

EDMONTON FREE PRESS

Edited, Controlled and Published by
THE EDMONTON TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Issued at Edmonton, Alberta, Every Saturday

Phone 5995 ELMER E. ROPER, Editor 101 Purvis Block

VOL. 1, No. 49 MARCH 13, 1920

A PEEP INTO THE FUTURE

Something new under the sun was the resolution of Messrs. Turgeon and Davidson in the Legislature last week, proposing that an adverse vote against a government measure should not be considered as a want of confidence vote. As Mr. Alex Ross put it in his article in the Free Press last week, the resolution was significant and was a plea for political freedom. It was, however, more than that. It was a peep into the political future, and revealed that the supporters of the motion had some vision of the inevitable change in the methods of government.

Even though the "King's prerogative" had not been endangered by the resolution, and it had been adopted, the immediate change might not have been very marked. In the future, however, the necessity for an understanding along the line of Mr. Turgeon's motion will be absolutely necessary. In the new group system—and it seems assured that future Canadian parliaments and legislatures will be composed of several groups—there should, and probably will, be an entirely different method of selecting an executive council. To ensure the proper working out of the result of an election by proportional representation, the elected body of legislators must actually as well as theoretically be the governing body. To ensure this the cabinet or executive council must be the executive body of the legislature and not of one party or group who happened to be in the majority. The cabinet or executive would be elected by the legislature, by the proportional representation method, thus assuring representation of each group. The executive so elected would then proceed to carry on the work of government, just as the executive board of a union or other organization would do. Between sessions it would perform administrative duties in the same manner as the union executive does between meetings, and would be responsible for its actions to the whole legislature and not to any one party. In connection with the introduction of bills or acts of legislation, the adoption or amendment of such would rest with the legislature and the rejection of an executive proposal should not be any more cause for the resignation of the cabinet than would the turning down of an executive suggestion be cause for a union executive to resign. Or, to suppose one more instance, by the democratic election of an executive, a member or members of such body could submit a minority report to the legislature as is done in other organizations. Under present conditions if a cabinet member disagrees with his colleagues, his only course is to swallow his objections or resign from the executive council.

The Free Press is of the opinion that the Ontario Farmers missed a very good opportunity to adopt the group method of government, and even though the "working majority" is still in vogue in the Banner province we believe that it is only a matter of time until a method of government similar to what is suggested herein will be established throughout Canada. It is a reasonable, commonsense and democratic plan. True, it will be necessary to smash some precedents established by our "imperial ancestors," and the Free Press parliamentary correspondent may not, five years from now, use the words "according to custom" so many times in describing legislative proceedings. But precedent must give way to progress and custom must stand aside when the people demand new and more democratic methods of government.

WHITE COLLAR UNIONS

One of the most remarkable, and at the same time gratifying and encouraging, phases of trade union development throughout the world, is the rapid extension of the movement among those workers who are engaged in clerical and professional occupations.

In Great Britain last month a National Federation of non-manual workers was formed. At the inaugural conference more than forty societies were represented, the great majority of whom are expected to join the new alliance. These included the National Union of Journalists, the Actors' Association, the Variety Artists, and the Law Clerks' Federation, as well as a large number of societies representing technical, clerical, and supervisory workers in various industries. Civil Servants, Local Government Officers and Teachers already have a federation of their own.

On this continent, too, the clerical and professional workers are becoming to realize the value of trade union organization. Civil and civic servants, office employees, teachers, actors and even university professors are combining for mutual economic benefit. The end, however, is not yet, and the spread of unionism among clerical and professional workers will continue to be a noticeable factor in the development of organized labor.

The position of these workers in relation to the manual workers' organizations is one that should be intelligently faced. The book-keeper, teacher or clerk must realize that his interests are identical with those of the machinist, boilermaker or printer. It must also be realized that the tradesmen has organization experience that has been gained through a century of struggle. There should be no hesitation then, on the part of the new organizations to affiliate with the old established trade union movement. Unions of clerical workers like, for example, civic employees have already demonstrated the value of association with the central bodies of organized labor.

KNOWLEDGE AND EFFICIENCY ESSENTIAL

The Edmonton Retail Clerks organization is fortunate in having an enthusiastic and thoughtful executive. President Taylor and his colleagues believe in efficiency of service as a factor in procuring economic betterment, and are planning a series of meetings of an educational nature in connection with the retail clerks' occupation.

This policy of trade education has been recognized by other trade unions in the past, and a number of international organizations maintain educational facilities for the benefit of their members. Some having established permanent technical schools where members may obtain special training, others supplying correspondence instruction. Union journals are also being used very extensively for the dissemination of technical instruction. The average trade-unionist has a pride in the industry in which he is employed, and is desirous of raising the plane of the industry by increasing his own knowledge and efficiency. The retail clerks are to be congratulated on having caught this commendable spirit.

EXISTS BECAUSE IT SERVES

The ability to serve the best interests of humanity is the only real justification for the existence of any social force or movement. Down through history we find thousands of organizations and movements of a social nature that have ceased to exist because their limited objective had been reached or because they were fundamentally unfitted to serve humanity. Some movements, however, have survived the vicissitudes and adversities of centuries, because their field of service has grown with the world's material progression. They continue to exist because they continue to serve.

Such a movement is modern organized labor. Conceived in the awful conditions that accompanied the industrial revolution; born amid the travail of misery and degradation, organization spelled hope and life and freedom to the industrial worker in the eighteenth century. Because it was fundamentally right the movement withstood the onslaughts of all the forces arrayed against it, until its ability to serve humanity is today more widely recognized than ever before. Today organized labor continues to serve the purpose which brought it into being, and until that purpose is achieved; until social justice and freedom are realized; this great humanitarian movement will continue to grow and serve.

IDEAS

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Times have changed considerably since the Hudson's Bay carried on business in stockaded forts scattered throughout the country from coast to coast, but the old traditions are still faithfully adhered to. In those old days goods had to be transported immense distances and the cost of carrying so-called cheap merchandise was just as great as that of the most dependable quality. Thus was originated "Hudson's Bay Quality," the best obtainable. So deeply has this custom of purchasing only the best become implanted that even to this day the public use that affectionate household expression, "If you buy it at the Bay, you know it is good."

An Attractive Showing of New Spring Dress Goods

You are invited tomorrow to inspect these new weaves for spring. Come if only to catch the first peep of what is fashionable, and voguish for the coming season. We are particularly fortunate in having such a comprehensive showing so early in the season, but as dressmakers and tailors are fast being booked up, we would advise an early selection. See these tomorrow.

54in. Cheviot Coatings, Special \$4.95 Yard

These are woven from pure wool yarns and is a splendid weight for coats for women, misses and children. Colors are rose, tan, emerald, saxe, navy and scarlet; 54 inches wide. Price..... \$4.95

Novelty Plaid Skirtings

The very newest we have for separate skirts this spring in beautiful color combinations. A medium weight pure wool fabric. Prices..... \$6.00, \$7.95, \$9.50 and \$9.75

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| 33-in. Colored Pongees. | All colors. Price..... | \$2.25 | 36-inch Printed Satins. | Sale Price..... | \$3.50 |
| 40-inch Georgettes. | All colors. Price..... | \$2.45 | 40-in. Satin Charmeuse. | All colors. Price..... | \$4.75 |
| 46-inch Wash Satin. | All colors. Price..... | \$2.45 | 36-inch Skinners' Lining Satin. | Price..... | \$4.75 |
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54-inch Covert Coatings

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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, \$4.75 per yard.

HUDSON'S BAY CO.

The Free Press has on some occasions criticised the O.B.U., but we have always endeavored to at least keep within the bounds of decency. Here is a quotation from the O.B.U. Bulletin and reveals the kind of propaganda that is being carried on against international unionism. An individual named Enright who, at one time had been more or less prominently connected with an International union, was murdered in Chicago recently. Note the insidiousness of the generalities used in the following reference to Enright, who had once been convicted of murder:

"The record of Enright throws a lurid light on the kind of unionism the A.F. of L. breeds in the large cities. Sam Parks

and Prince in New York, "Skinny Madden," Cornelius Shea, Maurice Enright and Co. in Chicago, are a few names which indicate the line of succession on the throne of A. F. of L. craft scabbery, sell outs, extortion and murder."

The fact that the trade membership in Germany increased during 1919 from 1,600,000 to 7,000,000, is a very reliable sign that the days of absolutism are over in that country.

The first step toward the democratic control of industry is by way of trade union organization.

CO-OP. SOCIETY
REPORTS SUCCESS
FIRST HALF YEAR

In Addition to Monetary Profits
Name of Society Has Been Kept
Before the People

The first half-yearly meeting of the Edmonton Co-operative Association was held in the Labor Hall on Tuesday evening, at which meeting there were quite a large proportion of the subscribers. Rev. F. E. Mercer, chairman of the trustee board, took the chair and was supported by Trustees Adshand, O'Leary and Mrs. Hall.

The Trustees were in a position to report that they had carried on the co-op business throughout the winter and had obtained sufficient profit on the sales that they now still had the money originally invested in the bank and in addition some profits on the business and all the property in the shape of shack and tools that had been bought for the co-op business. In addition to these monetary profits they had kept the name of the Society before the people through their advertisements. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the trustee board for their work.

The election of half the board is carried out each half year. On this date Mesdames Hall and Blakey and Messrs. Gregory and O'Leary retired but were re-elected to office with the change of Mr. A. A. Campbell for Mrs. Blakey who is now out of town. By notice of motion made at the meeting it will be possible at the next quarterly meeting to elect more than seven trustees in order to secure better representation of the combining bodies for co-operation.

The Society adopted the plan outlined by Secretary Owens of the Returned Soldiers committee on co-operation and will proceed to attempt the canvass of all districts of the city for members before opening up a retail store.

The whole meeting showed far more enthusiasm and get-together spirit than former meetings. The Co-operative Society is booming. Hurry up and get into it.

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