

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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The Canadian Labor Press
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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

WORKING AND OWNING FOR A LIVING

Some people work for a living; others own for a living. Here is a man of 50. For thirty years he has worked on the railroad. In winter and in summer, under good conditions and bad ones, he has labored—shifting ballast, renewing ties, laying rails—stooping, lifting. With his muscle and nerve energy he has rebuilt a part of the roadbed. For these services the trackman receives \$500 a year—\$500 for 300 day's labor.

A young man lives on the same division. His hands are white, his mind guileless of any individual effort. One day his father gave him ten thousand dollar railway bonds. This young man is of mature years, yet he has lived his whole life without doing an iota of labor. But he holds the bonds, and because he holds them—irrespective of any service he may have rendered—the railroad pays him \$500 out of its annual earnings. One man has worked; the other man owned.

The rapid growth of property values during recent years has accentuated and emphasized the conflict between work and ownership. On the one hand are the people who devote their time and energy to the production of wealth. On the other hand are the people who own income-yielding property. The workers receive a wage or a salary; the owners receive payments of rent, interest and dividends. Many of the workers are growing clamorous over "human rights." The property owners the "rights of property."

A clearer idea of the points at issue will be assured if the term "property income" is applied to the returns that accrue from ownership and the term "service income" to the returns that accrue from the expenditure of time and energy in the rendering of service. All regular incomes owe its origin to one of these two sources.

The risks of industry, the burdens of economic uncertainty and the losses incident to the dislocations of the industrial systems are carried in the first instance by labor. The first appearance of hard times is followed by a decrease in the working force. The least curtailment in orders leads to part time work. Wages are not cut—that method is crude and disastrous—but men and women are laid off temporarily or permanently. Bonds still draw their interest; the dividends are paid on stocks, and labor waits for a job. The defender of property income will say at once, "If there is nothing to do why pay labor?" The counter question is obvious, "If there is nothing to do, why pay capital?" "Ah," responds the property interests, "you can get rid of the laborer by firing him, but the investment still stands." That distinction is priority between the position of the property owner and of the worker.

The conclusion is inescapable. No thoughtful person can review the facts without being impressed by the frightful insecurity of work and the formidable power of ownership. Property income has a prior claim, is more stable and more permanent than service income. Service income is small in amount—socially and economically insufficient—rigid and unstable to the last degree. The twentieth century economic world has given property income the right of way.

The workers are the nation. As they thrive the nation thrives. As they succeed in life the nation is prosperous and great. The future of the nation is inseparable from the future of the nation's workers. It was not for nothing that Capt. John Smith insisted: "He who will not work, neither shall he eat."

Fronted by these facts we are deliberately working out an economic system which glorifies ownership and penalizes work. The owner prospers; the worker exists. The owner lives upon

the fat of the land which the worker has created. A student of current economic conditions is led to the inevitable conclusion that there is only one economic contrast that can be made clear cut and definite—the contrast between service income and property income between income secured as a return for effort and income secured as a return for property ownership.

WILL VISIT AREA OF NORTHERN FIRE

Federal and Provincial Governments Invite Inspection by Public Bodies.

The Secretary of the Ottawa Board of Trade has received a letter from Hon. E. C. Drury, premier of Ontario, inviting the president of the board of trade to join a party which will leave Toronto Friday night by special train to visit the area devastated by the recent great fires in Northern Ontario. The party will return to Toronto next Tuesday morning.

Another telegram has also been received from Premier Mackenzie King, addressed to the president of the board of trade, and which reads: "I think it much in the public interest that you should see actual conditions in Ontario devastated region, and would therefore recommend that you accompany the Northern Ontario Fire Relief Committee through fire zone, Friday."

WHAT BOLSHEVISM

Continued from page 1. very successfully as bait by the Socialist angler.

Another favorite method of propagating its philosophy and in line with the Party's policy of creating general dissatisfaction with everybody and everything is to indulge in a wholesale campaign of slander and abuse against men in public life. Every public official, whether he hold an elective or appointive position, is abused, vilified and pictured to the voters of those localities where the Socialists are in control as a crook or a tool of crooks. In this campaign of slander and abuse, the Socialists do not even spare the dead. Perhaps the Party is proud of it, but the writer knows of no more contemptible article in the entire history of American Journalism than the editorial on Theodore Roosevelt which appeared in the New York Call shortly after the demise of that great American. And likewise it has placed very few garlands indeed on the graves of those imperishable figures in American history who have preceded him. It is thus that the Socialist Party preaches its philosophy in New York City and elsewhere and makes converts to its cause.

Yet its proud boast is that it is the only political party in the United States with a scientific background and a definite economic programme. It doubtless has a definite economic programme. What it is will be discussed in a future article. But it successfully hides its programme beneath a crazy quilt of liberalism, ideals and reforms in one section of the city, and behind a barrage of invective and vituperation in the other. And the leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties in those sections of the city sleep the slumber of the just. Once every little while there is a commotion. One of them awakens, looks at his dwindling vote-matters "something must be done," and then goes back peacefully to sleep.

If this business were not such a damnably serious one for the people of the entire country, it would be almost rude to disturb these peaceful slumbers with plans and suggestions as to what must be done to teach the people what Socialism really is.

THIS POSTMASTER BECAME EXCITED.

In his address at Boston to a convention of post office laborers, First Assistant Postmaster General Bartlett said workers have the right to organize, but "they have no right to organize against the government."

Mr. Bartlett didn't seem to care who heard his statement. His eyes flashed, his fists were clenched and his jaws snapped as he told the world, in hoarse tones, where he stood on the question before the house.

It was a tense moment for Mr. Bartlett, who failed to state, however, whether workers have the right to interfere with the law of gravitation or with the solar system.

France seems to be worse hit than Germany by the failure of the German loan.

DAVE LOUGHNAN ON ASIATIC LABOR

Former Ottawa Man Hits Out at Canadian Apathy to Color Question.

"Do we honestly desire a white British Columbia?" This pertinent question has been pithily put by Mr. David Loughnan, former editor of the Veteran, in an article in the Vancouver World on the Asiatic business penetration that has taken place in that city. The issuance of trade licenses to no fewer than 1658 Asiatic traders, representing almost every line of business in the city has brought matters to public notice.

The quiet penetration of our business and industries by the vanguard of Asia's millions is real news; its disclosure is a public service; its menace is an issue for public-spirited citizens to face. It is of far more importance to know that men and women of British race are being elbowed out of existence in this British Dominion than it is to read cabled details of how a toy Pomeranian belonging to an American chorus girl adventurer was chewed by a monkey in a Paris hotel. It makes better subject for Sunday thought to meditate on how to maintain the standard of British character and influence in this rich and clean and lovely land than to patronize the degenerate scion of a foreign statesman as he tells, for a fee, the story of how, in company with a courtesan, he "shocked wild Paris."

Any person who needs shocking should drop the telescope and look around. Take Vancouver Island for instance. We boast of its coalfields and the place they will occupy in supplying coke for iron and steel industries of the future. But we fool ourselves if we think of Vancouver Island coal areas as public wealth or even as a source of private wealth that richly benefits the province. The Vancouver Island coalfields benefit China and the Chinese more than they do British Columbia and British Columbians.

British Columbians would gladly continue to pay high prices for their coal—a price set by the competition of imported coals from Alberta—if the benefits remained in the province. But dividends go East and labor savings go to the Far East. While white laborers and working men are contemplating bread lines and civic relief for the winter time, the whole of the surface labor on the Vancouver Island coalfields and a large proportion of the under-surface labor is in the hands of the Chinese. They are well paid. They can afford to leave work and attend in hundreds and put up large defence funds at their murder trials at assizes in Nanaimo and Vancouver.

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Object to Losing Pensions Ministry. British ex-Service men are greatly perturbed by the decision of Mr. Bonar Law to abolish the Ministry of Pensions.

"One is bound to ask," said Mr. T. F. Lister, chairman of the British Legion, "whether the advisers to the Prime Minister have not been guilty of allowing him to make a capital blunder at the outset of his career."

"The Pensions Ministry has a staff of 22,000, and the total number of disabled ex-Service men in receipt of pensions at present is 900,000. If widows and children are included, the total number of beneficiaries amounts to almost 2,000,000.

GET MARRIED YOUNG SAYS CANON SCOTT

Speaking at Montreal before the Young Men's Christian Association Club on the subject of "The Place of the Young Man in Canada," Rev. Canon F. G. Scott of Quebec, flayed the policy of those banking and other institutions which did not permit their employees to marry before they reached a certain salary. He hotly denounced this policy as a crime and suggested that the money spent by such institutions in building marble columns in front of their office edifices, would be better spent in building human pillars for Canada in the homes instead of "throwing money away in making a show of this kind."

"Our whole conception of marriage is wrong," he continued. "Instead of 27, 28 and 30 being considered the correct age for marrying, it ought to be the same age as in the days of our grandfathers. My grandfather married when he was 21. The woman who is raising children, and not the woman who is going in for political power, is rendering the highest service to the nation."

He claimed that Canada was suffering from a deterioration intellectually and in regard to the administration of justice, he said it should be the same in the case of the rich as in the case of the poor. "That is not the case here at present," he maintained.

A London dispatch says that peace is in sight in Ireland. We thought there were more Irishmen left than that.

One mystery in ancient history has been cleared up for us. The reason things went wrong at Babel was because Lloyd George wasn't there.

Congratulations. Conclusion of a story on the children's page in a magazine says, "And they were married and lived happily even after."

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GET MARRIED YOUNG SAYS CANON SCOTT

Post Marine Dentistry. Incidentally, the House of Lords cut its throat over the affair, and finally, had its teeth drawn.

Shipbuilding Deadlock in Old Country. The British Shipbuilding Operatives ballot, the result of which was announced yesterday, rejects, by 39,959 votes to 22,459, the proposal to withdraw the last 10% of their war bonus.

The operatives have been ordered to remain at work pending a further conference, with the employers on Friday.

Giving Europe moral support is much like standing on the bank and cheering the fellow who is yelling for a rope.

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