

Saskatchewan Labor's Realm

ENDORSED BY THE REGINA TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Vol. 1, No. 36

REGINA, April 10, 1908

Annual Subscription \$1.00
Single Copy, Five Cents

THE SASKATCHEWAN LABOR'S REALM

Weekly Labor and Social Reform Newspaper. Justice, Truth, Fraternity. "Labor Omnia Vincit."

HUGH PEAT

EDITOR.

American Hatters' Union

The recent decision of the Supreme Court of America in the Hatters' case has at last fully awakened the wage earners of the United States to the impotency of their position as an effective organization for the enforcement of its demands, and for the accomplishment of its avowed object, namely, the securing to the producers of wealth, that is the wage-earners, those rights and privileges to which they are entitled as an integral part of the community.

The great mass of toilers, who constitute the electoral power of the United States, have been treated by the supreme Court of America to one of the most flagrant perversions of justice by the invoking of the Sherman anti-trust law in the recent Hatters' case, that it has ever been the lot of any section of the community to suffer.

At the time the Sherman Anti-trust law was enacted Mr. Gompers and his colleagues were repeatedly assured that there was nothing in the law that could be construed as applying to labor. It was an accepted fact that Congress did not intend the Sherman law to so apply, and yet in the face of all this, the superior judicial intellects of the United States have placed the organizations of labor under the ban, and are trying to precipitate a national calamity by classing the organizations of labor in the same category as trusts.

The intent of the Sherman Anti-trust law was to safeguard the people from exploitation and robbery by those who sought to corral production and the means of life. The Supreme Court has decided that the Hatters' Union has, by acting as an organization for the protection of its own productive power from exploitation and abuse, placed itself in the same position, and is therefore governed by the same law as other trusts.

In the first place it is absurd to say that labor is a trust. There can be no trust in something that has not yet been produced. Labor is a latent power in man, and is not a tangible reality until it is applied to work. There can therefore be no trust in an unknown quantity or an unproduced commodity.

The Court's decision in the Hatters' case was the last goad necessary to awaken to the fulness of active life the wage earners of America. Too long have the apostles of trades unionism worked within narrow and circumscribed limits. Hitherto it may have been necessary to confine within the scope of the union all matters pertaining to unionism; but if unionism means anything at all, it means that every avenue for progress and material and educational advancement must be as open as the day, so that the greatest good can accrue.

The trades union, through organization, has given the workers brighter and better homes. It has elevated the tolling masses from a veritable rabble of humanity, sullen and morose in their superstitious ignorance, into a noble and honored manhood, with lofty ideals and noble aspirations. The trades union has paved the way for intellectual freedom, and has by securing for the wage-earners higher wages and shorter hours, afforded that remuneration for the purchase of books, and that spare time which is the basis of all progress. The position which it occupies today, and has reckoned its children

amongst the foremost of the nations of the world.

Trades unionism has accomplished much, but it has accomplished nothing in comparison with that which it is its duty yet to accomplish. It has compelled the masters who control the means of life to disgorge to some extent and to accord to labor a juster recompense for its worth, but that is only the beginning. Trades unionism is as yet like a child which has just learned to walk with the aid of its mother's all-protecting arm, it has yet to learn to walk alone, and in order to do so it must enter the political arena. Politics is the battleground between the rich and the poor, and on that ground the poor have been sacrificed to the exploitation of the rich too long. If trades unionism is to be anything at all it must become a political factor, and send to congress its own representatives who can fight the cause of the toiler for justice and right, who can remain true to themselves as men, and who can be depended upon to remain uncontaminated by political grafters and party machine manipulations.

MOOSE JAW TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Carnegie Library for Moose Jaw Turned Down by Council—Labor Day Preparations in Progress.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Moose Jaw, April 8.—The regular meeting of the Trades and Labor Council was held in the Trades Hall on April 7th.

President Fred Grey in the chair. The executive committee reported unfavorably on the attempt to establish in Moose Jaw a Carnegie library, in no uncertain tones, and the council unanimously adopted their report.

The municipal committee reported having drawn up a fair wage clause to present to the city council for its adoption, to operate on all contracts let by the city. This with some amendments will be presented to the city council at an early date. The committee appointed to acquire suitable grounds for the labor day celebrations reported having petitioned the city council for the use of Crescent Park and also for a money grant. While the committee believe that the city council will favor the request, the mayor wishes them to make a written application.

A deputation from the ladies auxiliary of the Carmen addressed the Council and offered to supply refreshments at the Labor Day celebration, and also expressed a wish to promote the power of the union label.

The delegates present enthusiastically expressed their approval of the offer and resolved to give whatever assistance might be needed.

After listening to an interesting talk from W. Walker, of the Regina Trades Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Ode to the Label

The Label, God bless it, the symbol of peace;
Right on through the ages till sorrow shall cease,
The saviour of children and women and men
From sweatshop conditions, we hail thee,—our friend.
We hail thee, O Label, from sailors' bright
And drink to thy future so radiantly bright.

W. R. Trotter's Mission in England

To say that W. R. Trotter's work in England has been successful and will prove a lasting benefit to Canada is to put it mildly. If he had done nothing else besides putting the Salvation Army on the defensive and drawing the attention of the governments of both countries to the Army's Immigration policy, his mission would not have been in vain. But he has done infinitely more. He has shown that the aim of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has been to induce numbers of men to come here so that there would be a surplus unemployed labor population always at its command ready to do its bidding when required. He has enlisted the sympathy of the labor unions of the old land, and he has prevented hundreds of men coming to this country and becoming members of the unemployed army by his timely publicity campaign. There is no gainsaying the fact that many unions and many individuals in Canada were firmly convinced that his mission was a waste of money, but results have proved otherwise and the Trades Congress of Canada is to be congratulated for the step they have taken, and the labor movement is to be congratulated for having men amongst its ranks who are not only capable but willing to take upon themselves such tasks and who are prepared to incur the odium and contempt of certain classes of the community in the interests of justice and truth.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

Our readers will be pleased to know that from this week on the "Realm" will revert to its former date of publication, and will appear every Friday in each week throughout the summer months. Building operations will soon commence and business will assume its usual activity before long, so that we feel justified in making the change as the wage earners of the province will desire to keep posted on the labor situation each week.

The Locomotive Engineers Meet

Washington, March 27.—Representatives of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen of which President Roosevelt is a member, are assembling in the capital for an important conference, which will open tomorrow and continue over Monday. The convention will be addressed by John J. Hanahan, grand master of the organization; F. P. Sargent, commissioner general of immigration; C. P. Neill, commissioner of labor; and Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor.

According to a widely circulated report, the convention will mark an epoch in the entry of the American Federation of Labor into the forthcoming presidential campaign. Recent adverse decisions from the courts and the failure of congress to pass remedial legislation, it is said, has led President Gompers and other national leaders of organized labor to the determination that active participation in politics is the only course left for them to pursue.

While the railroad men are not officially affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, labor men say that the Firemen and Enginemen will affiliate politically with the Federation; that is, the two organizations will combine to fight the enemies of organized labor. The Brotherhood alone comprises a membership of 5,000 firemen and 2,400 locomotive engineers.

J. KEIR HARDIE, THE VETERAN LABOR LEADER, IN AUSTRALIA

Socialists and Trades Unionists Must Inevitably Amalgamate for Political Power--Pen Pictures of Ministers.

J. Keir Hardie, the grand old man of unionism and chairman of the Independent Labor Party of Great Britain, has about completed his trip round the world in search of health. From the newspaper reports of his tour it does not seem as if he had much idle time on his hands, but we are pleased to understand that his health has considerably improved as a result of the trip. The following tracts from the "London Labor Leader" concerning Mr. Hardie in Australia might be of interest to our readers, for there is a close analogy between the Commonwealth of Australia and the Dominion of Canada as far as the Labor movement is concerned.

IN PORT ADELAIDE

We reached Port Adelaide early on the morning of the 26th, after a pleasant four days' sail across the Blight. Mr. Blundell, M.P., the energetic party secretary, and one or two other members, turned up, inevitable Scotsman, and by ten o'clock I was in the presence of the party. "Tom" Price, prime minister and stonemason, is a Welshman, who has trained the party to sing, "Down the River" in a way that would entitle them to honors at a Mountain Ash Eisteddfod. A performance of his, in another line, which I witnessed, recalled Burns' lines in "The Jolly Beggars"—

Merry Andrew, who tumbles for sport
Let nobody name wi' a sneer.
I'm tould that even at Court
There's a tumbler ca'd the premier.

Mr. Price, who for twenty-five years has been the soul and inspiration of the labor movement in Western Australia, is the head of a coalition ministry, and is the best beloved, as he is also the most trusted man in the state. He acted as foreman during the building of the House where he is now Prime Minister. He has four labor colleagues in his cabinet, of the four Hon. Kirkpatrick, who acts as colonial secretary, and is known in the party as chief. Mr. Archbold is leading the party wisely and well. * * * Sunday evening saw us in the train for Adelaide, a right royal send off being given us by the sturdy enthusiasts who head the Labor movement. Jones, of the "Barrier-Truth," was in evidence all the time. The "Barrier Truth" is a good specimen of the weekly labor paper, and a big effort is now being made to bring it

out as a daily on May 1. Success to the effort. * * *

HON. ANDREW FISHER

At the station the Hon. Andrew Fisher and Tom Mann were among the crowd on the platform. "Andy" as he is best known in the movement is an Ayrshire collier, who as a youth in Crosshouse took part in the "Holidays" movement in 1879. He came out here shortly afterwards, brought his union principles with him, took an active part in the labor movement in Queensland, which state he now represents in the federal parliament. When Mr. J. C. Watson resigned the leadership of the party, Mr. Fisher was selected as his successor. But honors have not spoiled him, and he is still the same shrewd, capable, kindly Scot he was whilst "howkin his pickle." He is married and has three healthy bairns.

TOM MANN AND HIS WORK

As for Tom Mann, he hasn't changed a bit. His energy is unimpaired, and his taste and capacity for work as gargantuan as in the old I.L.P. days. I am sure there was a long look in his eyes as he heard how the seedling he did so much to water, if not to plant, has grown and spread until its roots are everywhere in the land and its branches afford homes of healing for the oppressed and downtrodden.

SOCIALIST AND LABOR

The Socialist Federation, of which Tom is founder, organizer, and inspirer, is a many sided agency which ranges from singing classes, down through brass bands, science classes, and a co-operative store to a street-corner propaganda and a Sunday lecture in the Bijou Theatre. And it is Tom Mann all the time and everywhere. Elsie I saw later. She takes her share in the general work, and has special charge of the singing classes. I may as well say here that everywhere I went in Australia I heard the most glowing accounts of Tom Mann's work for trade unionism and socialism, and were he to care to allow himself to be put forward as a candidate for either the state house or senate, as I think he should his return would be a practical certainty.

At present there is a little dolefulness in the Labor Party at the tactics of the Socialist party; but here as in Canada, time and experience will wear that down, and bring the

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