

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

CLEARING THE AIR.

TORONTO Trades Council has started in to clean house in very businesslike manner by denying seats to locals who were really in this International trade union's central body under false pretenses, after their severance of international ties.

That the heart of the Toronto central body was sound was questioned by few, despite the efforts to make the council a nursery for disgruntled germs by the negligible quantity making for a more emphatic effort of the calibre that counts as stalwarts of the International trade union movement.

It is not too much to venture that the parallel situations where few destroyers occupy the boards could be met in the same way and clarified with the president or his able lieutenant, Sec.-Treas. Draper, or the vice-presidents making personal attendance.

There is yet another field of vision, and that is where by chance the reactionary element has sent forth the directly contrary aims and objects sufficient to antagonize co-operation. The segregated fields of this nature could be attended to and redeemed.

Other trades councils throughout the Dominion might with profit follow the example of Toronto and purge their house of reactionary wreckers whose avowed interest in the trade union movement is for the purpose of plotting to seek its downfall.

NOTHING DOING.

EMPLOYERS are deluding themselves and must be prepared for a rude awakening if they consider present rate of wages can be lowered owing to trivial falling prices in commodities.

PROPAGANDA FIRST.

It is apparent that the Soviet Government of Russia are more concerned in "educating" the world to Bolshevism than they are in the advancement of the people for whom they govern.

EMPLOYMENT THE OBJECT

LABOR men have not lost their sense of humor, but those involved in the piano and musical industrial industry have a serious grievance.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brethren in the Motherland Are Doing.

OUR WEEKLY BRITISH LETTER.

WESTMINSTER, England (Saturday).—The fortnightly "British Letter" of the Government's policy of reprisals in Ireland has become acute and has been the subject of the past week's hard and bitter attacks.

Both in the House of Lords, where Lord Lansdowne, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, vigorously condemned the policy, and in the House of Commons, where the old protagonist T. O'Connor, Lord Devlin and Jeremiah MacVeigh and Lord Robert Cecil have given the Government no peace.

None the less, Mr. O'Connor did at last, after repeated attempts, succeed on Thursday in moving an adjournment of the House in order again to ventilate the Irish question. He spoke with power and decision, which would have damaged the Government had there been a division.

Chief Secretary's Reply. Sir Hamar Greenwood, Chief Secretary for Ireland, made a swift reply for the Government, maintaining his standpoint that "War it is, and war it will be, until assassination stops, and the Government, on division, retained a majority of 117 votes against 51. None the less, it was regarded as a good sign that the Government at last proclaimed its intention—indeed steps have already been taken—to bring the offending Black and Tans to heel.

A picture gallery was introduced when two uniformed members of the Royal Irish Constabulary entered the House and took their seats "under the gallery"—a small row of half a dozen seats on the floor of the House which is only separated from the members' benches by a single rail. This made Mr. O'Connor, in the course of his speech, wonder whether the Black and Tans were after him.

On Wednesday, a bill was introduced in the House which would give the Government the right to suspend the franchise of any person who is convicted of a crime involving violence or intimidation.

In the House of Lords on Thursday, Viscount St. Aldrich made a statement on the negotiations with Saïd Pasha, and the Egyptian mission, which showed to everybody's surprise that the "settlement" announced provisionally two or three weeks ago is by no means definite as was then thought.

Laugh and the world laughs with you; Weep, and you weep alone; For the old earth must borrow its mirth, But has trouble enough of its own.

Rejoice and men will seek you; Grieve and they turn and go; They want full measure of all your pleasure, But they do not need your woe.

Feast, and your hall is crowded; Past, and the world goes by; Succeed and give, and it helps you live, But man can help you die.

THE WORTH OF PLAYING SQUARE. And the chilling winds of autumn, Thrills us with its shivering, When we find our life-time shilling, And the race is nearly run.

Good or bad we've brought to brother, Neighbor, friend, and all the rest; To the profit we have heeded, Through our lease on Labor's nest.

That is ours, or playing square, To the service we have rendered, Generally or greed, Then we know with quietest conscience, Wealth and fame, cannot compare, With the humble satisfaction, That is ours, or playing square.

THE CHILDREN OF THE MILLS.

Oh, the silence of the children in the Sunny South today, It is sadder than the cry of fettered slaves, Lean and hewn, and you will hear the roaring of the mill, And the sighing of the winds through open graves, But the voices of the children—they are still— Oh, the roaring of the mill, of the mill.

They no longer shout and gambol in the blossom laden fields, And their laughter does not echo down the street, They have gone across the hills, they are working in the mill, Oh, the tired little heads and aching feet, And the dreary, weary life that stunts and kills; Oh, the roaring of the mill, of the mill.

All the pleasures known to childhood are but tales of Fairyland, What to them are singing birds and running streams? For the rattle of the mill will echo an echo of the mill; And they see but flying spiders in their dreams. Life is one, in summer's heat, or winter's chill, Oh, the roaring of the mill, of the mill.

In this boasted land of freedom they are bonded baby slaves, And the heavy world goes by and does not heed; They are driven to the mill just to spin and ever fill, Bursting coffers of the Plutocrats of Greed, When they perish we are told it is "God's will"— Oh, the roaring of the mill, of the mill.

Still from valley, plain and hamlet, lofty steeples proudly rise, And droning tones of preachers prate of crimes; And the Gospel vendors still sell the people of the mill, And they pray beside the graves the children fill; Oh, the roaring of the mill, of the mill.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

THAT 'NON-POLITICAL ORDER' OF PRESIDENT HANNA, OF THE C. N. R.

The Sifton, Metcalfe St., Ottawa, October 26, 1920.

An Open Letter to Mr. D. B. Hanna, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the C.N.R.

Sir,—In appealing, through the medium of the Canadian press, to the Canadian people in vindication of your "non-political order" issued to aid for the guidance and control of the employees of the C. N. R., you have presumably invited open discussion, consequently I need not offer an apology if I also through the same medium of publicity, address this letter to you.

May I be permitted at the outset, a personal word or two? I admire the success you have achieved in your calling, it is an insensible to the great services you are rendering Canada.

If the question at issue was merely a railroad problem, I would not presume to interfere, but when you seek, inadvertently I hope, to railroad the railway employees out of the class that has been disqualified by Parliament from becoming candidates, such as criminals and outlaws, I feel it my duty to intervene.

Chapter 46 of an Act respecting the election of members of the House of Commons and the Electoral Franchise, assented to July 1, 1920, section 35, provides "That except as in this Act otherwise provided, no British subject, male or female, who is of the full age of 21 years, may become a candidate at a Dominion election."

Section 36 provides that persons who are not eligible to become candidates, namely those found guilty of corrupt or illegal practices in connection with the election of members of Legislatures, certain public officers, persons in the employ of the Government at the nomination of the Crown who receive any wages, allowances, etc.; and the same section provides that these disqualifications shall not apply to any persons in the Naval or Military or Air forces of Canada—while such as are on active service in consequence of war and receiving salary, pay or allowances—Militia officers or militia men drawing pay when called out for drill or active service.

I am quoted freely from the act to bring clearly to the attention of Canadian citizens the injustice and inconsistency of your "non-political" order for the citizens in their country's service or on the battlefield are permitted by law to become candidates for political honors how can the Board of Directors of Canada's nationally owned railways consistently of its own volition, disqualify the near one hundred thousand citizen employees of a great public service who have been qualified by Parliament.

Sir, you should be as assiduous in honoring your employees' rights as provided for them in your contracts with them, governing rates of pay and conditions of employment. In taking issue with you I do not question your motive and I trust you will not question mine. Perhaps you are not so divergent after all. Our objects are similar, namely the success of the Canadian National Railway. It is simply a matter of degree, your desire to guard the C.N.R. against politics—I assume you mean injurious politics, if so, I agree with you. You are keen to prevent anything from being political manipulation, so am I, and the employees would, I have no doubt, co-operate with you to that end.

But you would adopt the direct method, and I a less direct method. Your too-direct method would encourage, if not force, direct action in the economic field, mine would encourage political action in the political field. You desire compulsion, and I co-operation. Your policy would antagonize while mine, it seems to me, would not.

Democracy is government by the people. Its success lies in the science of government. To my mind every citizen should be a politician. Political activity should be encouraged and not discouraged or repressed. Our danger today lies in the average citizen's lack of interest in politics. The responsibility probably rests with those who prate about the evils of politics and party to such I would say "It's an evil bird that pollutes its own nest."

The motto of the C.N.R. employees would not be impaired by greater activity in politics, nor the interests of the C.N.R. be jeopardized by their taking a livelier interest in the country's welfare.

It has been assumed that an employee's first duty is to his employer, but during the war we were taught that we owed also a duty to the State. To these primary principles you appear to be opposed, judging by your interview, given by you from Winnipeg, to the Canadian Press, October 25th, and from which I quote the paragraph as follows: "The duties are 'to the Railway Company.'"

to have arisen among certain classes of employees of the Canadian National Railway regarding the attitude of the company towards employees seeking provincial or federal parliamentary honors," stated Mr. Hanna. "One principle of the company is that it will not employ anyone who is engaged in any political activity," he said. "If a man appears in the newspapers that something new had been promulgated in railway practice. The fact is, as far as the old Canadian National line is concerned, the management then in control had a clear understanding that any officer or employee identifying himself with any party, and accepting parliamentary honors, automatically severed his connections with the company. This rule was strictly observed and the same practice has been extended under the present Board of Directors."

Two wrongs do not make one right. On the Sugar Order of the Board of Commerce defended its position by quoting a previous wrong action of its predecessor—the Government.

You, Sir, to attain your object would deprive employees from seeking political honors. I would not. Sir, may I draw your attention to what appears to me to be a fact worth noting, namely that fear and hope, especially hope, are the best disciplinarians. The fear of the loss of their position by the employer and on the other hand the hope of gaining the said approbation and the same practice has been extended under the present Board of Directors. This salary hope, this will-to-the-wisdom of life should not be denied nor confined, rather it should be extended. The period has come when it has been abused on the C.P.R. neither would it be abused on the C.N.R. If it should be abused in either case then would be the time to act by operation between the management and the employees to remove the abuse.

In a press interview you cite the I.C.R. as an example of the evil effect of politics. Did the evil originate with the employees? I believe I can prove to you that the employees through an organization have been one of the factors that have about eliminated the "political pull" evil on that railway.

I note sir, with pleasure, that you are quoted in the Press, October 25th, as having partly withdrawn from your former position—as stated in your interview of the 25th October quoted herein. Apparently you now confine the restriction to an employee becoming a candidate. I quote: "So far as the C.N.R. is concerned any officer or employee can identify himself with any political party he wishes to without let or hindrance from the company."

Sir, the citizen's right to become identified with any political party arises from custom—while the right to become a candidate for parliamentary honors has been conferred by Parliament, and it may be interesting to note that the railway employees who entered the contest were endorsed by one or other of the old time party leaders, and one at least has been elected to the position of the railway.

I submit Sir, that what the law gives, you cannot safely take away by putting a restriction on the limitations. It is in this part of your programme that I am now opposed to, and that has impelled me to write to you in the spirit of one citizen to another, and as a Canadian citizen regardless of any official position I may occupy with the Order of Railway Conductors, I would respectfully suggest to you, that you go a step farther; by doing so you could be on "less desirable ground." Namely, when an employee is elected to a position, provide that no restrictions shall be placed on any employee becoming a candidate for any political office, then the question of his retaining his future relations with the company could be considered on its merits and in harmony with the wishes of the employees and the interests of the railway. However, the concessions extended to the employees in harmony with the wishes of other railways whereby an employee selected or elected by his fellow employees to devote his whole time to the railway, or to be granted leave of absence for the time being, might well and with benefit to all concerned, be extended to any employee elected to a position (to Parliamentary positions).

Probably less than half a dozen employees at any time, out of the C.N.R.'s near one hundred thousand would be elected to these positions. This would not constitute an abuse and does not appear to me worth while raising a controversy about. I. L. PELTIER, Canadian League of Representative, Order of Railway Conductors.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal—Cala.

WOMEN POLICE A SUCCESS IN BRITAIN.

Since its formation the Metropolitan Women's Police Force of London, Eng., has accomplished excellent results in dealing with girls and women who, when found in narrow and narrow paths. This is well evidenced by Superintendent Mrs. Stanley, who, in the course of an interview, throws much light on the work of the neatly-dressed sisters of the famous London "Bobbie."

"I am rather afraid that the actual work of the women police is misunderstood by the general public," said Mrs. Stanley. "This is doubtless due to the misleading pictures which have appeared in the daily papers from time to time, depicting them as carrying babies in their arms and acting rather as rescue workers than as actual policemen."

The function of the women police is to look after the work of carrying out this work they adopt the principle—to paraphrase a well-known saying—"prevention is better than cure." If a policeman or a policeman for that matter—can prevent wrong-doing then they are rendering the community a better service than by reacting after the door to earth after he or she has committed a breach of the law.

"That is the policy of the women police, and that it has proved effective to a larger extent than we had hoped is sufficient justification for the pursuit of that policy. The grim and awful tragedy of night-life in this great metropolis of ours will perhaps be realized more vividly when I tell you that the young girls whom we are called upon to help, and who in the majority of cases seek our assistance of their own accord, are generally between fourteen and twenty-one years of age."

"When it was first suggested that the women police should be given an official standing, and attired in official uniform, the idea was scouted as impracticable. It was urged that the mere sight of the uniform would deter any girl from asking our assistance, but as a matter of fact, quite the reverse has proved to be the case."

"Not a night pass, but applications for help are made to one or other of the policemen, and this is simply because these girls have discovered that we are not there to 'run them in,' and not there with the object of getting them into prison, but are there for the sole purpose of keeping them out of prison. Imprisonment does not make had people good. It simply hardens them."

"When one of these girls, made in ill-health as a result of her mode of life, approaches a policeman, the latter takes her to the nearest shelter or institution most suitable for her particular case. Obviously, being a policeman, she cannot leave her beat to carry on rescue work, and she leaves her there for the night. The next day someone from the welfare section in connection with the women police calls at the shelter, and the girl is then sent to the home, hospital, or institution best qualified to deal with her."

Reform Badly Needed. "In this respect I may mention that the Ministry of Health, as a result of reports which have been made on this side of the work, have recently opened a new hospital at which girls can receive proper treatment, after which they can spend their period of convalescence in being trained for some useful occupation."

"So far as can be judged, night life in London is better than it was but there is still considerable room for improvement. The made craze for gaiety still goes on, but it is not so pronounced as in those dark days of the war, and it is very significant, as well as a pleasing fact, that a chaplain of one of our London prisons confessed to me that the number of young girls who now pass through his hands is considerably less than was the case a short time ago."

"The policeman knows every frequenter of his beat, and they know her. She watches for any faces that may appear, and renders any help or assistance that may be required. The number of tragedies which have been averted as a result of this timely intervention or aid of the policeman will never be known. Working in conjunction with all the religious and philanthropic bodies in the metropolis, she is often the means of directing some piece of human wreckage to a haven of safety."

It is the firm belief of Mrs. Stanley that the great and serious problems which the women police are tackling could only be dealt with by women, and when the effectiveness of their work is fully realized we will no doubt see the formation of such bodies in large cities, including those of Canada.

"Law is more than likely to succeed where force and arbitration fail."—J. H. Thomas.



SOME PIANOS have many good features. MOST PIANOS have some good features. Courlay Pianos have all the good features known to modern musical science.

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The truth must be approached from many angles and whilst the Canadian Labor Press at all times will guard its columns from invidious propaganda it must be realized that the publishers do not hold themselves responsible for the views of the individuals whose names are attached to any article that may be published. While every effort is made to present a subject in an authoritative way, it should be remembered that the only expression of the Canadian Labor Press is in its editorials.

One of Four Millions



(A Photograph Direct from the War-Stricken Area)

\$1 per Month Preserves the Life of One Child. Millions of war orphans in Central Europe are growing up undernourished and stunted. Thousands of them are dying of typhus, tuberculosis and small-pox.

There is almost a complete lack of the nourishing foods growing children need, of clothing, of doctors, nurses and medical supplies. The condition of the children is pitiable in the extreme.

Upon this coming generation depends largely whether these nations will be healthy and right-minded or a hot-bed of anarchy and degeneracy—a menace to the world.

It has been found by experience that the cost of caring for a waif child is approximately three dollars per month; that of the supplies that are required by imports about one dollar is needed; and therefore the dollar that we provide, together with the local support of local governments, local municipalities, local charities and local services practically preserves the life of one child.

The British Empire War Relief Fund will be administered in Europe by the British Red Cross in co-operation with the League of Red Cross Societies. Send your contribution care of:

The Canadian Red Cross