

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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NEWSPRINT AND WAGES.

TWO news items emanating from various parts of the North American continent bearing on the same subject appeared in many of the Canadian newspapers on April 27. One of them is as follows:

COBALT, Ont., April 27.—The Abitibi Power and Paper Company plant at Iroquois Falls will be closed for a month, commencing May 15, according to information received here today. On re-opening, the reduced wage scale that has been proposed will be put in force. The prospective cut amounts to thirty per cent.

The second news item is indeed very interesting following the despatch from Cobalt. It follows:

NEW YORK, April 27.—Warning against a future demoralization in the newsprint market, T. B. Williams, president of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, in his address opening the 34th convention of that body today told publishers that newspaper advertising rates should not be allowed to descend.

He pointed out that newspapers must meet the problems in both materials and labor since the average contract price of newsprint for the first six months of this year is higher than the average contract price for all last year.

While the outlook in the newsprint market may be regarded as improving from the publishers' viewpoint, he said, "it has been pointed out that later in the year, some publishers may be tempted to make reductions in subscriptions or advertising rates and throw down the bars to all old-time wasteful practices and bad business methods, the abolition of which has been the chief constructive advantage gained during the war and the newsprint manipulations of 1920. These advantages must not be surrendered for any temporary fluctuations in costs."

The despatch from Cobalt intimates that the workers employed by the Abitibi Power and Paper Co. will have their wages reduced 20 per cent. after they have been compelled to take a month's holidays against their wish, notwithstanding the declaration made on the same day by the President of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association in which he points out that the price of newsprint is higher now than the very high prices which prevailed during the past year.

There have been constant declarations for increased production in the newsprint industry. Many papers have ceased to exist owing to the shortage of newsprint. Some newspapers are yet suffering from the lack of adequate news supply.

In the face of this the Abitibi Power and Paper Co. and other companies in Canada have closed their plants and refuse to allow the workers to produce a much needed commodity. Certainly the Government should take some action in the matter.

THE PRINTERS' 44-HR. WEEK.

THE employing printers of Eastern Canada are endeavoring to stay the International Typographical Union in the establishment of the 44-hour week in the printing industry. The International Typographical Union entered into an agreement with the employing printers through the International Joint Conference Council for the establishment of the 44-hour week in the printing industry on May 1, 1921. No objection was raised to this decision by the employing printers of Eastern Canada until April 1921. They now declare that the International Joint Conference Council had no authority to act for the employing printers, and that its decision is no way binding on them.

We are wondering what would have happened had the International Typographical Union decided that its agreements were null and void, especially during the war period when there was a shortage of printers and other costs were high.

The International Typographical Union refused to sanction a strike in the Montreal Star office last year because an agreement was in existence. It will be remembered that the International Typographical Union supplied the necessary help to the Montreal Star for the publication of its journal while some of its members were on an illegal strike.

The International Typographical Union has learned much during the past twenty years. It has saved a little money. It has studied industrial warfare. Should the employers decide for war instead of continued peace and harmony in the printing industry they will find the International Typographical Union ready to take up the challenge, whether it be peace or war. The question rests entirely with the employers.

CANADIAN AUTONOMY.

THE Big Smoke of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employes has much to say on the question of Canadian autonomy for International Trade Unions. He endeavors to persuade the railroad workers of Canada that the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employes is the only organization on the Canadian railroads which has complete Canadian autonomy. The Big Smoke forgets that his organization is a national one while the 16 Standard Railroad Labor organizations are purely International in aspect. Each and every one of them has complete Canadian autonomy.

The Minister of Labor, speaking in the Senate a few weeks ago, made the definite declaration that since 1912 no representative of any of the International Railroad Labor organizations had come to Canada from the United States in reference to wages, or working agreements. The Minister of Labor stated that all business for the Canadian membership for these organizations was done by their Canadian representatives.

The Big Smoke of the C.B. of R.E. now states that such is not the case, but that the C.B. of R.E. has been vested with complete autonomy insofar as Canada is concerned.

FACTORY ACT AMENDMENTS.

HON. Walter Rollo, Minister of Labor, has entered a bill in the Ontario Legislature providing for amendments for the Factory Act. One of the amendments calls upon the factory inspectors to report all violations of the Ontario Minimum Wage Board's ruling. The other amendment allows the age limit from 15 to 18 years. This has been done to make the Adolescent School Attendance Act of 1920 more effective.

The Adolescent School Attendance Act requires children's attendance at school up to and including the age of 16 years. These two amendments were requested by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

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POLITICS AND PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

By J. A. P. Hayden. The House of Commons to the forthcoming Imperial Conference of Prime Ministers at London, Eng. in June of this year, quitted its daily routine on Wednesday. The House was about to go into supply when the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert L. Borden opened up the question of the Imperial Conference. He was followed by Hon. W. Mackenzie King, who moved a resolution to the effect that no steps be taken to send a Canadian delegate to the Imperial Conference that would tend to change the relations of Canada to other parts of the Empire, and that no steps be taken to send a Canadian delegate in any way in new expenditures for naval or military purposes.

The House was one of the best of the present session. The Hon. Sir Robert L. Borden, now holding the position of a private member, distributed much information to the House and his address is one of the best summaries of Canadian political history that has been given to the country for many years. Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, referring to the ex-Prime Minister's address said: "In my judgment the right honorable gentleman (Sir Robert Borden) has practically graduated to the coming ministry of foreign affairs for Canada. His remarks were, certainly most interesting, and I am pleased to note that since he has been out of office he has been most generous to his great opponent. I have reference to his immediate predecessor. He has been generous enough to associate the name of Laurier with the makers of the 1841, were so intimately connected with our constitutional development. Let me recapitulate the thought and say at once that he himself has made some history during the last few years and that in his capacity as representative of Canada he has done us great service."

The Prime Minister's address was a very remarkable one. Rt. Hon. Arthur Meighen was not at his best. He was laboring with a subject upon which he appeared to have little information. He was very cautious in his remarks. Particularly was this in evidence when he referred to the Anglo-Japanese Alliance. He referred to the attitude of Canada in reference to this treaty. In this he differed with his colleague, Rt. Hon. Newton W. Rowell, the president of the Privy Council. Mr. Rowell would repudiate the alliance entirely and pins his faith in the League of Nations as the only safeguard to the peace of the world. The Prime Minister made reference to the position of Canada and our relationship with the great republic to the south. Just what position Mr. Meighen will assume at the forthcoming conference is hard to determine. Of this we are certain—the United States will be taken into account by Mr. Meighen in discussing the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.

The Prime Minister, amid cheers, stated that nothing will be done, so far as was concerned, regarding obligations for increased naval and military expenditures. In this connection the Prime Minister read a despatch from an official in London sent to the Imperial Government by the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Borden in 1918, in which the position of Canada was clearly defined.

According to the Rt. Hon. Sir Robert Borden, who was then Prime Minister of Canada, the time has not come when the self-governing dominions should embark on a naval policy of their own. The present Prime Minister was quite definite on the subject and left no doubt in the minds of the House that nothing will be done at the forthcoming Imperial Conference of Prime Ministers, so far as increased naval and military expenditures are concerned that will be binding on Canada in any way. The Prime Minister refused to have his hands tied at the Imperial Conference, and this position was upheld by Parliament.

Rt. Hon. Newton W. Rowell, the ex-president of the Privy Council, added much to the debate. He displayed a grasp of social and economic affairs of the world unknown to many of the present members of the House of Commons. Mr. Rowell is a firm believer in the League of Nations. He would repudiate the Anglo-Japanese Alliance and all secret treaties. The League of Nations is the international tribunal for the settlement of all disputes between nations. Mr. Rowell's address contained many references to the Treaty of Peace, and is an excellent contribution to the history of the war. He believed in the Imperial Conference for two reasons, namely:

"First—For the full equality of status of the Dominions with the Mother Country, and the recognition of the British Empire; and

"Second—For the principle of preserving the strength and unity of the Empire as a whole." Mr. Rowell's address was full of interest. He pointed out that all parties took part in the debate. Included in this list were the following: Rt. Hon. Sir George Foster, Minister of Finance and Commerce; Dr. Michael Clark, one of the Agrarians leaders; Mr. Ernest Lapointe, the leader of the Quebec Liberals; and others.

A division of the House followed, resulting as follows: For Mr. King's amendment 64, against 96. A Government majority of 32.

Prior to the consideration of supply for the Department of Immigration, the Hon. J. T. Calder, Minister of Colonization and Immigration, gave a general statement of policy of the Immigration Department. This statement was promised the House some weeks ago when a resolution to restrict immigration was before the House.

Mr. Calder's statement is a very lengthy one, and space will not permit its reproduction here. Some of the observations of the Minister are of particular interest to the working classes of this country, as workers are the first to suffer when there is a surplus labor market. Immigration is becoming more and more important to the workers, and an analysis of the legislative programme of the Trades and Labor Congress will show that the Labor's legislative body is not unkindly of the workers in a solution of this all important question.

The Minister of Immigration stated: "At present we have a total exclusion order against the people of Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey. That order was made some two or three years ago and still remains in force. All farm laborers, all farmers,

domestic servants are allowed in even if they have nothing in their pockets. As regards others, if a man is accompanied by his wife, he must have \$125 in addition, and if accompanied by minor children, he must have in addition \$50 for each child. We have put up the money qualification to restrict city dwellers, skilled and unskilled labor. Does any person mean to tell me we should lower that restriction at the present time, that we should allow practically any man to enter Canada because he is sound in body and mind and willing to work, with nothing in his pocket; that we should allow \$25 such people to land in Toronto, \$50 in Hamilton, 1,000 in Winnipeg, and 2,000 in Vancouver? I doubt it very much!"

Mr. Calder stated that there were thousands of people in almost every country in Europe who are anxious to come to Canada. The Minister of the Interior indicated that with the steamship companies' considerable responsibility in seeing that the best class of people from all parts of Europe are brought to Canada by the steamship companies, according to the Minister's immigration policy depends considerably upon the co-operation of the steamship companies with the immigration authorities. The words of the Minister of Immigration: "The transportation companies know our regulations; they are in touch with the immigration officials all the time, and they know the class of people we admit. So that is largely their business to see that only the proper class of people are sent over; and if there is a small percentage of weeding out to be done, it should be done here and not in Europe."

The Minister of Immigration, throwing out inducements for farmers and farm laborers to Canada, spoke more truth than fiction. He stated: "The days of free land are practically gone, and you cannot buy land in Western Canada today for less than \$12, \$15, \$20, \$25 and \$30 per acre. Yet we allow the vast areas of unused land in Western Canada to be held by speculators. The Minister of Immigration was quite enthusiastic concerning the land settlement but was of the opinion that the Federal Government had done more than its share and that further development was the duty of the various provinces. He said that "there were hundreds of thousands of people in the world who have the necessary experience, the training, the ability, the health and the willingness, but who simply cannot get on our land because they have not the means."

Concluding his statement on the immigration policy of the Canadian Government Mr. Calder stated: "There is an exclusion at the present time against not only Chinese but all Orientals insofar as skilled and unskilled labor is concerned. Generally speaking our policy has been to foster and encourage immigration to Canada of the classes I have mentioned, namely farmers, farm laborers and domestic servants. In the first place there is a limitation insofar as immigrants

living has been responsible for a great upheaval in the thinking apparatus of the workers generally. It is too late now to throw a monkey wrench in the machinery—far better be it in at the round table and reason these problems out to some definite understanding to promote an industrial peace; else the reaction can be but very harmful to both employer and employe.

RELIEF. When you hand over a car to your relief, hand over, too, any information you may have as to the car's general condition, brakes, sand, etc. He is entitled to any help of this kind that you can give.

Power in Organization

By GEORGE V. OREMUS, in the American Prisoner.

It does not appear necessary to emphasize the great power existing in thorough organization, for many recent events will go far towards stamping indelibly upon our minds the desirability of a most scientific physical and mental organization within an organization, in so far as it applies to trades unionism in general. This is history.

There is under way at the present time a very decided and strenuous effort upon the part of organizations of employers of various kinds, who in turn are being backed up by other affiliated associations likewise supported by so-called "labor" generally known as boards of trade. Many other influential interests are also combining in one big effort to undermine the very fabric upon which rests the foundation of the trades union movement on this North American continent.

To those who are closely associated with trade unionism and who follow the trend of events in this respect, the evidence is all too plainly visible and at the same time the warning is sounded to every loyal union supporter to take note of these facts and buckle on his armor, summon the best there is within him, and be prepared to take his place in the line of defense whenever it becomes necessary to defend the cause of real producers of the world's great wealth, while enjoying little of it.

A master mind once told the world that consistency was a jewel, and no sane man will combat that fact as such. But let us not forget how soon and how easily some of our leaders of big business can brush aside such matters when weighed in matters of dollars and cents. Let's be honest with ourselves and delve below the surface of things.

A most horrible and hideous wall now goes forth against the rights of the worker in general, while the blame for this terrible shift upon the part of the worker is placed upon the shoulders of the worker himself. The manufacturer and employers who so recklessly profited during the unheeded period of high prices, and without any tender mercies whatsoever towards the helpless and inadequately paid workers, now find that the long-suffering public has awakened from a long nightmare of high prices and are refusing to longer pay high prices for generally inferior commodities. Now then, it naturally comes to the manufacturer to pass the buck along to the worker and shift the whole responsibility upon the shoulders of the high cost of production—the unheard-of wages demanded and paid to the ever-greedy hands of the union workmen. Can you beat it! You workmen who purchased a \$100 automobile for yourself and one for your wife will readily understand how you managed it—I don't. But the most ignorant and un-

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