

The Toronto World

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THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 28.

The Farmers' Strike.

The wheat growers of the American southwest are calling the bluff of the grain dealers, millers and buyers for the export trade. These purchasers say that they do not have to buy, and the farmers are replying that they do not have to sell. The fact is that wheat must be bought unless eating bread is to go out of fashion, and wheat must be sold if the farmers are to realize on their harvest. Naturally the buyers want a low price and the farmers a high price. Usually the farmers, being disorganized and hard-up for money, have to take less than their crop is worth.

But if the farmers organize and have money enough to carry over their wheat the buyer finds himself in a tight place. The millers have to grind a lot of flour to feed one hundred and five million people, not to mention the export trade. If enough American farmers refused to sell wheat they will have the whip hand, except in so far as they may be embarrassed by the free importation of wheat from Canada.

Then again the farmer has another card up his sleeve. If the country will not pay him a fair price for his wheat because it is too plentiful, he can easily raise the price next year by curtailing production. The farmer so far has been about the only man not to go on strike, but if he throws down his tools there will be something doing.

Young Men and the O. T. A.

Last spring a young man of industrious habits and irreproachable character went from his home in Western Ontario to Detroit for employment. Before long he moved to Windsor where he remained for several months. Then, before returning to his home town he was arrested for violating the Ontario Temperance Act, pleaded guilty and was fined a thousand dollars. When he got home friends volunteered to get at least a partial remission of the fine, but the young man discouraged any movement of the kind. Pressed for his reason, he finally said to his friends, in confidence:

"I made \$25,000 this summer growing across the Detroit river. If the government is satisfied with a rake-off of 4 per cent. should I worry?"

This young man, after making \$4000 a month is not likely to enter the village factory as a clerk. He will continue to violate the liquor laws and take his chances of fines and imprisonment. Quite likely his moral fibre will be weakened, and he will never again be a good citizen.

What, then, is the remedy? We will be told that the remedy lies in more rigid enforcement of the law and the application of more severe punishment. Such a policy might deter a young man of the class we have in mind, but so long as enormous profits are to be made out of illicit traffic long chances will be taken by men mainly of foreign birth who have no mastering fear of either fine or imprisonment. Men are restrained from crime mainly by the fear of losing their social position. Mere incarceration in jail for a few months is a trifling punishment compared with the social stigma it carries. A man intending to commit a crime shrinks from the risk of becoming a social outcast. If he has no social position to lose he can figure out in cold blood whether or not it would pay him to risk a few months in jail for the sake of \$10,000, \$20,000 or \$30,000.

Another difficulty governments are up against is the general disinclination to treat as a criminal the man who violates the O. T. A. and similar enactments. We are not referring now to the professional bootlegger but to the man who occasionally violates the law. The man who carries a flask of whiskey in his satchel from Vancouver to Montreal, commits one offence after another as he crosses every provincial boundary line or passes thru a municipality. Yet he has not the slightest fear that his wife will desert him, his children abandon him, or his friends cut him because of these manifold transgressions. Public opinion does not regard such a man as it regards the man who forges a note or steals a horse, even tho' in the eyes of the law they may both be criminals.

We are merely stating a problem and not essaying for the moment to find a solution. The enforcement of the Ontario Temperance Act by the Drury government has not been satisfactory. It has consisted in sporadic drives in this or that locality instead of firm and uniform enforcement. Meanwhile the most undesirable class of citizens are making enormous profits out of bootlegging and rum-running, and many a young man who ordinarily would never think of committing a crime finds himself tempted by the prospects of

enormous profits to violate the Ontario Temperance Act. What can be done to effectively prevent our native-born Ontario boys from entering upon this nefarious traffic?

Mr. Calder at Moose Jaw.

The prophets who said that Mr. Meighen would not dare to preach the gospel of protection in the west got a severe jolt when they read the premier's speech at Winnipeg. Those other prophets who said that Hon. J. A. Calder would not dare to face an audience in the prairie provinces got a similar jolt when they read the minister's speech at Moose Jaw. Mr. Calder definitely proclaims himself a supporter of the National Policy. The government to which he belongs will do no side-stepping or pussy-footing on the tariff question. They are for protection with a capital P.

This is good generalship, even tho' we view the problems of national life from the narrowest standpoint of political expediency. The Farmers' party is openly for free trade. True, the party platform only calls for absolute free trade with the mother country, but that in practical operation would be free trade with all the world. At any rate, it would spell ruin for many Canadian industries, tho' it might be a more lingering death than out and out free trade with the United States. The Liberal party under the leadership of Hon. Mackenzie King favors a tariff for revenue. It appeals for support to the low tariff and free trade sentiment of the country. Mr. King himself has been telling farmers everywhere that his party and theirs are not far apart on the tariff question. For the government to compete with the Liberals and the Farmers for the votes of the free traders would be folly indeed. If the government is to be returned to power it must appeal for support to that great body of the electorate which has acclaimed the National Policy at one election after another for over forty years.

Neither Mr. Meighen nor Mr. Calder may convert the free trade west to faith in the National Policy. It was none the less their duty to frankly tell the western people where they stood and to define the issue upon which they are prepared to stand or fall. Mr. Calder has never lost a political battle, and on more than one occasion has shown remarkable insight into the true feeling of the west. Those who saw the western Liberals in convention at Winnipeg in August, 1917, might easily have imagined that Sir Wilfrid Laurier would sweep the prairie provinces like wildfire. Mr. Calder, however, threw up his provincial portfolio and joined the Union government. Two months later that government carried every riding, but two in the west. When the Meighen government goes to the country two or three years from now it may be found that Mr. Calder has again won out, and that the sentiment of Canadian nationality has triumphed again in the west.

Remark in Passing.

Somebody seems to have extracted the bullet from the gun that was aimed to bring down the cost of milk. A million dollars is involved in the next big price fight. Evidently all the profiteers have not yet been put out of business.

Following the advice of the lumberer, another benefactor of humanity has evened the quackness duck. The next thing to get are the cackle-less hen and the odorless goat, and every city man can have a farm of his own.

The possibility of bad feeling arising between Canada and the neighboring republic on account of existing liquor laws is now plainly evident. It is high time some real statesmanship were devoted to finding a means of settling the matter to the satisfaction of all concerned.

The injury of two small boys while riding on the running board of an automobile is a stern warning to parents to compel their children to observe ordinary laws of safety on the street, and to all motorists to take no chances where children are concerned.

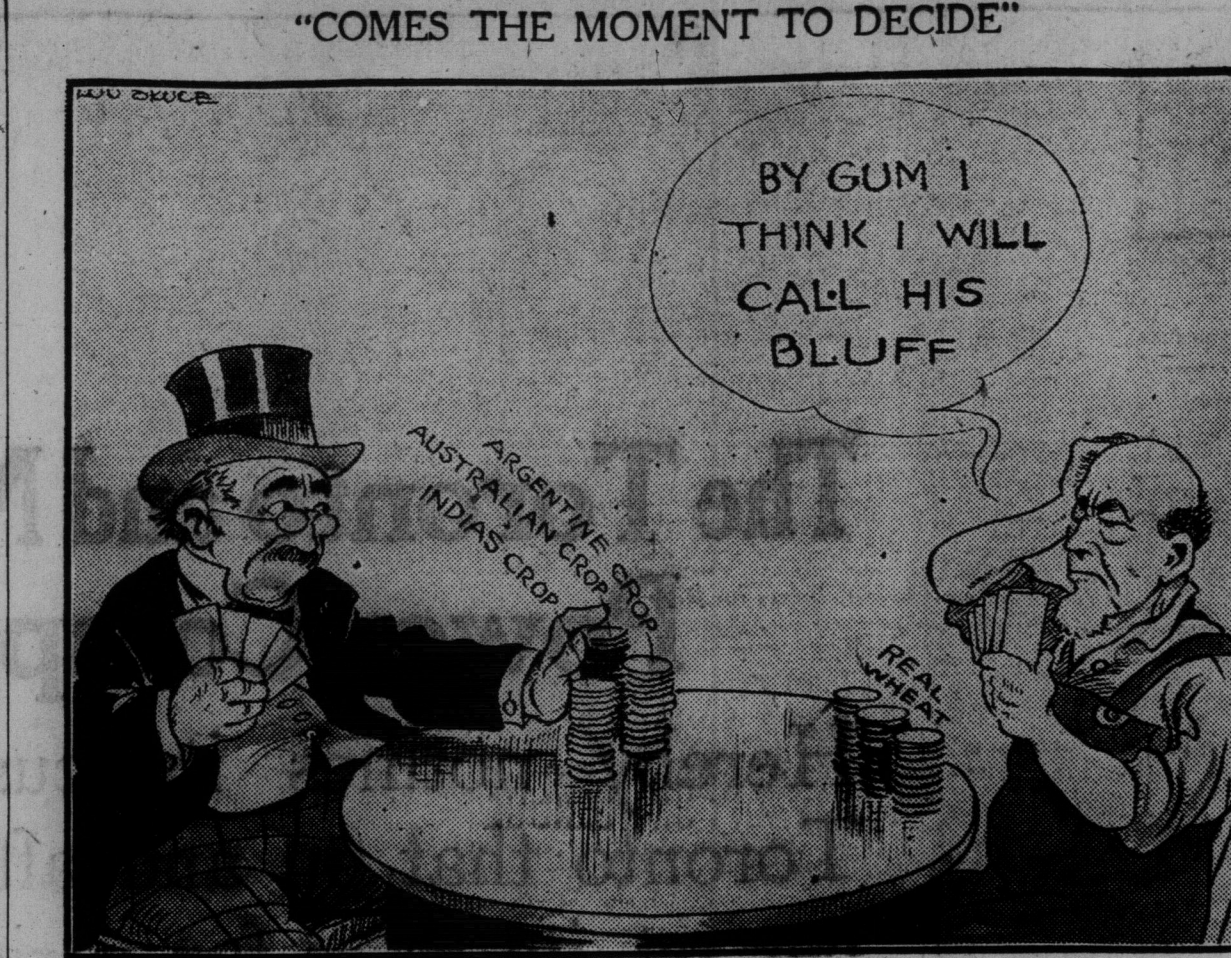
TO NEGOTIATE WITH MARITIME MINERS

Conference Aiming at Avoidance of a Strike to Be Renewed on November Three.

Sydney, N. S., Oct. 27.—(By Canadian Press).—The negotiations between the coal miners, who are threatening a strike and operators of the maritime provinces will be resumed on November 3, according to a telegram received from President Robert Baxter and Secretary McLachlan this morning. The district leaders have been in conference with John L. Lewis, international head of the United Mine Workers. They state in their wire that they have arranged to have Tom T. White, former president of the U.M.W., represent union headquarters at the resumption of the conference in Montreal.

Mr. White is a negotiator of long experience, with many contacts in the industry, and his participation is regarded by the Cape Breton miners as a most hopeful sign.

Have you paid your Water Rates? The ten per cent. discount only allowed if paid on or before November 1st.



WITH THE VETERANS TO PROVIDE WORK FOR EX-SOLDIERS

Ministry of Labor and Men's Organizations Will Combine Efforts.

As a result of the conference held yesterday afternoon between representatives of ex-service men's organizations in Toronto, and the minister of labor at Queen's Park, a committee has been formed which will have for its object the institution of an ex-service men's department of employment, responsible only to the minister and deputy minister of labor of Ontario, a department practically run by ex-service men for ex-service men, wholly in the interests of those ex-service men who are unemployed. This committee comprises the following: J. V. Conroy and W. W. Parry of the G.W.V.A.; J. Harry Flynn and Dave Mills of the G.A.U.V.; Robert Bland of the Army and Navy Veterans of Canada, and George Parfrey of the British Imperial Association of Canada. With these will also be J. Hudson, representing the Ontario department of labor, and Fred Howard, representing the Dominion government.

The first proposal made to the minister was the institution of a bureau entirely independent of any other authority than ex-service men, but on the representations of both the employment bureau and the soldiers' aid plan was finally evolved bringing the question of the unemployment of ex-service men under the jurisdiction of the Ontario department of labor. The deputation assented to this proposal only on the understanding that the ex-service men's department in the employment scheme would have full jurisdiction over all cases coming under its influence, and would be responsible alone to the minister and deputy minister of labor. The first conference of the committee will be held this afternoon at Queen's Park. Hereafter representatives of the ex-service men engaged at the employment bureau have had no further authority than to take names of unemployed ex-service men. Under the proposed scheme they would be enabled to have full control of their welfare from the time they made application.

Touching upon the request of the representatives of the ex-service men for the appointment of an advisory council comprised of ex-service men and employees to assist in the administration of the employment service of the province, Hon. Mr. Bland stated that the cabinet had no power in the matter until the next session, when it would be brought up in the legislature.

SUGGEST MILITARY USE OF NEW ARENA

Toronto District Now in Touch With Militia Department at Ottawa.

Interesting as of special significance touching upon the reported resignation of Lieut.-Colonel Harbottle as a protest against the apparent lack of energy at Ottawa respecting accommodation for militia units in Toronto, is the information that the O.C. Military District No. 2 is in touch with the Dominion militia department at Ottawa. The Toronto group will meet at the central auditorium on the evening of November 7. The first meeting of the series will be held on Sunday evening next at the Beaches Allen Theatre. The Dominion group will meet at the Second School on Tuesday night.

Quebec, Oct. 27.—A delegation representing the Civil Service Association waited on Premier Taschereau, at the parliament buildings this morning and urged the granting of an increase in salaries. In their plea the delegation referred to the fact that bonuses ranging from \$100 to a month's salary had been given to employees, but pointed out that in Ontario, where the finances of the province were less favorable, bonuses from \$120 to \$360 had been given.

Premier Taschereau, in reply, stated that the government was not prepared to grant the request made.

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District Secretary J. V. Conroy, of

LABOR NEWS

NEGOTIATING FOR HIGHER WAGE SCALE

Painters and Decorators Report Lack of Men to Fill Vacancies.

Negotiations upon behalf of the Toronto local of the Asbestos Workers' Union for an increased wage scale were commenced yesterday by the Building Trades' Council, according to the announcement at the Labor Temple of John Doggett, the council's secretary.

A conference which R. Malnes, president of the Asbestos Workers', and Secretary Doggett held during the afternoon with the employers, is understood to have resulted in the proffering of an agreement which will be considered by the men at the meeting of their local this evening.

The Asbestos Workers' are the most recent union to have become affiliated to the building trades, and are said to have approximately sixty members affected by the controversy.

The Toronto local of the Painters' and Decorators' Union reports, as indicative of trade conditions in the craft, that it has insufficient men to fill the positions which are vacant. The union has at present in the neighborhood of 1200 members and expects to substantially increase this number by a membership drive to be undertaken shortly.

Joseph P. Hunter, sixth vice-president of the International Union of Painters' and Decorators', is expected to arrive in town today. He has been invited by the members of the Toronto local in order that he may assist them in organizing the membership drive which they intend to inaugurate.

Denial of a report that the Brotherhood of Carpenters intended inserting \$1.10 per hour into the blanket agreement as their wage scale for the coming year, was made yesterday by President John Cottam. The local unions have as yet, Mr. Cottam stated, voted upon the rate which they intend to stipulate.

The Builders' Laborers' Union have announced an open meeting for organization purposes to be held in the Labor Temple on Friday of this week. They will be addressed by Organizer Ryan of the International body and other prominent labor officials.

Appeal for Higher Salaries

Ottawa, Oct. 27.—Representatives of the accountants in the various government departments met the Civil Service Commission this morning to appeal for higher salary schedules. Hon. W. J. Roche, chairman of the commission, and Mr. Clarence Jamieson, were present for the commission and promised consideration of the matter.

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THE HOUSE 'ROUND THE CORNER

By GORDON HOLMES

CHAPTER XII Continued.

"No. Perhaps, if you rack your memory, you'll remember my answer," she said, indignantly, for she felt the innuendo, and was resolved to resent it with vigor.

"No, oh, no! You said you didn't mean to marry anybody. That is a maidenly sentiment which is right and proper, and I agreed with it at the time. But the position has altered considerably during the past couple of days. As matters stand now, Meg, you may change your mind, and I beg to inform you that when you do marry, you'll marry me."

"It is hardly fair to take advantage of your accident," she said, with a quiet scorn that only served to infuriate him the more.

"What do you mean?" he said.

"You are not usually so dense. If you were not ill you would never dare speak to me in that fashion."

"Never mind my illness. That will soon pass. And the density you complain of is not so one-sided as you imagine. I pointed out that the position had changed. Two days ago you were free to say 'Yes' or 'No' to my proposal. Today you are not. You've got to marry me now, Meg. You'll be my wife by fair means or foul. Need I explain myself further?"

"All right. You've asked for it, and you'll get it. Unless I have your promise here and now that your marriage will take place as soon as I can stand on my feet again, I'll have your father arrested for murder."

"Percy, you must be mad even to think of such a dreadful thing!"

"No, not mad, but sane very sane and wide-eyed. That fellow Armathwaite, wants you and he'll snap you up while I'm lying in this infernal house unless I strike now and strike hard. I mean exactly what I say. I've thought it all out here, tho' I'm suffering pain enough to drive me crazy. But the mind can conquer the body, and my mind is not only clear but fixed. Tell me you'll marry me, and I'll be patient as a saint. I'll take your word for it. I don't want you to sit by my side and hold my hand as some sniveling fools would wish. You can plan your gardens with Armathwaite, and smile at him and talk with him as much as you please. But you've got to be my wife. Refuse, and the only way you can save your father from arrest is by getting Armathwaite to commit another murder."

"You brute!" she almost whispered. Her lips were quivering pitifully, but the fount of tears was dried, and her eyes blazed with intensity that conquered Whittaker for the moment. He lay back on the pillows again, with a smile that was twisted into a rictus of agony as a twinge wrung the injured limb.

"Call me any hard names you like," he muttered, closing his eyes under the intolerable contempt and loathing of Marguerite's steady and scathing gaze. "I've said what I had to say, and I'll not depart from a syllable of it. You'd have married me one of these days if you hadn't met Armathwaite. He's turned your pretty little head with his knight-errant airs and cavalry officer appearance. So I've determined to pull you back by force—see? You'll get over it in time. You and I will be as good chums as ever when this gale has blown itself out. Don't think I shall hold you less dear because your father placed himself in danger of the law. He escaped neatly before, and can escape again. I'll even tell you how. No one here knows—"

He opened his eyes again to ascertain if some dawning interest in the project he was about to reveal—which was precisely that already set forth by Armathwaite—had driven the horror from her dumb features; but Marguerite had vanished. He listened for her footsteps, and could hear no sound. He shouted loudly, and tugged frenziedly at a bell. Betty came running, thinking he had fallen out of bed, and needed assistance.

"Why, whatever is the matter?" she cried, with true Yorkshire abruptness, when she found him lying as she had left him a few minutes before.

"Where is Miss Meg?" he begged. "Tell her she must come here—at once! Tell her that. Use those very words—come at once!"

(Continued Tomorrow Morning)

CHAPTER XIII.

Deus Ex Machina.

After a while, Betty came to Armathwaite again.

"Tell me, please, sir, breakfast is ready. Shall I bring it in, or will you wait for Miss Meg?" she said.

"That a second inquiry as to Marguerite's whereabouts should be necessary seemed to surprise him. 'You were looking for Miss Garth a few minutes ago. Didn't you find her?' he inquired.

"No, sir. She's not in the house."

"But what can have become of her?" he thought, as she might have gone into the village.

"Why?"

"She knows everybody in 't' place. She said last night that now she was making a bit of a stay she'd be seen some day 't' folk."

"I think I should have noticed her if she had gone out by the gate," he said, "weighing the point. 'Smith' he called, 'has Miss Meg left the rectory house—within the past ten minutes, I mean?'"

"Not that I know of, sir," said Smith; "but I'm that worried by the state of some of these here beds that almost cwt (almost anything) might 'a' happened without me givin' it heed."

"Bang that gong at the front door," said Armathwaite to Betty, who should be heard in every house in Blimdale, and she will understand."

"The gong was duly banged, and its effect was immediate. Betty was perceptible. Old Mrs. Bolland vowed afterward that she would sit permanently at the back bedroom window, because, being rheumatic, she couldn't get upstairs quickly enough, and there was summat to see nowadays at 't' Grange."

(Continued Tomorrow Morning)

Trustees Desiring To Be Relieved

of their duties as such are invited to confer with us and ascertain the satisfactory manner in which their wishes may be accomplished. In doing so you will not be incurring any expense, and will probably be surprised at the benefits to be derived.

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