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AN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

It is to be hoped that the Government will provide for the broadening of the scope of the extension department of the university during the present session, and make an appropriation for that work. The university can be of inestimable value to men and women in the province by having a well organized system of tuition by correspondence. The present department of extension has done useful work on a scale that was calculated to make it of general use. With the establishment of a first-class correspondence department in connection with the university, and the use of proper measures to put it before the people, there would undoubtedly be a great response throughout the province. Large numbers of people are paying money to the States for correspondence courses. With the widening of the usefulness of an educational institution that need be second to none, every Alberta citizen could have the opportunity of augmenting his or her education without the necessity of paying a high price to an institution outside of the province or Dominion.

Nor need the good work stop there. Lecture courses could be arranged at central points throughout the province and a large number of men and women would undoubtedly take advantage of the opportunity thus offered.

One of the outstanding members of the famous (or infamous) Winnipeg "Citizens' committee, is reported as having attributed the industrial struggle to free education. Even though the gentleman was correct in his assumption—and we are inclined to agree with him—we do not think that our Alberta legislators will oppose any scheme of wider education. If the Government is prepared to make the university useful to all the people it will no doubt be supported by all parties in the legislature.

MINIMUM WAGES

It is deplorable that Alberta should find itself in the position of having a minimum wage provision that is ridiculously low when compared with that of other western provinces. The only minimum wage legislation in this province is that contained in the Factories Act and is only applicable to places of business coming under the jurisdiction of the act. It provides for a minimum of six dollars per week for learners for the first four months of employment, seven-and-a-half dollars for the second four months, and a minimum of nine dollars thereafter. When it is known that many employers observe the nine dollar minimum as a maximum wage, the hardship entailed on those workers affected becomes very apparent. It is stated that the average wage paid in Alberta stores is eleven-and-a-half dollars per week.

The Alberta minimum when compared with that of Saskatchewan should create a strong agitation for a reform. In the last mentioned province the minimum wage scale runs from nine-and-a-half to fifteen dollars for a forty-eight hour week. The scale for learners is \$9.50 for the first six months, \$11.00 for the second, and \$13.00 for the third six months, and the minimum after eighteen months' employment is \$15.00 per week.

There is no reason why Alberta should be behind in this matter, and it is to be hoped that something will be accomplished during the present session to place this province on an equal basis with other western provinces with respect to the minimum wage.

LABOR AND INTERNATIONALISM

The organization of Labor is the greatest international movement and influence in the world today. The great fraternity of those who work belts the globe. There are, admittedly, differences which separate American Labor, for example, from British, French, or German Labor, but they are nevertheless differences of detail and incident rather than of fundamental characteristics or principle. The same demands for reasonable hours, living wages and proper working conditions that are voiced in one country are heard in all the others. The desire for education and enjoyment, for public health and civic beauty, for freedom of speech and organization, for a share in the control of government and industry, knows no national bounds or limits of language, race or creed.

Labor has the humanitarian viewpoint in its organization. It is more concerned with peace and happiness and a higher standard of living for every human creature, than it is with the selfish and mercenary affairs of national trade protection, or trade discrimination between States. The program on which Labor stands represents social advances and benefits that are greater than the confines of nationalism. It expresses universal needs and desires. The interests of Labor are one and the province of Labor is the world. Writing editorially The Nation (New York) says: "It is to the solidarity of Labor rather than to any formal union of governments that we must look today for liberty, international understanding, and peace."

CONCERNING THE STRIKE

Strikes are bad. Bad for the workers, bad for employers, bad for industry, and bad for the community. As a matter of fact there is nothing good about a strike itself, just as there is nothing ennobling about war or any other kind of strife. But—the direct results of a strike are often beneficial to the worker, the industry and community, and indirectly even to the employer. Many employers are fair, but as a rule that which the employer concedes is that which the insistent demands of the workers press home upon him. It is when the organized workers encounter an unreasonable, stubborn employer, or group of employers, who will not recognize the toilers' right to a living wage and reasonable hours of labor, that a strike takes place. The strike hurts just as it hurts to have a tooth extracted or filled. But the operation is usually successful and the inconvenience and pain are overshadowed by the ultimate benefit received.

Look at any country where strikes are few or where there are no strikes, and we will find in that country a low standard of life as compared with any other people or any other country. Industrial dependence, servility and docility exist in countries where there are no strikes. If the absence of strikes meant industrial and commercial prosperity; if the absence of strikes meant the independence of a country, its wealth, its progress, then China should stand at the head of civilization. The worker hates and dreads the strike. But he hates and despises industrial slavery more, and is sometimes prepared to suffer the pangs of the former to escape the humiliation, degradation and hopelessness of the latter.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Information given out at Washington shows that 17,000 persons graduated into the millionaire class in the years 1917 and 1918. There are 36,686 millionaires in the States. The workers have become poorer to swell the number in the million dollar class.

In demanding the nationalization of basic industries, Labor wants something more than a change from private to State capitalism. Democratic control of industry by those engaged therein, under supervision of the Government representing the community, is the aim of the workers.

Building tradesmen in the city will be pleased to observe that a scaffold inspector has been appointed by the city commissioners. It is to be hoped that though the official referred to is to be designated as assistant head of the building department, his other duties in that connection will not interfere with the inspection of scaffolds. The providing of safe scaffolding and staging is an important matter to the men employed in the building trades.

New Spring and Dress Goods Are Arriving Daily

The looms of no pagan land yielded richer, more brilliant weaves than those of the modern textile worker. This coming spring season the fabrics are particularly beautiful. Color artistry, design, texture—seem to have reached a climax. You are especially invited to view these new spring weaves tomorrow.

48-Inch Silk Tricote. Price \$10.00 Per Yard

Heavy Mesh Silk Tricote. A popular fabric for dresses, suits and separate skirts. Shown in all the leading shades of taupe, rose, sand, reseda, grey, Belgian, navy and black. 48 inches wide. Price, per yard **\$10.00**

40-In. Crepe De Chine. Wonderful Value at \$1.98

With a rich lustrous finish for dresses and blouses. All colors including black; 40 inches wide. Extra special, per yard **\$1.98**

54-Inch Pure Wool Tweeds. Price \$3.98 Per Yard

In a special weight for suits, coats and separate skirts. Colors are green, grey and tan mixtures; 54 inches wide. Special, per yard **\$3.98**

Pure Wool Novelty Plaids for Separate Skirts
The right fabrics for your spring skirt. Beautiful color combinations; 48 and 54 inches wide. Priced at **\$6.00, \$7.95, \$9.50 and \$9.75 Per Yard**

50-Inch Pure Wool Gabardines

A shipment of these Pure Wool Gabardines just to hand. Th value is exceptionally good. In weights for suits, etc. All colors and black. Very special. per yard **\$4.75**

36-Inch Chiffon Taffetas. Price \$2.95 Per Yard

The leading silk for spring wear, and of a fine even weave. All colors and black; 36 inches wide. Price, per yard **\$2.95**

54-Inch Covert Coatings. Special, \$4.25 Per Yard

An excellent material for spring coats and of English manufacture. We advise an early selection, as the quantity is limited. In green, grey and tan mixtures. Special, per yard **\$4.25**

BEDSPREADS

From the Best English Manufacturers. In Marcella, Grecian, Dimity and Crochet

We have just received a big consignment of these Bedspreads direct from the English manufacturers. As everyone knows this quality of Bedspread has been almost unobtainable since the war commenced. However we are now once more able to supply the big demand for them. The values are exceptionally good. Lay in a supply while these low prices prevail—(Second Floor).

LOOK THESE ITEMS OVER CAREFULLY

White Crochet Bedspreads. Size 70x88. Price.....	\$4.95	White Marcella Bedspreads—	
White Grecian Bedspreads. Size 66x99. Price.....	\$4.75	Size 76x90. Price.....	\$5.75
White Grecian Bedspreads. Size 77x100. Price.....	\$5.95	Size 82x90. Price.....	\$5.95
Colored Honeycomb Bedspreads in reds, blues and pinks. Size 72x90. Price.....	\$5.75	Size 82x108. Price.....	\$6.95
		Size 82x108. Price.....	\$7.50
		Size 82x90. Price.....	\$6.50
		Size 82x108. Price.....	\$8.75
		Size 82x108. Price.....	\$9.75
		White Dimity Bedspreads in stripes and dainty figured and bordered designs. Easy to launder. Sizes 77x100 to 86x108. Priced at.....	\$5.50, \$6.75, \$7.50, \$8.50 and \$10.00

HUDSON'S BAY CO.

With the trend toward group government, organized Labor holds a more responsible position than ever before.

If the reader has a desire to be informed in a decidedly entertaining manner of what is going on "below the hill," Alex Ross' articles in the Free Press will be found to fill the bill.

Edmonton has just lost a highly efficient high school teacher. Why? Because the Ottawa scale for the work the teacher was doing in Edmonton is three hundred dollars higher than that paid in this city.

The return of West Edmonton Machinists Union No. 559 to the real Labor movement is gratifying. To the pitiful few who still hold to the sinking wreck, we would say: "Eventually, why not now!"

The sudden and simultaneous increase in house rents may not be the result of a real estate agent collusion, but it looks very much as if that might be the case. Rents in this city after April first will be exorbitant in very many cases. The Free Press is glad to note that the legislative committee of the Trades Council will report on this matter at the next meeting of the Council. The need of a housing scheme is daily becoming more apparent.

LABOR RESEARCH BUREAU IS GREAT ADVANCE IN ENG.

Independent Organization to Supply Information to Sections of Labor Movement

One of the most interesting recent developments in the labor world of Great Britain is the establishment of a Labor research department by the Independent Labor party.

It has affiliated to it the Trades Union congress, the Labor party, and the Co-operative union, besides numerous individual unions, branches, local labor parties, co-operative societies, and so forth; but it is an independent organization to supply accurate information to all sections of the Labor movement.

Its organic relations to the trade unions and the Labor movement and its work on the trade union side has won for it a special position in the industrial field, and it is now attempting to undertake a similar task in the international field.

Already a good deal has been done in this direction in past years; special inquiries have been held and books produced on questions of international government, economic policy, and trade unionism, and a considerable collection of documents and cuttings brought together.

It is planned to establish a central agency of Labor international information, in touch with all foreign Labor organizations, and possessing full files of their documents and publications, and of government papers and other publications bearing on international questions as they affect Labor, and issuing a regular service of news and special reports.

The organizing of this has been proceeding rapidly during the last few months. The international section is now in close touch with most of the leading foreign Labor organizations, and issues a special international supplement to the monthly circular of the department.

What Men Will Wear This Spring



There's one thing pretty certain, careful buying is going to be the style this Spring. Men who want to make their money go farthest are going to get good, all wool quality; such clothes save because they last several seasons.

In our clothes you'll not only find style, but you'll get the fine tailoring and all-wool quality that saves for you because it lasts.

MEN'S AND YOUNG MEN'S SUITS

\$35.00, \$40.00, \$50.00
and **\$60.00**



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