



# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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## The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There is food for thought in the annual report of the Department of Labour on Labour Organizations in Canada during 1921. The membership in Trades Unions has dropped away to some extent but there are several reasons which account for this deterioration. With better times, no doubt, the membership will jump in excess of the former figure. An introductory note by the Labour Department to its report says:—

"That the industrial depression which during the year 1921 proved so general throughout the continent of North America, as well as in other countries, had serious effect on trade union activities is reflected by the information gathered for the Eleventh Annual Report on Labour Organizations in Canada. The year 1921 has been regarded by experienced trade unionists and others as the beginning of the period of test. Many apparently who during the war period joined old or new unions did so solely for the purpose of sharing in the benefits which were then being secured by collective bargaining, and later dropped from the ranks of the organized rather than pay the contributions required. Then there are also those who, unable to secure employment, find it impossible to pay the regular contributions, and consequently in due course are suspended from their respective organizations. During the four years from 1916 to 1919 inclusive trade union organization in Canada made much progress, each year showing a considerable increase over its predecessor, until in the latter year the record was reached, the total members of all classes of labour bodies operating in the Dominion being reported as 378,047. In 1920 there was a reduction in membership of 4,205, but the number of branches showed a gain of 71, the respective figures being 373,842 and 2,918. The year 1921 shows very heavy losses in both membership and local branches, the decreases being 60,522 in members and 250 in branches. The largest loss occurred in the membership of the international organizations, the falling off being 44,351 members and 232 branches. The non-international bodies, though having a gain of five branches, lost 926 members and the reported membership of the independent units was 15,545 less than in the previous year, the main decrease being occasioned by the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union which reported a loss of 13,000. The reported membership of the National and Catholic unions, which have established a federation to further the interests of these bodies, was the same as in 1920, viz., 45,000, and the One Big Union membership at the close of the year was understood to be approximately 5,300."

### MR FIELDING AND LABOR

Canada's Finance Minister, Hon. Mr. Fielding in discussing labor and capital, made a plea for a better understanding between the two and insisted that no one should expect the laboring man to go back to pre-war conditions. He said:—

"If labor at times seems to be unreasonable, let us not forget that, in the days that have gone, too often the working-man, so-called, did not receive a fair share of wealth which he has created. Too often he saw his employer grow rich and prosperous while he had little more than an existence. There had been a happy change in this respect. We cannot return to pre-war conditions. The working man's position has advanced. His standard of living has improved. He is unwilling to go back to pre-war conditions and nobody should expect him to be content to do so. He has a right to expect better conditions for himself and his family than in former days. But he has duties to perform on his part.

"Labor has come to a sense of its power. Has it come to a sense of the responsibility and duty which should always accompany power? We cannot doubt but the mass of the working men, as we call them, wish to be good citizens of Canada. They hold interests in common with other classes of the community. They have wives and mothers and children to protect, and protection for these can only come when law is upheld and order observed. There are so-called labor leaders who, unfortunately, preach the doctrine that the employer is the enemy of the workman. They preach the doctrine that the working man should play an entirely selfish part, that his duty is to get all he can in the way of wages and give as little as he can in the way of labor. Such men are a menace to the true interests of labor as well as to the interests of society generally.

"There are, fortunately, in Canada, labor leaders who refuse to preach these dangerous doctrines and who, while zealous in defending the interests of labor, are no less zealous in maintaining the interests of society. Let us pray that on this vital question capital and labor may alike recognize their responsibilities that they may put aside every temptation to play a selfish part and co-operate in efforts which will mark Canada in the eyes of the world as a land of peace and progress and prosperity."



Eight pairs of twins attend the same Los Angeles school. Here they are. What a chance to slip something over the teacher.

### GOVERNMENT REPORT ON TRADE UNIONS

(Continued from Page 1.)

branches, 14 reporting 902 members; Belleville, 22 branches, 16 reporting 1,192 members; Stratford, 21 branches, 15 reporting 1,545 members; Lethbridge, 20 branches, 17 reporting 1,641 members; North Bay, 20 branches, 14 reporting 1,275 members.

#### Benefits Paid by Central Labour Organizations.

Of the 98 international organizations operating in Canada, 75 made payments for benefits, the aggregate disbursements being \$24,089,836, an increase of \$4,626,226, over the amount expended in 1920. The payments for each class of benefit were as follows:

Death benefits ..... \$9,674,060  
Unemployed and travelling benefits ..... 423,031  
Strike benefits ..... 10,161,987  
Sick and accident benefits ..... 3,081,039  
Old age pensions and other benefits ..... 749,719

Four of the central non-international organizations made payments on account of benefits, the total being reported at \$20,775, of which \$16,440 was for death benefits. This is the highest expenditure ever made by the head offices of these bodies for benefit purposes.

#### Benefits Paid by Local Branches.

In addition to the expenditures of the central bodies a statement is also published in the report showing the amount paid in benefits for the year 1921 by local branch unions in Canada to their own members. The amount disbursed aggregated \$1,503,288.

#### Other Features of the Report.

In addition to the statistics furnished, the report contains much general information as to the activities of organized labour in Canada as well as references to important labour events in other countries. As a directory of trade unions the report is very complete, containing particulars of every known local trade union in Canada, and also lists of central organizations and delegate bodies, together with the names and addresses of the chief executive officers for the year 1921.

A chapter in the report is devoted to a class of organized wage-earners who do not belong to the organized labour movement, and include mainly associations of school teachers and government employees. In all there are 41 such bodies having a combined reported membership of 43,288.

### PARENTS AS EDUCATORS

#### COMPANIONSHIP WITH CHILDREN

By Katherine Beebe.

Too much cannot be said concerning the real companionship between parents and children. I emphasize the "real." Those fathers and mothers who have practised this companionship through their children's unfolding years seem almost to hold them in the hollow of their hands. These fortunate young people simply do not want to do the things which would grieve or distress the ones they love best, and in addition are so well equipped with vital interest in the better and finer aspects of life that the less desirable makes no effectual appeal. I have seen this happen over and over again, and one mother of five splendid children said it was as certain as that two and two made four. Given this real companionship by their parents and a mutual sharing of the best things in home, books, music art, nature and humanity during eighteen or more plastic years and children are bound to turn out well.

This sort of companionship is no casual or haphazard thing. The parents who realize its value and mean to have it at any price are willing to play, really play with their babies, to keep on playing with the little ones; to give hours of time to the older ones, and to live on such friendly terms with their children from the beginning that spontaneity, originality, initiative and enthusiasm are never repressed. Tender love, real living sympathy with the child's point of view, active participation in whatever interests him, doing things together, these are the precious secrets of those parents whose children when grown are still their dearest friends.

It is from the first a question of being willing to pay the price. When one sees on every hand boys and girls whose friends and interests are all outside of home, who seem entirely at liberty to choose their own occupa-

tions and amusements and inclined to select those which are not only questionable but often desperately dangerous, and contrasts them with those others of whom we have been speaking, one is forced to conclude that many parents have purchased self-indulgence for themselves at a terrible cost. "Where are their parents? What are they thinking of?" How often do we hear this said today as we gaze upon girls and boys who are on the streets, in the restaurants, at the shows, in the automobiles; as we read the horrors in our daily papers, as we listen to tales of disgrace and disaster.

It does not matter much where they are now. It is too late. Their great chance is gone for good and all. But years ago these parents were spending hours upon themselves which should have been passed in companionship with their children. What would they not give now for that companionship and the influence which can be bought only at that price?

But, oh, you fathers and mothers of little children, don't let your opportunity slip! Now is your great chance! Fill the golden hours of your children's early years with all sorts of work, play, projects, excursions, reading and study together. Live with your children. It was long ago that Froebel cried, "Come, let us live with our children!" and never was his reason for so doing so clear to our minds as in these latter days. Do not say that you are too busy, or that the labor of providing food and shelter for them prevents. Let them share, according to their years, in the family work, the family responsibilities and even the family income. Remember that companionship means participation. You can make work a frolic or an unwelcome drudgery to them; it is for you to choose. All

depends on the spirit in which the necessary things are done. Even be thankful that your means are restricted, for then your problem will be a simpler one than if you had all the money you wish you had. Necessity is an able assistant to any sort of teacher, and besides it is you the children want rather than the things you think you would like to give them.

#### CHINESE SAYINGS.

The boxer's fist and the singer's lip must be in constant training.

The lady who sells fans often shelters her head from the sun with her hand.

When the thunder is very loud there is very little rain.

When the water has receded the stones will appear.

It's no use staying the horse to fatten the mule.

Time flies like an arrow, days and months, like a shuttle.

The dog understands his master's mood.

#### THE DRIFT TO CANADA.

The New York Herald: In the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921, more than 100,000 persons officially described as emigrants left the United States. How many of these went to Canada is uncertain. The records show that many American farmers who go over the border to settle do not remain there. A fair percentage do stick, however, some retaining their American citizenship and some becoming British subjects. Yet the movement as a whole never became formidable. It settled down to a migratory swaying to and fro that left no deep impression on either side of the line.

With this latest Canadian effort to induce immigration, there will be cordial sympathy on this side of the line. Canada's prosperity and our own are so closely linked together that whatever promotes the one must promote the other.

#### THE UNSPOILED WILDERNESS

It is impossible to describe this wonderful waterway with any degree of satisfaction. Nature having been so generous in beautifying and adorning it and having dowered it with so many gorgeous scenic effects, including rugged promontories, intricate channels and narrows, and vast amphitheatres of open water. This entire district is so full of interest and altogether so charming that to go there once is to want to return and take your friends. The air is dry and bracing, and a sure cure for hay fever. There is no end of good fishing—deep fishing for big fish and fly fishing for black bass. And for those who do not wish to fish, there is motor-boating, a row or sail, bathing and dancing, lawn tennis and other pastimes. And always there is the wild-wood that welcomes, rejuvenates and sends the visitor home with happy memories. The principal gateway is Midland, 101 miles north of Toronto and reached by the Grand Trunk. Free copy of interesting publication with map and list of hotels sent for the asking. Write to H. R. Charlton, General Advertising Agent, Grand Trunk Railway, Montreal.

#### A CANADIAN QUOTATION.

Wanted, a noble man.  
Not one who from a favored place  
Claims kindred and a worn-out race;  
Whose empty titles, ancient name  
Are all his wealth, are all his fame;  
But one whose usefulness men see,  
Though humble may his station be;  
For such will bless on every hand  
His friend, his home, his native land.  
This is the noble man.  
—Walter A. Ratcliffe.

Well, why shouldn't a man give his wife an allowance? Heaven knows she makes allowances for him.

Life is a funny proposition, and about the only women who can't afford a maid are those who need one.

We are at a loss to understand how anything so practical and sensible as radio ever became a popular fad.

This put-and-take business is beginning to affect the collection plate. Too many put a nickel and take a quarter.

The nations are inclined to be generous, but Germany is warned that the line of least resistance is a chalk line.



### Wash Day and Backache

WASH day is the least welcome day of the week in most homes, though sweeping day is not much better. Both days are most trying on the back.

The strain of washing, ironing and sweeping frequently deranges the kidneys. The system is poisoned and backaches, rheumatism, pains in the limbs result.

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