



# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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**The Canadian Labor Press**  
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 A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

## AN ACTIVE MINISTER

Since his acceptance of the portfolio of labor in the Liberal government, Hon. James Murdock has shown that he has grasped fully the duties of his office. Early in the year his suggestion that contractors and the building labor unions start early their negotiations as to wage and working conditions resulted in much good to the parties interested and gave an impetus to building in the majority of centres ranging from coast to coast where the suggestion was acted upon. Both sides benefitted from agreements entered upon before active work was contemplated. In the recent recommendation of the minister of railway in connection with the observance of the fair wage policy on government contracts the worker has been fully protected. The point of the recommendations, which have been adopted by the government, is to make the administration of the labor provisions as nearly uniform as possible, thereby correcting abuses. It is only necessary to quote two clauses of the new order-in-council:

In any case where the department of labor is unable to furnish a schedule of wages and hours, it may recommend the insertion of a general clause providing for the observance of the current wages and hours fixed by the custom of the trade for the various classes of labor required. In the event of any dispute arising as to wages or hours to be observed under the fair wages schedule or general fair wage clause, the same shall be determined by the minister of labor, whose decision shall be final. Payment may also be withheld of any moneys which would otherwise be payable to the contractor until the minister of labor's decision has been complied with.

With a view to the avoidance of any abuses which might arise from the sub-letting of contracts, sub-letting other than such as may be customary in the trades concerned is prohibited unless the approval is obtained of the minister of the department with which the contract has been made.

## WANTED—A BUSINESS SYSTEM

Whether we like the term "patronage," as applied to the Civil Service, or no, we cannot read the Minister of Agriculture's speech on the subject without coming to the conclusion that there is room for great improvement in the method of staffing the various Government Departments.

Obviously a Minister with responsibilities and without the power to meet them in the manner best adapted to his system is in an impossible position, a position that in ordinary commercial life would not be tolerated for a moment. No one would be foolish enough to put a manager in control of a business and tell him that he must run it with a staff provided by men whose knowledge of his requirements is practically "nil."

Two instances will illustrate the point. During the latter years of the war the Militia Department ran its own printing presses, and it was proved beyond doubt that the move was a wise one. It became necessary to employ several girls in the bindery, a branch of the business where thorough training is essential and where long experience is desirable. Application was made to the Civil Service Commission for permission to employ girls whose records with Ottawa firms were known and of whose capabilities there was no question.

The Commission refused the request on the ground that they had many girls on the waiting list—but enquiry elicited the information that not one of them even pretended to know anything about "bindery" work. The Commission evidently thought that an unemployed stenographer would do at a pinch.

The situation being explained permission was granted to employ the girls for a limited period—after some valuable time had been wasted and vital work had been delayed.

The second instance is that of the head of a Department where the greatest accuracy in filing is required. The services of a competent filing and indexing clerk were available, one who had taken a course at considerable expense. The Departmental head was anxious to get such assistance, but because the applicant had not passed a Civil Service examination, which includes only a very superficial reference to indexing and filing he was debarred from engaging help which would have been invaluable.

That the power to engage all and sundry might be abused in the hands of unscrupulous politicians is not denied, but it must not be forgotten that in the hands of unscrupulous officials the Commission appointments may be equally unjust.

The weakness of the Civil Service is undoubtedly in the "permanency" of the employment. Did every Civil Servant know that his position depended on a proper performance of his duties, and that failure would mean dismissal, we should have fewer incompetents getting in, and more incompetents getting out of Government service.

United we stand, divided we fall under the burden of armament.

The week has seven days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Golf.

After a hard Sunday, no many religious people play out and give up in despair about the middle of Monday afternoon.

Germany's scheme for coming back seems to include subsidizing everything except France.

## Premier KingLauds Weekly Newspapers

Says They Are Greatest Factor in Moulding Public Opinion. Give Expression To Sound Opinions.

Premier King attended a meeting of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association held in Ottawa last week, and his opinion of the weekly newspaper is such that the encouragement of publications of this should commend itself to all Liberals, who have the good of their party at heart.

In opening, Mr. King said it was a pleasure to greet such a splendid representation of Canadian journalists, which was doing so much for the good of the country. They represent the weekly press of the more distant parts of Canada as well as the local and urban centres. The Premier remarked that he understood that the present organization was part of the larger association existing in former days, and that it was a larger group than the old association.

"I doubt," the Premier commented, "if there is any portion of the press which exercises such an influence on the lives of the people as the weekly press." People looked over the daily papers more or less hurriedly. The influence and character of the weekly press were deeper and more enduring in the moulding of public opinion.

"The more we have in the way of sound opinion," the Prime Minister declared, "the less we need of government. The Government should seek to be only the expression of the people."

"If opinion is properly moulded the Government gives expression to that opinion properly. It is only in countries where the people have not learned to think for themselves that the Government has to adopt a paternal attitude. In this Dominion public opinion, is far enough advanced that paternalism of Government does not need encouragement. The function of the Government is to see that the will of the people is properly and quietly interpreted. There was no single agency to which the Government and the people were so much indebted as the press of the country, particularly the weekly press."

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## GREATER DEMAND FORCES PRICES UP

The increased consumption of tea in 1921 (during which year, by agreement, the tea growers of Ceylon and India had curtailed production) forced the price of tea steadily upwards to the present abnormally high level. The lowering of the duty in England will mean still greater demand, and authorities are to tell us that still higher prices may be expected.

## BROADCASTS

From Overseas and Across the Border.

### UP-TO-DATE PALESTINE

Municipal bonds for \$400,000 are to be issued by the Town of Tel Aviv, the Jewish garden suburb of Jaffa.

### THE OLD STORY

One of the finest industries in Australia, the Broken Hill Steel Works at Newcastle, has been closed down owing to the cost of coal and labour.

### ANOTHER STEP IN SCIENCE

It is reported that Dr. N. Kriach, the woman director of the Sokolichersky Hospital, Russia, has discovered the typhus germ.

### A NOTABLE MEMORIAL

Piermont Hall, Broadstairs, Eng., once the residence of Queen Victoria has been purchased as a war memorial.

### HE SHOULD WORRY

Luffield Abbey, Buckinghamshire, has only one ratepayer. He is also the overseer and as such collects his own rates.

### A WORLD WIDE SYMPTOM

Unemployment is decreasing in Norway. The number unemployed on May 10th, was 25,800 as against 43,000 on April 25th.

### NOT ALL CHINESE

Before the war Germany possessed the largest cocaine factory in the world, states Mr. Basil Matthews, a member of the Opium Commission of the League of Nations.

### ECONOMY IS WORLD WIDE

The Australian Treasurer speaking at Sydney said that "revenue expenditure must be reduced to the lowest possible figure and that borrowings must be restricted to enterprises of a developmental character."

### SHOCKS AT SOCCER

The Lake of Bays is one of the scenic gems of the Dominion of Canada, which is so richly starred with lovely lakes. It has a shoreline indented in such a manner that it affords constant delights and surprises, and is designated as "the lake of a thousand bays." On sites overlooking these bays have been erected charming cottage homes with, here and there, hotels that are in keeping with their setting of wistful waters and brooding woods. To spend a summer vacation here is to be near to Nature in her most fascinating mood. An entire season may be spent in exploring the Lake of Bays and her sister lakes, and you may choose for your excursions, according to personal desire, canoe, sailing craft, motorboat or steamer. There is also the widest choice of vacation pastimes—bathing, golfing, fishing, boating, bowling, tennis, etc. Perfumed by millions of pines, invigorating breezes blow across these lakes, providing a real tonic that is "easy to take." The average altitude is about one thousand feet above sea level. The Lake of Bays is reached through Huntsville on the Grand Trunk, 148 miles north of Toronto. A handsomely illustrated booklet telling you all about this lovely district sent free on application to V. E. Charlton, General Advertising Agent, Grand Trunk Railway System, Montreal, P.Q.

## PROVERBS OF THE NATIONS

### SCOTCH SAYINGS.

- Learns to be fair. . . . .
- Lifeless, faultless. . . . .
- A hungry man sees far. . . . .
- A short tree stands long. . . . .
- Ill will ae'er spake well. . . . .
- Better leave than want. . . . .
- Dummies cannot lie. . . . .
- Bind fast, find fast. . . . .
- An old knave is no baby. . . . .
- A greedy man God hates. . . . .
- An hired horse, tired never. . . . .
- A wee thing flays cowards. All is not lost that's in peril. . . . .
- A tale never loses in the telling. . . . .
- Love me lightly, love me long. . . . .
- Little knows the less cared for. . . . .
- Little wit makes much work. . . . .
- All the winning is in the first buy ing. . . . .
- A good piece steel is worth a penny. . . . .
- A man that is warned is half-armed. . . . .
- An unhappy man's cart is likely to tumble. . . . .
- Better a bit in the morning than fast all day. . . . .
- A wee bush is better than no shelter. . . . .

Italian football customs surprised some of the delegates to the Genoa Conference. When a player scored a goal he was embraced and kissed on both cheeks by the other members of the side!

## WHISKEY BY THE WARD

Americans visiting London are buying the "Johnny Walker" cases sold by a firm of jewellers in Bond Street. These are lined with a silver tube and carry about a third of a bottle of whisky.

## CHURCHILL'S CASTLE BURNED

Garron Towers, which Mr. Winston Churchill inherited last year on the death of Lord Herbert Vane-Tempest, has been destroyed by Irish incendiaries. It stood on the Antrim coast near the village of Cushendall.

## NO ASIATIC LABOR

The leader of the Australian Federal Party has stated that he stands for the production of Australian sugar to the extent of the internal needs of the country. The crops would be grown under the "white Australia" conditions.

## IN AUSTRALIA TOO

The Victoria (Australia) Millowners' Association increased the price of flour on April 24th, 5 shillings per 2,000 lbs. as a result of a penny per bushel rise in wheat prices.

## NOT ONLY IN CANADA

At a meeting of the Bendigo Branch of the Australian Farmers' Union it was urged that a Federal Wheat Pool be established. The cost of labor and material made it impossible for the farmers to carry on at the present price of wheat.

## A VALUABLE POINTER

The Australian Governor General speaking on boy immigration to Australia recommended that immigrants should have a previous training in England, in Australian farming conditions, under Australian directors, with additional training in Australia before being employed on farms.

save municipalities millions of pounds large the holes in the road, but skim as the wheels will not sink into or en- lightly over its surface.

## MOTHER'S HIGH HAND

Enfield magistrates were asked by a mother if they would uphold her right "censor" her daughter's correspondence. A soldier, she explained had been writing to her daughter, who is 27, and the mother did not think girls should receive letters from men. She had therefore intercepted the letters and burned them. All went well until one day the daughter found out, and a stormy scene ensued. "There were ructions," continued the mother; "she caught hold of me and gave me a good hiding." Magistrate: If your daughter is 27 you have no right to touch her letters. You did wrong to burn them. Wmson: I will not have pen writing to her. I want a summons for assault. Magistrate: You cannot have one. Leave her letters alone, and she will leave you alone.

## COMRADES OF THE WAR

Warm commendation of the Comrades in Arms movement was expressed by Prince Henry at the London Guildhall when he presented prizes to the 1st Cadet Battalion, King's Royal Rifle Corps, of which His Highness stated he was very glad to hear that since the armistice an Old Comrades Association has been formed. He always considered this one of the most important ways of fostering that spirit of esprit de corps which was so essential to a good regiment. "Make this Old Comrades' Association," he added, "a means of keeping in touch with your old friends. Do not let the old comrades forget the associations; and make them send their sons into the battalion. Get your friends to join. You know what good it has done you. You have derived great physical and mental advantages and I do not forget that you in your turn have given your spare time in order to be ready for your country's call and fit to offer your immediate services as you did in August, 1914."

## THE KAWARTHA LAKES

The Kawartha Lakes are among the most popular of Ontario's summer playgrounds. The region was long a favored one with the Indians who gave it its musical name, signifying "Bright Waters and Happy Lands." The Kawartha chain comprises Lakes Katchewanooka, Clear, Stoney, Buckhorn, Cameron and Balsam, and they are six hundred feet above the level of Lake Ontario. Every form of out door recreation may be indulged in, there being unlimited opportunities for sailing, canoeing and motor-boating, for bathing and for fishing. Bass, muskonge and salmon trout are caught in the large lakes, while there is good fishing for speckled trout in the smaller lakes in the district. The region is easy of access, has good hotel accommodation and is within 125 miles of Toronto on the Grand Trunk Railway System. Free illustrated booklet with map and list of hotels sent on request. Apply to H. R. Charlton, General Advertising Agent, Grand Trunk Railway System, Montreal, P.Q.

## DIED AFTER GAME OF BOWLS

Mayer of Salisbury, Eng. Mr. Edward Sydney Humby, died suddenly at the Victoria Park Recreation Ground. He had taken great interest in the Australian bowls team matches against Wilts and Oxon during the day, and he himself was playing bowls within a quarter of an hour of his death.

## BRITISH WIN BIG CONTRACT

In competition with United States and Continental firms, the five lowest tenders submitted for the supply of about 14,000 tons of steel piping in connection with the Calcutta water works extension were British. The lowest, that of the Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Company, of Darlington, was accepted. The quotations ranged from £300,000 to £480,000. The actual amount of work in connection with the extension, which will ultimately be contracted for, will cost about £1,750,000.

## BIG LABOR AMALGAMATION

By a large majority the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen, England, which concluded its annual conference in London, endorsed the big scheme to link up all grades and sections of transport and railway workers in the National Transport Workers' Federation. The society, which has a membership of over 75,000, is the first of the large trade unions to affiliate in this manner with the Transport Workers' Federation in the movement to secure closer co-ordination of interests and solidarity of action.

## WILL KEEP GOOD ROADS

In the all-embracing subject of transport discussed at the gathering of world's experts at the Institute of Transport conference in London, Eng., some very interesting facts of the future of road vehicles came to light. Sir J. E. Thornycroft declared that the road lorry of the future would run on six or eight wheels and would

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When the government says it is awaiting developments in the coal strike, it means that it doesn't know what in Sam Hill to do.

Mag becomes docile with age. At twenty he is sowing his wild oats; at forty he is married and sewing on his pants buttons.

The most noticeable effect of Volsteadism is that frequently you are bored when formerly you thought you were having a good time.

The reason little girls are better than little boys is because they are more easily persuaded that it is wrong to have a good time.

## LITTLE JIMMY—SOME GIRLS DO IT TOO

