

# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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**THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS**

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A NATIONAL, SANE LABOR PAPER

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Following in brief is 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.

### The Home Bank

It seems to be fashionable amongst certain Canadian newspapers to prosecute, try and convict, before the legal trial takes place, of men in public life who may be involved in cases of a public nature.

Take the Home Bank case for example. A section of the Ontario press have couched their editorial writings on this subject in such a manner that their readers must be convinced that all the directors now under indictment are guilty, in spite of the fact that the majority of them have not been tried yet.

It is a fundamental principle of British law that each person accused of a crime is held to be innocent until proven guilty. This is exactly the reverse of French law, where the burden of proof of innocence is laid upon the accused. The press in Ontario, in many cases, evidently believes in the French method judging from some of the written matter upon the Home Bank case, ignoring the splendid reputations borne for years by the directors at present under indictment.

It is true that a number of newspapers in Ontario point out that this method is unjust, as for example the Toronto "Globe," in an editorial on November 3rd, dealing with the third degree, states: "The rule that a man should be regarded as innocent until proved guilty is sound and just as also is the rule that an accused person is not bound to incriminate himself. Obviously all the safeguards thrown about the defendant at the trial are useless if he can be tried beforehand by the police with the protection of judge, counsel or jury."

This is good, sound reasoning, and "The Canadian Labor Press" gives its endorsement to that position.

If we had anything to add it would be to paraphrase the last paragraph to read: "Obviously all the safeguards thrown about the defendant at the trial are useless if he can be tried beforehand by the press without the protection of judge, counsel or jury."

It is an oft repeated complaint by the Labor movement when as has happened, Labor officials have been indicted for violations of the laws in connection with strikes, that they were being subjected to persecution because of their loyalty to Labor. This may or may not be true but even if it were it gives us no reason to feel that men in public life, who happen to be comfortably circumstanced, should be vilified simply because they are accused of offences in connection with institutions they represent.

"The Canadian Labor Press" urges its readers to keep a level head and refuse to be stampeded by the press cries, knowing that the Canadian judiciary will deal impartially with all the cases that come before it and no matter what is the result of the Home Bank trials, the high standards of Canadian law will be adhered to.

### Why the Hold Up?

At the first September meeting of the Toronto City Council, a considerable number of applications for gasoline stations were dealt with and granted with one exception.

"The Canadian Labor Press" is curious to know the reason for the discrimination made in the case of the proposed service station at Ellersbuck and Danforth Avenues. From the reports of the council meeting, Alderman Smith, of Ward One, objected to the application being granted and the council, apparently taking the view that the Alderman represented the views of Ward One citizens, acceded to his request and voted down the application. This is very doubtful and we feel that the council committed a mistake by singling out this application for refusal and passing all the others. Several of "The Canadian Labor Press" staff live in Ward One and there is fairly widely held belief in that district that the objection to the application was due to fear of competition with several other stations in the neighborhood. If this be true then the Council is to blame for not finding the facts about the opposition to it before they refused it.

Toronto's representatives cannot afford to place themselves or the city in the position of catspaws to pull chestnuts out of the fire for the advantage of private interest. It would be a serious blow to the prestige and reputation of Toronto if it became a tradition with other cities that private interest could monopolize certain trade activities and mold civic actions and discussion to private ends. "The Canadian Labor Press" sincerely hopes that in the event of this application coming up again the City Council will see that it is dealt with justly.

### Making a Catspaw of Labor

ONE of the oldest fables by which the human mind is entertained, tells of a monkey who cunningly used a cat to pull hot chestnuts out of a fire for the monkey's benefit. "The Canadian Labor Press" is reminded of this fable by the current agitation against the Minimum Wage Board and a well known Toronto candy factory located west of Yonge Street.

Charges are being broadcasted that the firm referred to has violated the Minimum Wage Act in some fifteen or sixteen instances by underpayment of girl employees and it is further charged that the Minimum Wage Board has not done its duty by investigating the complaints and prosecuting the firm in question.

"The Canadian Labor Press" has a deep interest in the Minimum Wage Act, and for that reason made an investigation into the circumstances with the result that we feel convinced the Labor movement of Toronto is being exploited by individuals outside the movement for private ends.

The facts thus far disclosed show that an ex-employee of the firm in question, who left their employment in April of this year and his brother, entered into certain business contracts with this

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candy firm by which a considerable amount of merchandise was advanced to them. Sometime this summer, the firm being anxious about the money owing to them, entered litigation for its recovery. Now up to this moment no charges of any kind had been made that the firm's employees were being defrauded of money, but shortly after this date, both the individuals involved spent considerable time endeavoring to get girl employees to make charge against their employers respecting underpayment of wages. This was followed up by introduction of the charges before the Toronto Trades Council, and by publication in certain papers, whose principal mode of expression seems to consist of vituperation and abuse.

Now let us analyze the charges made: the firm involved have between 500 and 600 girl employees, of which approximately eighty per cent are engaged in piece work. According to the Minimum Wage Act, if eighty per cent of the girls working at piece work rates, employed in any industry, earn the minimum wage scale or over, then the remaining twenty per cent affected are permitted to receive what they earn, even if it is less than the minimum rate. This means that in this case, one hundred girls or so on piece work, if they did not earn the minimum rate, could legally take what they earned if it was not any more than five dollars. In actual fact, the firm in question made provision that no piece work employee should receive less than her time work rate, no matter what was the least they earned. The absurdity of the charges is shown when it is considered that legally the firm could pay one hundred piece-workers much less than the minimum rate if they did earn it and they are charged with illegally underpaying fifteen or sixteen.

The executive of an organization employing 500 or 600 girls would be very stupid and short-sighted men to underpay three per cent of their help in the hope of saving money, first because the amount saved is so insignificant as to be practically worthless, second, if they were pursuing a ruthless greed such as they are charged with, it would ultimately react against their business in a disastrous manner, and lastly, only an utter fool would run the risk of prosecution by the law, and serious damage to a good business in order to save a few hundred dollars. "The Canadian Labor Press" believes that the executives of the firm in question have too much ability and common sense to place themselves in such a position.

It is inevitable that in an organization of five to six hundred employees mistakes are bound to arise, but it is possible to differentiate between mistakes made in good faith and deliberate fraud, and the case in question shows that the Labor Council has committed a grave error by its attacks on a reputable firm without first investigating the actual facts. The whole business should be a lesson to trade unionists not to allow themselves to be used as a catspaw again for the purpose of serving the private ends of disgruntled and irresponsible individuals.

### How Laurentide got Workers to Become Owners

(Continued from Page 1)

mittee. Each subscriber may determine the amount he wishes to have deducted from his pay, within the limits stated above. If later on he wishes to reduce this amount he may do so, provided the consent of the Administrative Committee, mentioned in the paragraph 9 below, is obtained, and provided changes in the amount to be deducted are not made oftener than once a year. After payment has been completed stock certificates will be issued in the name of the subscriber.

Interest at 6 per cent per annum will be charged on unpaid balances. This interest will be debited to the subscriber's account at the end of each year, and will be calculated on his average unpaid balance during that year.

Until payment has been completed, all dividends paid on the stock will be credited to the account of the subscriber as part of his payment. After payment has been completed and stock issued to the subscriber, he will, of course, receive dividend and bonus cheques, and made out in his own name.

Subscriptions will be cancelled at the request of the subscriber, made in writing to the Administrative Committee, or upon the subscriber's resignation or discharge from the company's service. In either case the full amount of money which has been deducted from the subscriber's wages or salary will be returned to him, with interest at 6 per cent per annum. The interest will be deducted from the special fund mentioned below. Cancellation will not be accepted after the subscription is fully paid up and stock certificate issued to the subscriber.

The cancellation of a subscription forfeits all accrued dividends and bonuses which the subscriber would have received if he had continued his subscription. Those accrued dividends and bonuses will be transferred to a special fund to be divided among the remaining subscribers at the end of five years.

The cancellation of a subscription, of course, releases the company from the obligation of holding the subscriber's stock for him, and also from the payment of bonuses on the said stock subsequent to the date of cancellation.

On January 1st of each year for five years after the date of the subscription, the company will pay a bonus, in addition to the regular dividends, on each share subscribed for, provided the subscription is not cancelled, or the stock sold after payment is complete, and provided the subscriber is still in the company's employ.

At the end of five years subscribers still owning their stock, and still in the employ of the company, will receive still another bonus, through the division of bonuses forfeited by cancelled subscriptions, but with the interest allowed on cancelled subscriptions deducted, will be divided at the end of five years among the remaining subscribers, each of whom will receive an equal amount for each share held.

#### Medical Men Are Labor's Guardians

Members of our union and the many thousands of others engaged in manual work do not always realize the need and value of periodic physical examination by competent physicians. Formerly people waited until they were so ill that illness interfered with their work or stopped it altogether before they consulted a doctor, just as they only went to see a dentist if a tooth was aching and needed extraction. Nowadays we have learned better than that and every sensible person who can afford it, goes to see a dentist regularly to find out if there are any defects so that these can be corrected before they become serious. Similarly the best men in the medical profession are agreed that in these modern times prevention rather than cure should be the aim of the physician and one way of preventing physical ailment is to go to see a doctor regularly.

What happens as a result of regular medical examinations is a matter of exact figures. In 1919 the Boston Dispensary decided to try out a plan by which patients coming to the evening pay clinics would be assigned to the Medical Department for a physical examination. Out of this experiment has grown an active and successful health clinic which for a very moderate sum gives a complete specialist diagnostic examination to individuals who want to know what is their general health condition and which, if treatment is necessary, refers them to their own physicians. The results have been most interesting and most instructive.

Altogether close on 1,600 persons have been examined. Most of them came unaware of any defect requiring treatment, but after examination, the great majority were found to have (1) faults in habit and hygiene; (2) factors predisposing to disease, or (3) organic disease. Of the first 1,000 cases it was discovered that 51 per cent were rapid eaters; 52 per cent showed defective fluid intake and 33 per cent deficient exercise, while 40 per cent were constipated. Of the factors predisposing to disease, over and underweight and unsatisfactory mouth conditions are the most important. A person is considered to need treatment whose weight varies by more than 10 per cent from the normal weight for his height and age and only 54 per cent were found to be of normal weight. Ten per cent were sufferers from organic heart trouble; 14 per cent from hardening of the arteries; 6 per cent from nervous diseases; 7 per cent from skin diseases and 34 per cent from conditions needing surgical treatment, such as ruptures, varicose veins or appendicitis. Another interesting point was that 80 per cent of those examined had some form of eye trouble due to errors of vision which needed correction.

But the fact that so many even of those who do not know they are ill have physical defects of some kind does not mean that people need to be pessimistic. The very reverse is the case. For a patient who has been alarmed about his health may learn that his condition is not really serious. If he has any serious ailment it is better that he should know about accordingly. If his ailment is due to errors of habit and hygiene, these errors with their bad effects can be eliminated. If there are factors predisposing to disease, these can be almost entirely corrected. And even if there is definite organic disease, it can nearly always be modified and in many instances completely cured.

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#### Labor Legislation Is Making Progress

Rapid steps are being taken by various nations to ratify the conventions of the International Labor Conference. In six weeks, thirty new ratifications have been registered by the League of Nations. This important news was communicated to the sixth session of the International Labor Conference by the secretary treasurer of the conference.

These ratifications include seven by Austria, six by Spain, two by the Irish Free State, two by Japan, and thirteen by Poland.

The total number of ratifications is now 126.

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