

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

A. P. HAYDON, M.C., Editor. A. H. BLACKBURN, Circulation Mgr. OFFICIAL ORGAN ALLIED TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF OTTAWA.

The Canadian Labor Press PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS, LIMITED. EDITORIAL OFFICE: JOURNAL BLDG., OTTAWA.

A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

IT is apparent from news items appearing in the British press that the Canadian Government is still recruiting miners, etc., in the British Isles, notwithstanding the declaration of the Labor Department in September last that permission to import miners had been withdrawn.

Under the heading "Welsh Miners Going to Canada," the Oswestry Advertiser, published at the Cross, Oswestry, Wales, on November 24, 1920, says:

"A series of lectures on Canada have been given in the district by Capt. W. Griffith, Canadian Government emigration agent for Wales, and crowds of young people of both sexes have shown keen interest in the prospects offered for domestics, agricultural workers and miners in the land of the Maple leaf.

"On Wednesday evening there was a very good attendance at the Parish Hall, Chirk, when a film of one thousand feet was shown by cinematograph, depicting scenes in agriculture and mining in Canada, and the lecturer described the country from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

"The Canadian Ministry of Labor have asked for 500 miners, the average wage of over 10 dollars (£2) a day for coal cutters being offered. There has already been a good response (40 from Wrexham and 10 from Chirk pits), and this batch of Welsh miners, all ex-service men, sail for Nova Scotia on Saturday in the Megantic, of the White Star Dominion Line. They have been granted free passage, and the same privilege is to be extended to the wives and families, who will follow at a later date."

From an entirely different source we find that some of the Welsh miners actually left the Old Land for Canada, for in the Daily Telegraph, published at 135 Fleet street, London, E.C., on December 2, 1920, under the heading "Miners for Nova Scotia," we read:

"Among the 1,400 passengers who left Liverpool yesterday for Canada by the White Star Liner Megantic is a party of miners, ex-service men, from Wales. They are going to Nova Scotia, under the auspices of the Canadian Government, and are offered \$10 per day. Other parties are to follow. All are given free passages, as well as their wives and families."

British newspapers are fairly reliable, and the above evidence calls for some explanation on the part of the Canadian Government. With all the unemployment in Canada at the present time it is passing strange that the Canadian Government would allow the importation of workers at this time.

Canadian workers have strenuously objected to the importation of labor until all available workers in the Dominion were employed, and more especially do they object to the importation of laborers at a time when in most of the industrial centres of Canada the unemployment question is the chief concern of municipalities.

CONGRESS ACTION CLARIFIES SITUATION

In view of the information contained in the official notification of the Executive Council of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada in revoking the charter of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employees, we are convinced that the Trades and Labor Congress Executive had no other course to pursue.

There certainly is no room in Canada for two organizations covering the same class of workers. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is the legislative body of the International Trades Union movement in Canada, and as such must further the interests of the members of the international organizations. Ever since the charter was issued to the Canadian Brotherhood efforts have been made to effect a settlement between the Canadian organization and the International Brotherhood. At the Hamilton and Windsor Conventions efforts were made to revoke the charter. Officials of the Congress stated that they were endeavoring to have the question settled, and the delegates left the matter in the hands of their officials. At the Windsor Convention Secretary-Treasurer P. M. Draper stated that the matter would be settled one way or other before the snow flies. The question was finally decided on December 14, and the C.B. of R.E. is no longer affiliated to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

This week an executive board meeting of the C.B. of R.E. was held, and in a statement issued by them they made certain charges against the elected heads of the Trades and Labor Congress. Further, officials of the C.B. of R.E., in statements issued to the press, claim that the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is not taken seriously by the workers of this country. The Grand President of the C.B. of R.E. considered the Executive Council of the Trades and Labor Congress so important that at the Windsor Convention he sought a seat on that board. He was defeated by a large majority. The C.B. of R.E. are also contesting in the courts the Congress' right to revoke their charter. Just what the legal aspect of the case is we are not in a position to state. Certainly a body that has a right to grant a charter should have the right to take it away.

However, the revoking of the charter will do much to clarify the situation. Already a large number of members of the C.B. of R.E. have signified their intention of joining the International organization, and the fact that all of the railway workers, with the exception of a few clerks, are members of international organizations, it is only a question of a short time until the International Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees will have a 100 per cent. organization in Canada.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

SHORT TIME URGED TO PROVIDE WORK

British Cabinet Urges Employers to Avoid Dismissing Workers.

LONDON, England (Sunday).—The protracted discussions by the cabinet on unemployment last week have resulted in a decision to set up a special committee to consider the various proposals which have reached the government. It is expected that Sir Allan Smith, M.P., and Arthur Henderson, M.P., who saw the Prime Minister on December 23, will be members of the committee, which is to be constituted by Dr. T. J. Macnamara, Minister of Labor.

The terms of reference have not been made public yet, but it is understood that they are wide in scope. One proposal by the cabinet is that, as far as possible, all industrial establishments of the government shall be placed on short time in order to provide employment for the greatest possible number of work people, both to avoid further reduction in establishment, and to absorb those whose employment has been terminated.

The government is also asking employers of labor throughout the country, including those in the public as well as commercial undertakings, to take a similar course rather than to reduce the number employed by dismissing. An appeal is being made to trade unions to co-operate in this endeavor to tide over the period of trade depression.

Attention will first be given, it is expected, to the proposal that a levy on industry, to be contributed by employers and workers who retain their occupations, should be made to supplement the insurance benefit of 15s. a week for men and 11s. for women. The idea on which this proposal is based is that of equalizing the burden of the cost of unemployment. There are obvious difficulties in view of the large number of workers who are on short time.

Apart from this question, the committee will probably undertake much needed survey with the object of ascertaining precisely the full extent of unemployment, the industries affected, and the causes, so far as it is possible to ascertain them. Knowledge of this kind is necessary before there can be a really effective consideration of remedies.

Information received from various industrial centres yesterday indicate that the situation grows steadily more serious. In Nottingham many former miners are having to pawn their furniture. In South Wales depression in the steel trade and especially in the tin plate industry grows worse, and at Pontypool fund subscribed by workers for charitable institutions have had to be used for feeding families of the unemployed. It is estimated that in Nottingham there are now 35,000 unemployed, including 5,000 former service men, and the distress is rapidly increasing. — C.S.M.

BRITISH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS NOT YET CONDUCTED UNDER P. R.

Ottawa, Dec. 29, 1920. Editor Canadian Labor Press:—The Western Labor News, Winnipeg, for December 19, contains a press despatch dealing with municipal election results in England. The despatch is headed in such a way as to give a very wrong impression as to the workings of proportional representation. The amount of Labor support given, at Bradford, for instance, Labor leads the list of parties with a poll of 39,700 votes and 11 seats, the Conservatives with 23,570 votes, 12 seats.

Proportional Representation did not work at the Bradford municipal elections for the simple reason that it was not tried. The bill to permit P. R. to be used by municipalities in Great Britain is still before the House of Commons. Up to the present, P. R. has been applied to Irish municipalities only. The figures compiled by the secretary of the Proportional Representation Society simply demonstrate the anomalies that occur under the present antiquated system of election. For instance, the Labor party at Bradford polled more votes than either the Conservative or Liberal parties, but nevertheless they did not elect a single representative. If P. R. had been in effect, eight Labor representatives would in all probability have been elected.

I have received a number of letters referring to this paragraph that appeared in the Western Labor News, and it is clear that a number of people have been misled by the heading into thinking that Proportional Representation had been tried and proved a failure. The paragraph is an indictment of the present electoral system.

Yours truly, RONALD HOPPER, Honorary Secretary, The P. R. Society of Canada.

MANY MANUFACTURED ARTICLES DECLINE IN PRICE.

The index number of wholesale prices constructed by Professor H. Mitchell, of McMaster University, Toronto, based on 49 commodities—29 foodstuffs and 20 manufacturers' goods—stood at 221.8 for the month of November, and a decline of 23.1 per cent. from the peak of 293.3 reached in May, 1920. Among the manufacturers' commodities declines were registered in rubber, wool, cotton, hides, iron, silver, lead, copper, tin, zinc, prepared paints, coal oil and oak, while hard maple rose. Rubber is now at a lower stage than ever before. In foodstuffs, flour, pork, bacon, lard, butter, sugar, potatoes, beans, oatmeal and apples. White wheat, mutton and eggs rose.

IS DEPRESSION REAL?

Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, and many other officials of the Organized Labor movement of this country have stated on various occasions that they were of the opinion that much of the depression in business was artificial, and was done with the two-fold object of reducing the wage standards of the workers employed in these industries, and to curtail production so as to keep up the price of the manufactured articles. Mr. Moore has been attacked in some parts of the Dominion by editorial writers for expounding "such foolishness" as these "leaders of public opinion" call it. However, events of the past few weeks are proving the truth of Mr. Moore's statements. Many of the factories that closed their doors for "an indefinite period" a short time ago are again reopening with increased hours and reduced wage standards. Many other concerns state that they are willing to resume operations just so soon as the workers will submit to the "open shop" and wages in keeping with the state of trade in their particular lines.

The C.L.P. has always contended that wages did not advance in proportion to the cost of living. Wage increases were never granted until after living costs had made it almost impossible for wage-earners to exist. It is unreasonable then to expect workers to submit to wage reductions until the cost of living shows some definite signs of declining.

In a recent bulletin issued the Executive Council of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada workers are asked to urge upon the employers the absolute necessity of reducing hours rather than the reduction of their staffs. The British Government recognizes this principle and have sent a request to the British employers to follow this course. More than that, the British Government has stated that each industry should look after its own unemployed. Certainly Mr. Lloyd George cannot be charged with class consciousness, as some of the Canadian "scribes" are wont to term our Labor leaders, but the Prime Minister of Great Britain is advocating a policy to which every member of the International Trades Union Movement can subscribe. What is wanted in Canada is a policy similar to that proposed by the British Government. The Bulletin of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada lays the foundation for a permanent solution of our employment, unemployment and under-employment.

Certainly if the depression in trade is real we should hear of no more increasing of hours and reducing of staffs, but rather will hours be shortened so that the maximum number of workers will be employed. So long as workers are laid off and the hours of the remaining employees increased the toilers of this country can not and will not believe that the cause of such action is other than a move to make bigger profits for the shareholders of the companies concerned.

SAVING THE BABIES

The saving of child life is attracting more and more attention both by government and cities, says the Montreal Star. Teaching how infants should be fed, nursed, and doctored are features of the various campaigns. The most elementary of these is the teaching of mothers how to feed their infants. The fact has been clearly demonstrated that in a very large number of homes there is a serious consideration of the proper care of infants. The result of this ignorance, it is shown, was nearly as harmful to child life as an unsanitary factory milk supply. Measures have been adopted in England to preserve child life that are worthy of most serious consideration. Statistics prove that the deaths among children in a great many English cities have, of late years, been greatly lessened.

ON TRADING WITH RUSSIA

By Tatler in Justice. Information has come out about that immense concession which an American Syndicate has acquired in Eastern Siberia. The gentleman who is said to have this contract in hand is Mr. Washington B. Vanderlip, a man who has been in Russia for 69 years, 400,000 square miles of territory in North-Eastern Siberia and the whole of the remaining territory up to the Pacific Coast. Russia agrees to buy within three years a million dollars and to pay in gold, platinum, furs, and other goods. Mr. Vanderlip says that the export of Russia, its aim being to establish commerce with the outer world, so we may say that Mr. Vanderlip's "forward" figures by six. Later information actually fixes the geographical position of the "estate" acquired. It is said to be a large tract in the eastern portion of the Yakutsk province of Siberia and the Kamchatka, and the remaining territory up to the Behring Sea. Mr. Washington B. Vanderlip may know exactly what Russia wants, and what she can give in return. He knows that Russia has practically no goods to export, then either he is ransoming a quarry, or he is known among big contractors—or the Bolshevik authorities have a whole host of stuff ready to export which their official publications do not mention. When you, Mr. Vanderlip, are a man who is a Washington and Lincoln combined, he magnanimated a great nation and freed 150,000,000 white people from slavery—when he talks like this, one begins to wonder where his imagination ends. According to Mrs. Sheridan, the business manager of the Bolsheviks, Mr. Vanderlip has most bourgeois ideas about women which should cause him to be regarded as a "counter-revolutionary." She also says of him: "Vanderlip is a source of some merit to the Communists. He has discovered a shop in Moscow that is allowed to sell the only remaining things the Government has not requisitioned. They are birds of paradise. He has bought yards of black cloth and white cloth of every conceivable description. He has written checks for more rubles than the Soviet Bank can find notes for. Russia says he will have to wait three weeks until they print more notes. All Moscow has heard of the purchase. It seems to me emblematical of all he stands for, and of all the women who do not work, but are worked for, who will receive them."

Perhaps, after all, these contracts and concessions are as imaginary as the numerous articles which Russia has to export. But it is an excellent Bolshevik propaganda, and may make the mouths of some of our merchants and traders water. An interesting development of economic experiment in Soviet Russia is described by a correspondent in "The Times." It seems that Lenin is now attempting to abolish money altogether in Russia. His idea at the back of the printing of innumerable Bolshevik rubles was to break the power of the finance lords everywhere. That he has succeeded in Russia is certain, but I am sadly afraid that all he has done beyond it is to make trading with Russia, under existing circumstances, almost impossible, even if all the "bourgeois" Governments were content to put no obstacles in the way of trading being carried on. Now all money is to be abolished in Russia. So for the purposes of foreign trade, "all currencies including the paper money issued by the Soviet Government itself, are to cease to be legal tender within Russia, and it shall be necessary to issue new currency with short-dated vouchers, renewable every two months." There are those among the Bolsheviks who consider that this experiment, keeping with short-dated vouchers will fail, and then yet another new currency will have to follow, and the printing presses will once more get busy.

Will the present suppression of all currency inside Russia have the effect of giving something like value, however low, to Bolshevik paper outside Russia? At present it has no value. It shall be curious to see the effect. Personally, I doubt if it will have any effect. There must be millions upon millions of Bolshevik paper rubles circulating in Russia, and if they cease to be of value internally and become even of some little value externally, I foresee some interesting developments. But I don't see how the "Soviet" authorities will have much with which to carry on foreign trade, if and when they are able to indulge in it, beyond the gold and jewels of which they may be in possession. And then probably certain banks will have something to say on the handling of those commodities. The abolition of money in Russia, if carried out, will mean the extension of rationing cards for everything, certainly among the populations of the cities and the large and fair-sized towns. I do not see how it can be carried out extensively in Moscow, and it is difficult to see how it can be carried out in the provinces. All things are pointing to what the Moscow "Pravda" describes in its issue of November 27: "The ruin of Russia has reached its culminating point. The restoration of our economic life must henceforth be our battle-cry. Our enemies point to the abolition of our democracy, their propaganda insisting upon this—that Bolshevism can destroy, but not create."

Modern industrial development has made trade systems more necessary than they have ever been in the past.—Tom Moore. "On the political topic of the day the trade unionist is a citizen."—W. H. Fringing.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal.—Can.

WHY I JOINED MY UNION AND WHAT IT HAS DONE FOR ME

(Loena Huntzinger, Philadelphia Women's Trade Union League). I was a "lone worker" in Philadelphia when I "joined my union." A business depression and lay off of two-thirds of our forces compelled me to seek a new job. I had grown so accustomed to spending the day at the old place that I felt wronged in some way by this order of ejection, and it did upset my line of least resistance. Having learned only one line of work, to go to another meant much effort and low wages even if "paid white learning." "Nonsense," I turned to the place where I could follow the same trade. The only such place I knew was called a "closed shop." Just what that meant, I did not know, but it was to be a shop where there were without joining the union. I secured a price list from a person who had worked there, and used it to back up my arguments that our prices were about as good as theirs, and we wouldn't join any union. It was enough to have a fore lady yelling at a person, I thought, without having anybody else everybody, just like ourselves, telling us what to do.

With my small knowledge of "unionism," of course I did not know that it was organization in other departments and in the other shops that necessitated uniform prices in order to hold the workers.

I soon learned that a policy to secure a job first and later to learn the details concerning hours, amount per week, and rate per piece or dozen, when pay day came, I followed custom and awaited developments. A week passed, and no one mentioned unions or gave orders, and the fore lady did not yell, but everybody attended strictly to business. My first pay convinced me that a better system of giving out and completing work existed. It was more just and less exacting. The spirit of the girls was more independent and less slavish. This better system had enabled me to do better on what seemed cheaper work. I liked it better than I ever liked the other and asked for admission for a friend as soon as there should be room for her.

Another week passed, and I began to build for myself a little "union." Not but just about quitting time a girl bent over me and in a cheery voice said, "I came to see if you wanted to join our union." I stopped my machine and studied her face. Only kindly comradeship was expressed there. "I did not come last week because we were full," she said, "but I'll give you two to give her a chance." I smiled at her frankness and after a few questions paid the dues and so became a member of a labor union because I had no further arguments against it. The Lace Finishers' Protective Association it was. Later, I think the Lace Finishers' Protective Association with the Men's Union, and so finally became a part of the A. F. of L.

I soon learned that the union was a kind of partnership in which every advantage or injustice affected all concerned in exactly the same measure. There were a firm selling our time and labor under contract of equal responsibility. Because of this fact, we took pride in turning out good work and refused to stand for a girl's work. But we were firm when the worker was not at fault.

Finding that complaints kept coming from certain part of the room, we insisted that the long neglected windows be cleaned to allow more light, and the complaints ceased. We demanded that the possibilities of a labor union be cleaned to allow more light, and the complaints ceased. We demanded that the possibilities of a labor union be cleaned to allow more light, and the complaints ceased. We demanded that the possibilities of a labor union be cleaned to allow more light, and the complaints ceased.

The improved system brought about by the union resulted in a greater efficiency in the work that was of even greater value than the actual wage gain. This because it enabled many to reach out with courage in other ways, such as evening study courses, and to move on to other business and accomplish things long held in their hearts.

True, some sleep on and fall to get a vision of the possibilities or the advantage of opportunities. But after 14 years as a union member I feel that nothing else boasts one like this partnership in our business life. It not only increases our efficiency and courage, but it instills a spirit of comradeship that is greater than our love of gold. Witness the amazing struggles in times of strikes when we scab on the others would bring money to avoid starvation. Yet loyally holds firm in all honest hearts.

LABOR AND THE BALLOT.

In the industrial field, labor loses and wins victories, but victory or defeat are accompanied by loss. But at the ballot labor should be invincible and its victories comparatively inexpensive. But with all of its strength numerically in political conflicts it will be the weaker party unless that co-operation which can be had only by organization and education.

It is not enough for labor to organize, although it can accomplish but little without it. There must be an understanding as to causes of evils sought to be remedied by political action or else there can be no concept of action or co-operation which is essential to success. And labor legislation, if enacted, must be based on justice, or public sentiment will demand its repeal. The greatest good to the greatest number must be organized labor's watchword if it hopes to win and retain the confidence of the people as a nation.

This means that legislation vitally affecting the interest of the whole nation should be considered before it is handed as a labor measure and placed upon the market. It is not enough for labor to defeat some of its enemies and elect its friends to office. It must sponsor wise and constructive legislation if it wishes the influence it justly is entitled to in shaping the policies of our Government.

In view of the International Trades Union Conference's condemnation of Bolshevism, what have Williams and the "Moscow" internationalists to say?

The WILLIAMS PLAYER PIANO FOR lasting satisfaction choose the Williams Player. Used as a piano, it has all the pure, full, resonant tones volume that has caused the Williams New Scale Piano to be called the "Artist's Choice."

Pure CHIROPRACTIC Straight. Have you heard about it? If you have any ailment investigate before it is too late. DR. J. W. DAVIS, D.C., Ph.C., Palmer Graduate.

THE McFARLANE SHOE, Limited THE FAMILY FRIEND, 61 De NORMANVILLE STREET MONTREAL, Quebec.

Armstrong Cork & Insulation Co. Limited 902 MCGILL BUILDING, MONTREAL, Que. and Toronto, Ont. NONPAREIL INSULATING MATERIALS.

James Coristine & Co., Ltd. Wholesale Manufacturers of FINE FURS. Hats, Caps, Gloves, Mitts and Mackinaw Coats. 371 ST. PAUL STREET MONTREAL.

CANADIAN ICE MACHINE CO., Limited CIMCO Supplies YORK Ice Machines WINNIPEG TORONTO MONTREAL.

F. P. WEAVER COAL COMPANY WHOLESALE LIMITED COAL 263 ST. JAMES ST. MONTREAL.

CHERRY CHEW KING GEORGE'S NAVY. And You'll Enjoy its LINGERING FLAVOR That's what they all say. TRY A PLUG TO-DAY.