

Editorial Page of the Canadian Labor Press

J. A. P. HAYDON, M.C., Editor. A. H. BLACKBURN, Circulation Mgr.

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

"TRADE UNIONS ARE BULWARKS OF MODERN DEMOCRACIES."

The trade union movement means more than high wages, short hours and improved working conditions. It means intellectual development of the mass. It means independent wage earners, who carry this independence from the shop, mill and mine into the affairs of everyday life.

And herein lies a major reason for the opposition to organized labor.

The trade unionist is interested in other things than shop conditions. Every economic, political and social question attracts him.

His collective voice is heard on education, finance, industry, agriculture and transportation. He fights for free press, speech and assembly, and will go to prison that this heritage is assured.

He creates new public opinion by his constructive statesmanship, his insistence on just relations between men, and his vigor in exposing wrong.

He demands that democracy function.

This type of a worker is not favored by anti-union employers, anti-union newspapers, anti-union business men, anti-union bankers and their political agents.

These elements want "contented" workers. They want men who are thankful for their jobs, who will permit the boss to do their thinking, form their opinions and tell them how to vote.

This is why these elements believe in organization for their kind, but deny it to wage earners. They look upon organization as a protection to their power over the unorganized, while a trade union is a challenge to their power.

The stand-pattism of these elements is historic. They never move until they are compelled to.

These elements want a slave class—not in name, but in fact. Trade unionism is the monkey-wrench thrown into the machinery of autocracy and sham.

Trade unionism has established the first element of democracy in industry.

In the non-union shop the employer is absolute. In the union shop the worker has a voice in working conditions. As a citizen he is likewise independent. Collectively, he is the greatest factor in freedom's cause.

The British statesman correctly declared: "Trade unions are the bulwarks of modern democracies." Agitate! Educate! Organize!

I. F. T. U. CONVENTION.

CANADA occupies a very prominent position in the industrial life of the world, and as time advances her position will become more and more important.

This week the International Federation of Trade Unions is in session at London, England. According to press despatches, allies, neutrals and former enemies are sitting together under the same roof to consider means for the betterment of all who toil.

Unfortunately the United States of America is not represented. President Samuel Gompers, of the A. F. of L., was one of the leaders in the forming of the I.F.T.U. and it is indeed regrettable that the army of workers in the United States has no representative at the great labor gathering. However, the United States of America has not ratified the Peace Treaty, and is not a member of the League of Nations, and does not participate in the International Labor Office. The United States of America stands in isolation with impossible Russia, uncivilized China, and outlaw Mexico. The geographical position of the United States makes it possible for that republic to carry on independently of the rest of the outside world. Canada cannot remain separated from the workers of the European nations. She is an integral part of the British Empire, and is more liable to be embroiled into a European dispute than is the United States. Canada has ratified the Peace Treaty, is a member of the League of Nations, and the Canadian workers have a representative on the governing body of the International Labor Office.

The International Federation of Trades Unions has done many things it ought not to have done, still it is essential that Canada should be represented on some central federation of workers' organizations. The Second and Third Internationales are impossible, for they are purely socialist and communist organizations. There remains only the I.F.T.U. To this organization the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has affiliated. During the discussions, according to press despatches, the Canadian representative, H. J. Halford, took strenuous objection to some of the "revolutionary policies" proposed. However, much good shall result from the conference and, while some of the policies that will be formulated may not be in keeping with the policies of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the general policy of advancing the industrial and economic status of all who toil, through international affiliation, is endorsed by all organized workers in Canada.—J.A.P.H.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brethren in the Motherland Are Doing.

OUR WEEKLY BRITISH LETTER

LONDON, England (Saturday)—Ireland has been in the background this week despite "question time" sniping at the Government in the House of Commons, which has been kept up as usual. One curious admission of fact has, however, been made that has attracted attention in the House of Commons, which has been kept up as usual. One curious admission of fact has, however, been made that has attracted attention in the House of Commons, which has been kept up as usual. One curious admission of fact has, however, been made that has attracted attention in the House of Commons, which has been kept up as usual.

Russian Trade Proposals.

It is, however, now expected that the draft trading agreement will in fact be presented to Leonid Kravtsov, Bolshevik representative at 125 New Bond street early next week. It will then probably have to be referred to Moscow, and it may yet take as long as the usual time before the road may be regarded as clear. Political questions of the recognition of Russia's debts, on the one side, and recognition of the Soviet Government on the other, are to be left to the decision of some future peace conference between the two countries, according to the terms of the agreement which was reached between Moscow and London in June and July last.

Health Bill Clauses Dropped.

That was why Mr. Bonar Law suddenly announced on Monday that 14 out of 25 clauses in the bill are not any of them vitally important clauses in the bill. The Government is to drop the clause which would have the effect of making the Government "supporters" below the gangway. No fewer than 75 Constituents went into the lobby against the Government.

HUNNABLE II. ON RUSSIA.

Our lamented comrade Quetch used to call W. Hunnable II. We all remember Hunnable I. He appeared as the universal promoter of the outside candidate at all elections and claimed to know so much about every department of politics that the electors were driven to the conviction that he knew very little about any of them. Well, he is not quite so good as all that, but his influence invites incredulity all the same. He is now advertised on the hoardings as "the greatest writer in the world." That he is, in the most profane as well as one of the most read of novelists and popularizers of scientific superficiality is beyond question. Some of his novels are good. But when he sets up as an authority on countries which he knows nothing about, and on politics of which he knows very little, he thoroughly justifies Quetch's sobriquet for him. Having rushed a visit to Russia on the strength, apparently, of an invitation from Gorki, who returned round once upon Bolsheviks while his brother Lenin was on the way out—and an arrangement with a London Sunday paper, he is, like Lansbury, Malone, Williams and Gonde, a thorough master of the Russian situation. Bolshevikism, with its awful approaching famine, giving of its own creation, is the only possible Government (?) for Russia, according to Wells the Omniscient. A master of fiction indeed—"Justice," London, Eng.

CONTRACTS ARE SACRED

There is an old saying that a man should "fulfil a promise even if it promise to his own hurt." A contract is in effect a sacred promise between individuals or groups to do the thing stipulated for a fixed and agreed upon return. For either party to break the terms of a contract entered into voluntarily is to undermine the very foundations of morality and to invite social chaos. The treatment by the late overlords of Germany of their written promise to Belgium as a "scrap of paper" caused more damage to civilization than can be repaired in a hundred years. The breaking of that sacred treaty by the German government plunged the whole world into fratricidal war, lowered the "ethical and moral standards" of society to an incalculable extent, and left a train of starvation, disease, sorrow and debt which will exact toll from several future generations. The war was fought in the last analysis (setting aside for the moment the economic considerations) to punish the violator of a treaty and to vindicate the principle that right, not might, makes right. Paradoxical as it may seem, it took might ("force without stint or limit") to back up the right. And the right triumphed—yet at what a cost!

THE LESSON OF THE WAR.

If there is any lesson at all to be learned from the great war, it is that never again will it be safe for any nation to hold in contempt the opinion of mankind. Never again will it be safe for a nation to put its hope in mere force in an attempt to take advantage of a weaker neighbor. Never again will it be healthy for any nation to violate its sacred treaties or treat solemn agreements as mere "scrap of paper." Notwithstanding the many grave issues now up for solution

ELIMINATION OF WASTE AND MISERY PRODUCED BY UNEMPLOYMENT URGED

Herbert Hoover Gives His Views on Present Industrial Unrest to the American Federation of Labor.

Elimination of the waste and misery produced by unemployment, and creation of a better relationship between workers and employers, were urged by Herbert Hoover, Friday, for the solution of problems arising out of the country's industrial development. He spoke before the Federated Engineering Society at a convention at Washington. He suggested fundamental changes in industrial organization and practices, and recognition of the human element. He would replace antagonism and conflict with co-operation, and urged the engineering profession, as the most direct agency, to stand on itself the means for bringing beneficial changes. Hoover warned that a great conflict is developing between capital and labor, with possible disastrous effects on the life of the nation, should either group gain domination. He declared the country must expect to reap a harvest of unemployment and readjustment as a result of the war. Solution of the questions he discussed, Hoover said, would provide a new economic system and would be a "practical step" as a counterpart to the elimination of the waste due to both voluntary and involuntary unemployment. He presented the necessity of preserving individual initiative and giving the worker an opportunity for self-expression. He presented these same ideas to the executive council of the American Federation of Labor, now in session at Washington, considering the industrial situation, with special reference to re-employment, and a purported attack of unionism by combined employing interests. This was on invitation of Samuel Gompers, President of the Federation.

Hours of Work.

Speaking of hours of work, Hoover said: "Regard must be had for leisure for agriculture, recreation and family life," and that once these factors are protected, the maximum production should be the dominating purpose. The maximum payment to good and bad skill in deadening, Hoover said, in offering a scheme for three levels of wages in each trade this should be developed upon the principle of extra graded compensation, for added skill and performance, above an agreed basic wage.

HOOPER'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

- 1. Organization of shop committees to develop production, restore mutuality of interest and correct grievances.
2. Creation of three levels of wages in each trade; the position of each should be developed upon the principle of extra graded compensation, for added skill and performance, above an agreed basic wage.
3. Co-ordination of economic groups to eliminate intermittent

INTERVIEWS WITH LENINE

Despite the evidence of such reports as the British White Paper on Bolshevism and that of the Overman Committee of the United States Senate, there are still some people who refuse to accept the facts of the present Russian situation and believe that official statements are prompted more by desire to discredit Bolshevism than by regard for truth. A remarkable series of articles in the London Times by Dr. Haden Guest, Joint Secretary of the British Labor Delegation to Russia, Dr. Guest, who is a Fabian, in a Labor member of the London County Council, the Russian Communist party, he declares, is a military brotherhood of believers in a certain set of dogmas. "The attempt to have the situation which took power by force and has ruthlessly used power and terror" based on power to preserve it. These men have had out of the theories of Karl Marx a new religion which excludes ordinary scientific theories as it does religious ones. It is the Word of God to be mentioned in the schools. This new faith, in short, is the Leninism, the Bolshevism, the Communism. It is militant. "Its good is to be carried everywhere by fire and sword," heavy civil aid, and terrific struggle. The liberal ideas implicit in Western Socialism, such as free speech, free meeting, free and open elections—all these disappear in the Russian conception. Lenin de-

CONTRACTS ARE SACRED

because of conditions growing out of the war, the war settled for all time the supreme issue of the sacredness of contracts. And what is of benefit to nations and civilization is just as applicable to firms and individuals. If no nation can afford to ignore its solemn promises and obligations, no more can an individual or corporation. Not to be trusted. Right now there are tendencies to the business world which, unless checked, augur no good for our economic and social welfare. Organizations which break their agreements with employers, no less than employers who break their agreements with their help, are equally reprehensible. The expulsion of so-called "outlaw" labor leaders and their followers from the bona-fide trade union movement is, while a regrettable incident, nevertheless salutary so far as the fulfillment of the business world's obligations. Men whose word and signature cannot be trusted are poor men for whom to do business in the future. Once having violated their contract they can never again be trusted. "Business stability can only rest on a foundation of mutual trust and confidence. When either side in an industrial agreement cannot be trusted a contract becomes merely a 'scrap of paper' and open warfare is imminent. To Restore Industrial Stability. Far better for men not to enter into agreements of any kind than to sign agreements that they do not intend to keep. There would be less injury to society from such undisciplined antagonism than from contracts solemnly entered upon only to be broken. Contracts, once signed, must be lived up to by the very letter, and every force in society must be brought to bear to compel adherence of men to their signed word. Future social and business relations can rest upon nothing less. A contract fulfilled to the last provision is the best guarantee of future square-dealing. There is too much of a tendency to cancel orders, for one thing, at the present moment. This causes general industrial demoralization. Both capital and labor must give stricter adherence to their solemn agreements if peace, confidence and prosperity are to again reign in our industrial relationships.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal—Cain.

WOMEN MEET OBLIGATIONS.

"We meet our obligations and do not have to pass the buck along," said Mrs. Van Winkle, of Washington, lieutenant of police in Women's Bureau of that city, in addressing the big sister association at Toronto last week. After the facts of an erring girl's life had been disclosed, Mrs. Van Winkle said, the police women "washed the pain off their cheeks and the 'whitewash off their noses' and taught them to value cleanliness."

WOMAN RELEASED.

Mrs. Margaret Evans, of Hamilton, who with her six-month-old child was sentenced to two months in jail for shop-lifting, has been released by order of the Minister of Justice. Mrs. Evans was thrown from a horse at Brandon five years ago, and, witnesses testified, has not been normal since. Many women's organizations, including all of the Women's Labor bodies, interested themselves in her case. She has two other children.

IMPOSSIBLE FOR GIRLS TO LIVE ON \$11 PER WEEK.

President J. Inman, Mount Hamilton Women's Labor party branch, who has home after a sojourn in Detroit and other Michigan cities, says she is in accord with Miss Ella Reynolds' stand, concerning library assistants. "It is an utter impossibility for girls, irrespective of whether they live at home or not, to keep and clothe themselves on \$11 per week," declared Mrs. Inman.

Labor Of Love.

A real labor of love is being undertaken by the trade unionists and Labor men of East Ham, England who, in their spare time, are building themselves a spacious Labor Hall. The large garden surrounding the Labor Club in Catherine-road, which is the property of the movement, is being utilized to extend the premises which at present house the Trades and Labor Council, the Essex People's Protective League and the local branch of the National Union of Ex-Servicemen.

The week-end is the workers' busy time. The framework of the hall, which is of concrete, is slabs, made on the premises, and with a timbered roof, is completed, and joiners are busy on the window-frames.

Doors and fittings have been made at home by joiner and carpenter members, and the painters and decorators at the Club will shortly be called on to give the finishing touches. Members of the Electrical Trades Union have laid all the electric fittings both in the original club house and in the new building. A lecture hall, the Charlotte Despard Hall, has already been converted by the same willing hands from an old garage.

Six months' spare-time labor has been put into the building of the new hall.—Herald, London, Eng.

MONEY TALKS!

The fact must be appreciated that there is a day not very far off when the voice of money will be the only one heard; a day when the dollar placed away in the bank will prove a real friend. The local newspapers tell you that employers are laying off their workers because of a slowing up of industry, but the fact of the matter is that it is the intention to try and starve the workers out in a few weeks when their money is spent they will be glad to accept employment for 50 per cent. less than the wages paid of such size and stability as will protect your organization from the attack of your employers. The second thing to do is to get out among the boys and girls working in the industry to become members of your local union; numbers are going to count in the very near future. There is still another thing our boys and girls must do—they must begin right now—this very day—to cudgel and make friends with every dollar of their wages. They must save money so as to have something to fall back on, to tide them over tough times. Create a defense fund, organize your fellow workers, save your money, and, if you have no use for bank, put your coin in Victory Bonds or other rock-bottom securities. One dollar placed in the banks per week for a period of ten years, with interest compounded half yearly, makes the sum of \$55.72. Do not remain unconvinced.—Educational Committee, Local 513, Ottawa.

P. R. GIVES FREEDOM TO ELECTORS.

Nobody can seriously contend that under our present system of elections the electors really choose the candidates they want. The men for whom they are asked to vote are largely chosen for them by the party caucus. With all the forces of the constituency marshalled into two camps there is no opportunity for the electors to choose their own candidates; the fear of splitting the party vote is ever present to limit them in their choice to what it pleases the local party caucus to put forward. Many a good candidate has been kept out of Parliament because he did not see eye to eye upon every question with the caucus of his party, and many electors have remained unrepresented for the same reason.—From Pamphlet of P. R. Society of Canada.

WILLIAMS PLAYER PIANOS. TO the many thousands who love music, but who have not enjoyed a musical education, the Williams Player Piano comes as a great boon. It enables you to play with equal facility the compositions of the great masters, and the newest popular melodies. And by reason of its exclusive Floating Rail Device and transposing scale, the Williams-made Player enables you to give expression to your own emotions when playing. It enables you to diminish to the point of extinction the "mechanical" character of the music. Don't judge the Williams player by other players—hear and play the Williams. Its exquisite tone and flexibility will convince you that this Canadian-made instrument is the one for your home. THE WILLIAMS PIANO COMPANY, LIMITED. Canada's Oldest and Largest Piano Makers. OSHAWA, ONTARIO. "It's good taste and good sense to insist on 'DENT'S' GLOVES"

WALTHAM WATCHES. A COMPLETE assortment of Waltham Watches always in stock at Scheuer's, 131 Yonge Street, 2 doors below the Arcade. Buy a Waltham and you will get one of the world's best watch values. Waltham Watches For the Pocket. Cased in Nickel, Sterling Silver, best Gold Filled, 10 and 14 carat Solid gold: \$15.00 to \$200.00. Waltham Wrist Watches. With or without the Luminous Dial, by means of which the time can be read on the darkest night; Sterling Silver and Gold Cased: \$190.0 to \$150.00. Waltham Convertible Bracelet Watches. Including the dainty little watch with the "disappearing eye" which folds back out of sight when it is desired to wear the watch elsewhere than on the wrist. Bracelet and Watch in Gold Filled, and in 10 and 14 carat Solid Gold. \$28.00 and Up. Every Watch guaranteed by The Waltham Watch Co. and DIAMONDS—WATCHES—JEWELLERY SCHEUER'S 131 YONGE STREET The Oldest Established Wholesale Diamond Importers in Canada.

MACDONALD'S PRINCE OF WALES CHEWING TOBACCO. 2 sizes 15¢ & 20¢. "The Tobacco with a heart". P. R. GIVES FREEDOM TO ELECTORS. Nobody can seriously contend that under our present system of elections the electors really choose the candidates they want. The men for whom they are asked to vote are largely chosen for them by the party caucus. With all the forces of the constituency marshalled into two camps there is no opportunity for the electors to choose their own candidates; the fear of splitting the party vote is ever present to limit them in their choice to what it pleases the local party caucus to put forward. Many a good candidate has been kept out of Parliament because he did not see eye to eye upon every question with the caucus of his party, and many electors have remained unrepresented for the same reason.—From Pamphlet of P. R. Society of Canada.