

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

TITLES ON THE MOVE.

WHILST the action of the Canadian Government or even the British movement on the question of titles has had anything in common or relationship to changes from a labor viewpoint, yet there has been such a move which has had effect in the allowing of misnomers to take their rightful place.

Within a very brief space of time the title of agitator has like water sought its own level, and, whilst not changing its meaning, has changed its direction, from where it was formerly unfairly given. It was common parlance for the employer to give freely of the title of agitator to any who may have aspired or was selected as a trade union official, that its common usage lost any opprobrium that the term should convey.

The trade union official is now, however, recognized as a law-and-order constitutionalist, with the idea of giving title to him as an agitator lost to view. Thus a change of title without a change of methods, save and except more energetic in the advancement of the worker's interests with the upholding of the rights secured.

It is also clearer of discernment that the employers generally no longer look upon the former agitator as a cause for this title, but a leader given to logic and sound reasoning, presenting basis for mutual advancement to the advantage of the two parties to industry, as at present constituted in capital and labor. From agitator he becomes co-operator, and recognized as a permanent asset to the country's progress and prosperity.

From a sober sense of right are these changes made unnoticed, yet, nevertheless, pregnant with a message of the efficacious method that the trade union movement employs for the workers' betterment. Radical and unadorned exponents are still entitled to this cognomen with the pleasure that can be extracted therefrom. A greater degree of pleasure is derived by those from whom the title is taken, with the knowledge of a correct attitude with the rank and file of the workers subscribing to same to ensure the progress march.

Agitator at no time, but simply incorrectly named, the leader of the trade union movement is the power to forward education and work co-operatively that the ills of the social fabric may be placed in oblivion in as speedy a manner as is consistent with changes that work for advancement.

PEG MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

THAT the recent municipal elections at Winnipeg created an interest hitherto unknown is readily acknowledged. Not only where the fight was actually taking place, but in every section of this Dominion was the result of the contest awaited with a keen anticipation. And yet, though efforts were made to place it as a contest between the organized forces of labor and the counter-element of capital, this was hardly the correct situation.

It was quite true that candidates had to take a distinct line as to the policy to be supported, yet it may be creditably assumed that this cleavage was contrary to many of the ideals of candidates from both sides, and it was unfortunate that no means were available by which a separation could have been found to divide the wheat from the chaff.

Under the circumstances the results can be cheerfully accepted by the workers, although apparently ground was lost in the number of candidates elected, the exceptional circumstances that called for the array of formidable opposition, can not be taken as a true analysis of opinion against correct labor representation in the Winnipeg City Council.

Trades Unionism and its following was called upon to carry a load foreign to its ethics, suffering accordingly, but this may have been the clarifying process from which will arise a thought in future contests of this nature, that the vast majority of those who carry the workers' banner have advancement written thereon under the freedom of constitution by which we are governed. The workers may be relied upon to clean their own stables, but there is an opposition side upon which a purifying process can also be utilized, that not action, as called for by extremists, is in evidence, but common endeavor to advance is the rule.

USE THE "LEVER."

THAT the shorter work day at the Washington conference had a stormy path to travel is clearly in evidence, from the public statements emanating therefrom, and there was apparently a heavy weight upon the machine which was insisting that the workers' call for more leisure should come through in legal form.

It so happened that Lord Leverhulme arrived in New York a little late, or the six-hour apostle may have sent the "lever" to remove that weight at the conference, especially seeing that he has no more use for same.

POLITICS and PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR.

(Special Correspondence)

The Liberal politicians of the Old School have forgotten in Ottawa during the present week laying plans to reorganize their shattered party. While there was, naturally, no announcement on the subject, one of the main questions discussed was that of the collection of a campaign fund. Analysis of the situation shows that the gradual absorption of Canadian lines into one public owned system has eliminated one of the most fruitful sources of campaign funds for the old line parties. The fact alone is so apparent that the fortunes to be tapped are apparently growing fewer, and this may account in part for the gradual but not the sudden disappearance of the two historic parties. The abolition of patronage was a frightful blow to the party organizations. With the coming of the new scheme of a job party organization, it is almost impossible to get workers without paying them; and if the source of pay is also off the whole party organization must collapse.

The western farmers have introduced an unheard of method of raising party funds. They have gone to the people, and every election interested in the farmers' movement has had its party fund. It is stated that at Assiniboia no less than four thousand men contributed to the organization fund. These few thousand men would naturally vote and work, if for no other reason than to get a run for their money; and it is not to be wondered at that the Grain Growers' candidate rolled up such an enormous majority in the recent by-election. Hon. T. A. Crerar, who has been touring the west, has been advocating the publication of the sources of all party funds. This will be about the last blow to the old line parties, if such a thing is suggested the historic parties would either have to democratize themselves, or go out of business.

Since the activity of Mr. Crerar and his lieutenants in the west, and the announcement that the new farmer-labor coalition proposed to press its advance in Eastern Canada, the Cabinet Ministers have evidently grown alarmed. It is announced that several of the ministers will tour the Dominion to explain to the public the benefits of Union Government.

It is probable that the next great national undertaking upon which Canada will embark will be the development of the St. Lawrence as a waterway from Montreal to Morrisburg, so as to make a thirty foot channel from tidewater to the great lakes. Incidentally, it would provide a very large addition to the hydro power of the United Kingdom; something which strikes one with peculiar force during this present time of coal shortage.

It is unlikely, of course, that much will be done with it at the present time. Money is too scarce for anything which cannot be classed as an absolute necessity, but preliminary international work of a diplomatic and legal character can be done, and is actually being done at the present time. Some time ago Colonel Kier of the United States War Department, and Mr. W. J. Stewart, Hydrographer of the Dominion of Canada, were appointed to prepare for

PACKING HOUSES' EMPLOYEES GET INCREASE.

Unskilled labor employed by stock yards packing firms in Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, Denver, Omaha and other western yards are granted an increase in wages of about 10 per cent, by an order made by Federal Judge Alschuler, arbitrator. The increase is effective beginning immediately, and affect about 75 per cent of packing house employees.

LABORERS IN DEMAND.

During the week ending November 22, the business reported in the Ontario Government Employment Bureau included applications for work from 1,289 soldiers and 1,524 civilians. Of these 352 soldiers, 1,425 civilians were referred to positions, and 325 soldiers and 345 civilians in their own right.

While 67 soldiers and 325 civilians were transferred through the clearing house. Orders from employers and laborers' situations, which disposed of the private employment claims. The claim that the Government could never learn to handle this piece of work, which he monopolized for so many years. During this week the Government bureau placed 632 laborers and 689 lumbermen.

In the women's departments 254 employees were referred to work, 552 and 131 were placed. For casual work 230 applied; employers' orders numbered 245, and 24 were placed. The most calls for workers were for household work, the manufacture of food, the manufacture of clothing, and the manufacture of shoes.

FORT WILLIAM TRADES COUNCIL.

At the last regular meeting of the Fort William Trades Council, that body endorsed the candidature of Aid. A. H. Dennis for mayor, secretary and aldermanic nominees which the Labor party nominates. Communication from Board of Trade for the pulp mill site after lengthy discussion it was decided to take no action.

A request from the women's union to support the two platoon system was heartily endorsed; the executive was granted permission to accept invitations to attend banquets on behalf of Hon. H. Mills in the name of the Trades and Labor Council.

MONTREAL PLUMBERS' STRIKE ENDED.

The plumbers' strike has been settled. Some 400 plumbers quit work September 27 and with the exception of about 200, who have left town, the others are now again at work here. It is announced that a committee of the master plumbers and the men will be appointed to agree on a new scale of wages and working hours. The old rate of wages was from 45 to 50 cents an hour.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal—Cain.

FORT WILLIAM WOMEN'S LABOR LEAGUE.

EDUCATIONAL MEETING. A very large and enthusiastic crowd of women were present at the meeting of the league held at the Hotel Leinster, on Thursday evening at the trades and labor hall, Fort William. This meeting, which was of an educational nature, was one of the best that has yet taken place, and was presided over by Mrs. G. T. Wiles.

That the labor movement is growing stronger and is taking a more prominent place in the recognized order of things, was shown by the readings on "Current Events." The members of the league drank and was presided over by Mrs. G. T. Wiles.

Mrs. Edwards gave an account of the proceedings of the Industrial Conference held in Ottawa, which she attended recently. One of the most enjoyable items on the programme was a talk on "Christian Citizenship," by Mrs. G. T. Wiles. The meeting was held in the hall, and was most enjoyable. Mrs. Dennis and Mrs. Stover, and were much appreciated by all. The members of the league drank and was presided over by Mrs. G. T. Wiles.

WOMEN NOT ON SAME BASIS IN U. S. OFFICES.

A report by a congressional investigating commission shows that the United States Government pays men more than it does women for the same kind of work. For example, typists the rates range from \$1,000 to \$1,099 a year, while men doing the same kind of work receive from \$1,100 to \$1,199. Women stenographers with a college training start in as low as \$1,200, while men are paid \$1,200, \$2,000 and \$4,000.

LADY ASTOR WINS PLYMOUTH SEAT.

Nancy Lady Astor, succeeds to her husband's seat in the House of Commons. The result of the election on Nov. 21, is an official announcement on Friday last shows that she received 3,226 votes, and the Labor candidate, Mrs. A. G. Gay, the Labor candidate, conceded his defeat before announcement of the result. "It is a new party down here," he said, "and I could not hope to win this time, but I believe I have doubled the Labor vote of the last election." This prediction proved to be nearly true, the respective totals being 3,226 and 2,921.

CANADIAN EXPRESS MEN STILL NEGOTIATING.

The Canadian Express Company employees, members of the Canadian Brotherhood of Railroad Employees, are still negotiating with the company. Satisfactory progress is being made and it is expected that the revision of the schedule will be completed in the very near future.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

TRIPLE ALLIANCE HOLD CONFAB.

Since Robert Williams, secretary of the Transport workers said at Newport, that the Railwaymen's Executive had broken a Triple Alliance agreement by ordering a strike without consulting the miners and transport workers, the question under dispute, it has been common knowledge that, recently, a meeting was held in London among the three unions and that the Triple Alliance might in consequence come to an end.

At a recent meeting of the three unions, some plain speaking took place the railwaymen being forced into an apologetic attitude. J. H. Thomas freely admitted the Railwaymen's error of judgment in allowing Eric Geddes to stampede the miners and transport workers. Two other complaints against the railwaymen were ventilated.

The miners fear that Thomas, by accepting the Government's offer of joint control without nationalization of railways, has strengthened the hands of those who oppose the nationalization of mines.

Transport workers took objection to Cramp's announcement that the National Union of Railwaymen had learned from the strike, the necessity of incorporating within that union, all the workers engaged in transport on the roads. Mr. Cramp's statements were taken as an interference with the independent existence of his union.

After frank discussion of all points the resolution forbidding one union to strike without consulting others was reaffirmed and the proceedings ended amicably.

The net result of the conference is that the Triple Alliance is more firmly established than ever.

A resolution was adopted protesting against the continued arrest and imprisonment of trade unionists in America and a copy of this was mailed to Samuel Gompers.

MINERS QUIT BOARD.

Miners' representatives on the advisory coal commission resigned on Friday following a meeting of the executive committee of the miners' federation. The miners' representatives included Robert Smillie, president of the federation.

In a letter to Premier Lloyd George, the miners' representatives declared the resignation of the board of trade had decided against their co-operation, notably in the raising and lowering of the prices of coal which had gravely prejudiced industry and the nation.

The latest proposal to limit operations to influence coal control, was impossible for them to continue sitting on the commission, the miners declared.

C.N.R. WORKERS FORM FEDERATION.

A mass meeting of men of all trades employed in the Canadian National Railway shops at Leaside was held at the Labor Temple last week to discuss working conditions and other matters common to all the districts in the West. A committee of federated council to deal with all grievances that may arise in the future. According to President Frank O'Neill, the relations between the men and the management is excellent, and there is no danger of any trouble arising.

IRISH BANK CLERKS TO STRIKE.

Bank clerks throughout Ireland will strike on December 31 unless the directors of banks consent to recognizing their union, of which they have hitherto refused to take. This was decided upon at a conference of the Irish Bank Clerks' Union at Dublin last week. Fifty delegates at the meeting voted unanimously in favor of the strike, which will affect 2,000 out of a total of 2,700 bank clerks in Ireland.

LABORITE WINS.

John Lawson, Laborite, has been elected to the House of Commons in the by-election in Chester-Le-Street, Durham county. Mr. Lawson polled 17,538 votes, as against 5,913 cast for his National Democratic opponent, David Gilmore. The election was held on November 13.

In the general elections Chester-Le-Street returned the Labor candidate by acclamation.

NO GOLD LACE FOR LABOR COUNCILS.

One result of the Labor victories in the recent London municipal elections is that the proceedings of the various councils have now a livelier interest for citizens than at any time within living memory, and each day finds one new decision attracting wide attention.

These Labor councils show small respect for the dignified ceremony of distinguishing civic bodies of the past. Mayoral and aldermanic gowns and cocked hats have been abolished, as out of keeping with the times. The Islington council-lors ordered the removal of the mace, one member saying: "Take away that bauble and pawn it."

Even a lawyer objects to being cross-questioned by his wife.

Nothing is denied to well-directed labor: nothing is ever to be attained without it—Sir J. Reynolds.

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Correspondence Invited. Bard & Botterell, Grain Exchange, Winnipeg.