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## EDMONTON FREE PRESS

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### MORE AND BETTER EDUCATION.

Present educational methods are today under the critical review of many people who are thinking along democratic lines. The deplorably small percentage of children who receive more than an elementary education is commanding greater attention than ever before, and democratic educationalists and others are seeking to bring about the consummation of an educational system that will give every child the opportunity of a practical and useful education that will properly prepare him or her for citizenship. It should be made possible for every child to attend high school and the school should be made an institution that would permit the pupil to develop along practical lines.

Adult education is also a matter that is receiving a great deal of consideration in many parts of the world at this time, and the University is undoubtedly destined to play an important part in that direction. The Trades and Labor Council and the Labor Party might well make a move in Edmonton along the line of the Workers' Educational Associations in Britain, and approach the Government with a view to utilizing the Alberta University to promote adult education in the city and throughout the province.

On another page will be found a report of Professor Gaetz' address on "Education as a Factor in Citizenship."—Mr. Gaetz holds some very advanced views on educational matters and his plans for widening the usefulness of the high school and broadening the scope of the University, are worthy of serious consideration by Labor men and others who are interested in making the educational institutions of the country useful to all the people.

### WAGE-EARNERS THE LOSERS.

Writing in a Canadian financial journal some time ago an authority on finance made the bold statement that Wall Street would do all in its power to prevent a decrease in prices for the reason that high prices meant big profits for everybody—meaning everybody engaged in the business of manufacturing and selling.

It is not difficult to follow the above line of reasoning. Suppose it cost a manufacturer one dollar in 1914 to produce a certain article, including labor, rent, depreciation, interest and all other charges. Of course a profit must be realized and ten per cent is added, or ten cents on the article. Suppose that in 1920 the manufacturer is turning out an equal number of articles, at double the cost of production; adding ten per cent for profit the manufacturer receives twenty cents on each article as against ten cents in 1914. The advantage of high prices is thus easily discerned. But it does not stop there. The wholesaler, jobber and retailer carrying out the same method of adding profit would all reap a gain of double that of pre-war days. It is possible, therefore, that manufacturers and others when accused of making fortunes out of the high prices may be quite truthful in stating that they only realized the same percentage of profit as in 1914. But according to the latest government figures the cost of a family budget has increased approximately 110 per cent. Thus the manufacturer, wholesaler or retailer who made a profit of one hundred thousand dollars in 1914 would, by receiving the same percentage of profit in 1920, realize two hundred and ten thousand dollars by producing or selling the same number of articles.

The workers as usual are the ones who suffer from the result of high prices and big profits. It has been clearly shown that the increase in the cost of actual necessities for the average family has increased by 110 per cent. We doubt very much however, if wages have been increased on an average of more than 35 per cent. The average capitalist has been enabled by his own wish to increase his income through high prices, providing for greater luxuries and extravagances than before, while the average worker has been forced to a lower standard of living than existed in pre-war days. It would appear that while those engaged in business are permitted to add profit on the percentage basis there is not likely to be any decrease in prices, and the wage-earner will continue to suffer.

### IS THIS JUST OR RIGHT?

The Capitalist invests his capital, or part of it, in an industry, and he receives in return a number of benefits. A return is received in the form of dividends or interest. The Capital investor receives a share in the control of the industry in proportion to the amount invested; if he is the sole contributor of capital he has sole control. When he so desires he may withdraw his capital and its value has not been impaired by its use in the industry. Or if the investor dies his heirs will possess the capital in his stead and it loses no value by his death.

Look, however, at another picture. The investor of labor in industry is not so well repaid. For his investment he receives a return in wages, which can be placed alongside Capital's return in interest. But there Labor's returns halt. The life or labor investor does not have a voice in the control of the industry in which his investment is made. Only the capital investor has that privilege. Unlike Capital, the life investment deteriorates with use and when it is finally discarded nothing is left but a broken body that constitutes a burden to the owner and those upon whom he is dependent. When the investor of labor in industry dies his investment dies with him and those who had been dependent upon him have been cut off from their source of revenue.

The Capitalist invests substance, dollars; the worker invests his life, humanity. But the investor of capital or property always gets the greater consideration. Is it just? Is it right? Is it democratic?

### THE FOUNDATION OF CITIZENSHIP.

A celebrated New York mission worker once made the observation that, "You can't preach religion to an empty stomach." It was an exceedingly apt remark, the essence of which might be very generally applied. It is not easy to inspire the worker to high ideals and noble aspirations if he is compelled to eke out a bare existence in sordid and unhealthy surroundings. The starting point in raising the standard of citizenship must be in the bettering of the physical or material conditions of the citizen. With long hours, small wages and the resultant low standard of living, comprising as it does insufficient and improper food, poor housing and unsanitary surroundings, it is difficult to elevate the mental, moral and spiritual life of the individual.

All reform or uplift effort should have its foundation on the principle of a national minimum; not of wages but of actual living conditions. All effort to improve the mental, moral and spiritual condition of mankind is likely to fail unless the material needs are taken into consideration. That is Labor's stand on the question of better citizenship.

### EDITOR'S NOTES.

We recommend a careful reading of Mr. Alex. Ross' contribution to the debate on the speech from the throne. Mr. Ross is the sole representative of Labor in the legislature, and his remarks should be the concern of his fellow trades unionists.

The community may suffer some inconvenience when a body of workpeople find it necessary to go on strike to force a stubborn employer to pay a decent wage. But it is better to have the public inconvenienced for a short time than to have the workers suffer the decided inconvenience of a starvation wage for an indefinite period.

Organized Labor can justifiably be said to represent all wage workers. The unorganized possess no means of expressing their desires and trade unionism is the only institution through which the aims and desires of the working class can be promulgated.

## Heralding in the Spring With Advance Showings of New Home Furnishings

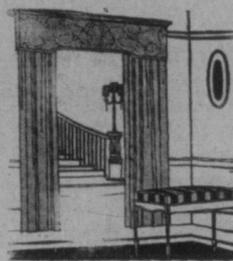
No more interesting section of the store could be found right now than our Home Furnishing Dept. For the past few weeks shipments of Carpets, Rugs, Curtains, Draperies, Cretonnes, etc., etc. have been pouring in, transforming the department from winter into spring garb. You are invited tomorrow to look these splendid spring furnishings over.

### Curtain Velours Have Taken Another Big Jump in Price

Fortunately we have a big supply on hand, having bought heavily in anticipation of this contingency. They are a beautiful rich lustrous quality, in shades of rose, blue, green, tan, brown and sand. Suitable for hangings, portiere curtains, etc.; 50 inches wide. Away below their value today. **\$4.00**

### Charming English Cretonnes for Spring Coverings

We have just received a new shipment of these beautiful English Cretonnes. In attractive bird and floral designs. Colorings are in-tans, and blues with cherry designs in contrasting colors. Suitable for coverings, side curtains and draperies; 31 inches wide. Price **\$1.35**



### Just Arrived, a New Shipment of Real Scotch Madras Curtains Muslins, Special 75c Yard

These are quite the finest qualities we have received for some time past. A beautiful range of designs to choose from; double borders with fine scalloped edge. In cream. Madras Muslins are excellent for washing and are suitable for any room in the house; 45 inches wide. Price **75c**

(THIRD FLOOR)

### Fine English Curtain Nets Arriving Daily

The shipments which are daily coming to hand are quite the most beautiful we have ever received. The range includes 20 point lever lace nets, 15 point flat nets and flat panel designs; 45 and 50 inches wide. Be sure and see these charming curtain nets for spring. Priced at **\$1.50 to \$4.50**

## New Dress Goods and Silks for Spring Wear

The popular daylight dept. on the Second Floor is ready with the finest of all new goods for spring. A visit to this attractive Section of the store will prove of great interest, if you wish to know what is to be worn in shade and fabric this coming spring.

### 54-inch Wool Tweeds, Price \$3.98

These are a splendid weight for spring coats and separate skirts, in shades of green, grey and tan mixtures; 54 inches wide. Special value, per yard. **\$3.98**

### 50-inch Silk Jersey Cloth

One of the popular materials for spring in a splendid weight for suits, dresses and separate skirts. Black and pink only. Note the width, 50 inches. Price, per yard. **\$7.95**

### 40-inch Georgettes, Extra Special, \$2.45

This is an extraordinary value and will not last long at this low price. A fine even weave and in a full range of beautiful shades, also black; 40 inches wide. Extra Special, yard **\$2.45**

### Excellent Values in Black Taffetas Silk

We are now showing some excellent values in Black Taffeta, the popular silk for spring, in medium and heavy weights for dresses, suits and separate skirts; 36 and 38 inches wide. Priced at, per yard. **\$2.75, \$2.95, \$3.25 and \$3.95**

### 40-inch Satin Charmeuse

These are of a superbly rich texture and have pretty satin surface. The colors are of a depth and richness, only found in silks of the highest grade. A full range of beautiful colors to choose from, also black. Very Special, per yard. **\$4.75**

## HUDSON'S BAY CO.

At last we are to know the truth. We are informed from an authoritative source that the high cost of living is caused by high wages necessitated by the high cost of living.

The resignation of George N. Barnes from the Coalition ministry caused a great stir in British political circles. Mr. Philip Snowden, writing in the Labor Leader pays Mr. Barnes a splendid tribute, which carries the greater significance in view of the fact that Mr. Snowden and the retiring minister have very strongly disagreed on political questions.

"I am glad that a system of labor prevails under which laborers can strike if they want to." If Abraham Lincoln who spoke those words, were alive today he might have something to say about the anti-strike legislation now before the U.S. Congress.

The opposition in the local House is to be congratulated on the choice of a leader. We cannot, however, congratulate Mr. Ramsey, for we believe that he has accepted a thankless position. He has a poor following now and there is very little hope of improvement. Sympathy would be more in order than congratulations.

### HON. C. R. MITCHELL TELLS OF WORK OF LABOR CONFERENCE

Says Washington Labor Conference Was One of World-Wide Importance

The importance of the international labor conference at Washington was the subject of an address by Hon. C. R. Mitchell before the Edmonton Kiwanis Club at their noon luncheon, Monday.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out that the conference was no joke as some would have us believe, but that it was a conference of world-wide importance and one that the governments throughout the world would of necessity have to consider its deliberations sooner or later. The provincial treasurer, who attended the Washington conference last year as an advisory member to Alberta delegates, spoke of the strength that resolutions adopted by the conference would carry. "They must either be accepted or rejected by competent authorities. If we in Alberta fail to pass on these resolutions what happens? If Canada does not adopt these resolutions, it is likely that other nations will. Then the case will be represented to us that other countries have adopted them, why not Canada?"

So long as the league of nations exists, so must the conference be held, and so long as the conference exists will matters concerning labor legislation be brought for decision before the federal and provincial governments," said Mr. Mitchell.

In regard to the publicity end of the conference Mr. Mitchell said: "The newspapers of the United States did not tell the world as to what the convention was doing."

The speaker pointed out that of the 35 countries represented at Washington, 14 of these were of Latin caste; all countries had equal rights with Canada receiving an equal vote. It was of utmost importance, considered Mr. Mitchell, that this be the case in respect to Canada. In future it would be very necessary for Canada to be judged and privileged in the light of a nation.

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