



# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

## INJUNCTION LAW ONE SIDED

The injunction law is being worked overtime across the line justifying a writer to state that when working people go on strike against a reduction of wages, injunction judges quickly issue restraining orders to prevent such working people from making their strike effective, but when employers arbitrarily announce a reduction of wages or an increase of hours and lock out all workers who refuse to accept the reduction or to work the increased hours, no injunction judge will issue any restraining order against the employer.

When a working man on strike urges other working men to join with him in an effort to secure improved working conditions or to prevent a reduction of wages, injunction judges issue arbitrary restraining orders forbidding the striker from urging others to join with him, but when an employer urges working men to desert their brothers on strike, to quit the union, and thus to help the employer in his fight against the strikers, no injunction judge will interfere with the employer.

During industrial controversies the injunction judge restrains all strikers and their sympathizers or friends from exercising the constitutional rights of free speech and free press, but the same judge always refuses to issue injunctions of any kind against the employers under similar circumstances.

## FOR THE SHORTER WORK WEEK

A lone hand is not being played for the permanency of the shorter work week. Organizations outside of the enjoying of this right are all actively at work in seeking to establish same, and a blanket convention may be made in saying those who have will retain and those who have not will eventually secure.

One craft is covered in the statement that a forty-four-hour week for all textile workers is the ultimate aim of the United Textile Workers of America. At their twenty-first annual convention in New York it was resolved to maintain the forty-four-hour week wherever it is the prevailing standard and to inaugurate a campaign to establish the forty-four-hour week where it has not yet been put in effect, with the intention of finally achieving a general forty-four-hour week through the economic strength of the union.

Resolutions were adopted directing the union to issue a proclamation to employers in the textile industry calling upon them to adopt the eight-hour day which, they claim, will not only make working conditions much better for workers, but will also give them opportunities to improve their intellectual faculties and relieve unemployment as well.

## AS OTHERS SEE IT

On the question of a day of rest the Ottawa Journal stated that:

"The question of Sunday work coming up at the International Labor Conference at Geneva, President Tom Moore, of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, proposed a resolution which, it is said, carried by a narrow majority to the effect that it is the duty of Governments where circumstances prevent full observance of Sunday rest to provide for compensating periods of rest during the week. Mr. Moore, we think, did a good service to humanity by securing the passage of that resolution. The common sense and the experience of mankind realizes that one day's rest in seven is a desirable thing for the worker and for society, and while the best way to obtain this is to make Sunday as complete a day of rest as possible, the next best thing is to try to provide that wherever Sunday work is necessary the worker shall have some other holiday during the week.

In the complications of modern living work on Sunday is a necessity for some. No matter how much we may believe in the propriety and desirability of the observance of Sunday as a non-work day we must recognize the fact that a certain amount of work is necessary on that day, and those of us who believe in Sunday should bend our attention not so much to trying to make the observance of Sunday universal as a day of rest as to providing that the minority who work on that day should have some other day off during the week. This will be the best championship of Sunday itself."

## SHARING THE PROFITS

As related to workers and wages, all profit sharing schemes are at their best simply methods whereby the payment of wages to which the workers are entitled may be deferred or held back. At their worst the schemes are used to hold workers to their jobs by the promise of these deferred payments of wages and to prevent the workers from organizing into trade unions or from doing anything else contrary to the will of the employer who always reserves the right to take from the worker, by means of immediate discharge, any right that may exist as to a share of in the profits.

Under our present system of business organization, the only safe way in which the working people can obtain a proper share of the profits in any industry is in the form of good wages, the payment of which is made at regular periods, weekly, or at least semi-monthly. If, after paying the right kind of wages and establishing the right kind of working conditions, any industry still has a surplus of profits greater than that which its owners or stockholders should receive, it has charged the public too much for the product and there should be a reduction in price to the consumer.

In any event no industry has the right to withhold from its workers any payment for the services which the workers have rendered. All profit sharing schemes provide for the withholding of such payments for periods ranging from three months to a year contributed.

## A DUTY WE OWE

When a local union has signed up with an employer the union has made an honorable sale of the labor power of its members under the most favorable of possible conditions and each engineer is a recipient in full of the benefits of the agreement. They have sold their labor as a good price to a fair employer. It is now up to this employer to market the product of the labor of these

union workers, so as to be able to keep his end of the contract.

A square deal for this kind of employer requires essentially that the union and its members shall turn over to him such skill, efficiency and full measure of hours and degrees of workmanship that will back him up in his effort to market the product of their labor in competition with all other kinds of labor employers. To not do this is to fail to keep the contract, and invites disaster.

When a union worker receives all that he has demanded as the price of his skill and ability to perform the service he is selling, he should give that skill and service in full, complete and without reservation of any kind to the employer he has contracted with through the medium of his local union. This is a cardinal principle of all honorable relations between men; and strict adherence to it promotes mutual self-respect and satisfaction. No fair employer can long guarantee the sale of union labor's product if that labor is deficient in skill, and who contribute to such deficiencies are enemies of the union of fair conditions of employment, and traitors to the cause they glibly espouse.

To preserve themselves and to continue to advance along the glorious path so far trod, local unions must—and they do—require of benefited members just as loyal a fulfillment of labor's end of a contract with a fair employer as is expected and insisted on from the employer.—Amalgamated Journal.

## LADDERS

If you use ladders, follow these precautions:

- LOOK for split broken rungs and stringers;
- LOOK for nails and sharp projections.
- AVOID haste in going up or down ladders.
- NEVER leave tools or materials on ladders.
- TEST your ground support, SECURE ladder carefully or have someone hold it.
- STEP-LADDERS should be properly tied to prevent spreading.
- LOOK behind stationary ladders for pipe or other projections.
- WHEN using extension ladders exercise care in raising or lowering extension.
- REPORT defective ladders, do not use them.

## HULL STREET RAILWAYMEN TO FIGHT REDUCTION

Following upon the announcement made by Mr. G. Gordon Gale, vice-president and general manager of the Hull Electric Railway Company, on November 1, that a 10 per cent. wage reduction would be put in effect on December 1 next, the employees have, in a letter to the press, announced that they will refuse to accept any reduction or any change in working conditions. The men

## AUSTRALIAN APPEAL FOR THE WORKLESS

A Reuter cable from Melbourne, Australia, says that Premier W. M. Hughes has issued an eloquent appeal to employers to provide employment for 2,000 returned soldiers still out of work. The federal Government subscribed £1,000 to the

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## COST OF LIVING ALMOST STATIONARY

Slight declines in retail and wholesale prices for October as compared with September are shown by statistics compiled by the Department of Labor.

In retail prices the average cost of a list of 29 staple foods in 60 cities averaged \$11.48 at the beginning of October as compared with \$11.82 at the beginning of September, \$15.83 in October, 1920, and \$7.99 in October, 1914. The average cost of a budget of foods, fuel and rent in 60 cities was \$22.01 for October, 1921, \$22.34 for September, 1921, \$26.46 for October, 1920, and \$14.47 for October, 1914. The chief changes for the month were decreases in potatoes, meats, cheese, flour and bread, but there were increases in eggs and butter. Anthracite coal and hardwood advanced slightly, but soft coal, soft wood, and coal oil declined slightly.

During October wholesale prices continued the decline which began in May, 1920, but which has been less steep since June, 1921. The index number of the Department of Labor for the wholesale prices was down to 229.2 for October, as compared with 232.7 for September, 317.6 for October, 1920, and 138.7 for October, 1914. The chief changes for the month were declines in prices of grain, livestock and meats, and in miscellaneous foods, but there were also declines in fish, leather, house furnishings, drugs and chemicals. There were slight advances in textiles, gasoline and coal oil, and seasonal advances in eggs and milk.

\$50,000 fund being raised by the New South Wales warriors' committee to aid and place ex-soldiers in employment.



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