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LEGISLATION ASKED FOR BY ALTA. LEGISLATURE

(Continued from Page One)

with a view to preventing a recurrence of some concern them not at all. Surely it should not require something of this nature to occur before our Government is prepared to act, the existing conditions are known to them and the possibility of an epidemic resulting from same is apparent and further it must be recognized that only through definite and specific provisions can relief be obtained.

What is desired by the Federation is that decent and sanitary living quarters be provided for workers in all localities, something that is essential if our citizenship is to be that which is required. The provisions in clause 1 for the removal of old paper or other covering from walls and ceilings before new is applied needs no explanation. In a country where the common building material is lumber which is peculiarly adapted to the breeding and harboring of bugs and other vermin anything that would tend to minimize this evil should commend itself to all.

Centralization of administration will be discussed next week.

The Woman's Page

WOMEN'S PAGE INSTITUTED BY ONT. LABOR PAPER

Movement for Reform of Woman's Page in Papers Considered Necessary

Under the heading of "The Woman Democrat" the Toronto Industrial Banner has opened a section reserved for articles written by women. The Industrial Banner states that "as the true comradeship of the future will consist of men and women travelling together as equals, it is essential that their ideas be expressed."

The first article "Are we ready for a Progressive Woman's Page?" is written by the Assistant Secretary of the Independent Labor Party of Ontario, and is as follows:

(By Harriet Dunlop Prenter.)
The average "page for women" in our press of today has long been a more or less secret and silent source of irritation to countless human beings in Canada and elsewhere; there seems to be no parallel for it in masculine literature—at least none labelled strictly masculine, and one brilliant woman writer has suggested that if the woman's page must eternally dwell upon the Kaiser's four K's—kitchen, kinder, kirche, kleider, and if we must endlessly discuss cooking, children, church and clothes, then there should be also a "man's page," always filled with sporting news and fish stories, and nothing else.

Of course, in the "good old days," when men were "the people" and women were merely "the sex," it would be natural to consider that feminine interests must be decidedly limited, and we must remember that it is only the other day we were granted the right of self-expression as citizens. Many of us who are neither old or feeble can recall the trouble we had in forcing open the doors of the universities—and may one say, incidentally, that no true woman will be fully satisfied until every girl who wants a university training may have the opportunity to enter.

Thus it may be that because we are so recently freed from some disabilities, we are still expected to appreciate so-called "feminine" literature, and a page giving details as to dresses and names of those present at a social function, with a shorter list of others who dined at the house of a friend—a glowing account of some charity "Bazaar"—these affairs are always reported most joyfully, and their popularity seems to indicate that the number of mendicants in our land must be appalling—and a recipe for "left-overs" or a cure for sunburn is supposed to appeal to the woman mind in this twentieth century. That it has some appeal is not denied, but this is probably because it has been fed to us for so long a time, we have grown used to it, and one dares to believe that the present-day woman would welcome a broader and a more human department for her special reading. There are some who say, "Why a woman's page at all?" in this age when the interests of all the race are so identical—when every conceivable subject is discussed freely by both men and women—but the comfortable fact remains that a new pudding recipe is still likely to bring some joy to the hearts of multitudes of delectable women, just as a new frock or a becoming hat is quite a good tonic to a host of others. At the same time it is also true that both these groups are well aware that recipes and dress patterns are no longer entirely satisfying—they are not "very filling" as it were, and the modern woman mind is needing badly a more "well-balanced" mental meal.

There are such hosts of things to be written and talked about—the "community kitchen," and more scientific housekeeping generally—then the very tender subject concerning the actual money value of the work of the wife and mother in the home—should she be paid a salary!—or dare we start an enquiry as to the true meaning of some well-worn phrases, such as "the worthy poor." How comes it that people may be worthy and poor at the same time in an up-to-date civilization?

And since a woman's page should be, above all things, superlatively human, why not give us, as frequently as possible, some bits of human history? This will some day, we hope, be the business of the public school, but until such time as that institution is thoroughly humanized, we might help to fill the "long-felt want" by an occasional half-column, telling history of real consequence—the great slow steps of the working world—the discoveries and the history of things we use every day. In short, the real story of the progress of our race. It would make good reading, and might counteract at least some of the evil effects of the average fiction magazine by changing the taste away from such literary refuse. And apart from all this we really should improve the "woman's page" for the sake of our men folk.

The life of the majority of the "sterner sex" is far more domestic than it ever was before, and we have more than a suspicion that thousands of them are glancing through the feminine

NEW YORK TEACHERS ISSUE DECLARATION OF TEACHERS' RIGHTS

New York.—Following a vote of 98% of the public school teachers in favor of a Declaration of Teachers' Rights, the Teachers' Council of this city has issued a report declaring that "teachers have the same right to organize for greater efficiency for protection of rights for professional advancement and adequate salaries as have other citizens." Freedom from unintelligent criticism, from political appointments, and the benumbing effect of official repression or guidance is also urged, and an increase of wages to a \$1,220 a year minimum is being sought by the New York Library Staff association under the law which grants an increase to all city employees.

PROPOSALS TO FORM NATIONAL MEDICAL SERVICE

Are Contained in Report Issued By Consultative Council In London

Proposals to establish a national medical service whereby the public would have ready access to the resources of modern medical science, are contained in a report issued by the consultative council of medical and allied services at London, Eng.

It is stated that the present organization of medicine has failed to bring the advantages of medical science within reach of the people, and that a full state medical service is inadvisable. It is therefore proposed to establish:

First—Primary health centers in each populous district for curative and preventive work. Cottage hospitals could be adopted.

Second—Secondary centers in each large town (with big central hospitals as nucleus) for care and consultation upon special cases.

Third—A new type of local health authority with a medical advisory service.

The treatment would be open, though not necessarily free, to all classes of the community. It is agreed that doctors should continue attending their own patients at their own homes or at their surgeries, but this system should be brought into relationship with a primary health center, having wards for various purposes, including provision for midwifery, an operating room, a laboratory for simple investigations, a dispensary, medical baths and a meeting place for the general practitioners of the district and for the storage of clinical records on an agreed and standardized basis.

PACKERS' REPORTS ARE CONFUSING TO THE PUBLIC

While Packers' Profits Per Pound Seem Small to Public They Are In Reality Large

The claim of large meat packers that their profit is but 1 cent a pound is confusing, says the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, in its latest published report on this industry.

"A profit of 1 cent a pound on 10 million pounds of live stock products sold during the year (1918) gives an aggregate return of \$100,000,000," says the report.

"Even were this doubled, the resulting rate—namely, 2 cents per pound—would still tend to be a 'negligible' amount in the public mind. Yet this difference of 1 cent would mean, for the five great companies (Swift, Armour, Wilson, Morris and Cudahy) \$100,000,000 in possible dividends, or about 20 per cent on the capital stock and surplus combined (\$500,000,000)."

"Thus while the packers' profits per pound may appear to the public to be small, they are in reality large, due to the enormous tonnage produced on the basis of a relatively moderate investment."

The commission says the packers seek to capitalize the habitual attitude of mind on the part of the public that a cent is a very small element of value. "As a matter of fact," says the report, "a profit of a cent per unit, far from being a small profit, may be an exorbitant profit measured in terms of return upon capital invested. The only sound method whereby the reasonableness of a profit of a cent per pound may be determined is by aggregating such a profit and comparing it with the capital invested in the enterprise."

columns in the paper. So if we are not wise in time, there may be another sin added to the list of our shortcomings—for surely it would be a sin to lower the literary taste of our home-loving husbands. Therefore let us reform the woman's page quickly, and for help in this, as in many seemingly greater matters, the Macedonian cry goes out to Labor.

WOMAN'S LABOR IS CHEAPEST LABOR KNOWN

Her Wage Is Meted Out Not By Her Efficiency But Upon What She Can Barely Exist

Speaking of woman's labor, Blanche Johnson, woman laborite, and vice-president of the Pacific Coast Telephone Operators' Union, says:

"A woman's labor is the cheapest labor known. Her wage is meted out, not by her efficiency or the class of work she performs, but upon what she can barely exist and still have sufficient strength to continue working. She is regarded less than a machine, which is allowed overhead expenses for repairs."

"Woman herself has been largely to blame for this state of affairs. She has allowed herself to work on blindly, in a mechanical method, trusting that a better day would soon appear. She has not given a thought as to how the change must come."

"We owe much credit, however, to those of our sex who have thought for themselves and have had the courage to speak their convictions."

"The women have organized and are fighting the battles for those who remain still blind to the method for which they must eventually use to loosen the chains which bind them."

"Just as the women have won the right to be heard through the ballot they will free themselves of their bondage in industry."

INVESTIGATIONS ARE AROUSING SUSPICIONS

Scandalous Transactions In Pulpwood, Timber and Mining Have Come to Light

"The revelations that are now taking place in connection with the investigation into the irregularities that have existed in connection with the administration of the land and timber limits under the Hearst regime has aroused the suspicions of the people that it is absolutely necessary that the operation of other government departments shall also undergo an intensive scrutiny," says the Toronto Industrial Banner.

The paper goes on to say that "the scandalous transactions that have already come to light regarding pulpwood, timber and mining limits has unearthed a state of affairs that is almost unbelievable. That they were unknown to the heads of the government departments that administered them is not worthy of credence and shows about as rotten an administration of public affairs as could be conceived of."

"The revelations that have been exposed stamps the Hearst regime and the Conservative party of Ontario as utterly and criminally incompetent or willfully and deliberately corrupt and dishonest. Its reputation is shattered and its certificate of character torn into shreds. It is the worst blow the Conservative party has ever received, for never before has such a thoroughly disgraceful exposure been made of a political party and its reprehensible methods of carrying on the business of the state."

"The people with the facts now coming to light will congratulate themselves that a new regime now holds the reins of power in Ontario and will expect that the profiteers and grafters will be made to disgorge their unholstered profits and be forced to hand back the lands and natural resources that they have siphoned from the people. By all means let the investigation go on and let the democratic government now in charge live to the line, never mind where the chips may fall."

GERMAN WOMEN FLOCKING INTO LABOR UNIONS

Washington.—According to Gertrude Hanna, leader in the woman's trade union movement of Berlin, German women are flocking into labor organizations. The following is information sent to the International Congress of Working Women which had its first conference at Washington, D.C. last October. Mrs. Raymond Robins is president of the Congress.

"Exact figures about women in the trades are still lacking. As a result of the continually rising high cost of living we have in almost all of the professions and trades constantly changing membership, which is not only influenced by rising wages but also by fluctuating conditions in the industries themselves."

"In general we have had in all professional organizations a rapid growth of membership. For instance, the union of Textile Workers has today about

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304,000 women members. On December 31st, 1918, there were 113,747 women members. The union of agricultural workers has now organized 183,000 women. The union of domestic employees has about 40,000, and the wood-workers (Holzarbeiter) union 45,000 women members.

"Approximately the same figures apply to the other unions. We have now in our trade union organizations a membership of over eight million, one million of which are women."

TRUTH IS THE BEST REPLY TO FANTASTIC PLANS

Written and Spoken Propaganda of Extremists Can Be Met and Defeated By Truth

The A.F. of L. convention at Montreal approved recommendations of the executive council that the truth about democracy, and not a denial of democracy, is the best reply to fantastic plans of extreme propagandists.

"The written and spoken propaganda of unreason and extremists can be met and defeated by truth," the council said. "But legitimate unrest, growing out of conditions of injustice can be met and overcome only by intelligent dealing with conditions. Those who drink from a poisoned well will be poisoned until the well itself is cleaned."

"The American nation has reached a grave crisis. It stands at the crossroads. Progress must come. Justice must be dethroned. Criminal profiteering and exploitation must cease. These things are so because the endurance of the people has been strained beyond their willingness to bear and because all of these things are possible of achievement."

"The terrible pressure of injustice within democracy can be removed only by the functioning of democracy. And if the forces of greed so obstruct and distort the processes of democracy that they can no longer work in normal, healthful manner to satisfy the needs of the people, it is the first duty of the nation to free those processes and remove those obstructions. The unrest born of need can be met and allayed only through definite, constructive action. The program for this action has been offered by the labor movement, and is before the country."

**LABOR ADVANCES
CAUSE OF TRUE
CO-OPERATION**
(Continued from Page One)

the workers in their own interest; and WHEREAS, Such banks have increased the power of organized Labor, have given it a sense of solidarity and resourcefulness, and have improved the standard of life of the people; therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the American Federation of Labor, in convention assembled, that the banking and credit agencies of the nation be socialized, so that the collective deposits of the people shall be used for the benefit of the people. Banking, like transportation, should be impressed with a public trust; it should be made a public utility, subject to control by the national government and by the states, to the end that the credit resources of the nation shall be used for productive purposes; and be it further

RESOLVED, That labor should own and control its own funds and the funds of its members through banks organized as nearly as possible on the co-operative model; that such banks should have a widely distributed stock ownership; that there should be a limitation on dividends, and an obligation upon the manager to use the resources of labor for the benefit of labor; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we recommend the establishment within lodges, labor unions and central bodies of credit unions or peoples' banks such as have been developed in the other countries of the world, in which individual members of the union will be stockholders and depositors, and through which they will receive aid and assistance in case of necessity; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Federation of Labor urge the enactment of laws by the nation and by the individual states that will permit of the organization of co-operative or people's banks and of credit unions, along the lines of laws heretofore enacted by the States of Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, Oregon, Utah and Wisconsin; and be it further

RESOLVED, That organized labor mobilize its money, its deposits and its resources, and use them for increasing the economic power and the solidarity of labor.

**AUSTRALIANS WANT
TO SEND DELEGATION
TO VISIT RUSSIA**
Sydney, N.S.W.—Australian unionists are trying to secure the permission of the Australian Government to allow a delegation of workers to visit Russia so that they may learn the true facts of the Soviet administration and its effect on the people at first hand. The Australian representative of the Russian Socialist Federated Republic has expressed the fullest sympathy with this idea.

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