ONT. LABOR EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION OUTLINED CONSTRUCTIVE POLICY

Gravity of Unemployment Situation Drawn to the Attention of the Prime Minister of Canada—Fair Rent Court Demanded—Ask Govt. For Housing—To Fight "Open Shop."

Mr. P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, attended the 19th annual convention of the Ontario Labor Education Association at Preston, recently, as the representative of the workers of Ottawa. At the last meeting of the Ottawa Allied Trades and Labor Association, he presented the following report which outlines the work now being undertaken by the Ontario Labor Educational Association:

"Delegates who have been in the habit of attending the annual gatherings of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario are all agreed that the nineteenth annual convention, which was held in Preston on Victoria Day, was without exception the most representative and satisfactory one that has yet been held. It was a real business affair all through, and once more President Jim Marsh demonstrated that as a chairman he keeps things always on the hustle and succeeds in getting the business through in a manner that could not be improved upon.

"The proceedings were marked for the manner in which its business was dispatched; there were no squabbles or personalities indulged in whatever, and delegates present for the first time were amazed that in one-day convention such a large amount of business could be intelligently enacted and the slate cleaned up in such a satisfactory manner.

"The C.O.F. Hall, in which the convention was held, was filled to capacity when proceedings were opened, and the ladies of the United Women's Educational Federation of Ontario, who were holding their first annual convention in an adjoining hall, were also present for the opening ceremonies, which commenced promptly on schedule time.

"Before the opening proceedings the president had appointed Wm. Steep, of Toronto; Alf. Carroll, of Windsor, and Joseph Hunter, of Niagara Falls, as credential committee, and almost as soon as the addresses of welcome had been concluded the committee, through its chairman, Wm. Steep, was ready to present its report, which showed that already 124 duly certified delegates had arrived, while others probably would be present later in the day. During the morning and afternoon other delegates arrived, so that a very conservative estimate of the number in attendance could be placed at considerable over 130, thus making the convention the largest yet held under the auspices of the association.

"The financial statement presented by the auditors proved to be eminently satisfactory one, showing that the finances of the association are in an exceedingly healthy condition, and that with the bank balances, etc., nearly $2,000 was available to carry on the work of the organization, for the coming year, this sum would be supplemented considerably by per capita tax to be received within the next couple of months. The auditors stated the books had been examined and found correct, and had been verified by the bank book and vouchers submitted. This report was also unanimously approved.

"During the afternoon several important resolutions were considered, including one of extreme importance dealing with the problem of unemployment. It was the consensus of opinion that now was the opportune time that steps should be undertaken to deal with the situation, and the following declaration was adopted and the secretary instructed to wire it direct to Premier Meighen in Ottawa.

"Preston, May 24, 1921.

"To the Hon. Arthur Meighen,
"Premier of Canada,
"House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont.

"Dear Sir:—At the annual convention of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario, held in Preston today, with 130 delegates present from all sections of the province, I was instructed to forward to you the following resolution: 'Whereas the unemployed situation throughout Ontario and the entire Dominion has reached serious proportions and is steadily growing more grave and menacing; be it therefore resolved, that the delegates here assembled urge upon the Dominion, Provincial and Municipal Governments the absolute necessity of making broad and nation-wide provision to cope with the menacing crisis, which, from all present indications we believe we will be called upon to face during the winter of 1921-22.'

"I remain, respectfully yours,
"JOSEPH T. MARKS,
"Secretary the Labor
"Educational Association.
"167 Church St., Toronto.

"It is expected that the various Trades and Labor Councils and local trades unions throughout the Province will take this matter up at once, as now is the time for action, in order that due preparation may be made in ample time before arrival of winter. This is the big problem of today, and it has to be met. It is up to organized labor to get on the job without delay and make its influence decisively felt. It is only by taking time by the forelock that results may be achieved, see that something more than merely passing and forwarding resolutions on the authorities be undertaken.

"The Provincial Executive will also get in touch with the Provincial Government and press upon it the necessity of taking prompt and systematic action also.

"Among the problems considered and approved were the creation of a fair rent court with power to fix an equitable rent based on the cost of construction, to be dealt with by the Provincial Government.

"A protest against the proposal of Brigadier-General Griesbach of Edmonton, who proposed the introduction of compulsory military service in Canada.

"A resolution dealing with the housing situation and providing for the erection of workingman's houses and the punishment and the prevention of rent profiteering by trust companies and others who are holding house property empty and out of use for profiteering purposes, thus accentuating the existing shortage.

That the Federal and Provincial Governments pass legislation establishing an eight-hour day in the various industries.

"That the Labor Educational Association carry on a systematic campaign in favor of unemployment insurance and old age pensions and government insurance against sickness.

"That the Mother's Allowance Act be amended to provide that mothers with but one child shall come within its scope.

"That the convention reaffirms its belief in the public ownership of all utilities and calls upon the Farmer-Labor Government to afford every facility for public bodies to acquire them on equitable terms in order to give to the community the best service at the lowest possible cost.

"That the convention go on record as believing that the surest method of defeating the 'open shop' is to assist on label goods and keep up the demand for them at stores which are known as not handling them.

"That the executive of the Labor Educational Association arrange for a joint meeting with the Public School Teachers' Association for a joint conference with the Minister of Education and the special committee of the Legislature with the object of a general consolidation of the educational system the subject as now taught in the schools of the province with a view to the elimination of home work and the general improvement of the facilities now afforded the children of the workers.

"That government control of liquors and beer for medicinal purposes be extended to government control for beverage purposes also.

"That the Association go on record as against cadet military training in the public schools and that it use its influence with the proper authorities to have the practice abolished.

"A resolution against home work for scholars and equality of opportunity for men and women alike, politically, socially and industrially; that education be absolutely free and the children of poor parents have the same opportunity as the children of the rich in the elementary schools and universities alike.

"That this convention go on record as advocating the taking of measures to educate the workers to the necessity of voting for working class candidates only in municipal, provincial and federal elections.

"That the Association use every effort to extend the work of the Workers' Educational Association in the different cities with a view to extending and establishing branches of the Association to promote courses of study similar to those adopted by the Toronto Association.

"Towards the close of the convention the judges awarded the prizes won in the union label competition. Delegate Weinstein, of Toronto, being the winner of the first prize, having no less than 12 union labels on his person, while the veteran, George Scharlack of Kitchener was a close second.

"The convention of the United Women's Educational Association of Ontario, which had been holding its first convention in the same building, having transacted its business, came in and took their seats and were loudly applauded. Mrs. Singer, the president, stated that last year at the Labor Educational convention in Brantford six of the women present as delegates at the convention had organized the Women's Federation. Today their numbers had increased and their aim was the organization of the women of the province, in both the industrial and political field. Today they had held a very successful convention. Their numbers had increased and next year they would again be trebled. They had decided to meet each year in convention in the same city and on the same date as the convention of the Labor Educational Association. It was the Labor Educational Association, she said, that had taken the initiative in organizing the Women's Federation; they appreciated the hearty co-operation they had received from the Association and felt that working in unity together great things would be the accomplished results. Mrs. Singer was given a round of applause upon the conclusion of her address.

"Mrs. H. G. Fester, the secretary-treasurer of the new Federation was also given a hearty reception and frequently applauded as she told of the work that had been accomplished by the Federation during its first year; how it had approached the municipal council in Hamilton and the Farmer-Labor Government in Toronto in favor of legislation in the direct interest of the women and children, as well as the home. She also voiced her appreciation of the assistance the Federation had received at the hands of the Labor Educational Association in the past and felt that in working together in full co-operation they were destined in the near future to become an influence that even the politicians could not afford to ignore.

"Upon the conclusion of these addresses the election of officers was held and resulted as follows: President, James Marsh, Niagara Falls, Ont.; vice-president, Dr. J. E. Hett, Kitchener; secretary-treasurer, Joseph T. Marks, Toronto; executive board, J. A. P. Haydon, Ottawa; William Baxter, Kingston; Charles Liebers, Peterboro; Joseph La Frenerie, Renfrew; Harry Kirwin, Toronto; William Allen, Niagara Falls; William Abey, St. Catharines; J. McCall, Welland; H. J. Halford, Hamilton; John T. Sloan, Brantford; William Gray, Guelph; William Smith, South Waterloo; S. L. Ireland, Stratford; W. H. Stewart, London; William Stokes, St. Thomas; Alf. Carroll, Windsor; Colin Cashore, Owen Sound; John Nichol, Thorold; A. Jackson, Orillia; David Kennedy, Midland; Henry Everett, Cobalt.

"Guelph was selected as the convention city for 1922.

LIVING WAGE IS FIRST CHARGE ON INDUSTRY

No Industrial Peace Until Workers Placed on Proper Basis in Relation to Capital.

LONDON, England. — Industrial peace will not come to Great Britain, or indeed to any other country, until the workers are placed on a proper basis in relation to Capital, was the opinion expressed by Viscount Haldane, in an interview with your representative recently. In his opinion, the contribution which Capital makes toward production in any industry is, compared with that of Labor, one of a different nature.

A living wage for the workers should, like interest on capital, be a first charge on the earnings of any business. Capital should receive a fixed return of say 5, 10, 15 or 20 per cent., depending on the risk involved; and surplus profits, after providing for a minimum wage, should be divided up between the men who organize the business and the manual workers, in proportion to their respective contributions, declared Lord Haldane. Capital, having been taken care of with a fixed rate of interest, makes no further contribution toward earning profits and is not entitled to share in the surplus earnings, but the contribution of the inventing and organizing head may require a very high remuneration.

Nationalization of Industry.

Had some such plan been adopted in the coal industry, the present dispute would in all probability not have occurred. In any event, in Lord Haldane's opinion, the only method of settling the dispute now is to establish a national basis for wages, as demanded by the miners' representatives. In fact, Lord Haldane would go further than this, and is willing to see the coal industry nationalized. The great difficulty, he said, in nationalizing the coal industry, or any other one for be destroyed and the entire business that matter, is that initiative may lapse into an uneconomic and extravagant extension of civil service management.

He pointed out, however, that if the plan indicated in certain evidence given by him before the Royal Commission on Coal Mines (which produced the Sankey report) were adopted, a successful administration would be probable. He considers, under these circumstances, that the industry might well show a great revival in increased individual output by the miners and enterprising management by the staff which he proposed. His evidence, as it will be remembered, explained the system which he adopted in reorganizing the administrative side of the army and the war office in relation to a plan for speedy mobilization, while he was Secretary of State for War.

School For Political Administration.

These plans, which had been elaborated some years before the opening of the great war, were immediately successful; and, as he testified before Sir John Sankey, the first British units were, under his scheme of mobilization, transported to France within some 12 or 14 hours of the declaration of war on Germany. Broadly speaking, Lord Haldane stated, his plan would be to select and educate administrative officers in the same way in which he arranged for the education of officers at the London School of Economics, where annually 40 officers were trained and taught things which they never could have learned in the army.

In reply to a question as to whether these men would have as great an incentive as the mine owners in developing efficient service in the mines if they were government officers on a fixed salary, he said: "I agree that such men will not have the identical impulse which most business men have to a sustained effort after efficiency. But although they may not be moved by the desire to make a fortune for themselves, they have another motive which, in my experience, is even more potent with the better class of man—namely, the desire for distinction in the service of the state. For this reason I would gladly see more recognition given to deserving officers in the British Civil Service also, as I feel that there is insufficient inducement there to get the best out of our faithful workers."

Lack of Education a Barrier.

Viscount Haldane, who, although no longer in office, engages in many activities, including attendance at the House of Lords on judicial cases for four or five days a week, devotes the remainder of his time to what he considers the most important movement for the saving of democracy, both in Great Britain and the United States. This movement is the extension of university training extramurally for adult education. In this connection he travels throughout the country, addressing meetings on this important subject.

Lord Haldane considers that the real and mischievous separation between the working classes and the capitalistic class is the differentiation of education. If the workingmen had the same facilities for education that the wealthy man has, much of the unrest and dissatisfaction with conditions would be removed, and they would feel a sense of contentment with life and of equality with their employers which would take away much of the present suspicion and distrust which produce unrest.

Such training, he said, must, of course, be voluntary, and if it is to be effective it should operate through the students' coming in contact with professors and teachers whom they can respect for their attainments in the great universities of the country. According to his plan, the universities will require a much larger and more adequately paid staff of tutors and lecturers than they can at present provide. This, of course, will mean state aid. Adult education joint committees, on which representatives of the localities and of the universities will serve, should look after district demands and the organization of their supply.

Unemployed Seek Education.

In the few districts where such plans have already been put into effect, he informed the representative of The Christian Science Monitor, admirable results have been attained, and on his recent visit to the Midland district, he made inquiries as to whether the wave of unemployment had affected the local libraries. He was delighted to find that the unemployed workers had made increased demands for serious literature, and in consequence there had been no disturbances and the hardship of unemployment had been less resented in those districts than in other parts of Britain.

It is obvious that this adult education increases a man's sense of duty and improves his output in the workshop. The whole community, therefore, benefits, and the product of the labor is improved and cheapened, and thus the manufacturer maintains his markets. The only hope for tranquility lies in the education of the masses.

It is unfortunate, Viscount Haldale declared, that the boys who receive elementary education very soon forget what they have learned. "This was evidenced in a remarkable way in the army," he said, "where I was disappointed to find that recruits who had received elementary education had to be educated over again."

Development of Labor Party.

This work in which he is engaged, he considers, will not show its full fruitage for some 25 years, but as the benefits become known, public opinion will demand increased facilities; in other words, while the seeds are being sown, the coming generation will reap the benefits. This attitude is well expressed in Lord Haldane's motto, "Sowing, not reaping."

This seems to have been carried out with regard to Lord Haldane's greatest achievement for the benefit of his country, for he never received the credit which is his due for building up the expeditionary and territorial forces and the officers' training corps, three institutions which stood the country in good stead in the early days of the war. Nor has he ever received sufficient credit for his mobilization plans which proved so effective. All three of these plans undoubtedly laid the foundation of Britain's immense fighting force which was evolved before the war terminated.

Lord Haldane considers that when this time of reaping comes, Great Britain may indeed be a great nation, for then the Labor party, the members of which at present have somewhat crude political views, may have made advances in ideals beyond those of the old Progressive party, which has become moribund for lack of ideals. He recalled the days when he was a member of the House of Commons, and belonged to that active group consisting of Herbert Asquith, Sir Thomas Dyke Acland, and others, which was considered a thorn in the sides of the Liberal Ministry; but the ideas which they propounded then, and which were thought extreme, have since been adopted and have become the law of the land. There is no such group in the House today, and for lack of ideas this old party is passing away.

The Labor party of the future, he considers, will carry out great reforms, and in course of time, through fuller education of what may be called the proletariat, there will be no class distinction excepting the distinction of merit.

C. S. M.

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