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That crowd at Ottawa promises to
hang on for dear life and they will
have quite a job on their hands in
doing so. When a paper as rank as the
Toronto Evening Telegram hints that
its time for Borden to quit, things must
be in desperate straits with the big
interests administration in the capital.
Well, the longer they manage to hold
on the greater the thud, when they
come down an everybody knows nothing
can stop their coming down any-
way.—Industrial Banner.

EDMONTON FREE PRESS

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NOT ONLY BACK YARDS NEED CLEANING

The workers of this country stand convicted of being responsible for the conditions under which they live and labor. All the conditions so noxious to Labor are the result of laws or lack of laws, and until such time as the producing masses of the country assume a proper political responsibility, they can hope for no permanent relief.

The man who takes no interest in politics because of the corruption of present political life, is to be pitied as well as censured. He by his indifference, aloofness and inactivity is helping to retain the very conditions that he uses as an excuse for standing aside. There is as much reason to refrain from cleaning up one's back yard because it is dirty, as there is to take no interest in politics because of the corruption that exists.

A goodly percentage of trade unionists are politically conscious and as a whole the members of organized Labor are as well informed and interested in political affairs as any other group. But there is still a great deal lacking in intelligent activity on the part of the wage-earners of Canada, organized and unorganized. Now is a good time to get busy. Let the workers read and think, analyzing their position and the relation of laws to their living and working conditions, and they will undoubtedly come to the conclusion that political and economic interests are interchangeable and inseparable. If the workers will think deeply and earnestly there need be no fear that their political action will be harmful to anything but the forces of privilege at present entrenched in the political life of our country.

OPPRESSION INVITES REVOLUTION

Those who advocate and uphold the suppression of free speech and a free press are evidently of the opinion that a certain class in this free country should do the Canadian people's thinking. They would throttle the criticism of established social and political customs, opposing change and advancement. They would convict and imprison the advocates of political ideas calculated to bring in a new social order.

If there is that about the present order that will not stand searching criticism, it should go. Fearless Wendell Phillips once said: "If there is anything in the universe that will not stand discussion, let it crack." Thomas Jefferson said: "The spirit of resistance to Government is so valuable on certain occasions that I want it always to be kept alive. It will often be exercised when wrong, but better so than not exercised at all." William E. Channing said: "If nothing reaches the people but what will lend support to men in power, farewell to liberty." This last is seemingly the aim of the present ruling class. They terrorize free speech, censor sources of information and exclude and suppress all propaganda other than that calculated to help in retaining the present unjust and inequitable system of society. The spirit which seeks to imprison men for expressing honest opinions, even wrong opinions, is not the spirit that fosters freedom and progress. On the contrary oppression invites revolution and violence attracts violence. In his great essay on Milton, in which he dealt with one of the transformation periods of English history, Macaulay said:

"We deplore the outrages which accompany revolutions. But the more violent the outrage, the more assured we feel that a revolution was necessary. The violence of those outrages will always be proportioned to the ferocity and ignorance of the people, and the ferocity and ignorance of the people will be proportioned to the oppression and degradation under which they have been accustomed to live."

P. O. EMPLOYEES PROPERLY INCENSED

The Free Press last week carried a story showing the gross violation of the principle of promotion from the ranks in connection with the appointment of an assistant postmaster for this city. Not only does the appointment of an outside man constitute an injustice to Edmonton postoffice employees, but the bringing in of an outsider is in direct contravention of the spirit of the Civil Service Bill which states that all local appointments shall as far as practicable be made from bona fide residents of the locality in which the appointment is made. It would in all probability be difficult to prove that it would not have been "practicable" to promote a member of the local staff to the position that has been filled by importing a man from Winnipeg, whose classification in the Civil Service is lower than that of some of the local employees.

The Edmonton postoffice employees, the South Side Community League and the Trades and Labor Council have sent protests to Ottawa regarding the injustice done to local employees in the recent appointment. It is very discouraging to local men to know that they are not to have an opportunity to succeed to higher positions when such become vacant in the city where they have made their home. Such treatment of workers will tend to produce mediocrity in the service and if only for selfish reasons the public should be concerned when an injustice like the present is committed in connection with the filling of the higher positions in the public service. The recent appointment is very similar to the one which precipitated the firemen's strike and the local men, who are properly incensed, would be justified in making an even stronger protest than has yet been made.

GET OUT AND VOTE.

The City Council has decided to again submit to the burgesses the money by-laws which met such an ignominious fate two weeks ago. The council is quite within its rights in so doing, for it has the right to know whether or not the taxpayers want to borrow the money necessary to carry out the proposed improvements. Certainly the recent vote did not signify anything because of the few who took interest enough in the city's welfare to bother voting.

The Free Press would like to see the by-laws carry, but we are chiefly concerned in having the opinion of the taxpayers clearly expressed. It is to be hoped, then, that a little civic interest will be shown on May 31st. We would rather see the by-laws defeated with a large vote than have them carry with a small proportion of the burgesses voting. There is no reason why a large vote should not be recorded and whether favorable or unfavorable to the proposals submitted, this paper would urge all tax-payers to keep the date in mind and rally to the polls in large numbers to record their votes.

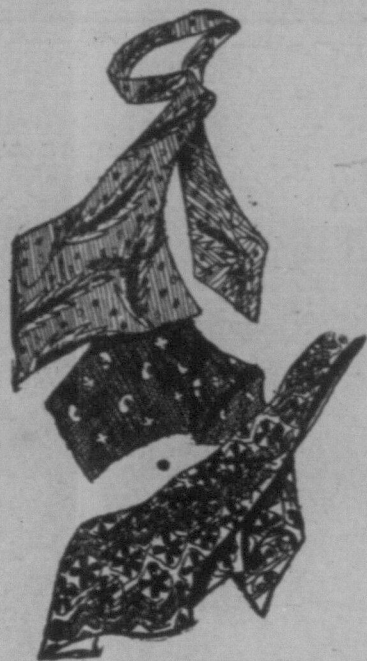
EDITOR'S NOTES.

Keep up the clean-up!

With potatoes at four-fifty a bushel it would seem that somebody is coming mighty close to profiteering.

The half-holiday amendment to the city charter was passed for the workers' benefit. From the workers themselves should come any requests for exemption, a fact which the city council very properly took into consideration in adopting the suggestion of the Trades and Labor Council to the effect that no exemptions should be considered unless seventy-five per cent of the employees affected made a request for exemption. Once more the central body spoke for all the workers, organized and unorganized, but especially the latter.

The department of municipalities and health was probably the most efficiently managed of any of the divisions of the Alberta administration. The death of Hon. A. G. MacKay removes a man who was a great source of strength to the Government and one whose place will not be easy to fill.



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Men who will spend a few minutes looking through our range of Spring Clothing will realize at a moment's notice that in spite of the lowness of our prices we do not carry one poorly tailored or unworthy Suit in our entire stock. There is a degree of quality in every Hudson's Bay Suit that more than offsets the price asked. This, together with perfect fit, style and faultless workmanship throughout, make Hudson's Bay Clothes for men the best values in the city. The New Spring Suits are priced from

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Our range of Spring Neckwear is superb. Featuring the fancy silk flowing end ties at **\$1.25 to \$2.50**
Real Irish Poplin Ties at **\$2.00**
Silk Knitted Ties at **\$1.25 to \$2.00**

News from Men's Shoe Section Men's White Rubber Boots

Made from the very best quality white auto tire rubber. In 9-inch top, in the lace-up style, with heavy rolled edge sole and solid rubber heels. Sizes 6 to 11. Regular \$7.00 pair. Wednesday Special, **\$5.95** per pair.

Men's Light Weight Rubbers

A special mid-week clearance of men's first quality light weight rubbers. All styles and sizes in the lot. Regular \$1.75 pair. To clear Wednesday Special, **\$1.48** per pair.

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Black and Tan Shoe Laces of good quality; 36 inches long and regular 10 cents per pair. Very special Wednesday, **25c** 4 pairs for.

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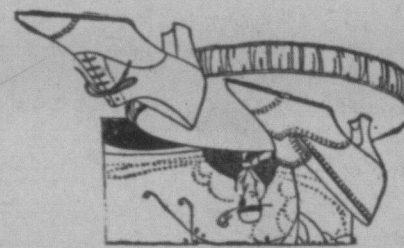
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Ladies' Patent Calf Oxford, with plain toe, stitched tops, short vamps, Cuban, military and leather heels. B, C and D fittings and all sizes. Price **\$8.50** per pair.

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HUDSON'S BAY CO.

A careful reading of Walter Smitten's articles now running in the Free Press will leave the reader well informed on the question of Labor legislation in the province.

When a movement is builded upon the slander and villification of individuals or movements it has not a very strong foundation. It is not surprising that the O.B.U. is fast crumbling.

Any class of workers can organize. There is no barrier of occupation, race, color or sex.

Mark Twain said: "My kind of loyalty is loyalty to one's country—not its institutions or its office-holders. The citizen who thinks he sees that the Commonwealth's political clothes are worn out and yet holds his peace, and does not agitate for a new suit, is disloyal—he is a traitor."

No great fortune has ever been amassed through the efforts of one individual.

I.L.P. PROGRESS IN ONTARIO IS GREAT TRIUMPH

Great Mass of People Have Confidence in Ability of New Democracy to Make Good

"As was the case after the phenomenal St. Catharines bye-election, in February, 1919, and later the greater victory gained in the provincial general election, so has the splendid triumph in Temiskaming braced up in an even greater degree, the energies of the battling I.L.P.," says the Toronto Industrial Banner, in dealing with the progress of the labor movement in that province. "From all sections of the province requests are coming in for organizers to be sent to institute new branches, and nearly all the existing branches are arranging for launching local organization campaigns."

"The workers are growing confident in their growing solidarity. They have begun to realize that numbers count. They have learned to believe that they can really do things that are worth while, and the great mass of the people are beginning to have confidence in the ability of the new democracy to make good."

"There is an old but true saying that 'nothing succeeds like success,' and surely in the less than three years of its existence the Independent Labor Party has met with success in abundance. The sentiment is manifesting itself everywhere; the people have learned to distrust the old parties and their hollow professions and election cries."

"The I.L.P. and the U.F.O. hold the road to-day, and if a provincial or federal election was brought on immediately, this winning combination would assuredly sweep the boards."

Everybody is asked to produce more, but thus far the consumer alone responds, he producing more small change.

London tram girls have been "demobbed" to make room for the male conductor's coming out of khaki.

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