

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

LABOR REPRESENTATION PERMANENT.

JUST at the present time the word reconstruction enters largely into our vocabulary. The advance of the Victory Loan programme, the statesman and all expounders utilize reconstruction propaganda as the need of the hour, and a realization of this truth is accepted. In Ontario, particularly, the Legislative machinery is actually in course of reconstruction and to the average mind would appear to be almost in a state of chaos, owing to the conflicting conditions in representation.

The majority is in the hands of Ontario's tillers of the soil. To the workers it is now apparent they have decided to make for strength by the linking up of their forces with the elected representatives of Labor. Whether this course will make for a permanency and unity of political action, time alone may determine. It is an experiment and all experiments must bear the test of time to prove the mettle. It is, however, the only move that could be safely undertaken and the very fact of coalition will tend to make for a strengthening of the common cause idea prevalent during the campaign.

In some directions it has been asserted that even the success of the Labor forces was merely a flash in the pan, and that as a party their term of life is to be of short duration. To bolster up this mistaken idea the mushroom growth of the "Knights of Labor," or the "Patrons of Industry" is cited, cases which, however, bear no analogy and do not merit serious consideration.

Whatever may be the eventual fate of the party now in the majority in the Ontario House, so long as it is linked up with the movement of the worker and co-operative action maintained there is no doubt of its stability with extension. On the other hand the Labor representatives have a key stone in the International Trade Union Movement, continued possession of which means continuity of a workers' party with the ups and downs incidental thereto.

The Ontario workers' party has drawn upon only some of its front line forces, its reserve strength is limited only by the number that industry may employ. The situation is reached that the voice of the worker will be heard in direct representation, the key stone being the financially and numerically strong International Trade Union Movement as fostered by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

Coxey's army was a pilgrimage party, a shadow passing in the night, to show its objection to conditions, but the workers' party whether in Ontario or in any other part of the world is permanently camping on a direct representation policy, and ideas to the contrary are born of a fallacy blind to events.

MINERS' THREATENED STRIKE.

WITH the threatened strike of half a million miners throughout the whole of the bituminous field called for Saturday, November 1, we in Canada are apt to lose sight of the fact, that in the event of no settlement the native sons of the eastern section of this Dominion become involved thereby. It is quite natural that the large preponderance in number of the workers in the soft coal fields being citizens of the United States, we may forget that a trouble across the border means a proportionate degree for this country.

Meetings in conference between the two parties were held as far back as September 25, at Buffalo, N. Y., Acting President Lewis presenting the miners' demands as formulated at the Cleveland convention. The operators refused to consider the demands, claiming same as being of too extravagant a nature. Another conference was later held at Philadelphia with the operators offering concessions, which were, however, rejected.

The connection of our Nova Scotia miners with these requests, the officers state, was made when the Cleveland convention decided that these demands covered the whole of the bituminous fields, and whatever course is adopted by the United Mine Workers of the States is to be followed by their brother trade unionists in Nova Scotia. Formerly it has been claimed that our eastern miners have not been paid the same rates as prevailed across the line, but if the rank and file are advised by their officers there is now no question that this state of affairs will longer be in existence.

The operators of Nova Scotia, according to the miners' president, are at the present time paying a minimum wage of \$3.11 and \$3.25 per day. An inauguration of a minimum wage for common labor of \$3.40 per day is now to be asked. It is very apparent that lacking settlement of this trouble is of very serious import and as the United Mine Workers have expressed their willingness to again enter negotiations it is in the public weal that the operators should exhibit again the conference spirit to avert the dislocation which is bound to ensue, and which will be felt proportionately by the miners involved, in Canada as in the United States.

POLITICS and PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

By Special Correspondent. As predicted, the triumph of the Farmers has swept the Federal by-elections in Ontario. The Liberal Government carried all three seats where they had candidates, Glengarry, Carleton and Assiniboia. If the Government candidate in North Ontario had not died on the eve of election, necessitating a postponement, they would undoubtedly have captured all three ridings. They defeated both of the old line parties. In Glengarry and Carleton they overwhelmed candidates of the Conservative Party. In Assiniboia they defeated a Liberal candidate, Hon. W. R. Motherwell, ex-Minister of Agriculture. In every case the majority ran into the thousands and in Carleton and Assiniboia the opponents of the Farmers lost their deposits.

The House of Commons is still grinding away at the Grand Trunk Bill. It has passed the second reading and is now in the committee stage. However, as the bill has been endorsed by Hon. T. A. C. Crerar, leader of the Centre group, the Government is not expected to have any serious opposition to the measure among the Senators and the present outlook is that unless there are some amendments the bill will be defeated.

The senatorial opposition consists of two groups. There are first those who are in opposition to the whole principle of public ownership. They are fighting the measure on the grounds that it largely consists of Quebec Senators, who are influenced by the campaign which is being waged against the measure by the anti-Government forces in Montreal. The second class consists of those who approve of the principle of the purchase of the Grand Trunk, but are not satisfied with the terms. They are insisting that the bill should be amended so that the purchase of the Grand Trunk will be reviewed by Parliament. If this amendment was made to the bill—and it is reasonable to expect it to be—

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal.—Cain. URGES WOMEN TO GET BEHIND MACHINISTS' AUXILIARY. The correspondent of the Machinists' Monthly Journal, Mrs. N. F. Singer, says in the October issue regarding conditions in Toronto: "Just a few lines to let the sisters know how our local is progressing. Owing to the illness of our husband, we were away from home for more than two months, and when I wrote my last article I was not in touch with all that our members were doing. However, in all reports they were keeping up the good work, having initiated more initiatives next meeting, so that is encouraging. Now that the holiday season is over we may be able to settle down to business and all work for the good of the organization. There is a great field of labor in this city. I am sorry to say there are hundreds of lady friends of our brother machinists here who do not belong to the Auxiliary. I may wonder why, but it is a question I cannot answer. We are organized to help the I. A. of M. in every way possible and never miss an opportunity to do so, which I feel sure the brothers here appreciate. Yet we could accomplish much more if our membership was larger. Further, I believe it the duty of every brother machinist who has organized Labor at heart to do all he can to help his lady friends of the great need for organization and to influence them to join the Ladies' Auxiliary. The Metal Trades of this city have just passed through a hard struggle and I believe had the wives of the men who returned to work, before a settlement was reached, been members of our auxiliary and understood the labor movement better, such a condition would not have prevailed. There would have been greater encouragement in many machinists to remain firm until victory was won. Every member of the Metal Trades was assured of that if they stood together. Of course, we are in very case. Now this strike is past we have learned many lessons through it. One important thing is better organization to strengthen our forces. I hope, brother machinists, you will not overlook the fact that it is necessary to have the women in your home in this labor movement. It is the only hope for the workers. Even though your ladies are not active workers there is no reason why they should not carry an auxiliary card. I wish every machinist would read my article and then make an effort to comply with my request. Our members were very much pleased to have you visit our Langille, President of Moncton auxiliary. It is the first time we have had the privilege of meeting the sisters from this local. I greatly regret that being absent from home I did not have the pleasure of meeting her. We are always pleased to welcome our sister workers. I was very much pleased to read so many articles in the September Journal and I agree with you sisters that we all benefit by hearing what other auxiliaries are doing. The space allotted us in the Journal, yet many of us do not show it. I hope the day is not far distant when every auxiliary will have a press correspondent who will keep us informed of their work. I know some of our locals could make very encouraging reports. I feel sure our International President appreciates all the good things the press correspondents of her own auxiliary said about her. It brings so much to cheer us on our way when we feel our efforts are appreciated. We extend our good wishes to all members of the I. A. of M. and the ladies' auxiliary. WOMEN PAID LOW WAGE. The District of Columbia minimum wage board finds that 85.3 per cent of the women employed in Washington's hotels and restaurants who receive a straight minimum wage receive less than \$14 a week, and 17 per cent receive less than \$10 a week. In the restaurants

JAPANESE WORKERS TO ORGANIZE.

The time has arrived when the workmen in Japan have found it imperative to organize trade unions. It is not that they have raised their standard of living. At present there are no unions in Japan and the workman is forced to accept whatever pay his employer may decide to give. The Japanese Government has endorsed the move of the workman to organize. A caucus of Government Senators will be held on Wednesday to discuss the bill which would give some 'agreement' if possible. However the anti-Government opposition are so determined to defeat the bill that it is doubtful if they would agree to any concessions. There are rumors that if the bill is defeated the Government will go to the country. However, such threats do not have much weight in the eyes of the people. In view of the recent Ontario elections and the Federal by-elections there is not much likelihood of any appeal to the country.

Don't Strike Too Often

A warning to Labor not to abuse its power by using it in a manner opposed to public good, was the keynote of an address on "The Psychology of Labor" delivered by P. M. Anderson, K.C., recently, when he addressed a large meeting of the People's Forum, Regina. He argued that there are times when it is right to strike, but often he said, a strike is an abuse of power, and in any struggle Labor should remember that there are three parties to the capital, labor and the great mass of the public—to be considered. "Once Labor secures power it is necessary, if it wishes to grow and obtain the confidence of the people, that it should exercise that power in a fair and just way," the speaker declared. "If that power is abused it must chaos all through. By far the great majority of public opinion, perhaps 90 per cent, was favorable to the strike when Labor took the wrong course it tended to alienate this great mass of public opinion." The Labor movement is making great strides, and Mr. Anderson said, it is an interesting fact that there would within five years be a Labor Government in England, either under Henderson or Clynes, or possibly under Lloyd George, who might go them one better. Labor Government in England, he thought, would be a good thing. The speaker predicted still higher wages. "The trend," he said, "is more and more toward an equalization of wealth. Eight hours a day is sufficient for any man to work, and this it should be possible for a man to be sufficiently well paid to maintain his family in comfort. With the addition of when Labor took the wrong course it tended to alienate this great mass of public opinion." The Labor movement is making great strides, and Mr. Anderson said, it is an interesting fact that there would within five years be a Labor Government in England, either under Henderson or Clynes, or possibly under Lloyd George, who might go them one better. Labor Government in England, he thought, would be a good thing. The speaker predicted still higher wages.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing. RAILWAY STRIKE COST BRITAIN £10,000,000. The approximate cost of the recent railway strike to the British Treasury was £10,000,000 sterling, according to an announcement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the House of Commons. The Chancellor added that the public campaign against the strike cost the Government more than £2,000,000. And the railwaymen won despite it all. Hon. Arthur Henderson, discussing labor's imperial policy in the periodical "Overseas," writes: "Labor is certainly not a Little Englander in the sense of being indifferent to the potential utility of this great alliance of free states which is the Empire in its best aspect. Labor stands in all its traditions for the principle which has made the real strength of the Empire a peaceful conciliation through self-government."

BRITISH LABOR WANTS DECREASE IN H. O. F. L.

The high cost of living took a leading part in the discussion at a meeting of the Miners' Federation last week in Birmingham. It was made by Robert Smilie and Frank Hodges, who declared that since the Government's scheme of taxing excess profits has been operating, articles of consumption had increased eight per cent, making them 125 per cent higher than the pre-war price. The speaker stated that the Government encouraged excess profits in order to fill the exchequer. The opinion was expressed by the speakers that excess profits should be devoted to a reduction in price instead of going into the treasury. The meeting decided to make arrangements for a special Labor Congress to draft a policy to bring about a reduction in the high cost of living. A delegate advocated an ultimatum from the Trades Union Congress, threatening a stoppage of production if prices were not reduced 10 per cent, within three months.

WANT VOICE IN CONTROL OF RAILROADS.

"Railway employes ask a share in the management of the companies and it is hoped the companies will consider this proposal," said J. H. Thomas, secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen, in a speech at Derby recently. He expressed the belief that railway employes could contribute to the management by reason of their experience and ability, and in this capacity their services would be valuable to the railroads and the country.

ENGLISH STEEL STRIKERS BACK

The four months' strike at the Edwinstowe, Donwells and Fredgar steel works ended peacefully. The men struck for 15 a week, rate. The settlement gives 14, 10 shillings as the basic rate. This means the resumption of work by 12,000 steelworkers.

THE OLD CARPENTER TO HIS SAW

Many years I've had this now old friend, My weary hand on his saw. What weary hours did we together spend, From Monday's sunrise, until Saturday. Both you and I are now grown old, And I too shall be cast away, To die and perish in the cold, Of the poor workman's Winter day. Both you and I have worn out the steel, And brightness of your younger days of gleam; The temper of the metal now has fled, Our edge and teeth are gone, cannot see. Both you and I are now grown old, Together we've not long to stay, Our bows will turn us in the cold, Together, an some Winter's day. You'll dull and senseless, feel no want of bread, I—curst with life—can feel starvation's sting; You're the one, I've not what to say, I'll have human feelings, Christian Brotherhood? To think it we would be but fools, I, perhaps, may be "sold off" today; Both you and I are now grown old, To be worn out and cast away. Drury, in the Carpenter.

Service Button Workers.

Notes of Particular Interest to Ex-Service Trade Unionists. TORONTO VETS WANT ANOTHER REFERENDUM. AMENDED. The Government has decided to hold another referendum on the issue of the Service Button. The Government has decided to hold another referendum on the issue of the Service Button. The Government has decided to hold another referendum on the issue of the Service Button.

THE BEST MARKET FOR THOSE WHO LABOR.

When the Creator made the beasts, reptiles and poisonous insects, he had some scraps left that were too bad to put into the rattlesnake, the hyena, the scorpion and the skunk. He put all these scraps together, gave it a big wishbone, covered it with scum, wrapped it with yellow streak and called it a scab. This creature arrays itself in gaudy attire, springs from the blood of a young man, so that it may tempt to accept the crumbs from the table of luxury. This product was so fearful that the Creator had to make something to counteract it, so he took a sun-beam, gave it a good backbone and put it into the heart of a child, the brain of a man, wrapped those in honest pride, covered it with brotherly love, gave it a mask of velvet and a grasp of steel and called it a union man. He made him a lover of fields, flowers, many sports and his fellow men. A believer in equality, justice and liberty. Ever since these two were created, mortal man has had the privilege of choosing his associates and selecting the market in which to sell his labor. Why not sell your labor in the best market, through membership in the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. —By Walter A. Denzer in the Car-

ONLY 3,000 CANADIANS NOW REMAIN IN ENGLAND.

Only some 3,000 Canadians remain in England, most of them being hospital cases or married men, who, for family reasons, have been prevented from returning up to the present time. To all intents and purposes the demobilization is complete. There remain in London and in some of the depleted centers a number of staff officers who are supervising the final records and putting the finishing touches to the work overseas.

SASKATOON VETS WANT ACT

In a determined effort to reduce the high cost of living and to make the formation of co-operative trading societies possible, the Saskatoon Great War Veterans have decided to make representations to the Provincial Government to have the Agricultural Co-operative Association Act amended to enable them to form a similar society in that city. This action was taken at a meeting recently following a representation from the executive which had discussed the question more fully.

TRADE UNIONS.

Foster education and uproot ignorance. Shorten hours and lengthen life. Raise wages and lower unemployment. Increase independence and decrease dependence. Develop manhood and balk tyranny. Establish fraternity and discourage selfishness. Reduce prejudice and induce liberality. Enlarge society and eliminate classes. Create rights and abolish wrongs. Lengthen toil and brighten man. Cheer the home and freeze the FILES. Every man takes good tools and few if any do good work with poor tools. Never work with a dull file. Turn out your files when they are no longer efficient.

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