

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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The Canadian Labor Press

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CO-OPERATION AND COMMON SENSE VS. REVOLUTION AND STRIFE

In an article on the front page of this issue, we endeavour to point out the dangers which beset Canadian workers and Canadian industry from the activities of the representatives of Soviet Russia in Canada.

Every meeting and every utterance of the members of this organization of industrial outlaws, who are bent on putting Canada on a plane with Russia, is a pungent attempt in this direction. They have also called printers' ink to their aid in the form of an official organ of their party. This paper was commenced as a monthly, is now a semi-monthly, and it is their proud boast that it will be a weekly before convention time. The publication is full of Revolutionary and Socialistic ideas and the insidious propaganda is being spread broadcast in Canada. A recent issue of the paper contains a report of the International Convention at Moscow of the Workers Party, and the delegate from the Canadian branch of this organization describes vividly what took place at this convention, and the throbbing of revolution that permeated the atmosphere, and goes on to say that the prospects are good for a world revolution.

We are confident, however, that our readers are not going to be led astray by this false doctrine, and they will continue in the path of common sense and co-operate with their employers in a true brotherly spirit, remembering that these same employers are merely industrial workers who have developed into leaders, but have a far harder job on their hands as leaders, and their responsibilities have increased enormously.

THE WRONG ANGLE

While we are, perhaps giving the One Big Union Bulletin undeserved prominence, we must confess that we find in it so much humor of an economic variety that we are reluctant to deprive it of a wider circulation than it appears to get. The Bulletin is nothing if not "slashing" in its methods, and its bombastic proclamations to the "proletariat" are in the true Napoleonic strain. Almost we can see the O. B. U. editor, surrounded by an admiring circle of the Winnipeg Central Labor Council, chest well out, and with hand raised to heaven calling on mankind to witness that he, and he alone, has the true and infallible remedy for the woes of a suffering world. Almost we can hear the plaudits of his auditors and without undue exertion we can visualize the Winnipeg Central Labor Council dissolved in tears, as it emotionally gasps its devotion to a modern Moses. It is a touching vision.

True to the Communistic creed of "hypnotic suggestion" the Bulletin harps on the well worn string of coming starvation. "Capitalism cannot feed its workers," announces Moses in capital letters, and proceeds to elaborate the theme with the further development of capital employment will decrease and the lot of the working class be harder to bear. Finally, in a glowing peroration of eloquence, he announces the remedy:

"It is in our interest to organize with our fellows into an organization of our class to propagate our ideas, so that, when enough of us are ready, we may scrap this old mad-house system of exploitation and erect in its place a system where the existence of an abundance of good things shall be a blessing to society, and not, as it is today, a curse." Wonderful and yet again wonderful. Continued on Page 4.



A great many people begin to save and fail because they haven't any definite plan. They save "once in a while". The person who ties his Big Ambition to that method has a long and weary wait for fortune. Practice the simple exercise of saving trifles. Decide to save when tempted to spend.

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PUBLIC ARE DECEIVED ON DRUG PROBLEM

We hear much discussion of the dope evil, but if we are to believe Dr. Ernest S. Bishop, most of the discussion is either ignorant or carried on with the object of deceiving the public. That Dr. Bishop may be classed as an expert is established by the fact that he was formerly resident physician for the narcotic prisoner wards at Bellevue, New York; is on both the New York State and the Federal Narcotic Committee; is a member of half a dozen hospital boards, and is clinical professor of medicine at the Polytechnic Medical School. For the past fifteen years he has been lecturing and writing on what he calls the opium dependent's disease. So we may safely accept him as a competent authority, and while the remarks he makes apply particularly to the State of New York, they probably have a wider application. In brief, he asserts that the present situation with regard to dope addicts has been brought about by a few corrupt medical men and lawyers operating politically, and that their object is not to put an end to the disease but to make a profit by increasing it.

The Sick Man

In an interview with a New York World reporter, Dr. Bishop said: "Do not say dope fiend. Better say opium dependent and speak of his trouble as the opium dependent's disease. When you stigmatize this fellow's misfortune by a sordid vocabulary you are branding a sick man. It can be proved by blood tests that any red-blooded animal given regular doses of any form of opium for more than a month contracts the opium dependent's disease. His organism sets up some antidotal toxin which requires opium in some form to counteract its effect; in other words, a mechanical process within his body has been set in motion and, has made him ill. He should no more be ashamed of his illness than you would be if a thyroid gland had been removed from your throat and you were prescribed thyroid to counteract the effects of the poison within your body. . . . Every poster depicting an octopus or a snake as a symbol of this man's illness is worth a fortune to the smuggler, peddler, black-mailing type of official and fakelore promoter."

Doctor's Shot Off

Dr. Bishop says that after every war there is an increase in the number of those who take narcotic drugs. They have contracted the habit through no fault or desire of their own. They have been given morphine to deaden their pain, and the habit has been fastened upon them. Not to limit your drug would have resulted, perhaps, in the loss of hundreds of thousands of lives. These opium dependents return home, and what do they find in the State of New York? They find that there is not a single responsible doctor in the city who will undertake to treat them. Why is this? It is because a few corrupt doctors and lawyers were able to have legislation enacted which prevents a doctor from treating such cases in the only way they can be treated, and this method involves the use of the drug. It is illegal for the doctors to prescribe these drugs. Therefore, when an addict presents himself the doctor does not treat him, for he cannot tell whether he is an informant, a sufferer, or perhaps a man who expects later on to block, mail the practitioner.

What, then, is the sufferer to do? Two courses are open. He may present himself at an institution that advertises its ability to cure the habit, but Dr. Bishop says that there

are practically no available facilities for the treatment of opium addiction today, and most of those that do exist are hopelessly incompetent and are beneficial only to the peddler and crook. The sufferer may go to one of these institutions or he may not, but the result is the same. He will not be cured, and so to escape torment, he has to get his supply from the underworld. He is made to feel that he is the lowest of the low, that there is no escape or cure for him, and abandoning all self-respect he sinks helplessly into the clutches of the demon. For this Dr. Bishop does not blame the opium dependent. He blames the little clique that has laws passed which made it impossible for the addict to be rationally treated by reputable members of the medical profession. If dope makes criminals, as all are agreed, then those who deprive them of the only possible cure are responsible. Dr. Bishop says the press of this country was duped by these alleged reformers into supporting various bills which built off the addict from the expert practitioner, from whom alone he had anything to expect in the way of alleviation and cure.

The Fakers

These facts, he contends, have been brought to light in more than one official investigation. For instance, the Legislative Committee report of the New York State Medical Society referred to an interested group of not more than ten men in the medical profession and a couple of lawyers, who had got control of certain committees at Albany and whose recommendations were incomplete and unreliable. The present laws regarding the addicts are said to have been inspired by an ex-insurance salesman who bought a formula for the alleged cure of addiction and established an institution for its exploitation. The narcotic drug situation did not exist until there were pseudo medical and administrative "cures." It came in with the alleged cures, and will go out with them. Evils have been advertised which did not exist until the belly-aching campaign was begun. All real work has been suppressed, but the medical profession, when it gets the chance, will again set to work rebuilding in the light of past experience for stabilizing the rational treatment of a disease on a plane of constructive remedy.

PROTECT YOUR WEEKLY WAGES

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GIRLS CAN LIVE ON \$12.50 WEEK SAYS MacMILLAN

Explains Steps Taken in Setting Minimum Wage for Women. MANY WORK FOR LESS.

At the recent meeting of the Ontario Minimum Wage Board, the chairman, Dr. J. W. MacMillan, outlined the history of the minimum wage proposals for office workers, and explained that the lines drawn by the board were based upon the cost of living. After careful investigation of conditions in this city the board had decided on \$12.50 as the lowest sum upon which a girl employed in an office could live in a wholesome, respectable manner. Board and lodging, he declared, could be obtained in quite desirable homes for \$7 a week, and on the remaining \$5.50 other expenses might be covered.

The board, he stated, had inserted, just as an experiment, a modest advertisement in the city papers, asking for experienced office workers at a wage not exceeding \$10 a week. In reply 94 applications were received from girls who either had no positions or were getting less than \$10.

Worked for \$6 a week.

Twelve of these girls were interviewed, and one confessed to having had 15 years' experience, while several had from four to six years' experience. One had stood in a line of 57 applicants for a \$6 a week position, and, together with her unemployed companions, was willing to take anything to get steady employment.

Dr. MacMillan also explained that provision had been made for girls presenting diplomas from an accredited business college, or from the commercial department of a high school, these workers being released from the necessity of serving a period of training, and entering at once upon the full minimum salary.

Temporary workers had been provided for in the clause stipulating that where the term of employment was less than two months the minimum wage in full should be paid.

In answer to a question as to what the term "office workers" meant, Dr. MacMillan replied it in-

cluded not only trained stenographers and book-keepers, but girls employed in doctors' and dentists' offices and in all phases of office work.

Considerable discussion took place on the possibility of \$12.50 being made to cover expenses. Mr. W. Elmes, who had acted as paymaster in a certain business institution, argued that this wage did not allow for sufficient recreation and for a decent vacation.

Miss Hislop took the stand that the question of how a girl spent her time after working hours was of paramount importance, and the consensus of opinion on the part of all visitors seemed to be that \$12.50 was scarcely a sufficient wage.

Dr. MacMillan patiently met all the arguments. The board, he said, would be delighted to have the minimum raised if possible. The proposals were based on long and careful investigation and with due regard to both employers and employees. Other wage schedules drawn up by the board had proved satisfactory and the minimum wage merely protected the worker against an extremely low salary; it did not pull down high salaries.

Mr. Foster, of Hamilton, after listening to the many arguments threw out rather a silencer when he explained that the Minimum Wage Board had no control over male labor and pointed out that, if female workers were too high in price they would simply be dismissed and boys taken in their stead. This, he said, had already happened in the case of other classes of workers. Mr. Foster also emphasized the need for co-operation of all sorts of workers. The board, he believed, might sometime be able to set a higher minimum if all helped to establish the rates already made. The improvement had to be a gradual one, and, under present conditions \$12.50 for office workers seemed a reasonable minimum.

"We are concerned with the poor girl on the edge," said Dr. MacMillan, who admitted that \$12.50 a week did not provide for luxuries or the indulgences of pride, but did protect the workers against unwholesome living conditions. He emphasized again and again that \$12.50 was merely the minimum for experienced workers, and that, to the ambitious, industrious and clever the ladder of success was still there to scale.

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