

CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

A National, Sane Labor Paper

True Confidence and Understanding Between Employer and Employee Absolutely Necessary to Industrial Peace.

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THE MORAL ATMOSPHERE OF COMMUNISM

The advocates of Communism through public statements and communist literature, sneer at the normal standards of morality. Right and wrong does not matter to these wild men except insofar as right or wrong may help them to stir up class hatred. What everyone with commonsense recognizes as decent standards of morality, the Communists sneer at and openly avow that the working class has no right to recognize these standards. Morality, they declare is a matter of material environment and not of conscience or decent feeling. To be consistent therefore, a Communist who found his fellow Communist in a vulgar liaison with his wife for example should not see "red" but excuse the poor fellow because material conditions impelled him to betray his friend's wife. That is, if Communism were consistent but it isn't, and therefore in such a position they act as all other men would act and feel that a moral wrong has been committed against them.

One cannot however, keep on criticizing moral standards without breeding an atmosphere of vulgar morality. In the May 18th issue of "The Worker," the organ of the Communist Party of Canada, the leading editorial shows quite clearly that once people begin to lose respect for morality, their thought processes and speech takes on the garb of filthy "Billingsgate." Here are samples: "May Day has come and gone and the intellectual whores who write the news and editorials of the capitalist bosses, reported that everything went off quietly—the ideals of capitalist democracy are the ideals of a whore with rouged lips and a rotting body—perfumed to cover up the stench—Hypocrisy wallows in its incestuous bed—a United Front of exploiters and their political and spiritual pimps make mockery." These and many others form the

choice tid-bits served up as mental pabulum to the readers of the Communist press in Canada. This proves the eternal truth that men who allow their minds to get into a grooved process of thinking along certain lines inevitably become through their public statements, reflections of these processes. In other words, minds that are decent and clean and keep their eyes fixed on worthy ideals, by so doing give service to the world at large and minds who travel in the opposite direction give expression to thoughts such as enunciated in the "Worker," obscene, nasty and scurrilous, degrading to the personality of man and lowering the mental ideals of their leaders. These are the men who intend to make a new Heaven and Earth. To express it in French "it is to laugh" for if they got their opportunity from what we see of their mental processes now, any new Earth that they would make would be on a par with the animal world and a very beastly one.

New York Labor Plan to Build Own Homes

MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT—HALF OF BLOCK'S AREA TO BE DEVOTED TO GARDENS

New York.—Labor has decided to finance and build its own homes. In a co-operative movement, financed with labor's own money, the Needle Workers' Union and affiliated organizations announce the launching of their first building project, housing 170 families in garden apartments, and occupying an entire city block between Mott and Sheridan avenues, East One Hundred and Fifty Eight and One Hundred and Fifty-Ninth streets, Borough of the Bronx. Andrew J. Thomas is the architect. In this 21,000,000 project nearly half the area of the block will be given over to gardens.

Composing the Needle Workers' Union are the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, International Fur Workers' Union, United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers' Union, and the Pocketbook and Leather Goods Workers' Union. A committee composed of representatives of each union is in charge of construction. The membership of the Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is approximately 40,000, and the membership of the other three organizations represents approximately 60,000 more, making a total of 100,000.

The Labor Home Building Corporation, recently organized, is charged with the construction work and financing of this undertaking, and others to follow. A subsidiary corporation has also been formed, known as the Union Workers' Co-operative Building Association, Inc., to own and manage the building. Its stockholders will be composed exclusively of tenant workers. A waiting list is already forming for these 170 homes.

The buildings will occupy 54 per cent of the land area. It will be broken up attractively by large forecourts, which will be planted with lawns and shrubs, and have flagstone walks. A garden will open two big courts, forming a cross-vista of green planting of 156 feet. The 170 apartments will consist of three, four, five and six rooms, the majority being five rooms, ranging from 200 to 210 square feet. Each apartment will have all modern conveniences, including tile bathroom and well-equipped kitchen.

A new feature in the plan is the community portion, located on the first floor of the group, containing an assembly room, and having kitchen facilities for entertainment, as well as a gymnasium.

Compensation for Month of April

The Workmen's Compensation Board awarded during the month of April \$481,442.21 in benefits, \$402,464.05 of this being for compensation and \$78,978.16 for medical aid. The accidents reported during the month numbered 4,242, of which 28 were fatal, as compared with 4,517 during March, of which 15 were fatal.

Building Outlook Is Brighter

Value of Contemplated Canadian Construction Increases \$90,000,000

In their monthly report on building conditions throughout Canada during April, the MacLean Building Reports, Limited, say, "The volume of contemplated work reported since the first of the year is so far ahead of that for the same period last year, the outlook is distinctly promising. The increase is just over ninety millions of dollars.

The large increase in the contemplated industrial total is accounted for principally by the activity in the pulp and paper industry in Quebec Province.

In Ontario the increase in residential work to date is more than \$1,500,000, while Western provinces have started work, topping the four months' period of last year by nearly \$2,000,000.

For the month of April the total of construction awards in the whole of Canada was \$24,846,990, as compared with \$13,392,900 in March.

The total value of contemplation work in the first four months was \$224,065,100 as compared with \$131,189,100 in the same period of 1924.

FARMERS RETURN TO ONTARIO AND SEEK NEW LAND IN NORTH

SETTLERS START FOR CLAY BELT FROM WESTERN CANADA AND U. S.—BRISK DEMAND IN NORTH FOR SUMMER RESORT PROPERTIES

Colonization authorities at Queen's Park are showing some elation this spring over the fact that former Ontarians from the older settled districts, who in years past have migrated to the Western provinces and also Minnesota and the Dakotas, are now returning in numbers to take homesteads in New Ontario.

"Western Canada, with its one-type farm, is suitable for these Ontarians," said S. Draper of the Lands and Forests, Lands Sales Branch, "and although the soil is much the same in Minnesota and the Dakotas as here, conditions there are so unfavorable that hundreds of ex-Canadians are coming back. All of them write to us for information, and some of their letters are pathetic. They have to go through the same routine to get land in New Ontario as newcomers from Europe."

These "prodigals" are welcomed in the newly opened settlement areas in the north, however, and it is largely for their benefit that the colonization branch has obtained power under regulations to make grants of \$500 before patents are secured for homestead lands, to aid in clearing, etc., and, after the patents are secured and the necessary homestead work done, loans from the Department of Agriculture up to \$2,500 may be secured for further development, the purchase of stock, etc.

Coming From Quebec Mr. Draper also pointed out that these advantages apply to settlers from Quebec, hundreds of families having come over to this province this spring, taking up land in the Cochrane district. In many cases they purchase from friends, relatives and compatriots, land which has already been taken and is partly cleared. In Quebec Province they get \$1 per acre for clearing new

land, up to five acres per year, so that a settler may earn \$40 from the Government, merely by getting his land ready for cultivation, which he has to do in any case. In Ontario there is no such premium for settlers, but other advantages provided continue to draw settlers from the lower province. Localizing Summer Homes Mr. Draper is also authority for the statement that an unusual number of inquiries are being made by citizens of the United States for summer resort sites in New Ontario. Such applications are increasing each year. In Quebec, he pointed out, the Government will sell only two acres to each person for summer resort purposes for a minimum consideration of \$15. In Ontario temporary residents may purchase up to five acres at a minimum rate of \$10 per acre on the mainland and \$20 on islands. As a consequence of this and the greater accessibility of Ontario summer holiday resorts, Americans are coming in greater numbers to Ontario than to Quebec, says Mr. Draper.

Labor Union Membership, 1924

Annual Report Shows 5,025 Local Branches in Dominion

The 14th annual report on labor organization in Canada, for the year 1924, issued by the department of labor, shows a decline in membership from 23,092 in 1923, to 20,643 in 1924, and also yearly decline since 1917, when the membership was 278,947.

The 2,429 local branch unions of all classes in the dominion are divided by provinces as follows: Ontario, 1,067; Quebec, 423; British Columbia, 236; Alberta, 217; Saskatchewan, 164; Manitoba, 133; Nova Scotia, 126; New Brunswick, 106; Prince Edward Island, 11. Of the eighteen non-international organizations four reported having made disbursements during 1924 for benefit purposes, the total expended being \$32,027, a decrease of \$9,208 as compared with 1923. Of the 89 international organizations operating in Canada, 50 made payments for one or more benefits, the combined disbursements amounting to \$20,200,244, a sum \$3,876,577 less than that spent in the previous year.

Besides the expenditures of the central organizations a statement is also published in the report showing the amounts disbursed in benefits by local branch unions in Canada to their own members. These payments, which totaled \$358,902, were \$25,693 in excess of those for 1923.

Are Anxious to Locate

Company Would Enlarge Plant to Include Canning Factory

Brampton, Ont.—The J. W. Windsor Co. Ltd. of Montreal, which has in contemplation the reconstruction of the Lindner's Limited Company, and the injection of capital into the business for the purpose of enlarging the old business to include a canning factory, write the Town Council, that they are willing to pay the cost of submitting to the ratepayers, a proposition for ten years' tax exemption and state that they are willing to disburse the amount of the outstanding bond, \$2,460, at an early date, if the ratepayers favor their locating in Brampton under the terms suggested. W. J. Beatty expressed himself in favor of allowing the firm to locate, and at the end of the year, when they show the ratepayers just what kind of business they intend to conduct, asking for a remission of taxes. He believes that a substantial majority would favor such treatment, if the company proved sincere in carrying out its promises.

CANADA AND BRITAIN

EMIGRATION AS A REMEDY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT IN BRITAIN

By A. MacIntosh, Author of "Woodworking Tools and Machinery," "Woodworking Machinery and Horsepower" (Staff Correspondent in Great Britain)

I was very much interested in the articles written on the above by your correspondent, Jas. T. Gunn. It naturally surprised me that Canada as a country and Toronto as a city, are so far ahead of Scotland and England in commercial enterprise facilities in transit, etc. The vital and important comparative advantages which Canada may possess are probably concentrated in its rich and fertile soil, and the vast area which the cities of Canada cover compared with the towns and cities of Britain. It must be considered and observed that Quebec, Montreal and Toronto are comparatively less populated cities besides Glasgow, Liverpool, and many other towns in Britain. Probably Glasgow contains a population of 24,000 inhabitants to the square mile whereas Toronto and other Canadian cities has but 10,000 persons to the square mile. I am confident that the tramway system of Glasgow could be improved and Mr. Gunn is quite justified when he alludes and objects to the protracted and frequent stoppages as well as the slow "velocity" of Glasgow cars. However, any city which is so densely congested and overcrowded as Glasgow to secure free and unobstructed transit for vehicular traffic is impossible especially at rectangular crossings. Canadian cities in their transport illumination and heating requirements have the further advantage compared with Glasgow inasmuch that all their electric current is generated by "white coal," whereas black coal is the exclusive factor, almost for the generation of current in Britain. It is most regrettable from a commercial point of view as well as from the domestic aspect of the case that the latter country particularly Scotland, as so long been negligent in harnessing the resources of power at her disposal in the shape of "white coal" for trade development, social comforts and the reduction in the cost of current. However, commercial and other circles will be pleased to realize that a scheme of much importance and magnitude for the generation of electric current from water power in Scotland has begun. It is one of the most expensive undertakings ever attempted in the country. The predicted ultimate cost of this scheme is \$5,000,000, or within the region of \$25,000,000. This immense enterprise will assuredly be a boom in many ways. I cannot understand how there exists such a contrast in the price of current in Canada compared with Britain. Of course, if the difference was only some 100 per cent in favor of Canada one could realize the cause, but when the difference amounts to 600 or 700 per cent it seems amazing. Notwithstanding that the generation of current is by water power. About from electricity and reviewing the engineering world exclusively in this connection, one may put the situation in this way, viz.—That the most economical motive power has been indisputably discovered seems to be a problem which interests and puzzles engineering experts of all civilized nations. Steam, oil and gas seem to be rivals in this realm. However, in my opinion though electrical propulsion cannot be applied to all forms of machinery and means of transit, it could be successfully used in a hundred and one more ways than it is at present. At all events in Scotland, however, the question arises in this connection, viz.—If electricity was utilized to its full possible extent in Britain for heating, illumination and power purposes, would such not become detrimental to several other industries? There are hundreds of thousands employed in the coal mines in this country and though the conditions under which the British miner labor as regards remuneration and steady employment is by no means so satisfactory as the present moment as obtained in past years. I dread that the full development and application of electricity

to the essential requirements of civilized life would seriously reduce the already meagre wages of the miners and throw tens of thousands more on the unemployment list. Yet it is possible and perhaps probable that the increased extensive utilization and application of electric current would absorb much of the labor available caused by the consequent slackness in the coal mines. Another important question is namely:—Is emigration a remedy for unemployment in Britain? It is a most regrettable fact that this country contains more unemployed in ratio to its population than any other nation in the world. The figures have been in the vicinity of 14,000,000 for the last three or four years. It seems that though all the best skilled of political and social circles are continually concentrated in endeavoring to discover a solution to this problem, all schemes and efforts are futile. In my estimation the most advantageous and successful remedy for unemployment in Britain is emigration to that vast and fertile Dominion of ours—Canada.

Mr. Gunn says in one of his striking articles, that a great deal of appreciation is being felt in labor circles in Great Britain as to the ability of Canada to absorb immigrants into the industrial and national life of the Dominion. I consider that there should be no apprehension on this point, considering the boundless agricultural resources of Canada that great country could absorb all the unemployed in Great Britain in one year, provided, of course, that each immigrant was willing to "tend the flocks and till the soil." I have read a very satisfactory report of Canada's trade in my paper this evening. This runs as follows:—"The value of Canada's trade for the fiscal year ending March 31st was £273,000,000 or some \$1,000,000,000, giving a favorable balance of exports over imports of \$45,000,000 compared with \$30,000,000 a year ago." I consider that these returns indicate and affirm Canada to be in a most favorable and fortunate position inasmuch that the volume of her trade and the amount by which her exports exceeds her imports testifies to her industrial energy and activity coupled with intellectual grit and enterprise.

Praise for Leader of Labor Forces

Barbers' Chief Says Federation President is Capable Man

Since his accession to the office of President of the American Federation of Labor, William Green has done a great deal to bring the warring factions of the international trade union movement together, according to James C. Shannessy, President of the Journey-men Barbers' Union of America.

"Mr. Green is a young man who understands the psychology of the labor movement. He is on the move all the time, and will go anywhere to advance the cause of trade unionism along safe and constructive lines. Within the next few years Mr. Green will elevate the labor movement of this continent. His policies will bring about an understanding between employers and employes, lacking at the present time," concluded Mr. Shannessy.

Paper Mill for Manitoba

But Companies Want Equal Stumpage Basis With Ontario

Ottawa, Ont.—Representatives of the Spanish River Pulp Company announced that in conjunction with J. D. McArthur, of Winnipeg, they are prepared to erect a two hundred ton pulp and paper mill in Manitoba. Negotiations for the requisite areas are now in progress with the interior department here. They state, however, that in place of the \$2.50 bonus which McArthur agreed to pay they are willing to pay a price equal to the stumpage cost of competing mills in Ontario.

Labor Unions Progress in Japan

The Japanese government had been opposed to the labor union movement, confining it with radical socialism, but as Japan was becoming more and more industrial, the government was taking a new attitude towards it. There was a Russian party and an English party. The bolshevik section was quite vigorous, but small, and the English section was growing in strength.

In Japan the Christian movement is much wider spread and deeper rooted than its numbers represent. The government has a social service organization, and they are studying social conditions. The basic industries, like raw silk, depend on female labor. In Japan children of eight years old work in factories, putting matches in boxes, not onerous work perhaps, but the hours, 12, 14 and 16 a day, terrible, but they didn't force children to work so long. They have a new factory act which reduces hours to 12.

Conditions in the factories depend largely on female labor. They come in from the country, persons being sent out to engage them, and from investigations made 200,000 girls come in for factory work, and 50,000 never go back to the country. The fathers are paid so much for their daughters for two or three years' work. Tuberculosis conditions are terrible, and are spreading from four different centres.

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The Made-in-Canada idea is good for everybody; it is a stimulant for Canadian raw materials, Canadian labor and Canadian capital. All sections of the Canadian working world reap the benefit: It keeps all the workers busy in the various manufacturing industries; the earnings of the industrial workers buy the produce of the workers on the land. It is good for all classes. It banishes or greatly reduces the unemployment problem.

Insist on Made-in-Canada products and you will bar out the competing wares of cheap, sweated, slavish labor of Europe and Asia. Low wages make low ideals. Union labor has been for years and is battling for high ideals. High ideals come only where the workers are paid and treated in a highly civilized manner.

For high ideals—for general Made-in-Canada prosperity—Don't forget to say that all may hear: "Made-in-Canada goods for me every time!"