Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press







The Canadian Labor Press 389 COOPER ST., OTTAWA

A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

LABOR UNIONS AND MERCHANT

Fifty or more years ago the merchant was a hard-working. plain-living individual, his necessities governed by his business his stock of goods by the demand of his trade.

In those days wage workers were earning small wages for an extremely long work-day; their demands were limited by a small pay envelope; their amusement practically limited to conversation; seldom discarding his overalls, except to attend a funeral, marriage, or church, when he wore his tri-yearly Sunday go

The demands of the wage workers, who constituted the great

majority of wonsumers, limited the turnover and profits tog, the merchant, hence the status of the merchant was little if any hetter than the wage worker. Long hours and smanll income was the rule.

With the rise of the labor unions canbe better wages and a short work day. This was followed by an early closing movement ment to the merchants. Higher wages created a bigger demand-for idensities and so-called luxuries. The profits were greater and his variety; and above and summit of the work for the standard of living of all layers of society, the merchant being an one exception to the rule.

What, then, does a strong labor movement mean to the merchants. Higher wages called the wage worker have better furniture at home with other comforts; good gats at the street, which is a poor customer at best-even if he char remain horses, and pay his debts. The non-union worker begging the is too proud it is more mone, went more money, can creep a little closer to the union worker is brother to a pauper, that is, the is a poor customer at best-even if he chair remain horses, and pay his debts. The non-union worker would be still worse of little more money, can creep a little closer to the union worker is brother, to a pauper, that is, the is a poor customer at best-even if he claim rathed of a \$10 one; as \$3 hat instead of a \$10 one;

mere money. When mions used the means of his getting more money, when middle money can creep a little closer to the union worker and, getting something which he did not help to acquire.

It is asknown you see a union worker begging; he is too proud, the soft-complete to the contrasting of the soft-complete to the soft-complete to the contrasting of the soft-complete to the so of every opportunity to acquire economic knowledge, and the meeting hall with its opportunities for discussion should not be MONTREAL RAILROADERS neglected. Sometimes a great deal of valuable time is wasted at our meetings in discussing points of order and needless disputes on delicate points of parliamentary law; this could be avoided often by the chair, but in a great many cases it is caused by a shops will be operating in the vicinity dearth of subjects of sufficient interest to create intelligent discussion. If we had a little more education along economic lines, subjects for improving our minds with debate would be plentiful.

Railway employees however, are not subjects for improving our minds with debate would be plentiful. Subjects for improving our minds with debate would be plentiful.

Subjects of living interest affecting every one of us in a lesser or greater degree come to the observer's notice every day. Take for instance the subject of underpaid labor. What a field for dismissed permanently. economic education there is in that question alone; the crime against the worker committed by society and the crime against society committed by society itself.

The subjects of the benefits to be derived from a shorted workday is a source of perennial inspiration for debate and a splendid subject with which to impart economic knowledge. This field alone seems almost limitless. Since the whole force of human effort has been directed to the pursuit of leisure, the importance of discussing the advantages of a shorter workday is at once apparent and its value as a factor in economic education becomes appreciated. Above and beyond this labor must be educated to appreciated. Above and beyond this labor must be educated to the fact that our aspirations toward higher social ideals can only be realized by co-operative action. When we have acquired an economic education, when we realize what our true position in society ought to be, it will be useless to us unless we know how a change can be effected. But an economic education will teach us that the power rests with ourselves to improve our conditions to a state undreamed of by the dreamiest of altruistic people. It will teach us also that a union of our forces at the ballet box will solve some of the economic problems that seem the most difficult of solution. Majority rules; we have the machinery if we had but the sense to run it. Economic education will supply this deficiency.-Exchange.

CONGRESS PRESIDENT
AGAINST WAGE GUTS

In an interview at Toronto Tom
Moore, president of the Trades and
Labor Congress of Canada, stated
employers in t he building trades
throughout the country are "unfair"
in demanding that there he a reduction in wages as an attempt to lower
the cost of living.

He said the worker should not be
called upon to share an undue proportion of the burden; that it was

FEDERAL LABOR MINISTER ADDRESSES OTTAWA AUDIENCE

with many of the questions of labor today.

Mr. Murdock made an appeal for cohesive effort and determination by Canadians to overcome labor problems existing today. He had taken the office of Minister of Labor under conditions which had never existed before and co-operation was never so much required as now. He thought conditions seemed to have cone from bad to worse since Nov. I, 1918. Two hundred thousand the nople were told labor was largely sponsible for some of the conditions in the minds of labor was largely sponsible for some of the conditions and to the strike.

Mr. Murdock declared that he way. This matter, the Premier said, was affecting the construction of the Commonwealth's 12,000-ton ships for which Australian steel was preferred, in the proper viewpoint on but intend to take sides but he hoped he absorbed the proper viewpoint on but intend to take sides but he hoped he absorbed the proper viewpoint on but intend to take sides but he hoped he absorbed the proper viewpoint on but intend to take sides but he hoped he absorbed the proper viewpoint on but intend to take sides but he hoped he absorbed the proper viewpoint on but intend to take sides but he hoped asked by foreign manufacturers. Resuter's Sydney, N.S.W. correspondent cables that the coal mines of validity of contracts. One of the unique of the coal mines of the coal m



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AGENTS

Waish & Charles, 06 Tribune Bidg.

Winnipeg, Man.

Maritimes Provinces—Jaz. Robertso

Company, St. John, N.E.

Company, St. John, N.E.

Columbia—Gordon & Belye

Chase's Nerve Food,

Dr. Chase's

Nerve lood

all departments.

Plain pronouncements on what sufficient to provide for a mere exist was to be his policy in office as caree, and which would enable them to accumulate a surplus to meet contingencies, always provided that affects at the annual meeting and dinner of the Ottawa Board of Trade. It was the first time Mr. Murdock has publicly announced his views on certain pressing labor problems since his appointment, and in characteristic, deliberate manner he delivered some forceful remarks that left no doubt as to how he intends to act when are dealing with many of the questions uppermost in the minds of labor to provide that the present state of affairs was to the depression of the last few months had not been thoughtless. Perhaps the depression of the last few months had not been altogether an unmixed blessing. It would help people to think how to prevent a repetition of it.

Mr. Murdock made an appeal for

ests of temperance was not an honest plga. In his opinion, the pro-posal was a subtle attempt of the liquor interests, and not the moderate

where ministriction and to unemployment according to regulations, the Government anderfakes to participate in the costs of such relief measures, and shall bear cipalities and the Federal Government, each in the proportion of one-third, the costs of such relief measures, during the period from one-third, the costs of such relief measures, during the period from the costs of such relief measures, during the period from the costs of such relief measures, during the period from the costs of such relief measures, during the period from the costs of such relief measures, during the period from the costs of such relief measures during the period from the costs to be the actual net costs of goods supplied; provided, however, that applications for the payment of the Government proportion of such the costs of such relief measures to include only are:

Among the regulations referred to make that costs have decreased, with the statement that present commercial printing houses her commercia

posal was a subtle attempt of the liquor interests, and not the moderate forces, to gain an advantage.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT

UNEMPLOYMENT RELIEF

The Ontario Government has issued an order-in-council to the effect that where municipalities distribute relief due to unemployment according to regulations, the Government according to replace the costs of within the mannicipalities and the Federal Government according to replace the covernment bonus was decreased by 25 cent., on the ground that the of living had decreased.

ONTARIO GOVERNMENT NOT AID NEW EDUCATION CALL The Ontario Government is prepared to undertake the finant portage.

food, fuel, boots, shoes, and underclothing provided by municipalities
for families in circumstances re
quiring assistance.

The municipality shall require that
all applicants for relief shall bave
received from the local offices of the
Employment Service of Canada, where
same is established, a card certifying
that the applicant has applied for
work and none is obtainable.

Where necessary, the Minister of
Labor, or such officer appointed by
him, to have access of all unemployment relief measure books and records of municipalities.

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with the statement that present
costs are about 50 per cont. above
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Another basis is the
steady shrinking of the Service, with
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