

# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

## Patronize White Laundries Who Employ White Labor

### HEAD INTERNATIONAL LABOR OFFICE

Continued from Page 1.

tion of Canada's great record with the work of the International Labor Office.

#### Absolute Freedom Needed.

M. Thomas declared emphatically that each country was free to ratify or not ratify each convention as it saw fit. Each was pledged, however, to bring such convention before such authority in their country as was competent to make laws.

Respect had to be maintained for national sovereignty, he said, and that was sometimes a difficult thing to deal with.

Behind that idea there could sometimes be detected selfishness and opposition to a new idea. He hoped Canada would find a new idea to the sovereignty of the state. In some countries they saw great opposition to their ideas and it was necessary to go from country to country to get a better idea of the public opinion of each country. The director of the International Labor Office, thus becomes something of a permanent traveller, he said amid laughter. In his interview during the afternoon, he hoped to discuss with the prime minister and the minister of labor the situation in Canada towards draft conventions, procedure, difficulties of application in the federal state, etc.

"The United States asked for every consideration for the federal state," declared the speaker, "and we gave it to them; now the United States stands outside," he added smilingly. M. Thomas said that after the war many countries were anxious to improve the conditions of labor and life. Even in the great Allied countries the feeling was that it was necessary, after the great sacrifices of the world, to create a new era of justice and humanity.

#### Situation is Difficult.

"Our situation is difficult," said the speaker, "because of the situation in each different country and the plea of sovereignty." He said he knew of many countries which had taken conventions but who did not join the League of Nations.

After declaring his confidence in the sentiments of humanity and his determination to follow the path they had laid down for themselves, M. Thomas said he was specially encouraged that day by the presence of Canada's prime minister, who knew exactly the conditions necessary for the development of industry. He had explained in his book, Industry and Humanity, the conflict between the two laws, that of destruction and that of utilizing the means of happiness. M. Thomas remarked apologetically and amid cries of "No, No," that he was liable to be misunderstood because of his bad pronunciation of the English language. But if they could not get every country to accept mutual obligations and ratify conventions, it was possible at least to create a new atmosphere and explain the experiments of each country. This latter was the second duty of the International Labor Office, to collect and distribute information throughout the world. The result of this was, they were able to bring great service to the life of each country.

#### Fights With Unemployment.

M. Thomas said that both Great Britain and Italy, two great countries, were having great fights with unemployment. When South Africa wanted information about measures for combatting unemployment, it had to send representatives to enquire, and that was an expensive proposition. Yet, although Great Britain was a country of great means, when it learned that a certain country had adopted measures with regard to utilizing the unemployment in public works, Great Britain had sent to the International Labor Office to send investigators and obtain particulars. M. Thomas then remarked that after speaking in English, if the company would allow, he would speak a little French. The distinguished Frenchman was obviously more at home in his native tongue and with frequent characteristic gestures, and a measure of volubility, he proceeded for a few moments to pass genial comment on the way the races, French and British, lived together in Canada. He said he had been compelled to learn to speak English because many members of his staff at Geneva were English-speaking.

#### To Alleviate Workers' Lot.

Hon. Martin Burrell declared that the office represented by the speaker of the day was the first great world-wide effort to alleviate the lot of the workers.

Replying to some critical comments he said he had heard as to alleged rapacity and unwisdom of the workers, Hon. Martin Burrell declared that even employers had been known to be guilty of such vices. He expressed the opinion that with France, Britain and the United States, united as the three great democracies of the world, civilization in the world would go forward. He believed with Walter Hines Page, the late American ambassador, that the cure for democracy was more democracy.

He characterized the speaker as "a distinguished son of France that did so much to prevent the clock of human progress from being set back a thousand years." None would ever forget the imperishable glory associated with the name of France, in preventing a return to the law of the jungle. Hon. Martin Burrell said they might well raise their eyes in amazement, when they saw the Turks sitting at an international conference and almost dictating terms to the world. He said the League of Nations would never reach the fulfilment of its ideal until the United States went into it. His experience and that of others who had visited the States, was that there was a strong feeling in the United States towards the league. They believed that in some form or other and sooner or later, the United States would go in. The League of Nations was the noblest conception the world had ever had yet, and every man in every country should back it up with all his energy. "More power to your elbow," was the wish he expressed for the distinguished speaker, whose remarks and exposition of the aims of his office were profoundly appreciated by all those who had heard him, said Hon. Martin Burrell.

#### The National Anthem concluded the proceedings.

It was his first great speech and he wanted to make it tell—something to label him once and for all as the greatest orator since ever.

His oration was long and passionate and he wished to end it with a warning.

He could have couched his warning in the old proverb about locking the stables door after the horse was stolen, but that was too commonplace. He wanted something original.

He quickly thought of something better. Then shouted: "Don't, fellow countrymen and citizens, I beg of you all—don't wait till the house takes fire before you think of locking the stables door!"

### ESCAPE DEATH AS WALL COLLAPSE

Petrolia.—Several workmen while engaged in clearing the debris of the \$30,000 fire which destroyed the Canadian Oil Company's newly erected filtering plant, had a very narrow escape from death when the east wall of the gutted building collapsed without a warning.

The men who were working near the door were started to see the wall crumble, the top pitching inward. Two of the men escaped by diving through the window. Harry Dugley, who was working in a boiler in the building cutting it in two with an acetylene torch, had perhaps the most miraculous escape, the bricks tumbling from such a height, crumpled one end of the boiler in which he was working. After clearing the bricks away his companions were able to draw him through a small hole. He suffered minor bruises.

The Canadian Oil Company intend to rebuild immediately a new plant to replace the one lost in the fire.

### CUT BONAR LAW'S FIRST TROUSERS

St. John, N.B.—How Right Hon. Andrew Bonar Law got his first pair of trousers is recalled by Mrs. Margaret Wood, his former nurse, who still resides on the Magawagonish Road, St. John County, New Brunswick.

Mrs. Wood says she made them herself and that she constructed them from cloth she took from a pair of his father's, the Rev. James Law, Presbyterian minister for many years in the Richibucto district.

The new Prime Minister of Great Britain lived in Canada until he was fourteen years old, and although he has not maintained a connection with the land of his boyhood, the Dominion has followed his career with special interest.

Mrs. Wood recalls that Bonar Law's mother died when Bonar, the youngest of five brothers, was three years old. On her deathbed Mrs. Law confided Bonar, the baby, to the care of her sister, Miss Kidston, of Glasgow. In pursuance of the trust, Bonar, about fourteen when his father remarried, was taken to Glasgow to begin the career which has resulted so brilliantly.

For some years of the interval Mrs. Wood was in charge of the young family. The children all attended a country school near the manse. Mr. Coates, long since dead, was teacher. Mrs. Woods recalls that Bonar was well behaved, studious, and "never had a sick day." She says that his pictures recently published indicate that he strongly resembles his father.

Surrounding the manse in which the Laws lived was a small farm which went with it. This the family tilled. The house still stands. It is one and a half stories high.

### TO CALIFORNIA VIA CANADIAN NATIONAL ROUTE.

At this season of the year many Canadians are planning to visit California. Of course there are many routes, each with their special scenic interest but, treating travel as a fundamental of education, why not travel one way through Canada. It will give you an opportunity of knowing your own country better, a chance to view the finest mountain scenery in America, and to visit our own all-year-round resorts on the Pacific Coast. Vancouver and Victoria, where the grass is green and flowers bloom and golf, motoring and all out door sports may be indulged in throughout the winter months. Discuss this tour with any agent of the Canadian National Railways, before concluding your plans. "The Continental Limited" which runs daily between Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver is one of the finest all-steel equipment trains in America. For full particulars, apply to the Canadian National-Grand Trunk Railways, City Passenger Office, Cor. Sparks and Metcalfe Sts., Ottawa.

### CHUMMING UP WITH TURKS

General Lyautey, French resident governor of Morocco who, it is rumored, may shortly pay a visit to London, has given another proof of his sympathy with Islam by attending the inauguration of the new mosque in the Place du Puits de l'Ermite in Paris. He was invited to cut the first sod, but gracefully conceded the privilege to a Moslem, Sidi Ber Gharbit, president of the association of the holy places. General Lyautey, who is a keen advocate of friendship between East and West, probably knows more about the Mohammedan religion and temperament than any man alive, having from his earliest youth made his life and career among the Arabs and Moors of North Africa. The new mosque is the first to be established in Paris, but the mosque at Woking, England, has flourished for a number of years, and one of its chief supporters is Lord Headley.

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### AN UNWANTED WAIF

Although representatives of the Canadian and Provincial Governments assembled at Ottawa to consider the question of unemployment, no concrete results were attained, judging from the official announcements of the findings of the Conference. The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the Great War Veterans' Association and many other public bodies in Canada have, for the past few years, been urging the Governments of Canada to seriously consider the problem of employment, under-employment and unemployment. At the last Session of the Canadian Parliament a resolution was adopted whereby the Canadian Government was committed to a policy of devising ways and means to deal effectively with the problem. Subsequently a Dominion-Provincial Conference was held where a number of meaningless resolutions were adopted. But we assert that the problem of unemployment has not been dealt with.

Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, expressed the views of the Canadian Labor Movement on this Conference when he declared in a statement to the Press:

"Judging by press reports, very little definite action has resulted from the Dominion-Provincial Conference on Unemployment. The responsibility for dealing with the unemployment problem during the past two or three years has been made a football among municipal, provincial and federal authorities. Now this conference has adjourned, apparently satisfied that their duty to the unemployed workers of Canada has been fulfilled by passing a resolution expressing the pious hope that industry will adopt this unwanted waif as its own.

"With employers making general demands for longer working days, thus limiting the number of workers required, and sometimes, there is every reason to believe, restricting production in order to prevent a break in prices, it is difficult to see how much relief is to come from that particular source.

"Perhaps more than is expressed in the resolutions for publication really was decided upon at the secret sessions of the conference, from which results may come at a later date. Unless this is the case it does not seem that any real steps towards dealing effectively with such unemployment as exists and without doubt will occur in the winter, or any effective measures for preventing a recurrence of future unemployment have resulted.

The conference was held at a time when there was little unemployment in Canada, due to the fact that most of the unemployed had been absorbed in the harvesting in Western Canada. This fact, perhaps, had an influence on the conference in making the representatives unduly optimistic. However, the question of unemployment is a recurring one and during periods when there is no unemployment is, in our opinion, the very best time to seriously consider it so that workers will at all times be adequately protected against unemployment and the fear of unemployment.

The last few years have been very depressing upon Canadian citizenship and it is desirable that the Governments take adequate measures to prevent a recurrence. The high hopes held out before the conference have been shattered and the adoption of a few resolutions to the effect "that the peak of unemployment has now passed," etc., will not solve the problem.

### ONTARIO WOMEN IN CONVENTION

Farm Women Discuss U. F. O. Prospects.

From all parts of the province the members of the United Farm Women of Ontario assembled this week for the fourth annual convention which was presided over by Mrs. J. S. Ames of Woodstock, the provincial vice-president.

Mrs. Doherty, wife of Hon. Manning Doherty, addressed the gathering expressing the opinion that the great problem for women today was to understand the best means of taking advantage of the newly acquired voting privileges. To the U. F. O. women credit was due for promoting new conditions in the rural sections and if the mothers of the present day trained their daughters to the same high ideals of citizenship as displayed by the heroic pioneer women of the farms the future welfare of the nation would be assured.

Mrs. Drury, wife of Premier Drury, who was another speaker at the morning session, extended greetings on behalf of the premier of Ontario and invited the members attending the convention to tea at the parliament buildings in the afternoon.

Mrs. J. S. Ames was re-elected president, and Mrs. Harold Currie, of Strathroy, was elected vice-president. The afternoon session was marked by an address on immigration by Miss Agnes McPhail, M.P. Canada had been the halfway for other countries, she declared. Miss MacPhail was of the opinion that if the population now on the land would remain there there would not be the same difficulties over immigration. If immigrants were to be brought into the country the country certainly should have the right to say who should come in. Conditions in the rural districts must be improved to make farm life more attractive.

### OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WAGE ADJUSTMENTS

Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Etc.

Montreal.—Negotiations between the Canadian Pacific Railway and the International Brotherhood of Railway and Steamships—clerks, freight handlers, express and station employees, have resumed and meetings relative to the sole question now remaining in dispute, that of wage adjustments, are being held here.

The wage cuts enforced by the Grand Trunk Railway last June affecting the brotherhood of clerks employed on that system, were considerably modified, according to an agreement signed here after lengthy conference between the men and the railway officials. Instead of an average decrease of three to five cents per man, the cut is now less than one per cent. per man. About 7,200 men are affected.

### ALBERT THOMAS IN NEW YORK

New York.—Albert Thomas, of Geneva, Switzerland, director of the International Labor Bureau, arrived on the Majestic to begin a tour of the United States and Canada, during which he will study the industrial organizations of the two countries. After conferring with Labor leaders here, Mr. Thomas will leave for Ottawa, where he will be the guest of the Canadian government.

In his tour of the United States, the bureau chief will visit Boston, Washington and Detroit. At Chicago he is expected to address the sixteenth annual meeting of the American Association for Labor Legislation, which opens December 27.

The wise mother in the home is the wise mother in the nation. The nation is but an aggregation of homes.