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Social unrest is caused by social injustice—and agitation follows in the wake of social injustice as naturally as the exhaust follows in the wake of the engine.—Detroit Free Press.

EDMONTON FREE PRESS

Edited, Controlled and Published by
THE EDMONTON TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

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THE TRADES COUNCIL'S ACTION.

The decision of the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council to endeavor to enlist the active sympathy of the Dominion Trades Congress on behalf of the Labor men convicted in Winnipeg of seditious conspiracy, is one that will commend itself to members of organized Labor who are really interested in having the imprisoned men released.

There may be some little publicity or propaganda value in the holding of mass meetings, but in a matter of this kind their utility in accomplishing the desired end has been proven many times beyond any cavil. On the other hand the method suggested by the Edmonton council has been successful in a number of outstanding instances. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is the parent body of Organized Labor in Canada. If any organization of Labor in the Dominion has any influence with the Government and the Department of Justice, the Congress by reason of its position and strength is the body which could wield such influence. If the Congress executive can be induced to approach the proper authorities in an attempt to have the convicted men released, there is a possibility of success; if the Dominion body could not accomplish that end, it is folly to believe that any other body or any other methods will be successful.

In a personal way Tom Moore, P. M. Draper and other members of the executive, owe nothing in the way of kindness or generosity to the convicted men. The Congress officials have been subjected to a barrage of endless abuse and calumny during the last few years by some of the very men who today stand convicted. But going beyond the personal and looking at the larger issue, the Free Press believes it to be the duty of the Dominion Executive to intervene on behalf of the men who were convicted for the expression of political ideas. It would be a gracious act, the very magnanimity of which is likely to make it successful.

LABOR AND PROHIBITION

An American magazine recently sent a questionnaire to trade union officials throughout the United States on the question of prohibition. The result is significant and interesting. Out of 526 officials who replied, 345 favor prohibition; 143 do not believe prohibition has benefited the worker; 31 are doubtful and seven think it has not been given sufficient trial to admit of an intelligent decision.

A phase of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages that Labor is quick to take cognizance of, is the economic factor. Apart from being a waste in a direct manner, it is a fact that the brewing and distillery industry pays a smaller percentage in wages in proportion to the capital invested, than does any other industry. The greatest objection to the drink evil, however, is the baneful influence of the saloon and the demoralizing effect of liquor on the workers. We are inclined to agree with one American Labor leader who blames industrial unrest on prohibition. It is true that the workers can best realize the position they hold in society if they are free from the numbing influence of drink. The illustration drawn from Ward as quoted by Alex. Ross in the Free Press of last week pictures the effect of alcohol on the workers, not only in ancient Rome but through the ages. It has blinded them to their slavery.

The Oregon Labor Press, one of the largest and best Labor papers in the States, comments on the prohibition issue in part as follows:

"While the declarations of the American Federation of Labor have been opposed to prohibition, there has been a marked sentiment for prohibition in many sections, particularly on the Pacific Coast. The saloon was much more than a place for dispensing intoxicating drinks. It was the recruiting office for most of the lower walks of life, and the saloon keepers were not satisfied to conduct their business as other business is conducted, but on all occasions sought to control the communities in which they were operating for the sole profit of the saloon business. Whether it will be possible to reintroduce the sale of intoxicants is doubtful. How labor will stand in such a contest cannot be determined. Workers as well as those in other walks of life, will be divided, but labor will, with unanimity, oppose any action looking to the return of the saloon."

TRADE UNIONISM ONLY EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION

There certainly can be no objection to the closest relations of a co-operative nature between employer and employee in the shop, but these relations must never take on such a form as to separate the workers in one shop from the rest of their fellow workers in the industry. That is the principle objection to "shop committees" and "company unions." Such organizations are fundamentally wrong in principle. The organization of workers in independent shop units is a menace, for the reason that it organizes the workpeople away from each other and puts them in a position where shop may be played against shop. Organizations of this kind, as a matter of fact, in no sense serve the real interest of the workers, but readily lend themselves to the designs of the employers hostile to trade unionism, and are, in fact, almost without exception creatures of the employers.

There must be organization of workers, and the workers should be interested only in the manner of association that will be most effective in serving the interests of the membership. No "shop committee" or "company union" can give the workers the active representation, freed from any influence of any kind except the judgment and needs of the membership, like that supplied by the trade union. The interests of the workers engaged in any industry are identical, and all the workers in every shop in any one industry should be found in one organization which would serve only the best interests of the membership, and be free and untrammelled from any other influence.

Any machinery proposed for the successful extension of the principles of democracy in industry, must provide for the free organization of the workers. The fact is that the trade union affords the workers the only bona fide and effective system of representation thus far evolved in the industrial life of any country.

ORGANIZATION THE VITAL NECESSITY.

Trade unionism is the first step toward the democratization of industry. By organization only can the workers attain industrial freedom.

Previous to the introduction of the factory system of production which established capitalism, the industrial workers, master and employee, were socially and economically on the same plane of society. The master depended very greatly upon the good will of his workmen. Working together as they did, there was a personal contact that fostered a mutual understanding and sympathy. But with the change brought about by the invention of great machines that could not be acquired by the workers, the employers and employed of industry became separated from the former relationship, and the owners of the means of production assumed control of the lives of the toilers. The change in the system of production meant to the workers a transition from industrial freedom to that of the most abject dependence and slavery.

There was only one remedy—combination. Individually the workers were helpless to better their condition; by exerting united effort it was found possible to exercise an influence on behalf of the workpeople, that gave them some say in the determination of working conditions, and the return which Labor should receive for productive effort. With the growth of organization this influence has increased, and the measure of industrial freedom which any class of workers enjoy is determined almost altogether by the effect-

Springtimes Reflection in the Mirror of Fashion Is Portrayed at the Bay

The joyous month of April—when nature starts to bedeck herself in Spring attire—there comes an infectious joyousness in the very air—the joy of living. The whole store has been transformed into a bower of Spring loveliness—presenting the season's newest conceptions. A visit to the store tomorrow will suggest many additions to the wardrobe and home. NOTICE—The undermentioned items marked with a star are extraordinary value and are for SALE SATURDAY ONLY.

Footwear for Men, Women and Children



Your new Spring Suit will not be complete without a pair of stylish shoes to go with it. We are offering tomorrow some exceptional values in new spring Footwear that are bound to appeal to economical men and women.

Women's Fancy Lace Boots. Regular \$12.50 and \$15.00; Extra Special at \$9.45

There are 50 pairs only to be closed out at greatly reduced price. They are made from fine quality kid in shades of grey, brown, chocolate and field mouse, 9-inch lace tops. Several nifty styles to choose from, in all sizes. Regular \$12.50 to \$15.00. Extraordinary value at... **\$9.45**

Women's Black Kid Boots. Regular \$15.00. Extra Special \$9.45

There are just 60 pairs in this lot. Made of a fine quality black kid with nine-inch tops. The well-known "Gold Standard" make, featuring the very newest lasts. All sizes. Regular \$15.00. Extra special value at... **\$9.45**

New Spring Styles in Oxfords and Pumps at Prices Which Are Unbeatable

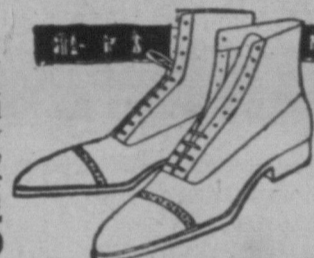
These have just been opened up. No less than 20 different styles to make selection from, including every kind of leather. The newest styles of toes and heels. We have made the price wonderfully attractive in order to lower this immense stock as soon as possible. All sizes. Exceptional values at... **\$7.50, \$8.50, \$9.00 and \$10.00**

Men's Drssy Boots at a Big Sacrifice

You will need a pair of these to go with your new spring suit, why not take advantage of this special offering and secure a pair of these tomorrow. They are made from fine quality black and tan leathers in the season's very newest styles. Very neat in appearance and comfortable fitters. All sizes and all widths. Regular values, **\$8.45** to \$11.00, for...

Boys' Dressy Boots at \$4.95

The boys must not be forgotten for they will need sprucing up just as much as dad. Bring your young sons along tomorrow and let us fit them with a pair of these new spring boots at a big saving in price. Made from superior quality leathers. Goodyear welted solid leather soles and heels. Sizes 1 to 5. Regular \$6.50 and \$7.00. Priced specially at... **\$4.95**



HUDSON'S BAY CO.

iveness of their organization. Trades Unionism will bring about industrial freedom, and industrial democracy cannot be brought into being until freedom is first secured for the workers throughout the field of industry. The work of organization is still the great need of the Labor movement, and the logical and consistent route toward the democratic control of industry.

Labor is not only in sympathy with but never fails to support all movements for the conservation and betterment of humanity.

The suggestion of the legislative committee of the Trades Council regarding rents has merit. It is that the rent paid per month on any premises at a certain time in the year should prevail without increase for twelve months. It would tend to do away with undue profiteering in the event of a serious house shortage.

Organized Labor's mission is the economic betterment of the workers. Social betterment follows as a matter of course.

WAGE SCHEDULE IN METAL INDUSTRY HAS BEEN ADOPTED

Arrangements Made To Extend Jurisdiction of Council To All Canada.

The new wage schedule and terms of working conditions of men employed in the metal industry, marine engineering firms, and shipbuilding plants, from Halifax to Port Arthur, affecting 400,000 workers, have been adopted by the one hundred delegates who assembled in convention at Montreal recently.

The terms to be presented at once, and in some cases to go into effect April 1st, in others on May 1st, embrace an eight-hour day, or 44 hours a week with the Saturday half holiday. The wages demanded are 90 cents an hour for mechanics, 65 cents for helpers, and 60 cents for laborers.

Arrangements are also in progress to extend the jurisdiction and demands of the metal trades council (the name adopted through the amalgamation of the metal and marine trades) from Port Arthur westward, so as to include all Canada.

The new organization will operate in conjunction with the metal trades department of the American Federation of Labor. It is claimed that the amalgamation of the two organizations which will at present take in all shipbuilding plants of the great lakes, St. Lawrence River and Atlantic seaboard, as well as all marine engineering shops from Halifax to Port Arthur with immensely greater territory and numerical strength when the rest of Canada is included, will have a beneficial effect on the general situation of the marine engineering and shipbuilding industries, and will lead to more harmonious relations and better conditions generally. The officers are Harry Kirwin of Toronto, president; W. F. Cash, of Halifax, vice-president; W. J. Colley, of Montreal, secretary-treasurer.

"Millionaires who keep profiteering when they already have more money than they can spend remind me of Blanc.

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