

Editorial Page of 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.
2. 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.

Making Canada an Adjunct

On the other side of the boundary line there is a sustained demand for labor at good wages, while on this side of the same line many thousands of people are unable to obtain steady employment. What is the cause of this difference? If the United States has great natural resources, excellent and extensive transportation service, and everything else to attract capital and population, has not Canada like advantages? It has all the conditions for prosperity that the United States has, save one. It has not a tariff that gives adequate protection to home industry.

And why has it not that one thing needful to the holding of its own in the economic struggle in which it is pitted against its powerful neighbor? On their own soil Canada's producers are exposed to the almost freebooting competition of exporters from high tariff countries, from cheap labor countries, from depreciated currency countries, from market-hunting countries generally. What other country of Canada's population and status is so overrun with products made in other lands? If this Dominion were in the backward state industrially of the peoples of the Middle East and the Far East, its openness to the trading enterprise of external countries might be defensible, but it is a country that had been raised by National policy to a relatively high place among the industrial communities of the world. Now its people are leaving it in hundreds of thousands annually because they have not a chance to make a living at home. The tariff odds are too heavily against Canada.

The Trail of the Wrecker

Mr. James B. McLaughlin says that when spring comes and navigation has opened up again the miners will strike on the job. What he really means is that this is what the miners will do if they follow his leadership. Whether or not any considerable number of them will take Mr. McLaughlin's advice in this regard is another question. What he is counselling is simply bald dishonesty—a dishonesty that has been condemned not only by people outside Labor organizations but by all the foremost union leaders in North America and in Britain and every other country where there is loyalty to decent standards of conduct. Labor leaders who are really devoted to Labor's interests never have anything to do with such a sinking, crooked policy as 'striking on the job.' Mr. McLaughlin is still doing his best against Labor in Cape Breton while professing to seek to serve it. He is pursuing a wrecker's course in regard to the United Mine Workers and seeking to persuade the miners to follow tactics that can bring upon them nothing but disaster.

Labor Men and Cabinet in Session

Large Delegation at Fredericton This Morning to Present Claims—Ask Amendments

Fredericton, N. B.—A large delegation from the Federation of Labor waited upon the government recently and presented replies to the requests of the Lumbermen's Association for changes in the Compensation Act, and made as well several other requests of and recommendations to the executive.

Commendation of the action of the government in appointing a commission of enquiry on the Mothers' Allowance Act and Minimum Wage Act for women and children was expressed in the final section of the memoranda submitted.

Opposition to a Moncton city bill, No. 18, now before the Legislature, giving the police magistrate additional powers with respect to the penalties for women of disorderly character, was expressed.

Development of the water powers of the country by the government under public ownership, with particular reference to Grand Falls and Petitcodiac, was also recommended, as were free school books, of which the delegation said there was immediate need in all the public schools.

Amendments to the factories and public health acts were suggested with respect to the examination and licensing of stationary engineers and regulations respecting examination and licensing of master and journeyman plumbers.

decisions of the federation of labor laws commission.

A request was made to give legislative effect to the recommendations made by the International Labor Conference with respect to an eight-hour day; the maintenance of employment service, and the abolition of private agencies; the restriction of the employment of women immediately prior to and subsequent to child birth; a prohibition to the employment of women and young persons during the night; fixing the minimum age of young persons entering industry, and providing one day's rest in seven for all workers.

Want Scale Restored
Memoranda submitted in reply to the request of the Lumbermen's Association for amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act were very full and complete. The first request of the lumber employers was that the compensation scale of 1920 be restored, and Labor opposed this because (1) to lower the present scale of compensation would defeat the primary objects of the act to keep dependents from becoming a charge upon the community; (2) that the cost of living does not justify any reduction in the scales of compensation, and that the tendency in other places since 1920 has been to increase rather than decrease.

The Labor delegation also opposed the request of the lumbermen that the Compensation Board be reconstructed, emphasizing the fact that the administration of such important legislation should not be in the hands of one individual, and that adjudication of claims requires the judgment of at least three commissioners.

Opposition Expressed
Further opposition was expressed to the lumber employers that they be given the option to carry their own insurance, giving in each case a satisfactory guarantee by bond that the claims for compensation will be duly paid and a reasonable limit fixed on the employer's liability. The labor delegation felt that this proposal was economically unsound and quoted ex-

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amples in the State of Pennsylvania and Great Britain to sustain that contention.

The delegation expressed themselves in favor of co-operation between the board and employers in effecting practical means for the prevention of accidents, but held that where associations are formed for this purpose the workmen should have representation therein.

Hon. Premier Veniot, having made some suggestions first with reference to a maximum limit and second that there might be a contribution by the workmen to medical aid, the delegation replied to these suggestions which were made in January last, that the reason for placing a limit in the original Compensation Act was because it was thought the aggregate payroll of industry in the province would not carry a measure with unlimited compensation, but that the experience of the act has shown that industry is quite able to carry its full obligation, and they therefore submitted that fatalities and permanent disabilities should continue to be compensated without maximum limitation as at present provided in the act, and they urged as a reason that other provinces in Canada having similar legislation had not found it necessary to fix a maximum limit.

Unfairness Contended
The second suggestion of the Premier, contribution by the workmen to medical aid, they contended would be unfair to the worker: First, because the obligation for all compensation, including medical aid, is upon industry and not a personal charge upon the employer, this charge being passed on as an added cost to the consumer; second, the injured workmen or the dependents of those killed make a contribution in suffering which far exceeds the monetary contribution made by industry; third, the loss in wages, due to waiting periods and the reduced income provided by compensation, is an additional contribution already required from the worker.

In addition to the above answers to the requests of the Lumbermen's Association, the Labor delegation asked that the Compensation Act be amended so that the payments for disability lasting more than seven days, should be equal to two-thirds of the average wages of the workmen, instead of 35 per cent. as at present, but that no compensation should be less than \$10 a week or more than \$66, and two-thirds of \$125 per month, such payments to continue during the life of the workman or the duration of such liability.

Suspend Action to Decide Jury

Harbor Commission to Pay Man Weekly Allowance For One Year

Montreal, Que.—Suspension of an action under the Workmen's Compensation Act for a year to allow appraisal of permanent damages is a feature of a judgment rendered against the Montreal Harbor Commission yesterday afternoon by Mr. Justice Weir.

E. Sauvageau claimed \$3,000 as a capital sum to compensate him for injuries received while working on Harbor extension near Shed No. 2, and a like sum for loss of wages and time. He stated that he was engaged in pouring cement for flooring when he fell into an opening a distance of twelve feet and received several bruises and contusions.

The Harbor denied that he had a right to sue under the Act; and the severity of his hurts.

The Court, after hearing evidence, concluded that the man had proven temporary losses amounting to \$62, but witnesses could not appreciate the extent of his permanent injuries for lack of time to observe his condition.

Consequently the Commission was condemned to pay the man \$10.50 a week allowance until March 25, 1925, when new evidence will be heard from experts.

Advocates Building During Slow Season

Tom Moore Claims Much of Canada's Unemployment is Avoidable

Ottawa.—"A good deal of Canada's unemployment is avoidable," President Tom Moore, of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, told an audience here. The Labor head advocated proper distribution of work in the building trades and the preparation of estimates for public buildings

at a time that would allow building operations to be started in the slow season as means of doing away with a great deal of the present unemployment in Canada.

Mr. Moore condemned the practice of starting new work in the Spring and finishing in the Fall, which left workmen idle in the Winter months. Under a redistribution scheme he said that some works could be commenced in the Fall and advanced to a stage where they would permit of interior work being done during the Winter months.

In the maritimes and Quebec, he said, there was considerable unrest in connection with the strikes in the coal and steel works and the varying conditions.

As an example of the number of nationalities engaged in laboring in Ontario, the speaker told of a Labor meeting in Port Colborne at which thirteen languages were spoken. In some parts of the Western Provinces it was not unusual to have four or five nationalities in attendance at a meeting.

Referring to the Western Provinces he spoke mainly of the defeat of the branch lines bill in Parliament last year.

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