

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

J. A. PARAYDON, M.C., Editor. A. H. BLACKBURN, Circulation Mgr. J. D. SULLIVAN, Business Manager.

OFFICIAL ORGAN ALLIED TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF OTTAWA. ENDORSED BY Hamilton District Trades and Labor Council. Hamilton Building Trades Council. Kitchener Twin City Trades and Labor Council.

The Canadian Labor Press PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS, LIMITED. Business Office: 246 SPARKS STREET, OTTAWA. Phone Queen 3997. Toronto Office: 106-7-10 PETERKIN BUILDING. Montreal Office: ROOM 16, MECHANICS INST. BUILDING.

A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

A. F. OF L. CONVENTION. In the coming meeting at Montreal, Monday, June 7, of the American Federation of Labor, there is more than ordinary interest attached thereto. If for no other reason than the honor bestowed on the Canadian membership in the selection of Montreal for the sessions of the official thought of the International Trade Union Movement, it would stand out as a distinct feature.

The meeting at this time is acknowledged to have to deal with labor matters of moment and importance. The evident almost up-side-down situation of the world, in which labor plays a leading part, and the reflecting rays of the old-world chaos make for this period of importance. It may be claimed that the reflection from overseas is not pronounced here, but nevertheless there is evidence of same, and the balance wheel of the A. F. of L. with its affiliations has of necessity called for strong hands backed by sincerity for the organized-worker's cause. If an even keel has been preserved the policy pursued was responsible for the continued success of craft organization in every possible direction.

The past year has seen much anti-administration movement, yet failure was ever in evidence to those who would move contrary to the constituted authority and channels. Any attempt to undermine the position of International heads found stern measures facing them from the A. F. of L. executive, the closer community interests of the units forming the Federation being one of many outstanding features of the year's events.

From strength in numbers the coming convention is an answer to those who attempt to belittle the work of the Federation, the more it being classified as a decadent movement seemingly finding a fitting rebuke in the increased membership. It passes muster now those anti to the fundamental principles for which it stands may continue to belittle the efforts and influence of the Federation in view of the continuous healthy growth.

Nearing the five million mark, if not the largest, it ranks as one of the world's greatest organized labor bodies. During the past year's term the affiliation of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers has been added. This is but the forerunner of the balance of railroad organizations joining the ranks and making for the "closed shop" of the trade union movement of this continent.

The A. F. of L. is to the States what the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada stands for in this Dominion. There is no divided policy in this respect, each responsible for separate legislative efforts of the two territory sections, but on the industrial and craft organization field, consolidated in thought and action. The convention will see many strangers in-so far as allegiance to this Dominion is concerned, but the binding labor tie is such that the position of stranger will be of the nominal and forgotten nature.

When the grand old man, Mr. Sam Gompers, president of the A. F. of L., takes up the gavel, he will be presiding over the fortieth Annual Convention, showing a larger affiliation than ever in its history. In the remarkable and continued growth is the best evidence that the corner stones were well and truly laid, and the builders of the International Trade Movement as they continue in the evolution, gain in experience, meeting all situations. Satisfactory advancement and permanency of same is found resulting from the following out of the original plans of International trade unionism for which the A. F. of L. stands as sponsor and guard.

The call for this important convention has been sent out by President Gompers and the members of the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. to all the affiliated organizations. Here is the pith: "The importance of our movement, the duty of the hour and for the future, demand that every organization entitled to representation shall send its full quota of delegates to the Montreal convention."

FALSIFIED ACCOUNT SHEET

From the Anti-International Fire-eaters' Union sheet, of Vancouver, the following is an extract:

"Organizer Knight reports holding a big meeting in Pembroke, Ont., after having been refused the use of the town hall by the authorities. The meeting was held in the O. B. U. headquarters and was packed. All the available membership cards were used up in the enrolling of new members in spite of the fact that the Trades Congress is spending a lot of money and sending organizers there to keep the old unions on the map. This time last year the International unions there had a membership of 1,100. Today there is not one International union."

The foregoing is presented as a sample of the unreliable publicity that is finding its way from those who are permanently employed in the disruption work. The Pembroke situation is taken in haphazard manner from the list which this organizer presents on the effective work that he is accomplishing.

Here is the truth beyond the question of doubt. Pembroke last year had one International union and a Federal union, chartered by the A. F. of L., the latter going over the 500 mark. When the anti came from the bush this spring, the members in good standing in the Federal union, numbered 200. This was disbanded and the funds illegally donated, in similar manner to the wild west style. This disposes of the mysterious International unions of 1,100 of last year.

Today there is in existence in flourishing condition four International unions in the town of Pembroke, comprising the craftsmen of that place, and the very work that the Federal was formed for has been carried out. The International has taken root which argument plus organizer's false reports may not deny. The idea of membership in the anti-movement is a stretch in the worker's nostrils of Pembroke, and the only comment is one of general regret that the gold brick game was tolerated to the smallest degree.

TROUBLE A-BREWING.

When it comes to real trouble in the organized field, there is nothing that stands as peer to that of jurisdiction disputes, and it is one of the many snags that brings forth best endeavor to suppress, or if in ascendancy is gained, to try and eliminate. Writing of jurisdiction trouble calls attention to a new organization in the field, that of the Potato Peelers' Union of Chicago, with a wage scale of \$6 a day and meals. At first glance it would appear that this is an entirely new venture, with no opposition to its claim. "We are, however, doomed to disappointment. The retailers of this table necessity have already laid claim to cover this jurisdiction, and justify same, that with the potato they have been skinning the buyer for some time past, going deeper each coming day. The only apparent difference is that the new unionists skin the potatoes and the purveyor skins the buyer of same. If referred to the High Cost of Living Labor Convention, a satisfactory solution may be the result.

The labor movement does not lack for men who can point out the problems of the future. What it does too frequently lack is the man who remembers and respects the lessons of the past.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal.—Can.

EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL SERVICE.

"Equal pay, equal status, and equal conditions appear to me to be the only solution to the problems of women's employment," said Lady Rhonda of Great Britain, recently. The present difficulties of the conflict between returning ex-Service men and women employees are inevitable at such a time as this, but it is obvious that when a man returns from the front to his job, which was temporarily taken by a woman, he should be reinstated. "On the other hand, it must be remembered that these are really difficult times, and with the cost of living so high, a great number of girls now in employment are only supporting themselves, but other people as well, and their dismissal now would mean great hardship. In special quarters, for instance, the authorities are not really playing quite fairly. They want to turn out the women regardless of the fact that there may be no suitable men available to take their place.

"In the Pensions Ministry Awards Branch, for example, this sort of thing is being attempted, and the feeling of the women, trained and experienced in tech work, is very great indeed.

"In looking at the problem in a general way, one is inclined to say that the difficulties which have arisen through the employment of women in men's jobs during the war, now constitute one of the troublesome postwar problems—and we cannot get out of them.

"The only solution lies in giving equal pay, conditions and status to both sexes of employees. The fundamental question is the question of pay. Is not payment made for actual work done? If that is so, then there should be equal payment for equal work done, regardless of sex."

MARRIED WOMEN IN CIVIL SERVICE.

Major G. W. Andrews' question in regard to employment of married women in Government departments, where they were filling positions which could be handled by returned men, trained for the Civil Service, was answered in the House of Commons last week by a return tabled by Hon. Arthur Sifton, Secretary of State. The return stated that married women whose husbands had not served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force were employed in various departments. Several departments kept no records of such employees.

Major Andrews was also informed that the Department of Immigration and Colonization had employed a married woman at a salary of \$300 per month; that she was not the wife or mother of a returned soldier, and that no effort had been made at the time of her appointment to secure a war widow or dependent capable of filling the position. The husband of the lady in question was not in the employ of the Dominion Government, and while nothing officially was known as to his employment, he was believed to be in the service of one of the provincial governments.

Service Button Workers.

Notes of Particular Interest To Ex-Service Trade Unionists.

THE P. R. L. OR MADEMOISELLE OF BULLY GREY. The cryptic title at once gives this play away as a "war play," which will be at the New Princess Theatre for the week commencing May 24.

A courtyard romance, the machinations of a Boche spy, and education of a green subaltern from the triple waves of plot on which the action is swept forward from the billet in Bully Grey through dugout and trench to No-Man's Land, and then swirled back through the dressing station to the new family "cottage" court in which occurs the denouement. Grousing and fighting pathos and tragedy, all find their place in the piece, but for the most part the scenes are dominated by laughter and music, for the dialogue is pregnant with army humor and the action is interspersed with snatches of patriotic French chansons, sentimental English love ditties, and devil-may-care Canadian trench parodies.

This play was written by the troops for the troops, and in outlook is proudly Canadian, and will be seen at Ottawa on June 9, 10, 11 and 12, 1920.

THE POPULAR SONG.

"Seems to me," said Mrs. Pinhead, "the price of fish is high; there's many fish in the sea never seen; just as many caught; and ye who charge as if I was an idle rick!" "Ah, Mrs. Pinhead," sighed the Fish Swindler, "you should study the fish problem and learn our troubles. Look at the price of bait; worms are scarce, hooks and lines can't be had till the League of Nations is fixed. Flue has broken out in the Banks. The Gulf Stream has never been the same since the war. Chicken, halibut, haddock, oysters and clams suffering from shell shock; and the suits worn in the beaches this year are driving the mackerel out of Canadian waters. No, Mrs. Pinhead, you don't know this fish problem. It's knotty. And then the Courts turn around and send our best fishermen away. Do you wonder fish is high?"

He felt so bad that he forgot to give the lady her change.

SPEAK SOFTLY.

"As I was saying," he said, "we entered the cafe and had no more than seated ourselves at the table and said to the waiter, 'Bring us three'—when a fellow showed his badge and said, 'Three what' and we said 'plates of beans.'"

AN ATTRACTIVE STYLE.

Latest Paris styles show women's stockings with pockets. Imagine a woman standing on the corner with her hands in her pockets.

THE SOCIETY OF SATURDAY NIGHT.

Teacher—"What is the Order of the Bath?" Small Boy—"Well, Johnny comes first, then me, then Willie, and then the baby."

8-HR. WORKDAY LAW PASSED IN POLAND

No Reduction in Earnings Permitted Under Regulations.

Under the provisions of the Polish eight-hour law of November 23, 1918, the minister of labor and public welfare is authorized to issue regulations pertaining to the enforcement of the law. Such regulations were published on January 3, 1920, and are summarized in the British Labor Gazette for February as follows:

The regulations limit working hours to eight per day (on Saturdays to six) or 48 per week. This limitation is to apply to persons employed in manufacturing, mining, commerce, communication and transport, and in other establishments where work is performed, even if such undertakings are not carried on for profit or if they belong to the state. In mining the normal working hours are "from bank to bank." The rules of each mine must state clearly the order in which the arrival and departure of the men shall take place. The working hours of transport workers may be regulated by a special order, and in factories belonging to the state working hours may be reorganized by the competent minister after he has consulted the trade organizations of employers and work people, but the total hours worked must not exceed the legal number. Overtime is permitted to be worked in the following cases: (a) where extra work is necessary in order to prevent damage, or for other similar reasons; (b) at periods of seasonal pressure or at periods of stock taking; (c) in factories where continuous processes are carried on; and (d) in cases of national necessity.

For overtime not exceeding two hours payment is to be made at the rate of time and a half, for each hour in excess of two hours and for night work (i.e. between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m.) and work on Sundays and holidays the rate of pay is to be double. Work on Sundays is permitted only in public services, hotels, drug stores, etc., in theatres and the like, and in establishments carrying on continuous processes.

After every six hours of work, an hour's rest is to be granted, during which the machinery is to be stopped, and the worker permitted to leave his place of work. Where, owing to the nature of the work, this is not practicable, the worker is to be afforded an opportunity to take his meal while the machinery is running.

A temporary regulation provides that the introduction of shorter hours is not to cause a reduction of earnings where longer hours have hitherto been worked.

Non-observance of the regulations is punishable by fine up to 5,000 Polish marks, or imprisonment for three months.

The regulations came into force four weeks after their publication.

Claudia's Cure For Strikes

BY ELIZABETH HOLT.

"What exactly is a strike?" asked Claudia.

"A strike is when men stop working," I replied, with a fine disregard of the rules of grammatical construction.

Claudia climbed on to my knee and planted a firm elbow on my writing pad.

"Are you striking now?" she inquired.

"Well, no; this is more in the nature of a lock-out."

"What's that?" said Claudia.

"Well, if your daddy were to shut his gates and tell his workpeople he didn't want them, that would be a lock-out; but if they stopped outside of their own accord and said they wouldn't work for him, that would be a strike."

"Oh," said Claudia, sublimely, "Well, go on; what are strikes for anyway?"

"For more wages generally, or for shorter hours, or because someone has been unfair to someone else."

"But I still don't see what strikes are for," Claudia objected. "You said that the men stopped working. Well, why shouldn't they?"

"I know that there are many excellent reasons why the working classes should work without intermission for at least eight hours out of the twenty-four all the year round but for the life of me I could not think of one of them; not one, at least sufficiently water-tight to be offered in Claudia. For once, however, she allowed her question to pass unanswered and followed up with another one.

"Why do Daddy's workmen work for him?"

"He pays them wages," I said.

"And does he pay them wages when they stop working?"

"No; he wouldn't pay them if they went on strike, if that's what you mean."

Claudia looked yet more puzzled.

"Then why does anybody mind? I heard a man say to Daddy that strikers ought to be shot, but I can't see why they should work if they don't want to. You don't. I hear you saying to Daddy only yesterday, 'Of course, I could make pots of money but the work isn't good enough.' Can anyone recommend me a system whereby Claudia's memory can be de-Palmianised?"

"Nobody says you ought to be shot. At least," she qualified. "I've never heard them."

"My work is different," I said hastily. "There's nobody for me to strike against. I haven't an employer; I just write things and sell them."

"Don't Daddy's men make things and sell them?"

"Not quite; they make the things with Daddy's machinery and all that, and he sells them."

"And he gets the money for what they make?" Claudia asked, amazed.

"You're hardly old enough to understand—" I began, but Claudia cut me short.

"If I was them I'd strike all the time," she said. "I'd get machinery and make my own things, and sell them myself. Then I could just stop working when I wanted to, and work when I wanted to, same as you do. And nobody'd want to shoot anybody. Why don't they?"—Daily Herald.



The Family Smoke

"OLD CHUM" is a family friend. Grandfathers, Fathers and Sons have been smoking it for years and years.

During this half century, "OLD CHUM" has grown steadily in popularity and favour.

Every pipe smoker appreciates "OLD CHUM" quality—the choice Virginia Flake Cut tobacco—chosen by experts—stored away until the perfect tobacco taste and mellow flavour are fully developed.

It is this dependable, constant quality, maintained for years, which has made "OLD CHUM" the chum of all pipe smokers in Canada.

OLD CHUM

Canada's favorite Pipe Tobacco.



understand—" I began, but Claudia cut me short. "If I was them I'd strike all the time," she said. "I'd get machinery and make my own things, and sell them myself. Then I could just stop working when I wanted to, and work when I wanted to, same as you do. And nobody'd want to shoot anybody. Why don't they?"—Daily Herald.

The fellow who watches the clock is likely to remain one of the "hands." Again the consumer gets it in the neck. The price of collars is advancing.

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 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.