

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 1919

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A NEW POLITICAL FORCE.

The Civilian, the organ of the civil service of Canada, in its June issue has an article entitled Party Government vs. the New Era. The new era is to be brought about by the election to parliament of men or women representing the salaried people who compose perhaps 90 per cent or 95 per cent of Canadian citizens who are at present without any representation whatever in the House of Commons and who certainly have none in the senate; and it also involves the formation of a government of these representatives of labor.

The writer tells of the labor government of Queensland, Australia, reviews its record in reducing prices to the consumer and improving social conditions, and calls for organization of all wage-earners and their education and instruction on all issues at stake. He contends that with fifty to one hundred men in parliament pledged to represent the workers the new era would be introduced. It will thus be seen that the civil service, as represented by this publication, is eager to make common cause with labor organizations in getting political action. All readers will be interested in the following extract from the Civilian article:

"The salaried folk have not been neglectful of the problems which hedge them round about. For years they have been organizing, reading, studying and speculating. The one-sidedness of our political and economic system is becoming well understood. The ease with which the profiteer obtains favors and the difficulty with which the poor get justice are becoming more and more apparent. The mental, moral and physical inefficiency of the profiteer class through over-indulgence has been observed; the degeneracy and loss of efficiency of quite a proportion of the people through under-nutrition and general poverty-stricken conditions has attracted universal attention. The natural result of a knowledge of these conditions has led to sturdy protests in the way of strikes. But strikes will never settle permanently the fortunes of Canadian life, manners and morals. There is a fundamental, basic, paramount panacea for national ills in a country which enjoys a form of representative government. This panacea far transcends in its capacity for good all other efforts or propaganda that may heretofore have been attempted, and it has never been attempted in this country. This panacea is based upon co-ordinated political action on the part of all wage-earners in order to obtain representation, on as large a scale as possible, in the House of Commons. There is not now nor has there ever been a single representative of salary earners in parliament. With from twenty to fifty representatives of labor in the House of Commons there would be no need of strikes in the industrial field; the striking would be done in parliament—the fountain head of all authority in Canada—and in the foregoing lines a method has been suggested by means of which this great object may be attained."

CONCERNING STRIKES.

The Montreal Herald notes the fact that the real leaders of the strike in Winnipeg were British-born, and that of the Toronto strike committee of fifteen eight were British-born. A Toronto journalist is credited with the statement that if any labor trouble of a serious character is traced back far enough the traces will find at its source an Englishman. This generalization may not be warranted; but, as the Montreal Herald observes of Winnipeg, "to argue that the well-organized labor unions of one of the most progressive cities of the Dominion were led and controlled by some hairy Bolsheviks is to insult every labor unionist in Canada."

It does not follow, however, that because an agitator is British born his activities are not to be observed and if necessary curbed. To quote once more from the Montreal paper: "It has been publicly declared more than once that Great Britain is a field ripe for Bolshevik operations and it is a significant fact that the present visit to America of J. H. Thomas, M. P., an aggressive member of the labor group in Great Britain, was to organize an international strike movement that would tie up the transportation of two continents, according to the published statement of one of his colleagues in New York. In Canada there is no field for Bolsheviks or Reds. We must be on guard against the propaganda, which is quite active, but that does not mean that in a kind of panic we should ascribe every strike in the Dominion to aliens and Bolsheviks."

What we must do is not merely to discover who the fomenters of strikes are, but what are the industrial conditions where strikes occur. The best way to defeat agitation is to render it unnecessary. At the same time, we can all echo the remark of the New York Times:

"We have no room here for foreign plotters against our institutions and our form of government. Let them all go."

AN INTOLERABLE CONDITION.

The following editorial from the Toronto Globe will be heartily endorsed by every person in St. John who is familiar with social conditions in this city and province:

"A feeble-minded boy at the Victoria Industrial School, Minico, persuaded two other inmates to run away with him and join him in robbing a house. With a stolen rifle he shot one of his pursuers, a valued official of the school. The incident calls attention to the danger arising from the lack of adequate provision in Ontario for the mentally defective. Feeble-minded boys are sent to reformatories, against the judgment and desire of the officials, to mingle with normal boys, upon whom they invariably exercise an evil influence. There is no way of preventing this contamination if the government insists on herding the two classes in one institution. The defectives should be segregated, preferably in the country, where they can be usefully employed, away from the lure of the cities. Feeble-minded girls and women, who are a prolific source of immorality and of the spread of certain destructive diseases, should be similarly treated. The official inquiry which is now being held into the problem of feeble-mindedness may result in some recommendations for the isolation and proper training of these unfortunate of both sexes. The present state of things, despite all that devoted social workers have done, is intolerable."

By the use of some exceptionally stupid and malicious falsehoods, the Standard today in a column and a half editorial, tries to make Premier Foster responsible for the split in the Liberal party. What the Standard wants is a return of its group of festive guffers to power in Fredericton and to that end it never loses an opportunity to misrepresent Premier Foster. A careful reading of the Standard's own news columns shows clearly enough that Premier Foster is not responsible for any differences in the Liberal party at the present time.

Hon. Robert Rogers serves notice on Sir Robert Borden that there will be no unionist party that is not plain Tory. The St. John Standard might forget Premier Foster for a day and say a word about Mr. Rogers.

If the government at Ottawa fails to provide legislation to prevent such profiteering as has of late been revealed it will fall utterly in its duty to the people.

Today is fixed for the signing of the peace treaty. It will be an ever memorable day in world history.

British labor condemns conscription, but without conscription the war would still be in progress.

Hon. Mr. Reid says the maritime provinces will not be forced to submit to unjust railway rates.

Yesterday's rain was of immense benefit to New Brunswick crops.

COAL SITUATION

Consumers Company Official Writes of Matter of Rebecca McDonald Cargo

St. John, N. B., 27th June, 1919.

To The Editor of The Times—

Sir—As regards the article in today's issue of your paper, Page 1, entitled "A Phase of the Coal Situation,"

You can only be referring to the coal brought here as ballast by the schooner Rebecca McDonald and now being discharged and delivered to the consumer just as it comes from the vessel.

If I get the sense of the article there are four points made therein, none of which, if true, would reflect very much credit on local coal merchants.

a. Insinuated combine among dealers.
b. This particular coal is a bargain.
c. It is a dollar less than dealers ask.
d. Coal is easy to obtain in New York.

In the name of the Consumers Coal Co., Ltd., I feel I must, in fairness to ourselves and the good will of this concern, ask for space fully to contradict each and every one of these points.

a. I hold no brief for other coal merchants, but the Consumers Coal Co. have no agreement with any other dealers and will not agree with any one as to the price they do or will charge for coal.

b. It takes a combination of "quality" and "price" to make a bargain. This coal is being delivered today to consumers direct from the vessel's hold in its "raw" state, slack and all, just as it comes from the vessel. To take the slack out of this coal would cost about \$1 a ton (at least 85c. to pile and hold on wharf until it could be passed over a wire screen, at least 20c. for labor and a loss of about 8 per cent of the cargo in the resulting slack, or say 40c. a ton (3 per cent of \$14.50). While the seller can save about \$1 a ton by delivering coal in this condition, the consumer must get considerably more than a dollar off the market price of well screened coal if he is to enjoy a so-called bargain. Any one who knows coal will tell you that hard coal slack is of no value as a household fuel. It is a liability rather than an asset.

c. I was quoted today on chestnut coal from the cargo referred to \$14.50 a ton cash, delivered dumped. There is an

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"ad" in your paper tonight offering chestnut coal "second grade" at \$10 a ton. Our price, while up with the highest is only 50c. above the price I am quoted on the Rebecca McDonald coal and our price would be for the very highest grade coal and all re-screened before delivery. How then can it be truthfully stated that the coal in question is being sold at a dollar less than other dealers are selling?

d. It is our experience and the experience of others with whom we have talked, that coal, good coal, is not easy to obtain in New York. Such coal as is re-screened would buy for ballast might be, but really good coal we find very hard to obtain. Prices are high and our advice is that prices are liable to go higher and coal get harder to obtain as the season advances. The attached reproductions of articles clipped from different trade journals and newspapers go to show what those in touch with events think of the coal situation.

Yours very truly,
CONSUMERS COAL CO., LIMITED.
Geo. McLeod, Vice-President.

LIGHTER VEIN

The sensible was talking about the Bolsheviks. "They don't have it all their own way, though," he said, and described what happened to an ornate spearing in a Washington park. "Progress," he yelled, "progress and Bolshevikism. We are wiser than our fathers were and our fathers were wiser than their fathers." "Gee, mister," cried a heckler, "what a fool your grandfather must have been."

"Fred, do you remember where you were in 1910?" asked the bride of a few months. "No, dear, I don't remember exactly," replied the young husband. "Why do you ask?"

"Why, I was reading today in the paper that it said that in 1910 one person in every 800 in the country was in prison."

He was dreadfully persistent. He simply would not take "for" for an answer. At last she was thoroughly exasperated.

"No," she snapped. "I wouldn't marry you if you was the last man on earth! I don't want nothin' to do with you. Is that plain English?"

"It's plain enough," said the author, very cheerfully, "but it isn't English, you know."

A bricklayer was laying bricks on the third story of an unfinished house and was so unfortunate as to drop one on the head of the colored man who was mixing mortar on the ground three floors below.

The bricklayer, with his heart in his mouth, looked down from the top of the wall, certain he had killed the poor fellow, but imagine his surprise when the negro looked up with a grin and cried: "Be careful what you-all's adoin' white man. You done made me bite mah tongue."

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IS CHOSEN RECTOR OF BRIDGEWATER CHURCH
Sydney, N. S., June 28—Rev. H. Watson, rector of St. George's Anglican church, this city, has been elected rector of Holy Trinity church, Bridgewater. He will announce on Sunday whether or not he will accept.

Y. W. C. A. Incorporated.
Ottawa, June 28—Incorporation has been granted at Ottawa to the Dominion Council of Young Women's Christian Association of Canada, with head office in Toronto.

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Why You Are Paying War-Prices in Peace Times

The serious concern about the mounting costs of necessities was shown not long ago when twenty-six Democratic members of the Massachusetts legislature cabled to President Wilson that "The citizens of the United States want you hometo help reduce the high cost of living which we consider far more important than the League of Nations."

A man's suit of clothes that cost \$15.00 in 1914 costs \$26.00 today; shoes that were \$9.00 in 1914 cost \$15.50 now; a woman's suit that cost \$15.00 in 1914 is \$24.00 today; every item in both men's and women's wearing apparel has nearly doubled in price, while food, shelter, fuel, heat, and light have soared to equally high levels. This condition prompts the Detroit News to declare that "what the eating, sleeping, and dressing world wants to know is whether the cost of necessities is justified?" The consumer finds it hard to understand, according to the Buffalo Evening News, "why six months after the end of fighting, prices instead of taking a fall, are forever rising."

THE LITERARY DIGEST presents this week in its leading article a comprehensive survey of the elements affecting present living costs; comparative tables showing the difference in prices of many articles in 1914 and today, the opinions of bankers, merchants, and manufacturers as to the future outlook, and the observations of editorial writers throughout the country on the situation. This article should be of practical value to every DIGEST reader.

What the American Soldier Thinks of the French People

This Article Reflects With Illuminating Detail the Opinion of the American Doughboy As Expressed in Talks With Returning Soldiers, in Soldiers' Letters, etc.

Britain's Clean-cut Across-the-Atlantic Victory
Union Labor Lets Down the Bars to the Negro
Neutral Friends of Germany
War-Ravaged Poland Reviving
Is France Ruined in Victory
New Standards for Our Children
New Instruments for Ocean Flight
"Lincoln" Holding the London Theater World
Protestant Efforts at Reconstructing Europe

Personal Glimpses of Men and Events
Our New Attitude Toward Mexico
The Socialists Become Unsociable and Split Their Party
Czecho-Slovak Land for the People
Below Decks on a U-Boat
Taking Medicine by Inhalation
Changing Airplanes in Mid-air
College Men in the War
Finland: Its History, People, and Internal Politics, with Map
News of Finance and Commerce

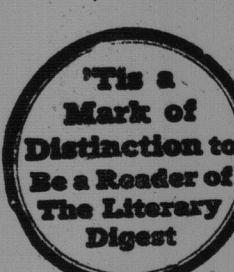
Many Interesting Illustrations, Including Humorous Cartoons

"The Digest" Paves the Way To Prosperity

It goes without saying that you want to succeed in life or, if you are really successful, that you want to make that success greater and more far-reaching. There is no royal road to prosperity, it is reached by all sorts of routes, likely and unlikely, but there is a recipe, which, coupled with plenty of persistent application, is as apt to help you to fortune as anything known to humankind. It may be defined in one word—"education." Now, aside from the col-

lege variety, which few of us have had and the rest are too busy to think of, there remains only that obtained from intimate knowledge of men and events. To such knowledge there is no surer, saner guide than THE LITERARY DIGEST, greatest of news-magazines, the weekly upon which more than a million Americans depend for their information on the live issues of the day. This ever-increasing army represents our best and highest citizenship. Be wise and enlist in it today.

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The Literary Digest

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