Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

RIGHT IN THE MARROW.

TO the City of Bradford, Yorkshire, England, is conceded the birthplace of the Independent Labor Party of the British Isles, a party which is today one of the factors to be reckoned with in the old land legislative chamber. Around the thirty year mark of existence, its ramifications extend from representation in cabinet positions to the humblest spheres of public service. The established position of this workers' party is too well known with its lease of upbuilding of present history for its activities to require recital. It is directly with the city which initiated the party, taking root from trade unionism, in this instance we are concerned.

Brought into being through a strike in which some 15,000 workers were involved, the situation of numerical strength battling against financial might ineffectively, was the lesson driven home. The eyes of the workers and leaders were opened to seek effective organization and direct representation, with the result that it has reached the proportions of today. Bradford City led, other centres followed, other countries followed.

It would seem quite in the nature of events that a birthright such as this should mean more than being in the procession, the bell cow position being correct, and it so happens that in the friendly rivalry in the pressing forward advocating advanced working-class legislation, Bradford City has held and continues to hold a premier position, direct labor representation in all branches of public service being such that the workers' practical suggestions are made effective through enactment.

A Labor Lord Mayor, member of the House of Commons, representatives on all public bodies is part and parcel of Bradford City life, no longer in the nature of novelty, but firmly entrenched and recognized as a necessity to the city's welfare. What may be considered in other centres as movement of daring is just a matter-of-fact happening, begot of that confidence of three decades of growth of the movement for which it was responsible.

In matters of education this city is considered to lead the way. Feeding of the school children before the great war was carried out which made Bradford the envy of other centres, this being done through the medium of a central cookhouse, which was notified from the various schools directly after each morning's assembly how many meals were required. Before the noon recess motor trucks had delivered piping hot individual dinners, variety in menu, and at a minimum cost. Open air, out in the country, school children whose physique or condition called for such attention, were taken to the rustic school to become acquainted with the three R's, the transportation being by means of the municipally owned tram cars to the health and learning rendezvous. Every move was progress, with the interest of the child a first consideration.

With such a condition existing one may now be prepared for any new or seemingly novel venture, and it certainly seems that such is at hand with the latest proposal cited by the Monitor, as follows: "A new secondary school is required at a cost of $500,000, and they contend that it would be cheaper to buy a ship and have a floating school. The boat is not to be stationary, but to take the scholars, say about 200 of them, a trip for six or twelve months, landing them at foreign countries where they could learn the language and improve international relations. There is a suggestion from the chairman of the committee that the ship should carry, besides scholars, goods from Bradford that could be exchanged for goods from the foreign ports."

By examples cited, thus is this busy manufacturing centre of the north of England utilizing the heritage given to it as the birthplace of the workers' party, and from its progressive movements of public welfare others may take advantage of the initiative displayed. Bred in the bone is apparently correctly applied to the city that cradled the organized workers' party of Greater Britain.

NEW PREMIER FOR QUEBEC.

Sir Lomer Gouin, who has been Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec since March 23, 1905, resigned office at Quebec City last week. He will be succeeded as Premier by the Hon. Louis Alexander Taschereau, who has been a member of the Legislature since 1900. From 1907 to 1919 he was Minister of Public Works and Labor and since August 25, 1919, he has been Attorney-General of Quebec. He is a native of Quebec City and has been a member of the Bar since 1889. Mr. Taschereau has been Sir Lomer's chief lieutenant and will continue his policies. Sir Lomer's 15 years of office is the longest in the political history of Quebec.

The union label is a weapon that profits the employer equally with the employe, but only so long as both aim at the same object. It can never be turned against the employe, because it is the latter's exclusive property, to be given or withdrawn at pleasure.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Sealed tenders addressed to the Chairman and Members of the Board of Control will be received by the Secretary of the Board of Control, City Hall, Ottawa, up to 3 p.m., Thursday, July 22nd, 1920, for the supply and delivery of Cast Iron Pipe, Valves, Hydrants and Pig Lead, as the case may be.

Any tender received after the above stated time will be declared informal. Specifications, form of tender and full particulars may be obtained on application to the City Engineer's Office, City Hall, Ottawa. The Corporation does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

A. F. MACALLUM,
Commissioner of Works.
City Hall, Ottawa,
July 12th, 1920.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal.—Cain.

MT. HAMILTON W.L.P.

Last Wednesday's regular meeting of the Mt. Hamilton Women's Labor party, held in the Mission hall, was very largely attended. Mrs. J. Inman presided. The members were elated over the Manitoba election results and a resolution was passed deputing Secretary Mrs. Joseph Corrigan to send a letter of congratulation to the Winnipeg Labor party.

The secretary was also asked to write to Ottawa enquiring as to whether beet sugar was manufactured in Canada and if so who were the firms. Speakers stated that there was no beet sugar sold at retail in Hamilton.

Once again the Dominion Government will be asked concerning the sale of margarine. It was mentioned that last October the I.L.P. was informed by the Dominion Government that 40 cents per pound was the maximum charge for margarine. Members stated that margarine was being sold in Hamilton for 42, 43 and 45 cents per pound. And the Government will be told that retailers are charging these prices. President Inman announced that the next meeting of the Women's Provincial Labor Federation, organized in Brantford on May 24, would be held at the residence of Mrs. Singer, Toronto.

WASTE OF WOMAN POWER.

The waste of woman power is one of the greatest menaces to the rural life of the nation, according to deductions that specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture draw from a farm-home survey conducted in the 33 northern and western states. The records cover 10,015 farm homes.

The survey discloses a number of reasons why many women do not find farm life attractive. The working day of the average farm woman, as shown by the survey, is 11.4 hours the year round. In summer it is 13.12 hours, and out of each 100 women, 87 have no regular vacation during the year. On the average, the farm woman can find only 1.6 hours of leisure during the summer and 2.4 hours in the winter. Half of the farm women are up and at work at 5 o'clock in the morning.

"At a time like this, when the dearth of farm labor is a limiting factor in production," says the report, "it is very doubtful business policy for farmers to use increased income to buy more land instead of using a part of it in raising standards of living so that women and young people will not want to go to the cities in search of attractive living conditions and amusement."

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers In the Motherland Are Doing.

J. R. CLYNES AGAIN HEAD OF GENERAL WORKERS' UNION.

J. R. Clynes was again elected president of the National Union of General Workers, at the congress of the organization held in Aberdeen, Scotland, recently. The proceedings were conducted in private, but it was announced that the voting for the election of president for the next two years resulted as follows: Mr. Clynes, M.P., 262,687; Mr. F. Edwards, 32,765; Mr. McCaffery, 5,030. Mr. Will Thorne, M.P., was reappointed general secretary by a large majority, the figures being: Mr. Thorne, 257,963; Mr. Watkins (of London), 10,986; Mr. Holden (of London), 9,986.

OUR WEEKLY BRITISH LETTER.

LONDON, England (Saturday)—As soon as Mr. Lloyd George returns from Spa, the executive of the Miners Federation will undoubtedly place before him claims formulated by the conference of the federation at Leamington, where, under the leadership of Robert Smillie, the president, they passed a resolution demanding an increased rate of pay and a reduction in the price of coal by 14s. 2d. per ton, as well as a further resolution instructing delegates to the meeting in London to propose to "down tools" if the military forces were not withdrawn from Ireland.

The miners are frank to admit that they intend to absorb the surplus profits of the coal industry. If the government takes a firm stand their intention in that case is to claim a still larger advance in wages. Mr. Smillie made this clear at Leamington, when he said: "If the government refuses to reduce the price of coal, the miners will have to claim the full amount of the surplus." The estimated surplus is £65,000,000, and the present wages demand of 2s. per day would amount to about £30,000,000, while reduction in the price of coal would clean up the balance.

The announcement was made on Tuesday that the gasworkers' dispute had been settled. At a conference at Essex Hall, the men's representatives accepted the amended offer of the employers of 1s. per day advance in wages from May 1, as against their demand of 10s. per week, and the employers made important concessions as to holidays and other allowances. Considerable relief was felt in large cities, but surprise was experienced on Thursday morning, when 1,200 gas works employes in Manchester, through a sudden and unauthorized strike, seriously inconvenienced factories and homes by shutting down supplies. This action has been followed by gasworkers in Bury, Radcliffe, Fenton, Wigan, Bristol, Salford, Haywood, Stoke-on-Trent, and Huddersfield, which towns are affected.

Alderman Kay, chairman of the Manchester gas committee, in a statement in Manchester on Friday, said that the men had given no notice whatever until they actually ceased work on Wednesday evening. Trade union representatives endorsed the action of their committee in connection with the settlement on Tuesday, and passed a resolution recommending the executives of the affiliated unions connected with the gas industry not to sanction the unauthorized strike, which aimed at repudiating the agreement, and the matter was settled, all strike notices being withdrawn.

J. R. Clynes and James O'Grady, representing the unions, were both parties to the agreement. The idea involved, Mr. Kay said, in the present trouble, goes to the root of collective bargaining. If men are not willing to abide by the pledged word of their leaders, the whole system of trade unions and recognition comes to end. The Whitley councils, or any other representative body, will cease to exist.

The crisis in London, whereby the men thereatened this week to cut off London's water supply, has been tided over by the Metropolitan Water Board agreeing by a large majority to submit the matter to arbitration, and the deadlock at the London docks has been removed by government intervention.

The strike of the piano workers, which has lasted for over 12 weeks, has now been settled without any practical advantage to the workmen, as the bonus system, which was the stumbling block, is still in force.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY NEW OFFICIALS.

The election of the National Executive of the British Labor Party resulted as follows:

Representatives of National societies: Clynes, 3,032,000 votes; Ben Turner, 2,754,000; Cramp, 2,624,000; T. Shaw, 2,439,000; W. H. Hutchinson, 2,432,000; F. Hodges, 2,365,000; Cameron, 2,329,000; Sidney Webb, 2,165,000; Wignall, 1,988,000; R. Williams, 1,546,000; Jowett, 1,655,000; J. Bromley, 1,588,000; C. Duncan, 1,217,000.

Representatives of local constituency organizations: Lansbury, 2,112,000; Spoor, 1,784,000; Tyson Wilson, 1,353,000; N. Maclean, 1,125,000; H. Morrison, 767,000.

Women: Mary Macarthur, 1,853,000; Mrs. Snowden, 1,695,000; Susan Lawrence, 1,621,000; Mrs. Harrison Bell, 1,561,000.

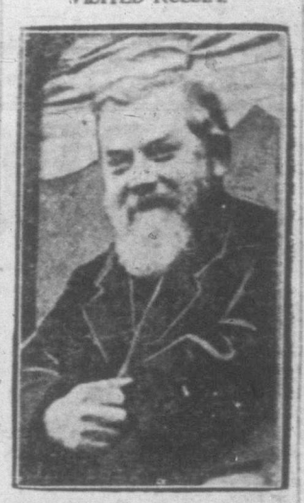
All the above are elected.

Voting for auditors resulted in the election of Robert Young and Walter Gee, and Ramsay MacDonald was re-elected treasurer.

Subsequently A. G. Cameron was elected chairman of the executive, and F. W. Jowett vice-chairman.

Digression is, generally speaking, retrogression.

VISITED RUSSIA.



BEN TURNER, a member of the British Labor delegation, which recently visited Russia and made a study of industrial and political conditions under the Soviet administration.

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Notes Of Particular Interest To Ex-Service Trade Unionists.

SOLDIERS' REPATRIATION IN HANDS OF DOMINION.

Replying to a question intended to prevent the repatriation of Dominion soldiers until the authorities were satisfied as to their responsibilities, and that their wives and families had been properly provided for, Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for War, said in the House of Commons, last week, that arrangements were in the hands of the Dominions. Dependents were not allowed to defer their passage except under special conditions, and he had no power to take further action.

O.B.E. MEDALS FOR BRAVE MUNITION WORKERS.

The list of awards of the medals of the British Empire Order, published recently, contains the names of the following Canadians: Charles Norman Barclay, Eva Grace Curtis, Fairy Marshall, E. Emery McQuoid, Reginald Moncrieff, Gilbert Murray, Georges Paterson, Clare Sauve, all for conspicuous bravery at an explosive factory in Canada.

WINNIPEG'S RECENT VOTE EXPLAINED BY "P. R." EXPERT.

The reason that Labor received a little less than its apparent share of representation in the recent Winnipeg elections in the light of the big vote cast for Dixon, was due to the fact that a very large proportion of second and third choices on Dixon's ballots were for Liberal or Conservative candidates, said Ronald Hooper, honorary secretary of the Proportional Representation Society of Canada, at a public meeting at Regina recently.

Mr. Hooper explained this by expressing the opinion that a large number of Liberals and Conservatives gave their first vote to Dixon as a registration of protest against the Board of Commerce debacle and after that they followed their party line through second, third and further choice.

Lenine didn't like the British Labor delegation and spoke freely about it. Let the delegation speak freely of Lenine and Russia.

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Ar.	Montreal	8.50 a.m.	10.00 a.m.	11.20 a.m.	2.00 p.m.	6.15 p.m.	6.45 p.m.	10.10 p.m.

From Montreal

		Daily	Daily ex. Sun.	Daily ex. Sun.	Daily	Sun. Only	Daily	Daily
Lv.	Montreal	7.10 a.m.	8.30 a.m.	3.00 p.m.	5.00 p.m.	8.30 p.m.	6.45 p.m.	10.15 p.m.
Ar.	Ottawa	10.55 a.m.	11.20 a.m.	6.30 p.m.	8.00 p.m.	9.15 p.m.	11.45 p.m.	1.20 a.m.

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