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policy had been to drive
in Canada. The Liberals
them back.
dealt with other questions
he said that he had sup-
porting party because of
substantial party was in
the people. He called atten-
tion that while there were
things in the province as
Mr. Curtis and himself
only two candidates
posed by Socialists. When
was over here he was go-
ing to assist Mr. Smith.
of questions were asked at
the meeting, several of
part delivering speeches
asking questions. Good
all for the most part,
of satisfactory answers
were given, although some
did not affect the issues,
with subjects of which Mr.
have no knowledge.
sing John Jardine admin-
are required to a youth
who sneered at the name
ble, and alluded to the fact
ardie was rotten egg in
After what Kelt Har-
labor in the world it ill
young boy, he said, to cast
upon him.
ing closed with cheers for
and Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

What the Laurier Government Has Done For Labor

From the commencement of its term of office in 1896 the Liberal government has advocated and carried into effect a progressive labor policy. Its attitude towards labor has not been one of promise and pretence such as characterized the record of the former Conservative administration. The record of the present Liberal administration is one of actual performance. Here are some of the actual achievements of the government during its twelve years of office, in the direct interests of the working class of Canada.

The establishment of a department of labor;

The publication of a monthly journal known as the Labor Gazette;

The abolition of the sweating system in connection with government contracts;

The adoption of a fair wages policy with regard to all government contracts;

The enactment of legislation to aid in the prevention and settlement of strikes and lockouts by:

- (1) The Conciliation Act, 1900;
- (2) The Railway Labor Disputes Act, 1903;
- (3) The Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907.

The enactment of legislation and the adoption of measures to protect Canadian workmen from competition of alien labor, and the unfair competition of such classes of labor as might tend to lower the standard of living of the industrial classes of this country, as for example:

- (1) The Alien Labor Act of 1897, and amendments of 1898 and 1901.
- (2) The appointment in 1903 of royal commissions to inquire into the alleged employment of aliens on the Pere Marquette railway, and the Grand Trunk Pacific railway.
- (3) The act to prevent false representations to induce immigrants to come to Canada, 1908.
- (4) The enactment in 1905 by the parliament of Great Britain, of a measure in reference to false representations, similar to the last named, in the British law of immigration, and the Canadian government, the deputy minister of labor having been sent to England to urge the wishes of the Canadian government upon the British authorities.
- (5) The appointment of a royal commission in 1900 to inquire into the effect of Chinese and Japanese immigration.
- (6) The imposition, as the result of the recommendations of this commission, of a \$500 head tax upon Chinese coming into Canada.
- (7) The investigation, under royal commission, of the methods by which Oriental laborers have been induced to come to Canada.
- (8) The effective restriction, amounting to complete prohibition so far as contract labor is concerned, of immigration from Japan, as the result of the investigations and the special mission of the minister of labor to Japan to confer with the Japanese authorities.
- (9) The effective restriction, amounting to complete prohibition, so far as contract labor is concerned, of immigration from India, as a result of the investigation and the special mission of the deputy minister of labor to England to confer with the British authorities on the subject of immigration from the Orient and immigration from India in particular.
- (10) Regulations of the immigration branch of the department of the interior, requiring immigrants to come to Canada by direct passage on a through ticket, and to have in their possession a specified sum of money, and other like requirements.

The enactment of legislation and the adoption of measures to protect the health and life of workmen and women, in so far as action along these lines was within the power of the Dominion, as for example:

- (1) The investigation, under royal commission, in 1898, into the death from diphtheria of workmen employed upon the construction of the Crow's Nest Pass railway.
- (2) The enactment in 1899, as a result of the investigations of the royal commission of 1898, of an act for the protection of the health of employees engaged on public work, followed by further regulations by order-in-council on January 31, 1900, and again by order-in-council May 3, 1902, providing machinery for the proper carrying out of the measure.
- (3) Legislation for the prevention of accidents on railways, and the appointment of royal commissions to investigate causes of all railway accidents.
- (4) An investigation in 1897 into the methods by which government clothing contracts were being carried out, which has been followed by regulations for the suppression of the sweating system and the adoption of a fair wages policy on all government contract work.
- (5) An investigation in 1907 into conditions of employment of the operatives in the employ of the Bell Telephone Company which resulted in a material improvement in the condition of labor of hundreds of women and young girls, and in the publication of a report which will have a far-reaching effect in influencing provincial legislation and practice in the matter of employment in this line.
- (6) An investigation during the past few months under royal commission into conditions of employment of operatives in the cotton factories in the province of Quebec, which has brought to light some startling facts in regard to the employment of child labor in that industry, and which is certain to result in regulations for the betterment of conditions of women and children, as well as for all classes of labor in that and kindred industries.
- (7) The enactment of important measures of social and moral reform, such as the Lord's Day Act, which contains important provisions on the subject of Sunday labor, and the suppression of the opium traffic in Canada, which was a direct outcome of a report prepared by the deputy minister of labor, and a bill introduced at the last session by the minister of labor.

The Department of Labor.

The Conservative party had a much longer term of office than the present administration has as yet enjoyed, and

ample opportunity was afforded during that time for its professions and desires to find expression in the form of legislation. The party professed to be interested in the welfare of the laboring classes, and even went so far on the eve of the election of 1886 as to appoint a royal commission on the subject of Capital and Labor. The work of the commission was elaborately planned, every conceivable subject of interest to labor was embraced in its scope, and its personnel was so widened as to include the names of men prominent in labor circles in the most important centres. The work of this commission depended on the government being returned. It was returned on the promises made. The labor of this commission were extended over a period of almost three years, so that the working classes might be kept in mind in the interval of the interest on the promises made. The labor of this commission were extended over a period of almost three years, so that the working classes might be kept in mind in the interval of the interest on the promises made. The labor of this commission were extended over a period of almost three years, so that the working classes might be kept in mind in the interval of the interest on the promises made.

of labor, also the prices of commodities; Special articles on the extent and conditions of employment in the several industries of Canada;

A record of legal decisions in the courts of the Dominion, which in any way affect labor; and

Reviews of reports and publications of interest to labor, and monthly reports by some forty special correspondents on industrial and labor important centres throughout the Dominion.

The information embodied under these heads is such as has never before been systematically accumulated in Canada, and its value as a basis for legislation, and all efforts looking to the improvement of the conditions of the working classes of the country, is not to be over-estimated. With the exception of the Labor Gazette, there is in Canada at the present time no source to which workmen and their employers are able to turn, or will be able to turn in the future, for the story of actual industrial and labor conditions in the twentieth century. The information contained in the Labor Gazette has already been of the greatest service to workmen and those interested in their welfare in all parts of Canada.

Suppression of the Sweating System.

It has been shown how, in 1886, the appointment of a commission on capital and labor, and in 1890 the promise of a bureau of labor, were made to the Conservative interests on the eve of elections; it has been seen how, once returned to power, the true intent of these acts or promise was made apparent, and nothing more was heard of the reforms that were to be accomplished. The sweating system on capital and labor could not be made to do service for a third election, and the establishment of a labor bureau could not again be mooted, as the act was lying on the statute book. It was necessary, however, as the elec-

tion of 1896 approached, that the Conservative party should show its zeal in the cause of labor, and on the very eve of the election Mr. A. W. Wright, the Conservative organizer, was appointed a commissioner to make inquiry into the sweating system in Canada. Unfortunately for the Conservative party, the workmen of the country had lost faith in its good intentions, and this subterfuge was of no avail. The Conservative party was defeated, and a Liberal administration was returned. It is of interest to read what Mr. Wright had to say as to the existence of the sweating system. "At page 7 of his report he stated: 'The sweating system, which some in England have held to be the only one rightly deserving of the appellation 'sweating system' does not exist in Canada.' No sooner was the Liberal government in power than they directed attention to this evil. Mr. Mackenzie King, the present deputy minister of labor, who at that time was devoting special attention to a study of industrial conditions, was appointed by the government in 1897 to make an inquiry into the methods by which government clothing contracts were being carried out. His investigation covered the important clothing centres in Canada and his report when ready dealt with the methods as they had been in force during the preceding ten years, a period of time covering that on which Mr. Wright, the Conservative commissioner, had reported. The public will remember the findings of that report; it is in brief that work of the clothing contracts had been executed in sweat shops, that in some instances women were receiving on government work only two and a half cents an hour, and that at the very time the Conservative government had been telling the people of Canada that no such thing as the sweating system existed in Canada, the government itself was fostering the system in the clothing industry by which it was allowing its contracts to be executed. No sooner was Mr. King's report presented to parliament than immediate steps were taken to insure that all future contracts would contain stipulations which would prevent sweating, and secure to the workers a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. The reform was first introduced by Sir William Mulock, but in August, 1907, to make more effective this feature of the government's

policy, an order-in-council was passed on the recommendation of the fair wages officers, requiring that in all government contracts awarded the contractor should be required to post the fair wages schedule in a conspicuous place on the works under construction; also requiring the contractor to keep a record of all payments to workmen in his employ, and to allow to fair wages officers of the department access to his works and books for the purpose of inspecting the same when such inspection was deemed necessary by the minister of labor.

A further evidence of the determination of the Liberal administration to bring within the scope of its fair wages policy all kinds of work, either directly or indirectly under the government's control, and to secure a fair wage to workmen was apparent at the time of the discussion in parliament of the Railway Act of 1903, when opportunity was taken by the government to insert in the act in question a section bearing upon the labor employed in the construction of railways, having regard especially to the interests of the thousands of employees whose services would be required in connection with the construction of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway. This section, which is now part of the law of the Dominion, is as follows:

"In every case in which the parliament of Canada votes financial aid by way of subsidy or guarantee towards the cost of railway construction, all mechanics, laborers, or other persons who perform labor in such construction shall be paid such wages as are generally accepted as current for competent workmen in the district in which the work is being performed; and if there is no current rate in such district, then a fair and reasonable rate, and the extent of a dispute arising as to what is the current or a fair and reasonable rate, it shall be determined by the minister, whose decision shall be final."

No government in the world has

in Canada and in England to prevent false representations being made in Canada or in Great Britain to induce immigrants to come to Canada under unfair conditions. Hardly less dangerous in some respects than the importation of the Chinese and other Orientals have been the inroads of other classes of undesirable immigrants which have been brought to this country on occasions despite the desires and endeavors of the government to prevent their coming here. A large influx of Italian laborers into the city of Montreal in the spring of 1904 resulted not only in suffering and hardship to the Italians themselves, but seriously threatened the condition of the labor market in Montreal, and gave grounds sufficient to authorize an investigation in the first instance by the deputy minister of labor, and subsequently the appointment of a royal commission. The last named investigation took place before His Honor Judge Winchester, and resulted in the exposure of the fraudulent practices employed by certain employment agencies in Montreal with a view to inducing immigration to Canada, while swindling on every side in connection with the same practices was clearly indicated. In the report of the commission the fraudulent practices of one Cordasco were dealt with at length, as well as the methods adopted by other employment agencies in the city of Montreal, the extortions towards the overcharges for provisions supplied by him, and fees collected from laborers were all dealt with in special detail. In conclusion the commissioner stated that the evidence fully established the fact that the large influx of Italian immigrants into Montreal in the early part of 1904 was the result of advertisements and representations of Cordasco, acting with the assistance of steamship agencies in Liverpool, in co-operation of a special labor agent of the Canadian Pacific railway. In the commissioner's opinion, Cordasco's main object was to compel men thus brought into the country to pay him the large sums he was shown to have received, and this he was enabled to do by the company's agent refusing him in obtaining steamship agencies which it was his evident intention to use in carrying out his object and in making further extortions.

The commissioners recommended that the city of Montreal should pass a by-law similar to that in force in Toronto respecting intelligence offices, which provides that every person keeping an intelligence office for registering the names and addresses and residences of, and giving information to laborers, clerks, domestic servants, etc., should procure a license before being permitted to carry on business, and fixes a penalty for extortion, false representation, etc., at a maximum fine of \$50 for each offence, or imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months.

As already stated, the immediate effect of the inquiry into the large influx of Italian laborers into Montreal was to put a stop to this influx, and to relieve the critical condition of the labor market in that city, and other parts of Canada in consequence of the heavy immigration of this particular class of laborers. More important, perhaps, were the results which followed from the exposure of the fraudulent practices of certain of the employment agencies in Montreal. Prosecutions were commenced against Cordasco, and successfully maintained by some of the Italians who had had money fraudulently extorted from them by him.

To prevent other actions, Cordasco received the sum of \$2,017.25 of moneys received by him from Italian laborers. Steps were also taken by the companies immediately concerned, to see that in connection with their business there should be future immunity from the fraud exposed.

The most important and far-reaching result, however, was the passage of an act in 1905, making it a criminal offence for parties to induce laborers to come to Canada under false pretences, or in other words, through the methods similar to those adopted by the fraudulent agencies in Montreal.

"Every person who does, in Canada, anything for the purpose of causing or procuring the migration of laborers, by advertisement, or otherwise, in a country outside of Canada, of false representations, as to the opportunities for employment in Canada, or as to the state of the labor market in Canada; intended or adapted to induce, or induce, or to deter or prevent the immigration into Canada of persons residing in that country, or who does anything in Canada for the purpose of causing or procuring the communication to any resident of such country of any false representations, shall, if any such false representations are communicated, be guilty of an offence, and liable, on summary conviction before two justices of the peace, to a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars, and not less than fifty dollars for each offence."

This act has prevented labor agencies and individuals from carrying on in Canada operations similar to those revealed in Cordasco's case. Thwarted in this manner, they sought to evade the law by going to the British Isles and there making false representations. This was a favorite method adopted where the desire was to bring in strike-breakers to assist in defeating a strike. A case of this kind came to the attention of the department of labor in 1905 in connection with the immigration of a party of English printers, about 60 in number, who had been induced by representations made in England to proceed to Winnipeg during a strike of printers in that city. The incident was the subject of a good deal of correspondence, and the printers who had come from England to Winnipeg, feeling themselves aggrieved, sent a petition to King Edward, Mr. Mackenzie King the deputy minister of labor, proceeded to Winnipeg in the summer of 1905, and made a full investigation into the whole matter.

In his report the deputy minister of labor pointed out that the Canadian Act was necessarily restricted to offences committed in Canada, while the action that had induced the British printers to emigrate to Winnipeg had taken place in Great Britain. Mr. King, there-

fore, suggested that a remedy to meet future cases of a similar character should be provided by Imperial legislation analogous to the Dominion Act. Mr. P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, later, in a letter to the minister of labor, urged that in the interests of the workmen of Canada, every effort possible should be made by the Canadian government to secure legislation by the British parliament on the lines proposed. It is not necessary to follow this question in detail, but it is sufficient to state that Mr. King's mission was wholly successful and resulted in the incorporation of the following section in the Merchant's Shipping Bill, which was at that time before the British House of Commons:

"If any person, by any false representation, fraud, or false pretence, induces, or attempts to induce, any person to emigrate or to engage a stevedore passage in any ship, he shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding \$50, or to imprisonment with or without hard labor for a period not exceeding three months."

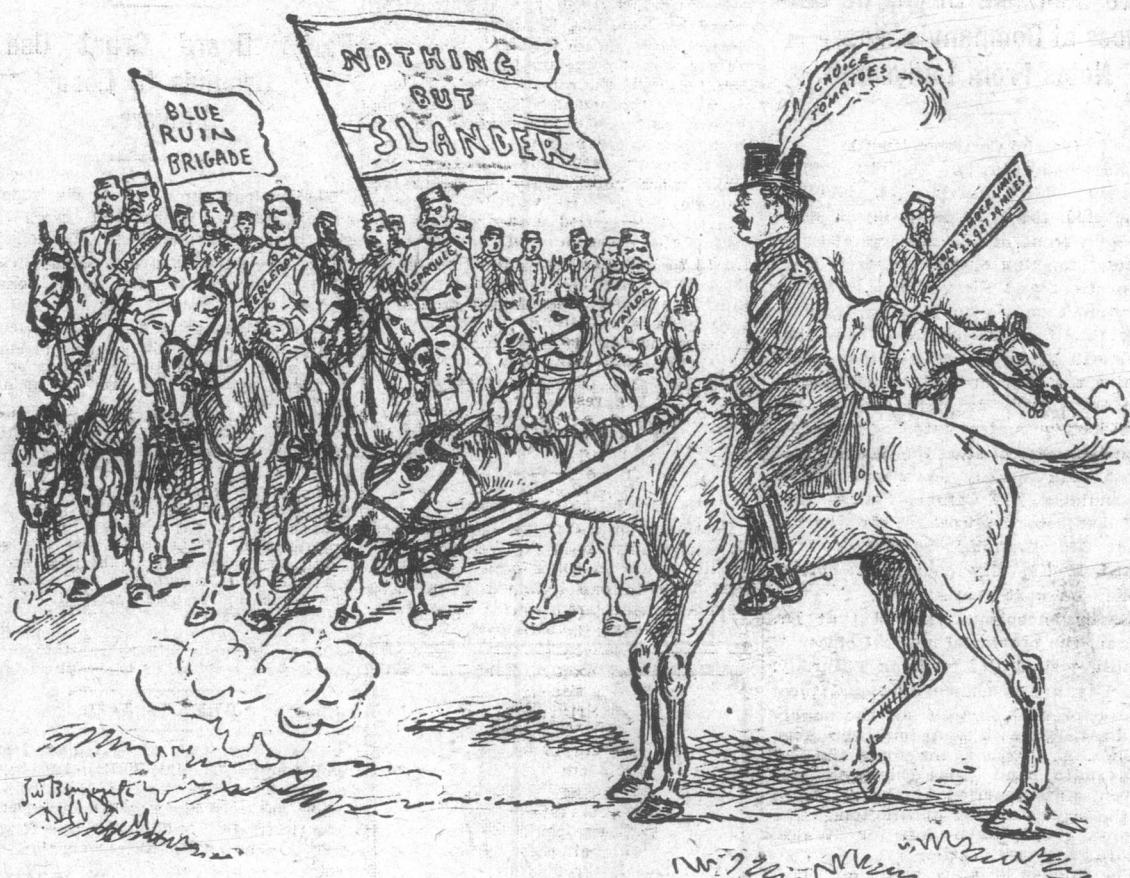
This is another signal instance of the prompt and energetic manner in which the Liberal government through the department of labor which it established for the purpose, has responded to the wishes of the laboring classes and has endeavored to protect their interests. The Restriction of Immigration From the Orient—Chinese, Japanese, Hindu.

In no particular have the well-being and interests of the working classes in Canada been so seriously menaced as in the threatened invasion of a tide of skilled and unskilled labor from the Orient. Inasmuch as the interests of the whole of Asia, with its countless hordes of Chinese, Japanese and Indian natives are one in this matter, and international and imperial considerations of the highest importance involved in the handling of it, it is within the mark to say, that no problem which has ever confronted this country has called for more skilful handling or a higher statesmanship. Considered from this standpoint, how brilliant has been the record of the present Liberal administration! Recognizing the proportions of the question the first steps taken were very properly in the nature of an inquiry under royal commission with a view to ascertaining the facts and circumstances surrounding Chinese and Japanese immigration, the evidence taken before the commission which was appointed in 1900, and the commissioner's report created an intelligent public opinion on the whole question, and afforded grounds for the government's action in imposing a head tax of \$500 upon all Chinese entering the country. This tax had been fixed by the government at \$100 in 1900, but the commission found this to be inadequate, and it was raised to \$500, at which amount it has since remained. Only at the last session did parliament enact additional measures safeguarding such exemptions as had been made on behalf of Chinese students and Chinese children, that the prohibition of this class of labor might be the more effective.

The problem of Japanese immigration or immigration from India did not become one of any importance until the beginning of last year. Then the influx of these classes of labor became such that serious unrest was occasioned in the province of British Columbia, resulting in anti-Asiatic riots in the city of Vancouver. Immediately the government took the matter in hand; the parties who suffered in the riots were compensated for their losses, that neither they nor the countries from whence they came might have any just grievance against the people of this country, and immediately investigations and international negotiations commenced, which have resulted in a complete restriction in the numbers and classes of these people who shall be entitled to come to this country. In the solution of this problem the department of labor, which is the best versed in the many bearings of this question upon the lives and conditions of the working classes, has been particularly active. In fact with the strong endorsement of the government in all its proceedings, it has had the all but entire handling of the whole matter.

The successful mission of the minister of labor, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, to Japan to secure an arrangement for the restriction of Japanese immigration to Canada; the inquiry at Vancouver by the deputy minister of labor, Mr. Mackenzie King, into the methods by which the Oriental laborers have been induced to come to Canada; the successful mission of the deputy minister of labor to England to interview the British authorities on the subject of Oriental immigration, and to secure a restriction of further immigration of Japanese immigrants to a factor in the public mind, and are further indications of the widening scope and increasing activity of the department of labor, as well as of the thorough and increasing attention given by the government to the industrial interests of the country. The arrangement effected by the minister of labor has resulted in the practical elimination of the Japanese immigration to a factor in the social and industrial life of Canada. The government recognized that Canada is and must be a white man's country and has not hesitated to take prompt action to secure this end. At the same time the government realized the gravity of the question and the desirability of proceeding on lines compatible with the present standing of the British Empire, and as a progressive country and as an important member of the British Empire, and no step was taken without a due consideration of the interests of the Empire. As a result the wishes of Canada were reached without the least disturbance of the good relations prevailing between Canada and Japan on the one hand, or Great Britain and Japan on the other, and without the endangering the growing trade between Canada and Japan which is expected to add so greatly to the prosperity and upbuilding of our Pacific province. The investigations of the deputy minister of labor have revealed the causes and sources of the migration, assisted greatly in clarifying the atmosphere and enabled the Canadian

THE BROKEN-WINDED CAVALRY



LEADER BORDEN—How can a man win with a brigade like that? Not one of them that isn't broken-winded.

rates of wages current in the locality where the work was being carried out. But more than that, he had seen the important contracts, such contracts, for example, as have been awarded by the department of public works, the department of railways and canals, and the department of marine and fisheries—fair wages schedules, setting forth the minimum rate of wages to be paid, and naming the hours of labor to be worked, have been inserted as an integral part of the contract. These schedules have been prepared by the fair wages officers of the department. Altogether, up to the close of the fiscal year 1907-8 (being March 31st, 1908), 1,157 schedules have been prepared by the fair wages officers and inserted in government contracts. The influence of this policy has spread far and wide, some of the provincial governments, and many municipalities, have followed the example of the Dominion government, and awarded their contracts subject to fair wage labor conditions. The government of Manitoba, a couple of years ago, adopted the fair wage policy of the Liberal government of Canada, and appointed a fair wage officer to work along lines similar to those of the Dominion officials. In Natal, South Africa, also, the Canadian fair wages policy has been copied, and legislation on similar lines is promised for the coming winter. Not only has the department of labor seen to the insertion of fair wages schedules in government contracts, but it has seen that contractors have been made to comply with these conditions. Where a complaint has been received that contractors were not living up to their obligations under the act, these complaints have been investigated and redress secured. Seventy or more claims of workmen for wages alleged to be in accordance with the schedules inserted in the contracts given to their employers, have been made the subject of special investigation, and have resulted, as the annual reports of the department will show, in a large number of payments to workmen of money which they were justly entitled to, but which, save for the interest of the department on their behalf, they would never have received. To insure publicity the fair wages schedules have been published in the Labor Gazette, but in August, 1907, to make more effective this feature of the government's