

The University of the People

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Article No. 2.
According to the concluding statement in the first article of this series, education should result in economic efficiency, personal satisfaction, and social justice. Broadly speaking, the task of education is two-fold in character. Usually these two sides of this work are described as (1) research, or the discovery of knowledge, and (2) teaching, or the dissemination of knowledge.

It is necessary before teaching can be done to collect a body of knowledge sufficiently valuable to be worth while handing on, and when such knowledge has been acquired in the laboratory, the experiment station, and the library, to achieve its purpose it must be put in the hands of the people who carry on the work of the community. A perfect system of education will keep these two sides abreast; but probably never in the history of civilization has such a state of affairs prevailed. In primitive society teaching was always ahead of research, and in its endeavor to find material fell back upon superstitions and vain imaginings of various sorts. With the progress of civilization, however, the situation is entirely reversed, and for several centuries the problem of education has been to put the available knowledge into the hands of the great body of the people. It is no uncommon thing to hear such a statement as this: "If the definitely established facts of scientific agriculture now in the possession of agricultural colleges and experiment stations could be imparted to the man upon the land, and applied by him, agricultural practice would be a generation ahead of its present status."

Within the last 500 years, there have been two great world movements in education. The first of these followed upon the fall of Constantinople in the middle of the 15th century. As a result of this historic event, scholars who had been carrying on their work in the libraries of that city and in other centers of learning tributary to it, were scattered throughout Europe. As a result, the body of knowledge which had been accumulated by earlier civilizations, such as those of Greece and Rome, and had, owing to the overthrow of Rome by the northern tribes, been temporarily lost to the Western World was brought forth. The result was a great revival of learning and a keen increase of interest in knowledge both for its own sake and for practical purposes. This period is usually characterized by the term, "The Renaissance."

With the re-discovery of this body of knowledge, it was found that there was no machinery available for its

spread. The need was met by the rise of the modern university, which was established in all the leading countries, first in Italy, and also in Germany, France, and England. While it may not be absolutely accurate to say that these institutions owed their origin to the Renaissance, inasmuch as some of them predated it, still it is true to say that their influence and prestige was greatly increased and that numbers of new universities did owe their beginning to the stimulus received at this time.

One outstanding characteristic of the early history of modern universities was that they were open to students of all ranks in society. In the foundation charters of some of them specific provision was made for the maintenance of poor scholars, and nowhere was poverty a bar to education. They were of course not open to women, who had to wait several centuries before being admitted to the benefits of higher education. For reasons that we do not need to discuss, even if we were in a position to do so here, this provision for the poor scholar, which had been so marked a feature of the universities in their early days soon disappeared. The wandering poor scholar, which had been so marked a feature of the universities in their early days soon disappeared. The wandering poor scholar, which had been so marked a feature of the universities in their early days soon disappeared. The wandering poor scholar, which had been so marked a feature of the universities in their early days soon disappeared.

TORONTO STREET RAILWAY MEN WANT INCREASE

Employees of the Toronto Street Railway company have decided to demand 85 cents an hour at the expiration of their agreement with the company, June 16. The present rate of pay is 55 cents an hour.

HALIFAX LABOR PARTY ELECTED THREE ALDERMEN

An Endorsed Candidate Places Council Four to Two in Labor's Favor

At Halifax the Labor Party not yet a year old has elected three straight Labor candidates to the City Council, Aldermen Scoble, Mason and Kedge. In another ward the winning alderman was endorsed by the Labor Party. This gives the Labor Party an equal representation in the council of six aldermen, with an endorsed candidate able to place the council four to two in Labor's favor. The Halifax Citizen says:

"For the first time in the history of the city Labor men will sit in the red swivel chairs of the City Council Chamber. The result of the contest is highly encouraging to Labor men throughout the city and province and is but a prelude of the events that are shaping for Labor's victorious entry into the provincial and Dominion parliaments."

REPORT OF CONFERENCE AT OTTAWA

Given By Robert McCreath, R.P. representative of Alberta Employees

Conference on Co-Ordination of Dominion Labor Laws
By R. McCreath

Monday, April 26 was the date called for convening of Conference at Ottawa, and on that date all the commissioners were on hand with few exceptions. The full representation numbered 27; three being from each of eight provinces and the other three being representatives of the government, employers, and workers for the Dominion. This Conference was the result of a resolution passed at the Industrial Conference held in Ottawa, in the fall of 1919, the date of the conference being delayed somewhat on account of the absence of Deputy Minister of Labor, Mr. Acland, and Mr. Tom Moore, who were in attendance at Paris and London Labor Conferences.

After an address by the Minister of Labor, Hon. Gideon Robertson, outlining the purpose of the Conference, and expressing his sincerity and that of the Government to do all possible towards creating better relations in industry, the Deputy Minister of Labor, Mr. Acland was elected as chairman of the Conference.

Much discussion took place at the opening session as to scope of Conference as well as interpretation from wording used, the order in council passed by the Dominion government and embodied in the resolution passed at the Industrial Conference held last fall. This resulted in a business committee being appointed to draft agenda for conference sessions.

When the delegates to the national conference to consider means to make uniform the industrial laws of the provinces assembled, they decided to exclude the press. This decision was made following the reading of a report of the business committee appointed at the opening session.

Gustave France, Montreal, Labor representative for Quebec province, said he was in favor of the press being allowed to attend the conferences. He said the discussions would be educational, not only for the delegates but for the public. If reports were handed out the press would get only the results of discussions and not the discussions themselves.

Mr. J. H. McVety, Vancouver, moved that they accept the report down to the recommendation to exclude the press. It was then put to the vote whether the press should be admitted. By a vote of 16 to 3, it was decided to exclude the press.

The full list of delegates to the conference follows:

Dominion of Canada.
On behalf of the Government: F. A. Acland, Deputy Minister of Labor; on behalf of employers, J. G. Merriek, secretary of the Employers' Association of Toronto; on behalf of employees, Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Nova Scotia
Government: Major J. Welsford MacDonald, president of the Nova Scotia

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The British Labor Movement

By Felix Morley
Staff Writer, The Federated Press

Article V.—Working Class Education.

LONDON.—At the present time two campaigns are endorsed by the British Labor Movement with respect to improved working-class educational standards. One is for democratization of education in general with the total elimination of illiteracy as its first objective, and the ultimate aim that lack of money or social standing shall not prevent any boy or girl from receiving university training; if he or she desires to pursue studies so far.

The other campaign, directed at the immediate necessity rather than the ideal, is the one now receiving the most emphasis. It is the work which is being done by correspondence classes and trade union schools and colleges to train men and women of the present generation for executive positions in the labor movement of today.

Of the organizations now engaged in training their students to be more efficient workers in the labor movement are the Labor College at London, Ruskin College at Oxford, and the Workers' Educational Association, which penetrates all sections of the country, are easily the most important. There are fundamental differences between each of the three but they are identical in their aim of making cheap and uncontrolled educational facilities available to the adult working class.

Ruskin College, the oldest of the three mentioned, was founded in 1899 for the purpose of providing education in the social sciences for working-class students and it is interesting that the establishment funds were originally provided by two Americans, Mr. and Mrs. Walker Vrooman. From the beginning Ruskin College has maintained an absolute independence of outside control which makes it a landmark in the history of education. Courses are chosen and methods of tuition regulated by the discretion of the faculty alone. The college is a successful experiment in the field of academic freedom. But because of this costly maintained independence Ruskin College is subjected to a fire of hostile criticism from two quarters. Those who believe that education and educators should be under the control of capitalist boards of trustees regard it as a dangerous tool of revolution, while those who are wholehearted revolutionists continually criticize Ruskin as not sufficiently class-conscious in its teaching.

The latter argument is never advanced against the Labor College in London, formerly known as the Central Labor College. This institution was established in 1909 by groups formerly affiliated with Ruskin College which had come to believe that the latter had become too academic and "neutral." Founded expressly to fill the need of an educational institution teaching nothing but revolutionary Socialism the Labor College has gone steadily ahead on this ideal. It is 100 per cent class-conscious in inspiration and teaching and it holds as consistently as do the L.W.W. in the first clause of its constitution, which reads: "The college to be based upon the recognition of the antagonism of interests between capital and labor."

In spite of this gulf between the procedure of the two colleges they are both integral parts of the labor movement and each derives its financial support at the present time from trade union contributions. On the governing council of Ruskin College are found officers of the Weavers' Union, the Northumberland Miners, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, the Co-operative Union, and the General Federation of Trade Unions. The Labor College is owned and controlled entirely by two radical and very powerful unions—the South Wales Miners' Federation and the National Union of Railwaymen.

The general opinion in the labor movement is that in spite of the sharp differences in the two institutions there is room and to spare for both; that the Labor College graduates do invaluable work in stimulating and strengthening the industrial side of the labor movement in preparation for the advent of the Socialist state, and that the Ruskin College graduates are not less valuable as educated men and women fitted for constructive leadership in general service under that state.

As might be expected the curriculum of Ruskin College is much broader than that of the Labor College, which pays little attention to anything but straight Marxist Socialism and its offshoots. Marx is in no way minimized at the former institution, but his teachings are there regarded as a phase rather than the center of economic and industrial history. At the Labor College everything is subordinated to turning out effective propagandists. Ruskin is as careful that its graduates should remain in the labor movement, but aims to fit every student for the full realization of his possibilities rather than to make him merely an agitator. In bringing about the overthrow of Capitalism

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NEW AUTO MECHANICS AND HELPERS UNION FORMED AT HAMILTON

Local No. 357, Auto Mechanics and Helpers Union, I.A.M., was recently established at Hamilton. The charter has been instituted by permanent officers elected. Efforts are being made to organize the chauffeurs there.

MOTHERS' PENSION BILL INTRODUCED ONT. LEGISLATURE

Provides for Appointment of Commission of Five Persons, Two of Them Women

The Mothers' Allowance Act, which was introduced in the Ontario Legislature on Monday by Hon. Walter Rolfe, Minister of Labor, provides for the appointment of a mothers' allowance commission of five persons, two of them women, by the lieutenant-governor. Those eligible for the allowance are mothers who are widows, or who are the wives of insane or incapacitated men; who are residents in Canada at the time of the father's death or totally disabled or for a period of three years immediately prior to the application for the allowance; are residents of Ontario for two years immediately prior; who continue to reside in Ontario; are British subjects and fit persons to have custody of their children; and have resident with them two or more of their own children under fourteen years of age, and have not adequate means to care for them.

The province and the municipality in which an applicant lives shall share the payment of the allowance granted.

FARMER-LABOR GOVT HAS MADE GOOD IN ONTARIO

Ontario's New Democratic Administration Growing in Popular Favor

Praise for the Farmer-Labor Government of Ontario is contained in the following interesting article from the Industrial Banner, which declares that Ontario's new democratic administration is growing in popular favor:

"The politicians have at last begun to realize that the Farmer-Labor Government of Ontario has gained in prestige since the opening of the Provincial Legislature. Throughout the province it is an unmistakable fact that public sentiment is more steadily behind it than was the case during the provincial general election, when the democratic forces won such an astounding political victory at the polls, which still more recently culminated in the overwhelming triumph scored in the federal riding of Temiskaming. Not only are labor men and farmers optimistic, but business and professional men as well are favorably impressed with the progressive policy of the new regime."

"On all sides one hears the expression used, almost daily, by people of different walks in life that 'this is by long odds the best government the Province of Ontario has ever had.'"

"The politicians are well aware of this existing and growing sentiment and are therefore spreading their sails to, if possible, catch a measure of the favoring breeze. They recognize that if the Government were to meet defeat in the House, necessitating a new election, both the U.E.O. and the I.L.P. would come back with increased numbers, while the Grits and Tories would see a further heavy reduction in their forces."

"Even in the Parliament Buildings the civil servants do not hesitate to acknowledge that 'this is the best bunch to get along with that has ever been entrusted with carrying on the legislative business of the province.'"

"More valuable legislation has been passed during the present session of the Legislature in the interests of the producing masses than has been passed in thirty years by the two old parties combined. A couple of months ago the fear existed that the new Government would not be able to carry on and a new general election would have to be held. Now the general expectation is that the Government will not only get safely through the opening session of the present legislature but will probably live out its allotted term of office. This is a significant change, indeed, in more ways than one, and the general sentiment is freely expressed in the almost universal acknowledgment that the new democratic atmosphere in evidence in the Legislative Building in the Queen's Park is in sharp contrast to the red tape so prevalent in the past. This was the crucial session, and the new administration has done most creditably, and, with a full year ahead of it, should come back in 1921, with added experience and prestige and in better shape for the transacting of official

Legislation Asked by Alta. Labor

Fourth of a Series of Articles Written by Walter Smitten, Secretary of Alberta Federation of Labor

(Workmen's Compensation Act)

What We Asked.

Strike out Section 33: In the case of any injury to a workman after the expiry of two years after his arrival in Canada, it shall be conclusively presumed that he has, at the time of such injury, no dependents other than his father and mother or either of them, save such dependents are resident in Canada.

(2) The above period shall in the case of a workman who is not of British nationality be a period of one year in lieu of two years.

(3) This section shall not take effect until January 1st, 1920.

Strike out sub-section (4) of Section 30: If the workman has at the time of entering the employment wilfully and falsely represented himself in writing as not having previously suffered from the industrial disease, compensation shall not be payable.

What Was Passed

Our requests in regard to these two sections were not looked upon at all favorably by the Government, their argument in favor of their position being in the case of non-resident dependents, that if the country was good enough for a man to earn his living in it should be good enough for him to bring his family to, and in the case of misrepresentation, that if a workman wilfully made a mis-statement he or his family should not receive consideration.

Despite the statements made in support of the clause which seeks to compel a workman to bring his family to this country I contend there can be no argument advanced that would justify this. Ours is the only Act as far as I have been able to learn, in which such a proviso is contained and I doubt if it were contested if it would be legally upheld. It is true that in 1910 a Court ruled that dependents of injured workmen who were not resident in this country were not entitled to compensation but this decision was reversed by the higher court of appeal. (I refer to the Krus case which the organized Labor movement through the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada took to the Privy Council which ruled non-resident dependents were entitled to compensation.)

Some may imagine this section is not very important, let us briefly consider conditions and the possible sphere of its application which will give us a fuller understanding of the situation. Briefly the clause means that immigrants to this country, if their wives and children are to receive compensation on account of injuries the immigrant workmen may suffer from, must provide a home for them in this country within one year in the case of a workman not of British nationality and two years otherwise.

If this were possible in all cases the

exponents of the proposition might have a little more ground for their argument, but when we know that in the operation of a number of our industries, such as railroad construction, lumbering and mining, decent housing facilities are not provided so that no matter how much the workman might desire to have his family with him he is not able to procure housing accommodation for them. Some may say why look to the operator of the industry to provide housing facilities, why cannot the workman build himself a home. This might be possible in some instances or but in most cases in the industries mentioned the only home available for building purposes is owned by the operator of the industry and it is not possible for the workman to purchase any, true in some instances the company is prepared to loan land to their workers for them to build homes, but with the insecurity as to employment very few would be justified in taking the risk of building under these conditions.

Then supposing the land was available and that the feeling of insecurity was not there, how it would be possible for a workman to provide for the requirements of himself and family for a year and in addition provide the funds necessary for the transportation of his family and the cost of building a home, to say nothing about furnishing and equipping same, out of one year's wages is a proposition I have not been able to solve, still our Act says if he is not able to do this he or his family shall not receive consideration. I venture the opinion that if workmen's wages would do all this we would not be scolding about compensation at all.

Sub-section (4) of Section 30 is a relic of older measures, it seems that when new legislation is prepared all the objectionable features of older measures must be included, why it should be necessary no one as yet has explained, in fact the only explanation I have been able to obtain is a citation of the various measures in which a similar clause is to be found. I am informed that as yet there is no information of any provision where an employer has asked for a written statement regarding industrial diseases from a workman but we contend that the clause being in the Act will have a tendency to cause this to be done, particularly when the market is favorable to the employer, which will be just the time a workman will not dare to say he has suffered for then he will know ability he had of obtaining employment, and after all if the workman has contracted an industrial disease it should not matter where and nothing should be done that would injure him further.

Sections of the Factories Act will be considered next week.

DETROIT METAL TRADES TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR ORGANIZATION

DETROIT, Mich.—A city wide organization campaign will soon be launched by the metal trades of this city. Machinists, boiler-makers, printers and others are perfecting plans for a concerted drive to organize the skilled tradesmen not yet in union ranks.

A score of international organizers are in the city and are laying the ground work for the drive.

DUNDAS CLOTHING WORKERS SECURE INCREASE JUNE 1

Amalgamated Clothing Workers at Dundas, Ont., have reached a settlement with Grafton & Company's clothing factory, whereby employees' wages were advanced 86 and 87 per cent, starting June 1. Recognition of the union was also accorded. Between 70 and 100 male and female help will benefit.

STEWARDS' STRIKE TIES UP TRAFFIC ON PACIFIC COAST

The coastwise stewards' strike has resulted in the almost complete paralysis of the schedule of the Union Steamship Co., and caused the steamer Prince Albert of the Grand Truck Pacific to forego sailing, and tied up several Canadian Pacific tags and cargoes along the Pacific coast.

TORONTO MOULDERS SECURE AGREEMENT FOR 90 CENTS AN HOUR

The moulders of six of the 27 plants in Toronto from which they went on strike almost thirteen months ago, decided Friday to return to work. The six firms decided to accept the union's wage agreement for 90 cents an hour.

The business men most people would have believed to be possible at the opening of the present year."

LABOR MEETINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

- MEETINGS IN LABOR HALL
- Monday, May 17th
Trades and Labor Council.
Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, No. 99.
 - Tuesday, May 18th
Painters and Decorators, No. 1016.
Sheet Metal Workers, No. 371.
Moulders Union, No. 373.
 - Wednesday, May 19th
Amalgamated Carpenters, No. 2607.
Plumbers and Steamfitters, No. 488.
Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen, No. 386.
 - Thursday, May 20th
Machinists, No. 559.
Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and Freight Handlers, No. 648.
Canadian National Railway Federation.
 - Friday, May 21st
U.R. of Carpenter and Joiners, No. 1325.
Dunvegan Carmen, No. 530.
Retail Clerks' Protective Association, No. 1176.
Civic Service Federation.

MEAT CUTTERS WILL MEET ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH

New Union Now Has Membership Of Over Three Hundred

The Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Union, No. 286, will meet on Wednesday, May 19th, in Labor headquarters, corner Jasper and First. Meat cutters in retail butcher shops are given a special invitation to this meeting.

The new union is gaining rapidly and now has a membership of over three hundred.

TEXTILE WORKERS' ORGANIZER WILL LAUNCH CAMPAIGN

Seems to Have Been Successful in Combatting O.B.U. in Ontario

The many thousands of textile workers will welcome the news that in two weeks' time Organizer J. J. Thomas, general organizer United Textile Workers of America, will launch an organizing campaign. He will be assisted by Organizer Horace Reveire, Quebec. Mr. Thomas told the Labor News that he anticipates no trouble in unionizing every male and female textile worker in the city. Outside of Hamilton, there are over 2,000 organized textile employees in Ontario.

Mr. Thomas, who is one of the ablest exponents of the international trade union movement, recently visited the Ottawa valley regions, an O.B.U. hotbed. In Pembroke Mr. Thomas, Pat Green, Carpenter's union organizer, and Capt. J. A. P. Haydon, an Ottawa Labor editor, succeeded in killing the O.B.U., which had become entrenched among the lumbermen. So successful was the concentrated attack on the O.B.U. stronghold that not only was the organization put out of business, but the trio organized timber workers' and carpenters' international trades unions.

After negotiations Organizer Thomas has secured 15 and 23 per cent. wage increases for the Almonte textile workers, the local membership also being augmented from 65 to 300. Full recognition of the union was also conceded by the employers, Carleton Place, where the O.B.U. for some time has held sway, is being reorganized.

Organizer Thomas learns that a big O.B.U. sentiment prevails among Hamilton's textile workers. His informants further state there is an O.B.U. local in existence, with about 20 members. Upon making his headquarters here, it is Mr. Thomas' intention to clear out the whole O.B.U. aggregation, and institute a legitimate local union, bearing affiliation with the A.F. of L. movement.—Hamilton Labor News.

UNION LABOR'S WEAK POINT IS NON-SUPPORT OF THE LABOR PRESS

In last week's issue of The Headlight, an union labor paper published at Trent, appeared the following article, which is worthy of reproduction: "One of the weak points in the armor of Union Labor is its lack of support of the union labor press. Its patronage in that respect has a tendency to lean in the direction of the capitalist press. If Labor is going into politics it had better get behind the union labor press, for depend on it, the capitalist press will not be with them when the battle is called. They will stand by their masters. Little wonder in view of the support Labor gives it, that the capitalists sneer at the Labor press."

"The paper should receive the hearty support of all the union miners in District 26, but it does not, and the reason is that at least 50 per cent of all organized Labor would rather support a capitalist paper with 'Mutt and Jeff' and 'Bringing Up Father' pictures in them than the best Labor papers that could be published. They would rather look at 'Mutt and Jeff' and 'Jiggs and Maggie' than read the best economic articles that could be written. The capitalist press is aware of the fondness of 50 per cent of organized Labor for funny pictures and extensively publishes them to keep that 50 per cent from supporting the Labor papers, and the 50 per cent wonder why organized Labor does not make more rapid progress toward its objective.—Industrial Banner.

BIG COLONY OF BRITISH FARMERS COMING TO CANADA

Over 200 young British farmers and their wives, called from Liverpool for Halifax, Saturday, on the steamship Caronia. It is their intention to settle in Canada.

REGULAR MEETING TRADES COUNCIL MONDAY EVENING

The next regular meeting of the Trades and Labor Council will be held on Monday evening, May 17th. All delegates are requested to be in attendance.