

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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OFFICIAL ORGAN ALLIED TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF OTTAWA. ENDORSED BY Hamilton District Trades and Labor Council. Hamilton Building Trades Council. Kitchener Twin City Trades and Labor Council.

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HAS A BIRTHDAY. WITH this issue the Canadian Labor Press enters upon the second year of its existence. It has had a full year's growth and during the whole of that period no attempt has been made to change from the initial policy of a trade union organ, to foster and extend the ethics of the International Trade Union Movement, with a firm conviction that this movement is the correct path by which the workers may enjoy the fruits of their toil.

Hewing straight to the line of the legitimate trade unionist, whatever this voice has decided the Canadian Labor Press has been the ally, ranging from the shorter work day to the arbitration method of the settlement of the differences between Labor and Capital. On the other hand it has just as strongly condemned the work of the reactionary purveyor of poison gas within the ranks, or those who employ subtle methods to wreck the magnificent militant machine of the International Trade Unionists.

The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is the reflex of the workers' voice and the Canadian Labor Press sought to advance its constructive policy. A year's successful work in the field proves that this attitude is correct, in just the same way as the generous success has been attained by the International movement throughout the Dominion during the past year.

The voice of the worker is one of sincerity for the safe and sane evolutionary method, of advancement. The wrecking crew may add other names to their already long list, with this difference of being less effective than formerly. A keener discrimination comes with the educational advancement of the rank and file, as part and parcel of the movement and no amount of veiling of wreckers' tactics will make for desertion of the proven effective trade union policy.

To stand for the highest ideals of the trade unionist, and show no quarter to its enemies, be they from within or without, is the advance notice of the policy to be pursued for the second year term of the Canadian Labor Press.

TO PROFIT BY EXPERIENCE. "THAT" good may come out of evil," such as the unfortunate happenings in the West last year, would seem to be the probabilities if a correct gauging is made of the many public statements in this regard. Dealing directly with the clash, reviews and expressions from various sections are such that endeavors to avoid misunderstandings in future, with a desire to co-operative effort, are in strong evidence.

The Premier of the Province has lately added his quota along this vein of correct endeavor in the declaration that sympathetic co-operation between Labor and Capital was the only solution of Labor troubles. Coming as this did at the beginning of the parliamentary session, such candid thought should permeate the activities of that Legislature, with not only promised results but actual happenings of a fruitful nature.

On the anticipated Labor laws conferences are taking place with the interests represented chiefly with a few of arriving at understanding, which, if reached, will undoubtedly be presented and receive sanction by the House. Such a business-like proposal must result in an advancement on correct lines, a policy that is the ardent wish of the progressive forces of Labor.

Repetition of such industrial strife should be made as impossible as human nature can make provision herefor, and the lesson in one section given should receive the deserved attention that calls for preventive measures rather than harsh curatives. Organization through the International Trade Union Movement can no longer be a contested claim, arrogating to itself not the rights of Capital but presenting and pursuing its permanent policy of co-operative effort to the general success of industry and the Dominion welfare. Profiting by experience the two essentials of Labor and Capital may avoid the school of hard knocks. The prairie province may be the pioneer in the establishing of modernized laws to avoid misunderstandings in future.

"ON THE FLY." INTERNATIONAL Trade Unionists have always been noted for their terra firma policy, and at no period of their history can this be applied as at the present time. Thus the intimation given that the movement is "up in the air" should have no cause for misgivings, as this was the word phrasing, adopted in some sections, for giving out the information that the aviators in France have formed a union, to be international in scope. This new branch in organization is quite in keeping with the "high ideals" that have ever been present in the International Trade Union Movement, which up to the present time has taboed the other extreme of embracing the submarines, which has been in the hands of the reactionary forces, for their especial care as well suited to their manner and methods.

LABOR GOVT FOR GREAT BRITAIN

British Journalist Says General Feeling That Labor Wins Next Election.

Speaking upon the inception and growth of the British Labor party, Sunday, at the People's Forum, Montreal, S. K. Ratcliffe, recently returned from London, commented upon the probability of the next Government in Great Britain being a Labor Government and outlined the possible results. The Windsor Hall was well filled for the lecture, a few questions being asked of the speaker at the conclusion of his address. "With courage," said Mr. Ratcliffe, "we could transform the present British Empire into the Commonwealth which, after all, is the object of our dreams."

Dealing with the general character of the Labor movement, the speaker detailed its inception with the mass movement in the industry and the concentration of the people in industrial centres, which was also the commencement of industrial poverty. Out of those conditions, in the first part of the 19th century, trade unionism arose. For a long time this was forbidden, until certain legal victories in 1864-1879, after which it became an established system and the right of collective bargaining was recognized. It did not, however, represent any particular class conscious movement until labor obtained representation in the House of Commons, nor was there any spirit of revolt against the constitution of society. This condition of things prevailed until within a few years of the great war, after the formation of the Labor party in 1906.

During the war, the leaders of the Government went to the trade union leaders and demanded a temporary surrender of their principles. The latter acknowledged this right and threw themselves into the Government's arms, increasing its influence, to this end admitting without question unskilled labor in the form of women and girl workers and others, and doing, in 1915, certain industrial disputes were avoided though the leaders of both sides were severely taxed. "The Government did not manage labor during the war with any conspicuous wisdom," said Mr. Ratcliffe.

The speaker referred to the Whitley Committee of 1918, with its ultimate proposal for joint industrial councils as the most notable event of the period in industrial councils. "If Great Britain escapes any great revolutionary change of government," said he, "it will be by the action expressed by the policy of that committee." The nine days' railroad strike, which many people on this continent thought had been brought to an end by the foresight and efficiency of the Government was in reality concluded by the moderation and statesmanship of the trade union leaders outside the railroad workers, who set to work to resume negotiations where they had been broken off, in order to prevent a general strike.

As to the coal miners' possibility of a strike was averted by a general election by a Royal Commission appointed for the purpose. This was the first commission upon which the workers had equal representation with the employers' class.

Mr. Ratcliffe stated that on all hands confident predictions had been made during the last 12 months, that the next general election would mean a victory for labor. The speaker gave election statistics showing the great increase in popularity for the labor vote which, he said, now indicated the feeling of the great bodies of the middle classes. The effect of a labor administration, the speaker considered, would be to show a more honest and more creative temper and a different system of dealing with Ireland and other self-governing parts of the British Empire. "With courage," he concluded, "we could transform the present British Empire into the Commonwealth which, after all, is the object of our dreams."

Asked what would be the attitude of a Labor Government towards self-determination of Ireland, Mr. Ratcliffe answered that it was interpreted to mean the establishment of an Irish republic, those desiring it would have to go a long way towards convincing the labor men of the advisability of the scheme, the great objection being the country's geographical position with the British Isles. At present, however, the labor leaders were visiting Ireland and their report was awaited before any policy could be outlined.

Answering another questioner, he stated that full credit should be given to the I.L.P., which had acted as the missionary wing of the Labor party.

FUEL BEING MADE FROM GARRAGE.

Demonstration of Qualities of Oak-wood Given by Company Recently. The heating and burning qualities of Oakwood, the new substitute for coal, being manufactured by the Ontario Oakwood Company, were clearly shown recently by a demonstration in the home of one of the directors of the company. The briquettes were placed in an open grate of the most modern, and a few moments after they were ignited the heat could be felt more than half-way across the room, which was about 12 feet long, and the smoke, which several windows and all the doors were opened. It burns with a steady glow, emitting long, thin white flames, but is entirely devoid of all smoke or soot. After having burned for more than an hour none of the briquettes had lost their shape.

The Oakwood briquettes have undergone thorough tests at the hands of the Government chemists in Ottawa and have been proven to give 12,600 British Thermal Units of heat per ton, whereas anthracite coal of present day quality only gives about 12,000 B.T.U.'s, of which approximately 2,000 are used up in clinkers, etc. whereas in Oakwood there is no waste except the ash, and this has been found by the chemists at the Ontario Agricultural College to contain properties 4-2 times the value of ordinary manure. The promoters expect to be able to produce Oakwood at \$5.50 a ton, and when their plants are completed in Toronto, they will have a daily capacity output of 1,200 tons.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

WESTERN CANADA

NO LABOR REPRESENTATIVE ON HOSPITAL BOARD. The desire on the part of Labor in Regina to have a representative on the Hospital Board cannot be completed with this year. In regard to communication to the City Council from Mr. Hawkins, secretary of the Trades and Labor Council, in this matter, it was decided that at the regular meeting of the council, held on Monday, that the Trades and Labor Council be advised that the Hospital Board had been appointed for the year, and that the members of the board were the same as last year.

WINNIPEG CIVIC EMPLOYEES SEEK NEW STANDARD. Winnipeg civic employees have presented a demand to council for salary increases to make a minimum wage of \$130 a month. They ask \$100 in case of sickness six months' full pay and six months' half pay for two weeks' holidays on full pay for all who have been in service a year or more.

CALGARY LABOR TEMPLE SHOWS PROFIT DURING 1925. According to the financial statement of the Calgary Labor Temple Co., which was presented at the annual meeting recently, the net profit for the year amounted to \$1,322.16, as compared with \$576.11 for 1924. It is considered to be very satisfactory by several of the stockholders. The assets in real estate, buildings and furniture, less depreciation, are stated at \$21,515.56. The City of Calgary mortgage is being steadily reduced, and now stands at \$2,500. There has been a sustained revenue from the rental of the various rooms, this having amounted to \$2,788.79 for the year.

MOOSE JAW LABOR AGAINST ALLIANCE WITH FARMERS. General expression of the majority of the delegates present at the Moose Jaw Trades and Labor Council last week, when the matter of the proposed affiliation of Labor with the Farmers' political party came up for discussion, was that such a move was unwise. While no definite action could be taken by the delegates, it was decided that the matter be referred to the Labor Representation League for discussion. Many of the members in speaking of the matter were of the opinion that the farmers were likely to utilize labor as a tool to attain their own ends and that Labor had little hope of gaining anything through such an alliance.

MOOSE JAW TRADES COUNCIL HONORS TREASURER. At the close of the Moose Jaw Trades and Labor Council meeting last week Allan Bye, who has just resigned after holding the office of treasurer for five years, was presented with a handsome chest of silver by the members. In making the presentation, officers of the council expressed the sincerest appreciation of the splendid work accomplished by Mr. Bye during his tenure of office.

VICTORIA'S NEW GOVERNMENT. The results of the municipal elections at Victoria were of more than average interest because the electors were asked by referendum to decide what form of Government they would approve in the future, the verdict being in favor of a Mayor and 10 aldermen, as at present, but with the difference that half of the board of aldermen should be elected for a two-year term. At present, all municipal elections to the City Council are for a year's duration. Another indication for this city approved by the electors by a two-to-one vote, was that of proportional representation, which will be put in force in connection with future municipal contests.

MOOSE JAW CARPENTERS. The carpenters of the city have not as yet reached any decision regarding their demands in their 1926 wage schedule. It was stated by an official of the union last night that

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two rates are under discussion: that of 30 cents an hour for a nine-hour day or \$1 an hour for an eight-hour day. It is anticipated that the latter rate, however, will be adopted and the carpenters in the other cities of the province have presented this schedule. The union is now waiting action on the part of the master builders.

POLITICS AND PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR.

The opening of the session is only about two weeks away and the political atmosphere is just as cloudy as ever, with the Government approaching a situation pregnant with danger to its existence. There will certainly be at least one resignation from the Cabinet before the House meets. Apparently absolutely nothing has been done to cope with an increasingly difficult tariff situation, which will almost certainly be forced to an issue by one or other of the forces in the House not supporting the Government. It is now up to the members to decide whether Hon. Mr. Crerar or Hon. Mackenzie King will throw the bomb, but it will certainly be up to one or both of them to justify their action in this respect. When that is done, there will be at least 20 members on the Government side who will have to take their stand very definitely on their answer to the question, "Under which flag, Bonaparte?" Last year, for reasons which could easily be justified, these men remained true to their allegiance, but news from the west particularly is to the effect that many of these feel something definite must be done at this session.

The break may be easily precipitated before the budget comes, however. There will be a caucus immediately after the House comes together. Sir Robert Borden will not be there, and his absence will remove a restraint which ordinarily exists in the presence of the Prime Minister. There will be more outspoken opinion than is customary, and a severe straining of the ties, if nothing more serious, will occur unless the Government has something definite to propose regarding the tariff. At the present time they have nothing, and the tendency is toward nothing radical during the Premier's absence.

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There are other difficulties. When the House opens, the Maritime Provinces will be without representation in the Cabinet outside of Sir Robert Borden, and no steps have been taken to remedy the situation. The discontent on the part of the western forces has been accentuated by the fact that no steps have yet been taken to implement the promise of Sir Thomas White, made during the spring session last year, that a tariff investigation would be held if conditions improved. What those conditions he had in mind were and whether they have improved or not, is a position vague enough to leave a hope of success for the Government, but it is doubtful if any answer they can make founded on such a reason will satisfy the discontent of the western wing of the party. Sir Henry Drayton is understood to have sent out questionnaires on the subject, but that will hardly be taken as action.

A FEW Sundays ago, a young unmarried girl, after vainly applying for admission elsewhere, staggered in a fainting condition, into a maternity home. HERS was the old, old story—trusting betrayed—outcast—forsaken. FORSAKEN? No! The Salvation Army thanks God every hour for opportunities given to show that the Love of Christ still beats in many hearts. THIS young girl is passing through their hands peacefully, and will leave them with her self-respect restored. THE Salvation Army serves those in the shadow of distress.

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THE AQUEDUCT STRIKE AT MONTREAL.

"If at the end of 15 days the Administrative Commission have not kept their word, some new means will have to be taken," thus spoke President Foster, of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council, in making report of the Executive Committee on the aqueduct strike at the last regular meeting of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council. He recalled all that had taken place since December 31, when the men

interviews the members of the Executive Committee had had with the members of the Administrative Commission. Then coming to recall happenings he said that the aqueduct strikers had accepted on Monday the conditions of the Administrative Commission, viz: That the aqueduct strikers would all be taken back within 15 days from February 1, and this without discrimination whatsoever. President Foster said that the function of the Executive Committee of the Trades and Labor Council had ceased the moment the strikers had accepted the offer made to them by the Administrative Commission, and he thought it was now up to the men themselves to arrange as to the details.

Alfred Mathieu announced what he termed the lack of energy of the Executive Committee; he said that if a general strike had been ordered as he had suggested three weeks ago, Decary and Gouin would have come down from their pedestals and would have found out that organized labor was not merely a joke. He said the members of the Executive Committee had been more playing things in the hands of Decary and his fe. Members of the Administrative Commission.

President Foster replied briefly and then Secretary Alphonse Mathieu took up the cudgels on behalf of the Executive Committee. However, apart from Alfred Mathieu, the rest of the speakers—and they were many—three bouquets glowed at the feet of the Executive Committee of the Trades and Labor Council for their devotion to duty, their energy in obtaining the aqueduct workers a settlement which, while not satisfactory to all, is notwithstanding, a success for organized labor. Dominion Organizer Healy, adding his congratulations to the Executive Committee of the council, regretted

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however, that a method had not been arranged whereby the aqueduct strikers would return to work in shifts, instead of in groups of three or four. Mr. Healy also declared that he had discouraged any suggestion for the aqueduct strikers who have resumed work to abandon their jobs at present, but declared that under no circumstances would organized labor be willing to work in the company of "scabs" or non-union men.

VOTED AGAINST GENERAL STRIKE.

In a despatch sent out by the Canadian Press on the night of January 29, an error in transcription made the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council appear to resolve to strike to enforce the release of It. Russell from jail. What the council decided was to aid the Russell defense fund by its sympathy and support, but not by any strike.

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