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A National, Sane Labor Paper

True Confidence and Understanding Between Employer and Employee Absolutely Necessary to Industrial Peace.

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Daylight Saving

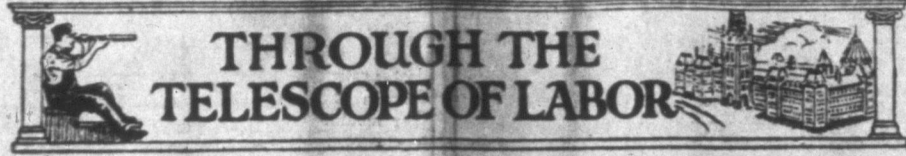
If there was any legislative measure affecting the welfare of the citizens of Toronto conceived in foolishness and born in ignorance, it is that by-law providing for the extension of summer time and known as the Daylight Saving By-Law.

It is almost incredible to believe that the Civic Fathers of a city as large as Toronto can year after year allow a measure to be imposed upon the citizens the effect of which is to create an intolerable burden for Housewives and Mothers, a hardship upon the health of children, a nuisance to the traveling public and the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars to industries in the city.

Supporters of the Daylight Saving measure would have a little better argument to bolster their position if the extension of summer time was nation-wide, but even they must admit that the present absurd situation, whereby one city has summertime and another city forty miles away has not, is nothing more or less than a piece of cruel and mischievous legislation. Mothers of children state quite openly that Daylight Saving upsets the discipline of their households and makes more difficult the task of molding their children's characters as a mother wishes them molded.

The farming community on the outskirts of Toronto is strongly in opposition to Daylight Saving and they claim that the difference in time is a source of expense to agriculture and it must be borne in mind that the agricultural community is responsible for a good deal of the expenditure that takes place in Toronto's trading centres. There is absolutely no doubt that Daylight Saving means the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars to the entertainment industry of Toronto affecting hundreds of workers in the theatres, vaudeville houses and moving picture establishments in Toronto.

The only persons whom such a measure seems to benefit are those who are devoted to amateur ball and lacrosse who after all form a small minority of the city's population and there is no valid or just reason why the welfare of the majority of the citizens should be sacrificed for the benefit of a small minority.



A Futile Strike

As an example of how foolish Labor can be on occasions, the case of the O'Keefe Brewery Company's strike in Toronto, which is still stated to be official, may be cited.

Several years ago an agreement was made between the Brewery workers' Union and the O'Keefe Company who for over twenty years had been a strictly union shop and from that time up to the present have paid the highest wages in the brewing industry which provided among other things that before another agreement would be concluded, the Union would organize all plants carrying on a similar business. It is obvious that this was intended to protect the union plant against unfair competition and of course was to the advantage of the union. When the time of renewal arrived, no steps had been taken to organize non-union plants and quite rightly the O'Keefe Company refused to renew the agreement until the provisions of the previous one had been carried out. The Union called a strike which at the most affected thirty or forty men, all of the unskilled labor class and the time chosen was during a period when there was a large amount of unemployment in Toronto.

The strike could never have succeeded under any circumstances but as a matter of fact, all the men involved except five returned to work and have since remained loyal to the Company. In spite of these facts the Union still declares the O'Keefe Company to be unfair and from time to time attempts to coerce the Company without success.

To sum up the situation the O'Keefe Company have been in the right in this trade dispute, the Union has suffered through its own foolish action and has provoked resentment against it amongst the rest of the Labor movement and finally has demonstrated to the Public that a Trades Union can be a glaring example of futility in policy and leadership.

The "Canadian Labor Press" feels that if the interests of Labor and especially in the interests of the Brewery Workers' Union, this trade dispute should be closed, and the O'Keefe Company removed from the unfair list of the Union, a procedure that will gain for its members a reputation for looking at the actual condition of things instead of living on pretence in order to satisfy the demands of inefficient leadership.

LABORITE MOTION OF CENSURE LOST

London, Eng.—During a debate on the unemployment question in the House of Commons, J. Ramsay MacDonald, former Labor Premier, declared nothing had done the British business reputation and political intelligence more damage in the United States than the widespread belief there that the unemployment dole in this country is a state charity instead of a state insurance, as is the case. He ridiculed the contention that re-imposition of the McKenna duties has been a detriment.

The debate was precipitated by an attempt by the Labor Party to censure the Government for not dealing with the unemployment problem in an adequate manner. Although official weekly figures in recent months have shown a gradual reduction in the number of unemployed persons, Tom Shaw, who introduced the resolution of censure, stated the present figure of 1,198,077 unemployed was misleading, and that at least 7,000 more should be added.

Meet Union Official in Common Interests

Sydney, N.S.—At the close of the cross-examination of John W. McLeod, district president of the United Mine Workers of America, by R. M. Wolvin, president of the British Empire Steel Corporation, before the Royal Commission investigating the coal industry of Nova Scotia, the latter said he wished to announce that since the former in his testimony had shown a change of heart regarding the practice of withdrawing the maintenance men in industrial disputes, the company was prepared to withdraw their objections to Mr. McLeod as a union official and would be glad to meet him in the advancement of their common interests at any time.

Culinary Workers Go On Strike

San Francisco, Cal.—Two commissioners of conciliation of the U.S. Department of Labor, working jointly, report the settlement of a strike of culinary workers at the St. Francis and Palace hotels in San Francisco.

The objective of these workers was not attained and the efforts of the Department's representatives were directed toward securing the re-employment of the strikers on the old terms. In this they were quite generally successful. It was agreed that a number of the men should be reinstated at once and preferred list of the balance to be prepared, which would enable them to be re-employed as fast as vacancies occurred.

Have Larger Grain Crop

Moscow.—According to calculations of the people's commissariat of agriculture, the whole crop of this year amounts to 4,180,000,000 poods. Since 1911 there was no such crop in Russia. It surpasses the crop of last year by 3,000,000,000 poods. The whole production of agriculture in 1925 is estimated at 9,257,000,000 rubles, and in comparison with 7,300,000,000 rubles of the last year, it shows an increase of 19 per cent.

A Mighty Tree Grows Slowly

The slow growing tree is the sturdiest, and the one with the strongest roots is most likely to weather the gales and become a thing of strength, and a source of comfort to those who live in its shade.

The industry that is now controlled by the British Empire Steel Corporation possesses those qualities of growth. It began in a small way and grew slowly until it became strong and sturdy; it spreads its roots widely and deep, and it has weathered storms that might have shattered one of younger and weaker growths. It provides a comfortable livelihood for a multitude of people.

It was planted by the General Mining Association, an English Company, which took over the lease of all the minerals in Nova Scotia from the Duke of York and commenced to mine coal in Pictou and in Cape Breton about a hundred years ago. By the aid of the monopoly which it enjoyed the Association was able to lay a good foundation and to build up a more stable business than might have been possible if it had been subject to the chances that usually have to be met by an industry in its initial stages. When the time came for the monopoly to be terminated in the general interest, the Association was so firmly established that it was not hurt by the competition which followed the establishment of rival companies which were able to acquire mining rights and enter the field. By this time there was a larger demand for coal and there were opportunities for a larger development than the Association was able or willing to undertake. But the very freedom which was given to enterprise after a time brought difficulties in its train. There were soon too many companies for the amount of business that could be got. An important outlet for coal which had existed in the New England States was lost and for a time growth was hindered; but the roots of the tree were firmly set, and it only required proper husbanding and pruning to give it renewed vigor.

These came with the formation of the Dominion Coal Company in 1893 when all the companies operating in the South Cape Breton field were consolidated. New capital was brought in and a number of the most important mines were equipped with more effective machinery, and better means of transportation were provided. Some of the less vigorous branches were lopped off so that the growth could be concentrated in the main trunk and sturdier branches.

The Dominion Coal Company and the Dominion Iron and Steel Company became closely associated by the formation of the Dominion Steel Corporation which acquired the property of the Cumberland Railway and Coal Company at Springhill, and after solving the serious difficulties which had overtaken the operation of the mines there, put them on a sound and satisfactory basis.

During the war the coal mines and steel works in Nova Scotia were able to give the greatest possible assistance to the allies by providing large quantities of coal to ships engaged in transporting troops and materials, and of steel for the manufacture of shells and other munitions. It was as this period was coming to an end, conditions of extreme difficulty were imminent that the British Empire Steel Corporation was formed with the object of consolidating and strengthening the coal and iron and steel industry in Nova Scotia.

The new Corporation, which took form in 1921, was immediately faced with those difficulties. Restricted demand for the materials which are produced by the associated companies would have compelled them to reduce operations if they had continued their existence as separate corporations. The difficulties arising from the war have furnished the money which has been expended to put down and equip great coal mines and to construct great steel works, and with the men who have planned and directed and developed them, the workmen havehiped to create an industry which has done much for them and for all about them.

Reds are Given Long Terms

London, Eng.—A verdict of guilty was returned against the twelve Communist leaders tried in Old Bailey on charges of conspiring to publish seditious libels and violation of the Incitement to Mutiny Act.

Albert Inkpin, secretary of the Communist Party, was sentenced to 12 months in prison. The same sentence was given to Harry Pollitt, a noted Communist speaker; W. Rust, secretary of the Young Communist League; William Gallacher, member of the Communist executive, and Walter Hannington.

Sentences of six months imprisonment were given the seven other defendants: Ernest Cant, London organizer of the Communist Party; J. Ross Campbell, assistant editor of "The Workers' Weekly"; T. W. Winstingham, business manager of the same publication; Thomas Bell; Arthur Manus, chairman of the British Communist Party and member of the executive of the Communist International; John T. Murphy, a member of the executive of the British Communist Party, and Walter P. Arnot, director of the party's labor department.

The judge said that he would bind over each of the seven given six months imprisonment if they would undertake to have nothing more to do with the Communist organization, but all of them refused. The twelve Communists were arrested on October 14th and 15th in raids on Communist headquarters and other Communist centres in London. It was charged that the Communists had been preparing a campaign of violence with a view to terrorizing the public and undermining confidence in the Government. The arrests followed Communist efforts to spread dissatisfaction in the army and the circulation of inflammatory leaflets among the laboring classes. The earlier stages of the trial were marked by rioting outside the Bow St. police court, in which red flags were waved and red songs were sung.

Fear Walkout of Soft Coal Miners

Serious fears are entertained here that the strike of anthracite coal miners is to be strengthened by a walk-out of their brethren workers, the bituminous miners.

The charges leveled by President John L. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers of America, in a letter to President Coolidge, that certain of the larger soft coal operators are breaking their wage agreements are interpreted in Government circles as meaning that in a last effort to win the anthracite strike Mr. Lewis will attempt to call out the unionized soft coal workers.

Non-union operators in the bituminous field insist they are capable of filling the country's fuel demands should there be a strike in the union mines, but the opinion is expressed by those in close contact with the situation that in the event of a soft-coal tie-up the public will be burdened with still higher prices for fuel than now prevail.

Employment Shows Seasonal Decline

Ottawa, Ont.—Employment on November 1st showed a seasonal decline, according to a bulletin of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The decline exceeded that recorded on the same date last year, but the improvement in recent months has been more marked than in the corresponding months of 1924 and November this year is better in respect to employment than last November. Statements were received from 5,876 employers whose pay rolls aggregated \$797,790, as compared with \$807,371 on October 1st. The index number declined from 98.3 on that date to 97.1 at the beginning of November, as compared with 95.9, 95.8, 95.8 and 96.2 on November 1, 1924, 1923, 1922 and 1921 respectively.

Construction, lumber mills, and canneries registered pronounced "rebound." The losses in construction, which followed a very active season, were unusually heavy and were probably accelerated by the inclement weather early in the month.

Strikers Held on Assault Charges

Toronto, Ont.—Charged with assaulting Gabriel Pearl, Baldwin street, when they are alleged to have struck him in the eye and otherwise mauled him, Zella Sherman, Charles Sherman, Merris Sherman and Gabriel Sherman Baldwin street, all members of the one family, were arrested recently by Detective-Sergt. Johns and Detective Williams. Pearl claims that he lost \$45 during the assault. Pearl is a clothing manufacturer and the Shermans were employed by him. Recently they went on strike. The alleged assault is a product of it, the police say, the Shermans waylaying Pearl on his way home and injuring him.

Would Make Mines Government Owned

New York, N.Y.—A Federal corporation fully controlled by the United States Government, and handling all the anthracite coal properties, is provided for in a Bill to be introduced in Congress by Representative Loring M. Black from the Fifth New York district. Mr. Black, in describing his plan said that the stock in the corporation would be entirely government owned.

Under the Act, where the agreement of the miners with the Federal corporation as to money shall be different than that which the private operators would allow, this difference shall go into a trust fund in the possession of the corporation. When the emergency passes the trust fund could be the subject of a suit by miners and operators with the Federal corporation as stock holder, in the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

Coolidge Studies Lewis' Charges

Washington.—Receipt of the Miners' Union complaint that some bituminous coal operators were disregarding the Jacksonville wage agreement, was acknowledged by President Coolidge in a letter to John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers at Philadelphia. In it the President said he would make a full reply after study of the charges advanced by Mr. Lewis.

The complaint which was made Sunday in the form of an open letter to the President, said the wage contract had the approval of Government officials when drawn up and asked whether the Federal Government cared to intervene or would consider the miners justified in taking steps to enforce it. These steps were described.

Boycott Mussolini

London, Eng.—Premier Mussolini, of Italy, is assured of an unfriendly reception from the followers of the Independent Labor Party, the Socialist wing of the Labor movement, if he comes to London on December 1st for the signing of the Locarno security treaties.

The National Council of the Party has issued a warning to the Government that any official visit by Mussolini would be resented by all sections of the public which respect liberty.

It also called upon the workers "to be prepared to express their condemnation of the cruel suppression of labor and the Socialist movement in Italy, by a united and effective protest, should it be necessary."

Speaks for Disarmament

London.—Speaking at Lincoln recently, Sir Samuel Hoare, minister for air, appealed for Air Force Reserve recruits. "The world is staggering under the burden of armaments," he said, "and as far as I am concerned I should welcome an opportunity that can be safely taken for reducing them."

"The critical battles of the future will be fought over our great cities, and the chief sufferers will be the children, men, women and children of our great towns. But air development has made immense strides. Let me give you a single illustration. In the whole of the late war only some 300 tons of bombs were dropped by enemy aircraft in this country."

"Air forces could today drop almost the same weight in the first 24 hours of war, and continue this scale of attack indefinitely. I need not dilate upon this terrible and repulsive picture."

And then he had the impudence to ask for more recruits.

Lewis Meets Operators' Official

Harrisburg, Pa.—Leaders of opposing factions in the present anthracite controversy—John L. Lewis, President of the United Mine Workers, and Major W. W. Inglis, head of the operators' Wage Committee—met Governor Pinehot separately here to discuss the situation and found time to talk to each other. No word of progress came out of the three meetings, all of the parties adhering to an agreement to preserve silence as to what was discussed.

The man then left the court. Interviewed subsequently, Sir John Blaker said that his remarks were not addressed to the unemployed.

Not All Lazy

Sir John Blaker, the senior magistrate in Brighton Police Court recently protested against young men treating the court as a place of entertainment.

The Bench, he said, thought that if they were unemployed they should be out looking for work. A neatly-dressed young man, who said he had been drawing the dole for five weeks told the Bench that he thought such remarks should not be addressed to the unemployed, because they were genuinely looking for work. "We are not all lazy men who are drawing the dole," he ended.

The man then left the court. Interviewed subsequently, Sir John Blaker said that his remarks were not addressed to the unemployed.

Fewer Men Seek Work

Toronto, Ont.—There have been many less applications for employment at the Government Labor Bureau this Fall than last year at this time.

This year, the delayed threshing has delayed the home-coming. Many of them, too, have gone to the coast, while others have remained in Winnipeg, though these cities will not assist unmarried men.

This year the number of applicants for work at the Ontario Labor Bureau in September was 885, of whom 563 were single and 322 married. In October there were 915, of whom 515 were single and 396 married. To date, for the months of November, there have been 619, of whom 353 were single and 266 married. The total for the three months to date is 2,419, of whom 1,435 are single and 984 married.

The total for the same 3 months last year was—September—1,125, October—1,107 and November—2,413 of an aggregate of 4,538, against 2,419 this year, or about two to one showing a bettering of conditions here.

The skilled tradesmen are in demand, specially bricklayers. During the last few days some jobs have been visited by Americans who are looking for bricklayers for jobs in Niagara Falls, New York, where one man could place twenty, with a guarantee of three months' work at \$1.37 1/2 an hour.

Garment Workers' Strike Settled

Chicago, Ill.—Settlement is announced of the four months' strike of garment workers of the International Tailoring Company, New York, N.Y., and Chicago, Ill. The strike was inaugurated by the Amalgamated Garment Workers' Union to secure recognition of its organization. Both the company and the union have declined to state the definite terms of settlement, but it is understood that all departments of the company are to be unionized. Nearly 1,500 workers are directly involved in the settlement.