Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

THE truth must be approached from many angles and whilst the Canadian Labor Press at all times will guard its columns from insidious propaganda it must be realized that the publishers do not hold themselves responsible for the views of the individual whose name is attached to any article that may be published. While every effort is made to present a subject in an authoritative way, it should be remembered that the only expression of the Canadian Labor Press is in its editorials.

The Canadian Labor Press is desirous of receiving articles of general interest and fictional stories, and will be pleased to consider such matter as may be submitted for publication. All contributions should be addressed to

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UNDER HANDICAP.

LEADERS of the two political parties have recently toured the country placing their views or political programme before large assemblies. Whatever province was reached in the various centres full preparations had been made for their appeals to be presented, and there was a unity in their following which carries a lesson to observant rank and file of labor. Different sections of the country undoubtedly made for some differences of opinions of the important subjects presented, but these were all assimilated in the movement for party and its success. Campaigns such as these must be effective, otherwise those who have played the game for control would no longer indulge in same, and the workers' party leaves a clear field for this effectiveness.

Thus Labor and its candidates have this heavy handicap to contend with, lacking a Dominion wide propaganda laying bare to public gaze one of its weak situations insofar as political action in the Federal field is concerned, which we may attribute to the lack of unity in the paths that lead to Federal politics. One glance at the workers' aspirants in the forthcoming British Columbia provincial elections shows the cleavage wrought by reactionaries, the list including: Labor candidates 2, Federated Labor Party 14, Socialist Party 6, with other sectional groups. This evil division extends even to municipal politics with Winnipeg showing at the present time a chaos which gladdens the heart of their opponents.

Thus the reason that a successful coast to coast campaign may not be held in the workers' cause. This situation of ill may be made a means of good if correctly analyzed by the misled followers of the reactionaries, realizing that the standard banner of the worker is the International Trade Union colors. Then, and not till then, when the isolated band of "rainbow chasers" and destroyers have lost their following to the fold of permanency and progress may Dominion thought be expounded through the voice of the International Trade Union movement.

* * * * *

HOW EMPLOYES' SCHEMES WORK OUT.

EVER since the armistice was declared employers, both large and small, have been endeavoring to have established some scheme to offset democracy in industry. Employers are willing to accept any scheme other than that proposed by the organized labor movement. However, workers are finding to their sorrow that these schemes of their employers are not what they seemed.

Down in Danville, West Virginia, the Dan River Cotton Mills established a government in their industry. Here is the way it worked out:

The "house of representatives" of the Riverside and Dan River cotton mills, representing approximately 5,000 mill operatives, voted for a fifteen per cent. reduction in the wage scale and the abolition of the customary ten per cent. bonus paid weekly for full time.

The "bill" will now go before the "senate" for action. If passed by that body it will be referred to President H. R. Fitzgerald of the corporation and his cabinet of eight other executives for approval.

* * * * *

LENINE-TROTZKY BEATEN.

SOVIET movements in Russia, as we are able to glean, if not at all agreeable, give opportunities to judge of extremes with their heavier than substance so essential to their "different from others" programme. The moneyless age is shortly to be given birth, although we are of the opinion this situation is hoary with age in many quarters, and cannot be called innovation. Some of their followers on this continent can fall right in line with this plank of the Soviet platform, especially the Calgary Conference reactionary element who sent their greetings to the Lenine company; they having an empty exchequer can pride themselves on adopting a moneyless age before Soviet Russia.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers In the Motherland Are Doing.

OUR WEEKLY BRITISH LETTER.

WESTMINSTER, England (Saturday).—Last week was an unprecedented one in modern parliamentary annals. Following on the barricading of Downing Street, it was suddenly decided to close both houses at Westminster to the public. The House of Commons debate, therefore, has been listened to this week only by parliamentary correspondents and peers. Constituents seeking interviews with members, sightseers, and the public generally, have been allowed no further inside the building than the door which separates St. Stephens' Hall from the outer lobby. Some hundreds of additional policemen, including plain clothes men armed with revolvers, have been stationed in the House, and one or two are met at almost every corner and doorway. There is a patrol boat on the Thames to complete the picture.

The serious work of the Commons is finished, as far as the present session is concerned. A number of relatively unimportant bills are helping members to mark time until the Irish bill and the agricultural bill return from the Lords. There have been as many as half a dozen of these minor bills before the Commons at a single sitting.

A diversion, possibly an exciting diversion, is promised next week, when there will be a debate on economy. Members are thoroughly roused over the question of expenditure. Coalitionists, no less excitedly than "Wee Free" Liberals and Labor members, are talking of little else at the present time—at any rate, outside the chamber.

Efforts at Retrenchment.

Two committees are at present sitting for the purpose of dealing with salaries, one for leveling up ministerial salaries, the other for "revising" (that is increasing) the salaries and expenses of members. So keen is the determination on all sides to cut down expenditure, that concern has arisen lest even these committees will be unable to carry through their programme. The hunt for economy is not confined to members. Ministers have themselves decided to lead the movement, and have already announced—as cynics everywhere anticipated—suspension of the operation of the "costly" Education Act. In Great Britain the first economy is nearly always made at the expense of education. Under the imoulse of war, when men were afraid of a calamity, it was brought home to the people generally that the possession of education was not merely a luxury or ornament. But the war has passed. Economy is needed. Educational enterprises must go.

Now that the Irish Bill has passed its second reading in the House of Lords, there is little doubt felt that the bill is safe, apart from amendments to the clause dealing with second chambers. On the other hand, there are signs that the government is a little anxious about the fate of the Agricultural Bill, the main purpose of which is to encourage agriculture by granting minimum wheat prices to farmers.

Agricultural Bill Opposed.

Lord Lee, in moving the second reading in the Lords, made an astonishing point that the worst "scare" during the submarine campaign against England had been caused by only nine German submarines, operating around the coast, that no fewer than 2,000 British ships were needed to defeat them, and that each submarine cost the country £20,000,000 for its destruction. Despite Lord Lee's argument for increased production, the government decided not to risk a second reading division and the debate was adjourned till next week.

Much "lobbying" will no doubt be done in the meantime. The bill raises, in another form, the old controversy over protection. The "Wee Frees," for instance, argue that one might as well put up a protection tariff to encourage the British farmer as to guarantee minimum prices, indeed better so, because it would not involve expenditure on the part of the Treasury.

From Many Sources.

Healthy discontent is necessary to progress.

No social conditions are eternal.

Change and progress are a law of the social world.

Individuality is preserved by organization.

The labor movement is the organized discontent of the race with social conditions.

The war of the revolution, the abolition of chattel slavery, the liberty of Cuba from the yoke of Spain, all resulted from discontent of the people.

The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is not for the pessimist. Union men find hope in union.

In the union the workman regains the economic and social importance he has lost through division of labor and specialized industry.

Some men live a life of dreams. They centre their thought upon an ideal system of society; they want nothing but this ideal. Some expect it in a thousand years, some in one hundred years, some in our time.

The trade union movement in Canada is not revolutionary. It does not expect to change the system of wealth production by a platform, nor reform all property relations by a vote.

The form of the labor movement or organized discontent in any country is determined by the political and industrial conditions existing in that country.

The old shoemaker is lost in the eighty machine hands who make a shoe. In the union he becomes again a shoemaker—a shoeworker, not simply an appendix to a machine.

"They never sleep, these great revolutionists" (Lenin, Bukharine, Kameneff, Radek, Trotzky, etc.)—Tom Quelch in "The Communist." This way madness lies.

"The folly of others is ever most ridiculous to those who are themselves most foolish."—Goldsmith.

Lord Northcliffe is writing his diary. Is it worth while?

"One ought never to be satisfied with any stage of progress."—Sir Robert Horne.

U. S. NATIONAL CATHOLIC WELFARE COUNCIL OPPOSE OPEN SHOP CAMPAIGN

Open Shop Campaign Threatens Not Only Welfare of Wage-Earners But Whole Structure of Industrial Peace and Order.

The social action department of the National Catholic Welfare Council has issued a statement from its headquarters in Washington denouncing the drive being made by certain groups of employers to disrupt the international trades union movement. It is pointed out that most of the "radical disturbances" in Europe have been brought about by just such actions on the part of the employers, and that industrial conditions in America are now being endangered by the campaign of a few groups of strong employers to subjugate the workers. The statement is as follows:

"The 'open shop' drive of certain groups of employers is becoming so strong that it threatens not only the welfare of the wage earners, but the whole structure of industrial peace and order. Employers sometime favor the 'open shop' because they do not want to be limited in the employment of men to union members. But the present drive is not of that kind. The evidence shows that in its organized form it is not merely against the 'closed shop,' but against unionism itself and particularly against collective bargaining. Of what avail is it for workers to be permitted by their employers to become members of unions, if the employers will not deal with the unions? The workers might as well join golf clubs as labor unions if the present 'open shop' campaign is successful.

"The 'open shop' drive masks under such names as 'The American Plan,' and hides behind the pretence of American freedom. Yet its real purpose is to destroy all effective labor unions, and thus subject the working people to the complete domination of the employers. Should it succeed in the measure that its proponents hope it will thrust far into the ranks of the underpaid body of American working people.

"The Bishops of the National Catholic War Council who issued the programme of social reconstruction, said: "It is to be hoped that this right—the right of labor to organize and to deal with employers through representatives will never again be called into question by any considerable group of employers." The Archbishops and Bishops of the United States in their pastoral letter proclaimed again 'the right of the workers to form and maintain the kind of organization that is necessary and that will be most effectual in securing their welfare.'

"During the war the national war labor board recognized and protected a genuine kind of 'open shop,' one which assured the non-union man freedom and the members of the union the right of collective bargaining. That is not the kind of 'open shop' for which the drive is being made.

"The unions were necessary even during the war when working people found their labor in great demand. They are still more imperative now, and they must keep their strength and grow. Otherwise we shall see a repetition of the old bad days when the workers were utterly dependent upon their employers.

"There is great danger that the whole nation will be harmed by this campaign of a few groups of strong employers. To aim now at putting into greater subjection the workers in industry is blind and foolhardy. The radical movements and disturbances in Europe ought to hold a lesson for the employers of America. And the voice of the American people ought to be raised in the endeavor to drive this lesson home."

WHAT'S BECOME OF THE MORE PRODUCTION CRY?

Samuel Gompers in the American Federationist.

What has become of the propaganda for increased production and break-neck speed in industry that flooded the country less than two months ago? Is this propaganda enjoying a momentary ebb according to planned schedule, or has it been forgotten permanently? The world needs production — full-time production — as badly now as it needed it three months ago, or two months ago. While the propaganda was at its height, labor pointed out the fact that employers were preventing full production and went into some detail to show that such was the case, lamentable as it was.

The proof of employers' insincerity was strong then. It is convincing today.

Today we read such headlines as these:

"Thousands of Idle Forcing Wages Down."

"Seventy-five Thousand Detroit Workmen Lose Factory Jobs."

"Increase Reported in Labor Stability."

"Labor stability" means that workmen are sticking closer to the jobs they have in the fear that they may not be able to replace those jobs if they quit.

We are confronted with industrial hypocrisy in a highly perfected degree.

The world needs production. The employers have been saying so for months. They began with the armistice and they continued until a few days ago. Now they have stopped saying so.

The reason is not that the world's needs have been satisfied. The reason is twofold: Inflation is coming out of the business structure and in that process employers see what they believe to be an opportunity to cut wages, though there has been no inflation in wages. Secondly, the more unscrupulous employers believe that by laying off workmen with an announcement of curtailment necessities, the same or other workmen can be hired within a brief time at a sufficient wage reduction to make the temporary suspension justifiable from a profit point of view.

When inconvenience is caused temporarily by the workers in their effort to overcome obstinate and unjustifiable opposition in the struggle for human betterment, there usually is a public clamor and protest. When employers, for profit, adopt policies that strike at the very support of human life, where is the public clamor, where the high-minded protest?

Wheels of industry may be stopped for "business reasons" and the morals of society are not outraged. But when the wheels of industry stop because the workers have declined to contribute their services under conditions which they cannot tolerate, society's moral code is affronted at once and the affront is given ready expression by a press not too well educated in the how of getting at industrial truth.

The long and short of these facts lead to the conclusion that the world needed production until recently because production was profitable, and that it no longer needs production because production is not at the moment as profitable as it was, or as it may be a little later.

The working people declare that the world needs production now as much as last month, or two months ago, or a year ago, and that to interfere with the forces of production is a social crime which society will some day find a way of visiting with proper punishment.

A BILL FOR THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE RAILWAYS OF FRANCE.

A bill for the nationalization of the French railways has been drafted by the Economic Labor Council and will be defended before the Chamber of Deputies by Blum, Deputy for Paris. Paragraph two of this bill indicates the method of buying out the railways. The state will guarantee the interest and the redemption of the bonds issued by the company, and the minimum dividends for each company, according to existing conventions, until the expiry of the concessions. In exchange for this compensation the companies will be transferred entirely to the state without exception or reserve of any kind. The state will also acquire the funds of the Pensions Fund, the liabilities of which it will assume. Paragraphs 3-7 outline the new organization of the railways. The National Railway Office will be administered by a Central Council of 48 members, one-third of whom will be representatives of the producers, one-third representatives of the consumers and one-third representatives of the interests of the nation. The Central Council will have in general all powers of initiative and decision necessary for the working and development of the railways. The following will be its principal duties:

1. To nominate a permanent delegation of 12 members from amongst its numbers;
2. To distribute the services among the three general administrations (Permanent Way, secretariat of the Central Council, and the Permanent Delegation);
3. To nominate and dismiss the three general directors;
4. To determine scales of salaries and the remuneration to be granted to members of the Permanent Delegation, to the general directors and the regional heads of services;
5. To approve the budget;
6. To establish the amount, the form and the date of the loans to be issued under the conditions provided by para. 9;
7. To fix transport tariffs;
8. To approve collective contracts.

In the regional areas the management will be in the hands of three regional directors (traffic, permanent way and locomotive). Each regional director will have a consultative regional council composed of 24 members. Para. 7 and 8 regulate financial questions. The annual budget, the balance-sheet and the profit and loss account will be prepared by the general council in agreement with the permanent delegation. They are approved by the Central Council. The budget of the office is voted yearly by Parliament as a supplementary budget; each annual budget will be accompanied by a balance sheet and the profit and loss account of the preceding year.

Transport tariffs will be fixed by the Central Council according to proposals put forward by the general directors. They will be calculated without taking into account the profit, but in such a way as to cover entirely the working expenses of every kind, and the reserve and sinking funds, the latter being fixed by the Central Council for each category. When the accounts of one or several operations show a profit or a deficit, the Central Council will modify the tariff accordingly.

According to paragraph 10, a collective agreement of limited duration will be concluded between the Central Council on the one hand and the National Federation of Railwaymen on the other. This council will determine the national basic wages, regulate promotions, holidays, procedure and disciplinary punishment, methods of administration of pension funds, assurance funds or others. It will determine after consulting the regional councils the amount of living allowances and the variable co-efficients to be granted, according to local conditions. This scheme aims at suppressing all intermediaries between the public and those who serve it. It institutes the principle of administration by those who are directly interested. It suppresses the present division into different companies and decentralizes by means of regional councils.

HE KNEW.

Teacher—"Don't you know that punctuation means that you must pause?"

Willie—"Course I do. An auto driver punctuated his tire in front of our house Sunday and he paused for half an hour."—Boston Transcript.

THE RIGHT WORD.

"What is this man charged with?"

"Carrying congealed weapons, your honor."

"Carrying what?"

"Congealed weapons. He soaked Murphy in the eye with a chunk of ice."

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal.—Cain.

A weekly minimum wage of $12 for women and minors employed by telephone companies, laundries, factories and mercantile establishments is announced by the Texas industrial welfare commission. Employers may deduct 20 cents for each meal furnished these employes.

Opponents of this beggarly wage called attention to a survey by the board that the average living cost for women in this state is $13.48 a week.

MINIMUM WAGE LAWS URGED.

Miss Jeannette Rankin, who was the first woman Representative in the United States Congress, is now making a tour of the country, endeavoring to bring about the passage of minimum wage laws.

THE PUT-IT-OFFS.

My friend, have you heard of the
town of Yawn,
On the banks of the River Slow,
Where blooms the Wait-awhile
flower fair,
Where the Sometime-or-other scents
the air,
And the soft Go-easys grow?

It lies in the Valley of What's-the-use,
In the Province of Let-'er-slide;
That tired feeling is native there,
It's the home of the listless I'don't-care,
Where the Put-it-offs abide.

The Put-it-offs smile when asked to
work,
And they say they will do it to-
morrow;
And so they delay from day unto
day,
Till death cycles up and takes them
away;
And their families starve, beg or
borrow.

YOU BET THEY DO.
By Thomas West.

It's an undisputed fact
Where labor unions are unknown
The master lives upon the meat,
The toiler gets the bone.
Where people are uncivilized
There's very little pay,
They toil along incessantly
Without a word to say.

They have no strikes in Borneo,
Sumatra or Soudan;
They never strike in Zululand
Or in Afghanistan.
No strikes occur in Java,
In Siam or Timbuctoo;
But in countries that are civilized
They strike—you bet they do.

The toilers take their medicine
In India and Malay
Without a kick or whimper,
They just know one word, "Obey!"
But if you will investigate
You'll find this to be true;
In countries that are civilized
They strike—you bet they do.

SHE WOULD, OF COURSE.

"Where are you going, Maggie?" asked Lizzie.

"I'm going to the dentist," said Maggie.

"Are you going to have gas?"

"Well, rather," said Maggie. "You won't find me sitting in the dark with no strange man."—Houston Post.

COULDN'T BE WORSE.

"I want a pound of butter."

"The best?"

"What was the last I had?"

"The best."

"Give me a pound of the other."

APPLICATION TO PARLIAMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application will be made by the Municipal Corporation of the City of Ottawa to the Legislative Assembly at its next session:

1. For an Act authorizing the said Corporation to provide by Bylaws for borrowing upon debentures, without obtaining the assent of the electors thereto, the following sums of money for the purposes specified:

(1) $65,000 to provide for the construction, equipment and furnishing of a Nurses' Home in connection with the Isolation Hospital, and for the purchase of laundry machinery.

(2) $20,000 to provide for the construction of a relief sewer from a point at or near Pinard street, thence across the Rideau River to a junction with the main sewer at or near Dufferin Road.

(3) $100,000 to provide for the cost of water main extensions, and new water services.

(4) $40,000 to provide for the purchase and installation of water meters.

(5) $50,000 to provide for the purchase and installments of fire hydrants.

2. AND for an Act validating Bylaw Number —— of the said Corporation, being a Bylaw authorizing the laying of a new asphalt and wood block pavement on Wellington Street between the westerly limit of the Dominion Government property and Pooley's Bridge, and upon the said Bridge, and all assessments made for the costs thereof, and all proceedings taken in connection therewith.

3. AND for an Act amending the Ottawa City Transportation Act, by striking out the word "after" in the second line of subsection (1) of section 17 thereof, and by substituting thereof the word "without," or in the alternative, for an Act amending the said Act, by providing that, notwithstanding that the Corporation may have given the notice referred to in section 32 of the said Act, and have proceeded to arbitration as therein provided, it shall not be obliged to acquire and to pay for the railway and the real and personal property of The Ottawa Electric Railway Company, used in Ontario, in connection with the work thereof, unless and until a Bylaw providing for the borrowing of the amount due the said Company shall have been first submitted to and approved of by the electors qualified to vote on money Bylaws. (The answer given by the electors upon certain plebiscite votes to be submitted to them at the annual municipal election in January, 1921, will determine the form in which the above legislation will be submitted.)

4. AND for an Act providing for the appointment of a Town Planning Commission for the City of Ottawa, and prescribing the powers and duties of such Commission.

The existing debenture debt of the said Corporation, exclusive of debentures issued for Local Improvement purposes, the repayment of which is provided for by special rates and assessments, is as follows:

General Corporation debentures	$6,236,078.44
Collegiate Institute debentures	725,779.42
Public School debentures	2,511,870.00
Water Works debentures	3,267,691.62
Municipal Electric debentures	799,000.00
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