

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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Following is brief in 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.
3. 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.

British Freedom

THE thoughtful citizen who gives heed to the legislation enacted in Canada to-day, must slowly but surely come to the conclusion that bit by bit, the freedom we inherited from our British forebears, is slowly but surely being nibbled away.

That this is obvious can be seen in the trend of legislation which particularly in some provinces, seems to be based upon the principle that men must be made moral by law and that the ordinary man, who in nine cases out of ten belongs to the laboring class, cannot be trusted with a full heritage of freedom such as his forefathers had, but must be restricted in his liberties. Ostensibly a cause must be found for this tendency and its defenders base their appeal to Caesar upon the principle that the legislation they desire is to raise the moral standard of mankind.

"The Canadian Labor Press" believes this to be very doubtful and the working out of prohibitory legislation such as the prohibition of liquor and the restriction of horse racing, confirms us in our belief. To take a recent example, we have the case of a man operating a racing association and who, in the course of such operations, comes into conflict with the views of the Ontario Government. As a citizen, he demands the right of suit and requests that a fiat be granted so that his case can be tested out through the medium of the courts. His request for a fiat is refused. Now note the capital importance of this refusal; for centuries it has been recognized in British law and practice that a British subject has the right to carry his case even to the foot of the Throne if necessary. Any reversal of this tradition has been looked upon and rightly so, as anti-democratic and not in accordance with the spirit of British justice. Yet in this case, the action of refusal has been taken so that the doctrine of a British subject having the right to appeal to the foot of the Throne if necessary, in Ontario at least, has gone by the boards.

Frankly, "The Canadian Labor Press" feels that this tendency in legislation is wrong both morally and socially and even though the individual in question is comfortably circumstanced with this world's goods, we do not believe for one minute that he should be subject to any discrimination because of that fact, but we do feel that a true interpretation of the spirit of the labor movement asks neither discrimination nor privilege but a square deal for every individual whether they are rich or poor.

Labor's Interest in The Lemieux Act

PROBABLY no piece of legislation on the books of the Dominion Government has been doing so much good in a quiet way as the Lemieux Act and which has now been declared ultra vires and is therefore no longer operative.

The elimination of this Act can do no good except to encourage the activities of the Red element in labor and the disruption of sane Canadian Trade Unions in a way which is a delight to their destroying principles.

In the past this Act has been the means of settling amicably, many important industrial disputes which might have assumed alarming proportions and thus caused hardship to labor and industrial progress. Co-operation is a vital necessity between employer and employee and this Act has materially assisted in bringing about the desired results. To overthrow the work of the past eighteen years is indeed disastrous and we do not think meets with the approval of either labor or industry, as both were satisfied to discuss their grievances on a common ground which ultimately leads to a better understanding between two great bodies which compose the fabric of our industrial life.

Getting back to the Communist Party, which will no doubt now be pleased with the free lance, do-as-you-please method of settling industrial disputes by means of strikes, violence, lockouts, etc., it is interesting to note that they are now holding what is described as a "military and enlistment week" in Winnipeg. In other words, they have been holding meetings in northern districts of the city in an effort to secure recruits for their party, and for the League of Communist Youths. The party is affiliated with the Third Communist Internationale which has its headquarters at Moscow. The conditions of such affiliation were set forth in statutes promulgated at the second Congress of the Internationale held in Moscow in August, 1920.

These conditions, which were published in the Communist Internationale, the official journal of the organization of the same name, are twenty-one in number. "Every party which wished to 'belong to the Communist Internationale,' says one section of the document, 'must develop a systematic and persistent Communist activity within the trade unions, works committees, co-operative societies, and other mass organizations of workmen. Within these organizations it is necessary to organize cells, which by continuous and persistent work, must win the unions, etc., to the cause of Communism. The Communist cells must be completely subordinated to the party as a whole.' Another section deals with parliamentary representation of local Communist parties. 'Parties which wish to belong to the Communist Internationale,' it declares, 'are bound to submit the personnel of their parliamentary groups to revision, to remove all unreliable elements from them, to subordinate these groups to the party authority not only in word but in deed by demanding FROM EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT THAT HIS ENTIRE ACTIVITY BE SUBJECTED TO THE INTERESTS OF A REALLY REVOLUTIONARY PROPAGANDA AND AGITATION.' Other sections call for the subordination of the local parties themselves to the authority of the central organization, which has its headquarters at Moscow. 'The parties affiliated to the Communist Internationale,' states article 12, 'must be built on the basis of the principle of democratic civilization. In the present period of acute civil war the Communist Party will be in a position to fulfill its duty only if it is organized in the most centralized possible manner, if iron discipline rules in it and if the party centre, upheld by the confidence of the membership, is furnished with the fullest power, authority and the

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most far-reaching rights. 'All decisions of the Congress of the Communist Internationale, as also decisions of the Executive,' the document adds, 'are binding on all affiliated bodies.'"

From the foregoing the reason will be very clear to our readers why the Communist Party will be pleased with the abolition of the Lemieux Act.

The Gas Audit.

SOME time ago, the Canadian Labor Press referred editorially to the agitation being conducted in the City of Toronto against the Consumers Gas Company and on that occasion stated that we hoped that citizens of Toronto would not be stampeded into taking measures that would cripple a vitally necessary public service corporation and thereby hurt the community of Toronto.

Time and time again there is reiterated in the public press, statements of individuals that the Consumers Gas Company is not willing to have the city audit their books. Citizens who take the trouble to analyze the situation will find that this statement is incorrect and that on the contrary, the city auditor has power to take audits and has taken them regularly and that every assistance is rendered to him by the officials of the Company. If the public have faith in their own official, the city auditor, they must either accept his statements that there is no basis for the attacks made upon the Consumers Gas Company or they must accept the statements of the individuals conducting the agitation against the company and if they do then they place the city auditor in a position that before the public he is either inefficient or is co-operating with the Gas Company for some sinister purpose.

The Canadian Labor Press believes that the city auditor is a fine type of public official—that he is doing his duty without fear or favor insofar as the Gas Company is concerned and that he is receiving every co-operation from them. It is a curious commentary on public life in the City of Toronto that politicians in order to win votes will tend to create a situation that blackens the fair name of a public corporation giving splendid service to the community and besmirch the reputation of a splendid public servant such as the city auditor of Toronto.

Toronto Municipal Affairs for 1925

Several of the aldermen have promised a revision of the water rates early in the new year. A great injustice was perpetrated by Treasurer Ross in the recent so-called readjustment of rates. It was merely an imposition and an all-round increase in a department already showing an increase over operation. Many poor people on small streets were made to suffer. Instances of widows living alone with a bare subsistence and having their rates doubled and trebled at random have been brought to light. Mr. Ross is receiving \$15,000 a year out of the people of Toronto and his most conspicuous activities have been to make the load heavier on the masses of the people.

Property Down

Nowhere of late does property in City of Toronto command the prices of ten years ago or even three or five years ago. People are looking therefore for a drop in the assessment this year and logically so. Naturally, the assessment is always advancing when values are bid up. When rents are down and much property especially stores cannot be rented or sold at all, the real truth is that the value is down and the facts must be squarely faced. The game of forcing advances right or wrong on all house and store property is played out and Mr. Foreman knows it. He should instruct the shrieking evildoers who go around with the long books to show decreases, not advances this year. Look at the appearance of every retail business street in Toronto as compared even with three years ago—vacancies, "sales," "selling out," "bankrupt sale," "retiring from business," are only a few samples of the tales the windows tell. There is no demand for the stores when vacant and values may easily be reckoned to be one-third less than in 1920-22. An up-turn may remedy matters a little but in the meantime the burden should be lightened.

The Evils of Business Tax

In addition to the heavy tax load on real estate which also bears directly on the tenant, the latter of a storekeeper is further distressed by demand of a heavy business tax, one of the most unjust and excessive extortions found in any city. The tenant already paying the taxes on the building in reality (or to some extent) is made the object of another random levy for it is full of inequalities. He may have the store full of goods, but the stock is really the property of the wholesalers, be

cause it must be sold before it can be paid for. Yet the tax men are already on the job for his pound of flesh. The term may be harsh, but few creditors are as heartless as the corporation. A tenant of a store not owning the property or in reality the stock is entitled to more consideration and should be taxed a mere nominal fee not on the value of goods he does own.

A New Tax Idea

The idea of R. P. Hall in the late municipal elections, that the big man is the man who should pay taxes, or at least, pay his proper proportion commensured itself to all. That is, that the man who holds a mortgage on property, or goods should pay the taxes of said property or chattels to the full extent of his financial inter-

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Copies of the Regulations issued by the Department of Education may be obtained from the Deputy Minister of Education, Toronto, December, 1924.

est. Then the man with an equity of say \$1,000 in a \$4,000 home would pay just one-quarter the taxes. At present he pays all and the holder of the mortgage may pay nothing, or at best, a trifle on income.

Artificial Silk Industry Grows Fast

British Mills Being Built or Extended—Italians Making Bid For Supremacy

London.—Italy's exports of artificial silk have increased 27 fold in the last three years," says Mr. A. C. Walters, assistant secretary of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, in the chamber's record. "If this country is to retain its fair share of the potential trade, then extensive alterations must be made to the number of mills already in existence. The present demand alone should give British firms every encouragement to set up the necessary plant."

Some British manufacturers are reorganizing their works. At Leek one of the principal centres of natural silk, there has been practically no unemployment for the past 12 months because of the adaptability of the town's manufacturers in turning to the production of artificial silk. Factories have been built and extended.

At Macclesfield, also another great silk centre, the importance of artificial silk has not been ignored. At Golborne, near Warrington, a cotton mill is being converted into an artificial silk factory by Messrs. Harbans, Limited.

The development of the industry in Italy in the last three years is described as "phenomenal" and "amazing." One of the principal markets for exports, it is pointed out, is Great Britain. A footing has also been obtained in China. Production in the mills of the leading manufacturers during the first quarter of 1924 was reported at 2,400,000 lbs., against 1,200,000 lbs. during the corresponding period of last year.

SEEK TO HAVE COMPENSATION ACT EXTENDED IN SCOPE

Sydney, (New South Wales).—The Labor Council of New South Wales is seeking to have the Workmen's Compensation Act in New South Wales extended so that all workers who suffer from occupational disease shall be eligible for compensation. At the present time the Act covers only certain specific diseases.

The Council demands that a final clause shall be added to the Act that compensation shall be paid to sufferers from all diseases or ailments caused or occasioned in the process of industry. The Council is asking all unions to consider methods of alleviating accidents and occupational diseases and to report to the Council.

FARMERS SEEK RELIEF

Sturgis, Sask.—In the neighboring municipality of Hvas on Saturday, January 17th, over a hundred and fifty farmers from the surrounding country presented themselves at the meeting of the municipal council and demanded relief. Their crop last year was frozen out, and during the severe winter of this year they have practically starved.

The council has not acted as yet, and the probability is that if it attempts to give full relief to the starving farmers and their families, that it will court financial disaster. Even now it is burdened with a yoke of debt to the banks.

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