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CANADA LIFE BUILDING, TORONTO

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# THE TOLLER

Official Organ of the Toronto District Labor Council. Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working Masses.

TORONTO, APRIL 24, 1903

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## Questions of the Day

AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT  
BY JAMES WILSON

The meeting in this city of the American Federation of Labor Executive at this time is significant of the growth of the international spirit in the labor movement. That this spirit is growing very rapidly only a very few will be willing to deny. The action of the Trades and Labor Congress in shutting out the dual organizations and independent locals, as well as the Knights of Labor, was productive of some adverse criticism at the time, but the wisdom of the action has since been amply justified. The solidarity of labor upon this continent is a necessity if the results are to be accomplished. The concentration of the industries of the country in the hands of a very few individuals is being wrought out from day to day. To meet this state of affairs it will be necessary for labor to see that none of its energies are wasted in internal quarrels. To make this a certainty involves upon the gentleman who is in session here this week.

How is this to be brought about? By a recognition upon our part of the attitude with which the employers sink all matters of opinion when they are fighting our forces. To them the enemy in the person of organized labor is always in view. This weakness must be cured, and the Executive Board of the A. F. of L. must, presently, take the necessary steps. Drastic measures may be a necessity in some instances. A straight course of action should be mapped out, and that course adhered to at all times. Compromises may be all right when dealing with the enemy, but there should be no compromises among ourselves. The difficulties that are to-day bothering the Executive are largely the result of compromises in the past. No petty disputes as to which international union shall control any given number of men or section of a trade should be allowed to retard the progress of the whole movement. The fact that the enemy is forever at our heels should be the incentive that should govern the action of all the internationals. The same course should be followed by the A. F. of L. as representing the movement of the continent of America.

The following sample of how some organization is brushed to their own convenience, has recently, and the ideas contained therein are worthy of perusal by workers.  
Brookville, April 11th, 1903.  
To the Employees of The Canada Carriage Co.:  
Understanding that there is an effort being made to persuade you to join a Labor Organization with the view of eventually forming a Union of all the workers in the factory, we feel it our duty to place before you our views, believing that whatever is to be our interests will be in the interests of our associates, whether the office staff, the travelers, foremen, mechanics or laborers.  
We recognize the right of any man to join the Labor Union and we believe that they may be made helpful and we believe that the wise betterment of the condition of their members. We do not claim the right to do this in any way as to whether the organization with which anyone in our employ may be connected.  
Unfortunately, however, the methods that are being adopted by Labor Unions to divide not only as a means of organizing or organizing such parties as do not feel their interest to join them, have become so manifestly unjust, both to the employers and those outside of the Union, that we cannot look upon the movement that has been started without calling your attention to the action we shall be compelled to take in event of any organization being formed in our factory which would interfere with the company in making its contract directly with individual employees.  
We cannot believe there are any men in our employ who need a guardian or are not competent to make their own contracts; if there are any such they lack that independence and manliness that make them desirable as useful workers. We think it no more than right to notify all parties that under no consideration will we recognize or have any negotiations with any committee from any Labor Union or allow our factory to be run as a Union shop. We shall be happy at any time to meet or confer with individuals or committees representing any department of our works, providing such committee represents all the workers in the department without regard to whether they belong to any organization or not. We prefer to deal with individuals, and our motto is, "Every Man on his Own Bottom." Surely every man should be competent to make his own affairs.  
We make this early announcement so that no employee may feel it to his interest to join the Union. It is important we should know promptly and to expect that the coming season will soon be over, and whether we build sleighs or not depends entirely upon your action.  
Hereafter the sleigh business has been conducted largely in the interests of the workers, to give them employment

LABOR WORLD  
News and Views of the Ever Advancing Army of Workers  
BY UNIONIST

The International Association of Machinists will open their biennial convention in Milwaukee, May 11th. Their last convention was held in Toronto two years ago.  
Last year the Pennsylvania Railway Co. paid out \$328,463 in pensions to its retired employees. During the past three years 1851 employees have been retired and pensioned.  
Beginning May 1, busby barbers will receive \$30 per week, except Saturdays and nights before holidays, when they will close at 11 o'clock. For breach of the agreement a minimum penalty of \$2 will be imposed.  
John Slocum, president of the International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths, was tendered a reception by the local union last evening in chapter-room, Occident Hall. The union invited all members of the trade in the city to attend, and several local labor men were also on hand. The object of Mr. Slocum's visit here is to sit on the A. F. of L. Executive and have the jurisdiction of his organization and that of the Carriage and Wagon Workers' Union defined. Both bodies claim the carriage blacksmiths and helpers as subject to their international.

Palmerston is about buying the electric light works from the Bank of Hamilton for \$2,500.

Montreal plasterers will now work nine hours instead of ten, and receive 22 1/2 cents per hour instead of 28.

Glasgow papers say that the Fairfield Shipbuilding Co., the largest on the Clyde, has decided to build a plant on Sydney, N.S. harbor.

Many of the things now declared "unconstitutional" could soon be made constitutional, if the workers sent their own representatives to make the constitutions.

The Sarnia Salt Works has been closed and the men laid off indefinitely. The management alleges that there is no money in operating the plant, which is a serious one, under present conditions.

The teamsters employed by the Woodstock Town Council have declared their intention of striking for \$3.50 a day. They have been offered \$3.25.

The International Harvester Co. has awarded the contract for erecting its new buildings in Hamilton to Mr. A. Figgott, of that city, the price being about \$250,000.

The Berlin Board of Works have a graded scale of wages for corporation laborers this year. First-class men are to receive \$1.65, second-class men \$1.50, and third-class men \$1.25.

Montreal master builders have notified the union carpenters that if they do not sign an agreement not to molest individual contractors they will declare a general lockout. This would directly affect 5,000 men.

If you want union label men or boys' furnishings—anything from top to toe—read Gough Bros' announcement of special bargains for Saturday, appearing on Page 3 of this issue. It will please you.

The Toller is the only paper advertised in by Gough Bros. Union label men and boys' furnishings from top to toe. They have union-made goods for union men, and offer special inducements for Saturday in their advertisement on Page 3. Read it.

The Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron Co. forced a lockout at every one of its collieries in Shenandoah district Monday. The men were notified Saturday that if they did not work the full nine-hour day they could consider themselves discharged. When they reported for work they were told there was no work for them.

Montreal Teamsters' Union held a meeting on Saturday night, when it was decided by the men employed by the Grand Trunk, C. P. R. and other drayage companies that they would not hand freight loaded or unloaded at the wharf by non-union men. When the first steamer arrives a strike involving 2,000 men will likely be declared.

The Provincial Workmen's Association of Nova Scotia, the largest labor organization of Eastern Canada, are moving to organize a public reception for Mr. Thomas Shields, the general manager of the Dominion Coal Co., and now general manager of the Clergue Companies, on his return to Cape Breton. The demonstration will probably be held at Glace Bay, and all the miners in Cape Breton will attend to show their respect for Mr. Shields, who was exceedingly popular with all classes.

Of the Montreal Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners last Friday 1,405 voted against accepting 20 cents per hour, 405 did not vote, and 30 voted to accept. The vote means a strike, and the matter will have to be first referred to the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. The decision will affect about 2,000 men. The carpenters demand 22 1/2 cents an hour. It means a tie-up of many important business blocks in course of erection, such as the new Board of Trade building.

In 1886 there were 125,185 miles of railway in the United States, and in 1902 there were 197,337, the employes being 700,000 and over 1,000,000 respectively. In 1886 the railway employes who met death while coupling or uncoupling cars constituted 13.1 per cent of the whole number killed, while those injured while engaged in that work constituted 46.8 per cent of the whole number of injured. In 1902, with the automatic coupler in operation, those killed in coupling operations constituted 5.6 per cent of the whole number of deaths, and the injured was 6.3 per cent of the total number of casualties. What a saving of human life and suffering, and yet the railway corporations for years spent untold money in bribing Congress to prevent that body from passing the law making the use of automatic couplers compulsory. Does their action in the past not strongly resemble deliberate and certain wholesale murder?

Secretary Frank Morrison, of the A. F. of L., recently said: "The American Federation of Labor, taking into consideration its affiliated bodies, has increased fully 250,000 over the average membership paid upon during the eleven months ending Sept. 30, 1902. The average membership on that date was one million twenty-five thousand. We have thirty-six paid organizers in the field—a greater number than ever before in the history of the A. F. of L. We have over one thousand district organizers, and we are receiving 100 per cent more applications this year than during the same months last year. We have now 105 international organizations, 25 State bodies, 500 central bodies, and nearly 1,700 local unions. Five additional international organizations will probably be chartered at an early date. President Gompers has called conventions to form international organizations of the following trades: Railway clerks, railway expressmen and mail-order carriers. The officers and hospital attendants have made application for international charters. The bricklayers and soft stone cutters' international organizations are now voting on the proposition to affiliate with the American Federation of Labor."

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New Home-made Marmalade, worth 10c for	8c
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Pure Maple Sugar, new, per lb.	10c
Very best Jam, 5-lb. pails, only	29c
Pure Clover Honey, 5-lb. pails only	45c
Red Cross Mince-meat, in tins, reg. 15c, for	6c
Vim, Life Chips, Quaker Oats or Tillson's Oats	9c
10 Bars Best Laundry Soap for	25c
3 large Bars Soap, extra quality	25c
4 squares Blue, regular 2c square for	3c
Dome Lead, 3 domes in box, for	4c
Large can Pork and Beans, regular 10c, for	7c
Tapioca, very best, 5 lbs. for	15c
Evaporated Peaches, worth 10c lb. for	7c
Vinegar, the best made, white wine or cider, per gal.	25c

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