

# Advanced Social Legislation for Improvement of the Condition of Workers Urged by J. E. Atkinson

Editor of Toronto Star Gives Address on Reforms as Carried Out in Old Land to Better the Life of the Toilers—Urges Similar Legislation to Meet Conditions in Canada

(From the Brantford Expositor.)  
In masterly fashion J. E. Atkinson, editor of The Toronto Star, to the South Brant Reform Association last evening in the Liberal Club rooms, gave a detailed review of social legislation as adopted in the old land and the United States, and urged that Canada, to date behind in these matters, get into line and ameliorate the condition of the workers by means that they secured, directly or indirectly by state aid, a greater share of the products of their labor. The greatest cause of poverty, he declared, was low wages, with sickness also having a great effect, unemployment at seasonal periods being a third reason, and as counterpoise to these he urged sickness and unemployment insurance, mothers' pensions, and old age pensions, together with increases in wages to the lowest paid workers. Replete with statistics the address was tinged with emotion, and was thoroughly appreciated by the considerable audience which had gathered. W. H. Whitaker acted as chairman for the evening most efficiently.

A hearty welcome was accorded to J. E. Atkinson, editor of The Toronto Star, the chief speaker of the evening, who, in opening, stated that he was pleased that the meeting was not a partisan one, but one for the discussion of public affairs. This was a time when all had but one thought—the war.

## England Before the War.

The revolutionary changes which have recently taken place in the Old Land were referred to. At the opening of the war, he showed, one-third of all the people of the British Isles were in absolute poverty. In five towns in England, thoroughly investigated, one-quarter of the adult workers received less than \$800. Of every 1,000 births, there were 200 deaths in infancy—through poverty or disease—while accompanied it. In Southwark fourteen years of every child's life was cut off as compared with prosperous Hampshire. These conditions, he now hoped, would be changed after the war.

## Poverty in the United States.

It was not alone in the old countries that such existed. In the United States, with almost incalculable resources, one-third of all the adult workers earned \$10 a week or less, the average being \$6.50 members to each family. Government statistics showed that, to have a decent living, an income of \$700 was necessary. In the basic trades, the workers were unemployed for one-fifth of the year.

In Johnston, Pa., it was found that children of families of the very poor had but one-fourth of the chance of life the children had in families where the fathers earned \$25 a week or more. Poverty kills children—one in four of the babies of the \$10-a-week wage earners died in infancy, one in twelve of the classes better off. The contrast between wealth and poverty in the United States was even greater than in the Old Land. A college professor, who has written a book on the wealth of the United States,

has classified the distribution of wealth in that country as follows: "The rich," two per cent. of the people, own 60 per cent. of the wealth; the "middle class," 33 per cent. own 33 per cent.; the "poor," 65 per cent. own only 7 per cent. Two millions of people own 20 per cent. more than the other ninety millions. In Canada statistical information was very scarce, but such available showed that in ten years the net product of labor in manufacturing, after subtracting cost of materials, increased 163 per cent., but the wages of the workers only 103 per cent. In Canada, as in the United States, as time elapsed it appeared that the workers, though with increased wages, were actually receiving less of the net product of his labor.

## Child Mortality.

Taking up child mortality, Mr. Atkinson pointed out that in Canada's largest city the infant mortality was 196 per thousand—nearly approaching the record set by four great towns in the old land, which was thought so terrible as to be worthy of being placed on record. Another large city even exceeded this figure. These conditions must be faced in Canada, as they have been faced in other new countries—as in Australia and New Zealand.

## Social Legislation.

The speaker asked if there were a silver lining to the cloud which hung like a pall over the workers. In England there had been a great deal of social legislation—taxing the wealthy to contribute to the needs of the state to be used for those whose means were small, such as the succession tax. Then there was workmen's compensation, which was followed by sickness and health insurance, unemployment insurance, maternity allowances. These measures were carried unanimously in the House of Commons, not as party measures. The old age pensions lifted many millions out of the shadow of the poor house at seventy years of age. In Australia and New Zealand the age was sixty-five. In Canada there were many old people who were a burden on relatives who could ill afford to maintain them. The obligation in Canada was not new; provision was now made for the care of the aged poor. Old age pensions simply removed the burden more equitably over the state. Hard-working, industrious workmen, through sickness or other causes, were unable to lay aside savings to care for old age. In his opinion, the workers did not receive their fair share of the products of their labor, and old age pensions were but a mitigation of this injustice.

## Reference was made at some length to the maternity allowances and widow pensions as made in the old land, as well as in Australia and New Zealand. Canada had not even considered these measures. Sickness insurance was in effect in 11 European countries. The effect of workmen's compensation was brought about a greater attention to incipient cases which could be cured. Sickness was responsible for 40 per cent. of the applications for poor relief to one of the great charitable societies of New York. Sickness insurance would result in increased industrial efficiency, and this increased efficiency would pay for its cost. In the U. S. \$20,000,000 workers at the average each lost nine days of labor in the year through sickness—an annual wage loss of \$500,000,000, and including medical attendance, \$580,000,000.

## Not Experimental.

These measures were no longer experimental. Unemployment insurance had been adopted only in the old land, and applied to workers in certain trades, affecting some 2,000,000. Industry itself, the worker, and the state all contributed. The system was working out very satisfactorily. Unemployment was, in part, caused by causes which could not be controlled, but by insurance the risk was spread over the entire state. Some causes of unemployment were avoidable, and our capitalists of industry could so organize their industries as to reduce it. In 1914 in Ontario the unemployment was equivalent to 30,000 workers unemployed all year. These figures did not include unskilled labor and the building trades. If unemployment was inescapable in the working of our modern industries, these should bear their

share of the cost. Experts stated that there needed to be 25 per cent. of excess labor over the needs of slack times that industry might be carried on adequately in the busiest periods. The turnover of labor was a hardship to the worker, a loss to the employer—for every worker costs from \$80 to \$200 to "break in."

## Cause of Poverty.

One of the causes of poverty the greatest is low wages. The greatest single social reform would be to raise the wages of the "worst paid workers," declared Mr. Atkinson, who, however, expressed the opinion that this could not be done by legislation. It would be opposed by the workers themselves who opposed legislation fixing wages. Sickness and unemployment insurance, however, worked indirectly to ameliorate conditions. In England the government had stepped into all branches of industry—and there would never be a return to the old state of affairs. Government members there had stated that after the war the government would intervene to see that the worker received a greater proportion of what he produced. Canada had done little along these lines and was far behind the old land. England would never again see the unimpaired exploitation of the labor market. The men from the front would not return to resume their old wages. Social legislation, too, would come in Canada, and the speaker, in conclusion, appealed to his hearers to prepare themselves for these reforms, to maintain an open mind. The British ideal was "the state for the individual," as opposed to the German ideal of "the individual for the state." Patriotism was a splendid sentiment, but the appeal to humanity was a still higher one. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the speaker.

## WORRIED AND SLEEPLESS?

Nerves Are Racked  
Urinary System  
Brain Is Congested  
Health Undermined

Opates, Sedatives, Narcotics, Worse Than Useless—Produce No Permanent Good

Worry, overwork, over-study and investigation cause insomnia. Healthy, natural sleep can't be produced by drugs.

First, the blood circulation must be improved. Congestion of blood in the head must be removed. Irritation in the brain must be relieved. It's because Ferrosone equalizes circulation, because it soothes the irritation, because it removes congestion that it does cure insomnia.

For building blood and nerve, for instilling force and life into over-worked organs, for establishing strength and vitality, where can you find anything as sure as Ferrosone.

Remember, sleep is just as important as food.

You must sleep, or break down. You can't if you're using Ferrosone and thereby remove the conditions which now keep you from sleep.

Ferrosone is not a narcotic, not a habit-forming drug, it is a health-giving tonic that any child or delicate woman can use. Absolutely safe in Ferrosone.

Take it for a month, take it for a year—no harm, but immeasurable good will result.

To sleep well, look well, feel well, to be free from depression, nervousness or blue—use Ferrosone. It's a food tonic, a healer to the weak and wretched, a boon to the sleepless—sold everywhere in 50c. boxes.

# DYSPEPSIA MOST DIFFICULT TO CURE BUT B. B. DOES IT

Dyspepsia is one of the most difficult diseases of the stomach there is to cure. You eat too much; drink too much; make the stomach work overtime. You make it perform more than it should be called on to do. The natural result is that it is going to rebel against the amount of work put on it. It is only a matter of time before dyspepsia follows. That forty-year-old remedy, Burdock Blood Bitters, will cure the dyspepsia, and will cure it to stay cured as we can prove by the thousands of testimonials we receive from time to time.

Mr. Neil A. Cameson, Kiltarily, N.S., writes: "I am writing you a few lines to tell you what your great medicine Burdock Blood Bitters has done for me. I was troubled very much with dyspepsia for the past two years. I was recommended all kinds of medicines, but they did not help me. At last a friend advised me to try a bottle of B. B. I took four bottles and was totally cured. I will gladly recommend it to all sufferers."

B. B. is manufactured only by The T. M. B. Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

## Share of the Cost.

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# "BUFFALO BILL" Remarkable Life of Scout and Showman

HOW HE WON TITLE  
Story of Early Days on the Plains—His First Indian—Companionship With "Wild Bill"—Believed He Accumulated Fortune of \$1,000,000

The Boston Globe says that William F. Cody, or "Buffalo Bill," as he was popularly known the world over, was the most picturesque character in the history of America. The incidents which made up the drama of his eventful life were of the most romantic kind, some of them bordering so closely upon the realm of the supernatural as to be almost beyond credence.

He was born in Scott County, Ia., on Feb. 16, 1846, the son of Isaac Cody, one of the pioneers of Kansas, who emigrated to a town near the site of Leavenworth in 1833, when William was about eight years old. His father took an active part in making Kansas a free state, was obliged to flee from his home after being stabbed nearly to death in a political quarrel, and died of exposure in March 1857. So at twelve years of age the boy was called upon to support his mother and he did not shrink from the task.

## His First Indian.

Less than a month he hired out with Russell, Majors and Wadwell, who were carrying government supplies across the plains, and in this employment visited every military fort and post west of the Missouri River. He had already shot an Indian dead, and such was his bravery and attention to duty that he became a favorite with plainmen and soldiers. In 1861 his mother died, and Cody, having attained some reputation as a dead shot with rifle and revolver, and had few equals as a horseman on the frontier. In 1862 he joined the army, and was sent to the Indian wars with the 7th Kansas Cavalry.

## Among the noted frontier characters who knew and admired young Cody was that strange man, "Wild Bill" Hickok, who held the dangerous position of city marshal at Abilene, Kan., and he chose Cody as his deputy. Kansas City was the rendezvous of plainmen, alive with cowboys and "bad men," ready to fight at the drop of a word. Every man in town carried weapons, except one—bumptious giant and a past master in fistfights. It was his boast that he could whip any man for Kansas, and he did this with every man who dared to meet him. Ordinarily such a bully would have been shot out of hand, but his open declaration that he carried no arms so shamed others that they left him unharmed.

## Romance in Marriage.

In less than a year he was made chief of scouts under Gen. Curtis, with headquarters at St. Louis. Here, riding through the streets one morning, he came upon a crowd of drunken soldiers annoying a party of school girls. He dismounted and ordered the men to disperse and was met with oaths and derision. He saluted, knocked three of the enemy senseless and rescued the panic-stricken girls. All made their escape, but one, whom he took under escort to her home, fell in love with the pretty Louise Frederic, a black-eyed little maid, whom he married at the close of the war, and took her out to Salt Creek Valley, Kan., his early home.

## But he soon returned to his old scouting life under Gen. Cook. The Kansas Pacific Railroad was being built through the buffalo country, and Shoemaker, Miller & Co., the contractors, wanted buffalo meat for their 1,200 men, and offered Cody \$500 a month to supply twelve animals a day. It was a big and dangerous task, but in eighteen months the young scout killed 4,280 buffaloes with his own hands, and came off victor.

# LOOK AT CHILD'S TONGUE IF SICK CROSS, FEVERISH

When Constipated or Bilious Give "California Syrup of Figs"

Look at the tongue, mother! If coated, it is a sure sign that your little one's stomach, liver and bowels need a gentle, thorough cleansing at once. When peevish, cross, listless, pale, doesn't sleep, doesn't eat or act naturally, or is feverish, stomach sour, breath bad, has stomach-ache, sore throat, diarrhoea, full of cold, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," and in a few hours all the foul, constipated waste, undigested food and sour bile gently moves out of its little bowels without griping, and you have a well, healthy child again.

You needn't coax sick children to take this harmless "fruit laxative," they love its delicious taste, and it always makes them feel splendid. Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly on the bottle. Beware of counterfeits sold here. To be sure you get the genuine ask to see that it is made by "California Fig Syrup Company." Refuse and be harmless and children love them.

## icus in sixty-four single-handed fights with Indians.

His exploits were the talk of the frontier, and it is recounted that Bill Comstock, a noted buffalo killer, challenged him to a test of supremacy. The stakes were \$500 a side and the contest was to be from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m., and in the eight hours Cody killed sixty-nine and Comstock forty-five. From that day the name of Cody was merged into that of Buffalo Bill.

In the spring of 1888 he was back in army life, having been appointed by Gen. Sheridan as chief of scouts for the department of the Missouri and the Platte, and acted as scout and guide for the 5th Cavalry against the Sioux and Cheyennes, and afterward with the Canadian scouts with the Canadian Cavalry expedition in 1888-9, and, continued as scout with headquarters at Fort McPherson, until 1892, when he was elected a representative in the Arkansas legislature.

He was guide for the Russian Grand Duke Alexis in a hunting expedition on the plains, and brought the party back without a single accident. He afterwards After that Cody added many new fea-

# PLAN MONUMENT AT GRAVE OF BUFFALO BILL

Denver, Colo., Jan. 14.—To add her measure of appreciation of what the west owed him, the State of Colorado received the body of Col. William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill), into her capital yesterday, there to lie in state for four hours.

Funeral services were held on Sunday afternoon, when the body was placed in a receiving vault in a local cemetery, but the burial will not take place until next spring, probably Decoration Day, when the body of one of the nation's most picturesque characters will be interred in a tomb hewn from the rock at the top of Lookout Mountain, near this city.

Plans already are afoot for the erection of a suitable monument to this final resting place.

## PRIVATE KILLORN RETURNS

Private J. Leo Killorn, son of Mrs. Jennie L. Killorn, Eden street, arrived home here yesterday from Toronto. He recently returned from England, having spent two years in the service of the king with the 96th Battalion. Private Killorn lost a leg in the battle of Hoes, last summer, which necessitated many operations. He passed through many hospitals, arriving, eventually, at Amagasaki, where Mrs. E. E. Hooper is chaplain. Private Killorn spent several months at the hospital and he paid a high tribute to the work being done there by the St. John chapter.

Soon after the Indian War was over Buffalo Bill gathered Indians, cowboys, scouts, trappers, buffaloes, etc., and produced the Wild West Show for the first time in Omaha, Neb., on May 17, 1883. More than 5,000 persons paying to see a mimic reproduction of what they had witnessed in reality only a short time before.

## After that Cody added many new fea-

Romance! Thrills! Mystery!

# "The Dark Star"

by Robert W. Chambers

A dashing adventure to keep imagination constantly on tip-toes.

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# Mutt and Jeff—Yes Indeed Luck Never Stands Still

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