

# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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**THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS**  
THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS  
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Following in brief is an outline of our Policy:

1. The Canadian Labor Press supports the International Trade Union Movement, of which there are approximately three hundred thousand members in Canada.
2. The Canadian Labor Press supports the policy of the present Dominion Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.
3. In the interests of the Canadian Worker, The Canadian Labor Press believes that Canadian industry needs adequate tariff protection.
4. The Canadian Labor Press advocates fair play to employer and employee.
5. The Canadian Labor Press stands for the betterment of Trade Union conditions in Canada and the welfare of our country at large.
6. The Canadian Labor Press is independent in politics and free from any political influences.

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**Use of Label to Safeguard 8-Hour Day**

Montreal.—Outline of a plan suggested by the International Federation of Trade Unions to safeguard and extend the 8-hour work day in every civilized nation, is interesting labor executives here. The plan is based on the successful use of the union label by trade unions of the United States.


Briefly, the plan provides for the labeling with an "Eight-Hours Mark" of all goods exported from countries which have not ratified the Washington Eight Hours Convention. In a statement from its headquarters in Amsterdam, Holland, the Federation says:

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### The Wealth of Northern Ontario

EVERY citizen of Ontario must take pride when he reflects upon the wonderful possibilities opened up by the development of what is popularly known as New Ontario.

Here we have a section of the province in the literal sense of the word, "teeming with wealth" in the form of valuable minerals of only which a small portion, large though the output is, has been developed to date. It offers a keen attraction as a wonderful investment to those who are fortunate enough to have money that they can invest and no more patriotic duty insofar as the province is concerned, could be done than by Ontario citizens using their surplus money to develop New Ontario. Splendid service, not only to themselves and their shareholders, but to the people of the province has been and is being rendered by the corporations at present engaged in developing the minerals of that country. Almost all of them are corporations with reputations of sane, steady, conservative progress and whose very name is a synonym for straightforward dealing. Groups of people formed into corporations such as the Mining Corporation of Canada, McIntyre Porcupine, McKinley-Daragh, Dome, Tough Oakes, Hollinger, Consolidated West Dome and Lake Shore, have every reason to be proud of the efforts they are making to add to the wealth of Ontario. The Canadian Labor Press believes in the future of Northern Ontario and believes it will be further developed at a more extensive rate than in the past and feels that working men will migrate to that section of Ontario and there find the opportunities to create a home and a reasonable competence for themselves and their families. New Ontario needs capital and population and not the least of these two is population for the possibilities of men trained in mining, to secure for themselves, employment at good wages, fair working conditions and decent treatment, are great and must become even better in the next decade.

All the corporations developing in that vast territory, not only gold and silver mines, but nickel mines, have reputations of being fair and just employees and giving keen consideration to the welfare of their employees.

The Canadian Labor Press believes that the next ten years will probably see the influx of large numbers into the mining districts, especially of Northern Ontario, out of which cities and towns will grow, that will make Ontario the richest province in Canada.

sport out of existence means trying to do an impossible task, for in effect it means to try and root out instincts, traditions and customs inherent in a people for a thousand years. If our modern legislators studied these matters more closely, we feel that they would pause in their efforts to stamp out something that the average man prides himself on seeing—that is a contest between well trained thoroughbred animals equipped with endurance and stamina and guided with skill by their jockeys whose every effort is bent toward showing that the mount each rides is the best.

It has always been the custom in the Anglo-Saxon countries that men watching a horse race should be able to back their fancy. That is half the zest of the contest and indeed it would be unthinkable in Great Britain to totally prohibit betting on horse races as seems to be the intention and motives of our modern social reformers in Canada. Let us take the moral aspect of speculation. Speculation per se is not a moral sin; it is in fact morally neutral. The sin of speculation when committed exists when the person speculating uses money that should have been devoted to another purpose for which there was a prior moral claim, such as when a man uses the money that should be used to procure food, shelter and clothing for his family, and by so doing, leaves them in a state of necessity, or when a man speculates money that should have been used to pay his lawful obligations and debts or when a man hazards money that does not belong to him, but to some other person, and for which he had no authority to use in such a manner. In the latter case, however, the crime of theft or embezzlement has been committed first and speculation is a secondary effect. It is admitted by all moralists that speculation under these circumstances, constitutes a moral wrong. If, however, the person speculating does not use money in so doing that should go to his or his family's upkeep, or to pay his lawful debts, or that does not belong to another, then he is acting in a moral manner. In brief, if a man uses a portion of his superfluous wealth or money to speculate on horses, whilst it might be said that he could devote that surplus to other uses, the fact remains that he is hurting no one—not even himself, and morally is acting in a perfectly valid manner.

We submit these reflections to our readers in the hope that they will be stimulated to resist the new form of Puritanism that seems to be sweeping across Ontario with effects just as pernicious as the effects of the Puritan regime in England in the sixteenth century when dancing, singing and the most harmless games were prohibited by legislation, leaving the people dispirited and discouraged.

**International Action Needed**

Trade unionists know how even better than they did in 1919 that if one country defaults, all the others must suffer as a result, and that a country is really safe so long as the workers of another country work more than eight hours. Here and there the plans have been considered which aim at stronger action by the international trade union movement to compel countries which do not adhere to the 8-hour day to observe the provision of the Washington Convention.

The Union-label system of America is well known, and generally speaking, the results do not seem to be unsatisfactory. Why should not a similar system be used to safeguard the 8-hour day? All goods exported from a country which has not ratified the Washington Eight-Hours Convention would then have to bear a label with the words "Eight Hours Mark." It would, of course, be the business of the trade unions to control the labeling of the goods. Goods without this mark would be refused transit by the transport workers of the country of destination, or even of any transit country which they would have to pass through; and in certain cases (semi-manufactured goods), the workers of the country of destination would refuse to use them for finishing processes.

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**Business Men's Assn Wants Reduced Taxation**

Bus drivers on thoroughfares leading into the city held an open meeting in the Labor Temple, Toronto, to form themselves into an organization to oppose what they deem to be onerous taxation. Taxation by the Provincial Government makes it difficult, say the drivers, to earn a living. They claim they are rendering a public service on the highways. The organization was named the Canadian Businessmen's Association.

### The Bell Telephone Company

ONCE again at election time, the popular pastime of civic politicians attacking large corporations, is seen at its best in the City of Toronto.

During the past few months we have had attacks by members of the Toronto City Council on Oil Companies, Bread Companies, Milk Companies, Coal Companies, the Gas Company and now on the Bell Telephone Company. The Canadian Labor Press has stated before that it believes these attacks on established industries that are giving service to the public to be pernicious and harmful and are bound to have a serious reaction on the welfare of the working man in the City of Toronto.

The reason for the attack on the Bell Telephone Company is put forward as being too high rates presumably extorted from the public. Let us look for a moment at the history of the Company during the past ten years. During the war when costs were increasing by leaps and bounds, the increases permitted to the Company were no more than sufficient to enable them to meet their rising costs. During the boom years of 1919 and 1920, the Bell Telephone Company in Toronto raised the wage rates of its male employees fifty to eighty per cent. in addition to giving them an eight-hour day, where formerly a nine or ten-hour day had been the rule, together with other generous conditions. Since that date very slight reductions in wage rates have taken place and at the present time the wage rates for mechanics employed by the Bell Telephone Company are much better than the rates paid by the City of Toronto. If this agitation is persisted in and reductions affected, as is hoped for by some of our civic politicians, the ones who will suffer will be the working man employed by the Telephone Company, because necessarily his wages will have to come down to meet the burden of reduced taxes, and the Canadian Labor Press feels that civic politicians advocating such steps are not taking a course sympathetic to labor, but on the contrary are advocating measures that will react with harmful results to working men and compel them to feel a bitter distrust of men in public life.

### Conditions in the West

**What the Farmer Has to Spend**

The recent rise in the price of bread, although at first sight appears to be extremely unfortunate, can be viewed from another viewpoint which takes the sting out of the extra cost somewhat.

Although a good wheat crop was reported it is estimated that it was almost one-third less than the crop of 1923, yet 290,000,000 bushels is not the Dominion fare far better than a bad yield for Canada and actually the majority of wheat growing countries where crops this year were far below normal.

**Profitable Year for Farmers**

With the world's crop being rather under normal, prices were bound to soar, but with the rest of the world buying Canadian wheat at enhanced prices, the farmers have fared well. It is anticipated that the farmers of western Canada will have \$175,000,000 more to spend this year than last year and bankers throughout the prairie provinces report that many of the farmers who produced this wealth have already met all their obligations, are entirely out of debt and are optimistic of the future of Canadian farming.

Terms of international officers has been changed from four years to two years.

The proposal to hold conventions every two years instead of four, was lost, as was also the proposal to reduce Davison's salary.

"What is Mr. Baldwin going to do about coal?" asks a contemporary. The same as the rest of us, we suppose. Order coal, and then take what they send him.

**LABOR DOUBLES VANCOUVER**

Vancouver, B. C.—In the municipal elections in Vancouver labor increased its vote from 2,459 in 1925 to 4,717 in 1924 or almost 100 p. c.

### The New Puritanism

FROM recent public utterances of the Attorneys General of Ontario and the authorities at Ottawa, it is evident that the intention is to place every restriction upon the sport of horse racing in the province. That this is obvious is shown by public remarks concerning the case of Mr. Abe Orpen, which it is assumed will eventually have to be settled through the courts.

As to the actual legal merits of the case we do not pretend to be sufficiently well versed in law as to be able to say which is the legal right or wrong, but being human we frankly confess to a good deal of sympathy with Mr. Orpen's position and for the benefit of our readers, we place before them a few moral reflections upon the sport of racing and what is termed in our present day society, the "vice" of speculation.

Horse racing is one of the oldest British sports in which all classes of society have taken a keen delight, from royalty down to the humblest citizen. One has only to be present at the running of an English Derby to realize that whilst racing has been aptly called "the sport of kings," it is also the sport of the great mass of working people; hence it follows that efforts to legislate such a


### Machinists' Expenses Reduced

The reorganization plan submitted by referendum to the membership of the I. A. of M., was adopted. The officers of general executive board, consisting of five members, and ten international vice presidents are abolished. Seven general vice presidents are to be elected who, with the international president and general secretary-treasurer, shall constitute an executive council. One of the vice presidents must be chosen from the Canadian membership.

The effect of this is to permanently abolish the positions of eight international officers.

During the coming month of January-Local lodges will nominate candidates for the several international offices—president, seven vice presidents, general secretary-treasurer and editor of the Machinists' Monthly Journal. All present officers will continue to serve until their successors have been elected and qualified.

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