply girls for illicit intercourse.

Case No. 19—Husband and wife, both foreign born. No trade. No prison record. Sole livelihood derived from traffic. Claims that they are in business to make money.

Case No. 20—Man, Canadian born, of foreign parentage. Trade: clothing worker. No prison record. In traffic to make money.

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