



# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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**The Canadian Labor Press**  
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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

## CONFERENCE SHOULD HELP

The government has manifested a commendable readiness to cope with the unemployment problem, and the announcement from Mr. King that a conference between the federal and provincial governments would be held will be welcomed.

In making the statement, the Prime Minister enunciated a sound policy when he remarked that unemployment was primarily the concern of the individual, then of the municipality, then of the province and finally of the federal government. It would be folly to expect the Dominion government to deal with unemployment in every community before the civic and provincial authorities had carried out their responsibilities and exhausted all their resources.

Early in the year the Liberal administration offered generous help to municipalities in their efforts to reduce economic distress. The proposal was made that the federal authorities would take care of a large proportion of excess cost on construction work, and also to see that relief expenditure was looked after. Apparently the municipalities have not been as energetic in taking advantage of this offer as they might, and as Mr. Murdoch pointed out, there has been no demand for a renewal of the order-in-council providing for it. The situation is by no means relieved, however, and the conference of governments should do much towards bringing about a change.

## LABOR STANDS FIRM

One of the very healthy and gratifying developments of the present suspension is the unanimity with which labor everywhere is standing behind the United Mine Workers and pledging their support in the struggle which the miners are making to obtain justice. The American Federation of Labor has on several occasions announced to the public, and also notified the miners' union, that its entire 4,000,000 membership and all of the resources of the Federation are behind the miners. Encouragement has come from railroad organizations, the garment workers and many others.

In addition, it is gratifying to see the extent to which the non-union miners in the unorganized fields have joined their union brother workmen in this suspension. The exact number of non-union mine workers who have quit work is as yet unknown, but the number is large. Many thousands of the unorganized miners in the non-union fields of Pennsylvania laid down their tools when the union men quit. This was especially true in the Connellsville coke region, which has been wholly non-union, and in Somerset county, also one of the air-tight non-union fields of Pennsylvania. Reports from West Virginia show that several thousand miners in the Winding Gulf field suspended work, and that they are flocking into the United Mine Workers of America. In the first week of the suspension, seventeen local unions were organized in the Winding Gulf field—a place where a union organizer had not theretofore been allowed to show himself.

There is every good reason for the belief that when the smoke of the present contest has cleared away, the union will have a substantial organization established in various sections of the non-union districts. This development opens the way for activity on the part of every member of the union in spreading the light of trade unionism in these hitherto untouched places.

## CO-PARTNERSHIP AND PROGRESS

Lord Leverhulme is a confirmed optimist. His speech at the annual meeting of Lever Brothers makes one confident that an industrial revival is here, and his statement on co-partnership in an article in the new number of his "World's Work" suggests that industrial peace is not far off. Certainly Lord Leverhulme, as an exponent of the principles of co-partnership, and Lever Brothers, as pioneers in their application, are showing the way to stabilize industry and remove the antagonism of Labour to Capital. What we like about Lord Leverhulme is that there is no false sentiment about him, no attempt to humbug the working man or to undermine his independence. He does not put forward co-partnership as a means to increase profits or production, although its inevitable consequence should be in increasing efficiency to do both. But that is not his primary purpose. He is animated by purely human motives. He recognized that workers should become co-partners in the industrial life of the country, that they must receive something more than wages, and he has introduced co-partnership on a big scale which adds to the welfare of the workers without interfering with their liberty or stereotyping their labour. There are now over 11,000 worker co-partners in Lever Brothers who share in the dividends which the company pays and add to the strength of the colossal world business which centres round Port Sunlight.

## EDITORIAL FLASHES

Things the average flapper does to help her mother:

Both Law, aviatrix, has quit flying and settled down—instead of crashing down—as they usually do.

College fraternities have grown and spread until some of them have more chapters than a Dickens novel.

The man who wears an empty sleeve is pathetic. But the man who wears an empty hat is much more so.

Looking into a mirror, a woman finds her favorite spot of age, a man his favorite topic of conversation.

Unfortunately, it's not the pollyanna, but the chronic kicker, who seems to get the best service at a restaurant.

Some men mail signed checks with the amounts blank, when they're not sure of the sums owed. And some men are intelligent.

An optimist—definition number 755,287—is a man who, when left holding the sack, cuts it up and makes himself a suit of clothes.

"What is your dog's name?"  
"Ginger."  
"Does Ginger bite?"  
"No; Ginger snaps."

Manicured are not a recent development. Long years ago the poet wrote: "There is a divinity that shapes our ears."

Some young men stick to the straight and narrow way; others to the straight and flush way.

## MARVELS OF NEW WATERLOO

\$10,000,000 Station With a 560,000 Square Feet of Glass Flat Roof.

England is a strange country. In Covent Garden Opera house, I met by chance, young Willie Rendle, son of Frank Rendle, who has been for years manager of the opera house, and heard him say, quite casually, that his firm had just finished roofing a glass roof 560,000 square feet in size.

In America such a feat would have been written about across big pages in all the papers of the country; but, in London, it has passed almost unnoticed. When the King opened the new Waterloo station, he looked up at a glass roof in which there are 1,000 tons of glass and sixty miles of glazing bars. William Edgcombe Rendle, Frank Rendle's father, lost his fortune on Black Friday, when, in May, 1866, the Gurney bank smash occurred, and there followed one of the worst commercial panics in history. But then, starting all over again, he invented a system of joining glass without putty; since then the firm which still bears his name—it was founded in 1871—has, in different parts of the world, glass roofs which have enabled the use of 5,000 miles of glazing bars.

These glass roofs cover London bridge station and the Brighton Central, the stations at Eastbourne, Victoria, Reading and Liverpool street, while the Tate Gallery is lighted by one in which bent glass is used, and the San Paulo railway station, in Brazil, lets in the sun because of the Rendle roof on top of it while the Gymnasium at Aldershot, the Fine Arts gallery at Copenhagen and Kew Gardens are also glazed without one piece of putty to the mile.

### Twenty Year's Work.

The job that William Edgcombe Rendle and Company have just finished, that of roofing in a station of 24½ acres, is the biggest job they have yet undertaken. The work has lasted for twenty years, and it has gone on day and night, all through the war even, without interfering to the slightest degree with the traffic, and without injury to a single passenger.

In 1838, when the London and Southwestern railway had their first experimental trip, from Nine Elms to Woking, the speed attained by the train was twenty-five miles an hour. Queen Victoria's uncle, the Duke of Sussex then boldly announced, at a banquet, his belief that the London-Southampton railway as it was then, would become "one of the most favorite lines out of London." Little did he dream of the railway's future.

When, a week later, a second trip took place, nearly 400 men and women filled two trains, of nine and ten-carriages each, and thousands lined the route and cheered the trains as they passed. Four days after that, the line was officially opened, five trains travelling each way.

It was in 1843 that Queen Victoria first travelled on this railway, and in the following year, when the land was purchased for the Waterloo station site, it was so rural that nearly all of it was occupied by farmyards and cowsheds. Four years later, when the extension was opened, the chairman boasted a little. "We have placed on the railway four distinct lines that we may have no trouble or inconvenience in future with the traffic," he said. The station then had three platforms and a daily service of seven trains each way.

Now over 140,000 passengers use Waterloo station every day, and 1,200 ordinary trains enter and leave the terminus every twenty-four hours.

While the new station has been in course of construction, over 5,000,000 trains, and about 750,000,000 passengers, have been dealt with at the station. And all this has taken place on what was a marsh! Many of the test borings revealed the existence of very treacherous ground. In fact, the names of adjoining streets Upper Marsh and Lower Marsh, proclaim the difficulties of construction, which, altogether has entailed a cost of over £2,000,000.

Yes! It is a wonderful station. Waterloo "A" Box is now one of the most famous boxes in the world. First built in 1867, with forty-seven levers, it has now, controlled within it, 24,000 lever movements every twenty-four hours.

### The Largest Platform.

In order to enlarge the old station, seven streets were demolished and six enormous blocks of dwellings were built to house 1,750 people who had been made homeless. The largest platform is 860 feet and the shortest 521, while, if you want more figures, no fewer than 8,000,000 belonging to the British and the Allied forces were given free meals at Waterloo, between 1915 and 1920, and over 7,000 members of the London and South-Western railway staff joined the colors, 285 names of those who fell being now engraved on bronze plates in the memorial arch which forms an eternal record of their patriotic valor.

Before the plans were finally passed, the biggest railway stations of Europe and America were visited by

the company's officers, and the new Waterloo will, in consequence, include every modern improvement which has passed a test.

The L. and S.W.R. has met its Waterloo; but the phrase, in their case, means the end of an achievement which is a masterpiece of commercial enterprise and a triumph of enterprising skill.

## PREMIER CONFERS WITH PROVINCES

### Industry Should Bear Burden.

It was unfair to suggest that the load should be borne by municipalities when the federal parliament, by immigration and fiscal legislation, filled the cities with unemployed. Industry should bear the burdens entailed by industry. The problem was so serious that there should be definite action before many weeks. Another winter was coming.

"A government which does not provide for the primary needs of the people in the matter of food, clothing and shelter," Mr. Woodsworth declared, "has failed to earn the loyalty of the people."

Hon. W. L. Mackenzie King, prime minister, asked Mr. Woodsworth if he had any concrete suggestions to make which parliament might follow out to meet the situation outlined.

Mr. Woodsworth replied that he would suggest a system of unemployment insurance. There were many things that could be done. Unemployed men could be set to building houses and clearing lands. Factories and mills were idle. If these could not be operated by the private owners then the government should put them to work. Canada had the natural resources, equipment and labor necessary, but all of these were allowed to remain more or less idle. Courage and imagination were necessary to deal with this matter instead of standing idly by and letting men and women be reduced to desperation.

### Individual First.

The prime minister said he was in entire sympathy with the desire of the mover to solve the unemployment problem. It was one which had both local and national importance. It must be recognized, however, that it was a matter primarily of the obligation first of the individuals, then the municipalities, the provinces, and, finally, the federal government.

The prime minister intimated that the minister of labor himself had been in communication with some of the provincial governments with a view to holding a conference on unemployment during the present year. He thought that before the year was out such a conference would be held. He quoted from the printed platform of the Liberal party to show that unemployment insurance was one of the things to be earnestly considered. The matter was one for co-operation between the municipalities, provincial authorities, and the federal government, and the government was heartily behind such co-operation.

Hon. R. J. Manion warned the government that in some of the older countries where unemployment insurance had been tried out it had been proved not altogether a success, the government having imposed upon.

Hon. James Murdoch said Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Quebec had not asked



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federal aid for their unemployed. He was glad to say the situation in Vancouver, which was accentuated by unemployed going from his prairies, was becoming easier. The government has paid out \$102,432.36 for the unemployed in Vancouver. The order in council authorizing help expired on April 30, and thus far he had not heard of any requests for re-enactment of the order.

W. F. Carroll, Liberal, Cape Breton South, said that Mr. Woodsworth was well within the mark in stating that 2,000 steel workers were out of employment, but some of them were on the verge of starving.

### Places False Basis.

Hon. Arthur Meighen argued that the resolution clearly implied that some remedy must be sought out by the federal government to deal with unemployment. He believed that when it came to unemployment relief, responsibility rested primarily with the municipalities, secondly with the provincial authorities, and finally with the federal government. Consequently he was opposed to it because he thought that it placed the house on a false basis.

It was the duty of the federal government to dispose of public policy as to make for the minimum of unemployment. It remained to be seen whether the government would succeed in doing this.

### Asks Other Proposal.

William Irvine, Labor, Calgary West, said that the premier had asked for practical suggestions from the Labor party. He desired in return to call the attention of the leaders of the government to the fact that the Trades and Labor Congress had already made a suggestion to the government for the adoption of the system of unemployment insurance. If the proposal made by the Trades and Labor Congress were not feasible, then the government should itself make a proposal that was feasible.

Mr. Woodsworth, in closing the debate, declared that it was unfair to thrust the whole burden of unemployment relief upon the municipalities. It must be considered as a national problem. There were those who believed that conditions could not be improved until there were great and sweeping economic changes. "I am one of such," Mr. Woodsworth declared.

The resolution carried with a number of the Conservative members calling out "No."

## Editorial Flashes

Buy a radiophone and eavesdrop on the whole world.

"Jedge, I'm down and out."  
"Maybe you're down," said the wise judge, "but you're not out. Six months!"

A collapsible drinking cup usually proves it at about the third swallow.

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