



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

LABOR PROFITEERING

The word "profiteering" has been applied and associated with almost every trade channel of industry since the beginning of the world war, both in Europe and America. That there has been justification for a considerable amount of criticism along this line there can be no doubt. However, there are many who have been wrongfully accused, simply because they were leaders of some industry or men of large financial interests nevertheless there has been profiteering of the most vicious type carried on by some of our manufacturing industries and commodity kings as well as the small merchant and certain elements of the laboring class.

We hear on almost every hand criticism of the profiteer and many solutions have been offered for the elimination of this vicious practice without any real or apparent result.

The writer will not endeavour to enter into details or the various phases and elements of every species of profiteering, but will briefly apply the text to that of the laborer and employer.

There are thousands of laboring men, both skilled and unskilled, who are profiteering off their fellow workmen and likewise aiding profiteering of their employers.

The laboring man is the one individual who suffers most from this nefarious practice, and, as a rule, he is the one who shouts the loudest in vehement terms against this practice, yet at the same time he does not seem to comprehend that he is a party to, and lending assistance to such practice. The writer is of the opinion that the most vicious profiteer is he who receives wages paid him by his employer for what he (the employer) deems or thinks him entitled to for the services rendered. This reference, of course, precludes any thought that such a workman belongs to a legitimate labor organization, for if such were the case the workman would undoubtedly have a say as to what his labor was worth to the employer through collective bargaining and contractual relations with the organization of which he is a member. There is no denying the statement that there are many employers who refuse to deal with or recognize or employ union workmen giving many and varied reasons, but the gist of such arguments can all be traced to a pecuniary motive. The employer who will refuse to recognize or employ a workman because he is a member of a labor union does so with but one purpose in view—that of profiteering off his employees, for he does not pay his workmen wages that his competitor does who employs union labor, but is compelled to pay them almost as much because of the standard set by organized labor. Such methods are practiced for no other purpose than profiteering off labor unions. Likewise the workmen who are employed by such employer and accepts his dictated wage is as guilty of profiteering as his employer—if anything, he is more vicious for permitting such to exist.

Such employers are the worst enemies of the laboring man, and will shout and preach against labor unions and appeal to your individual freedom of action, merit basis, constitutional rights, free speech, etc., etc., and will picture a labor union as an undesirable institution; that it harbors contempt for every righteous or progressive element of advancement; that it fosters and breeds trouble makers, anarchists, etc.; in fact, he does not know nor can he be convinced but that a labor union and its members are anything but a dangerous institution born in sin, nurtured in elements of ruin and destruction of character and industry. Such an autocratic employer will deny you the privilege of associating with a labor union, and at the same time be an "ace" in an organization of his branch of business, the aim of which is purely and solely pecuniary.

It does not take a Solomon, a mathematician nor a veiled prophet to diagnose such motives, and it is surprising how many good honorable and skilled mechanics there are who submit to the will of such autocratic employers whose sole purpose is to profiteer on labor performed by them.

Now, Mr. unorganized laboring man, how long will it take you to analyze conditions about you? Surely you are competent to perform the duties exacted of you or you certainly would not be receiving the stipend from your employer. Nine cases out of ten your employer has no other interest in you or your future welfare than the labor you perform. In the name of common sense and reason and for the betterment of yourself and the industry you represent associate yourself with a labor union of your respective vocation and raise your standard of living through negotiations with your employer. It cannot be done individually, it takes collective bargaining to attain justice to all concerned. Your employer will think the more of you and will appreciate your services the greater.

Every day you put it off you are the loser, and besides, you are impeding the progress of your calling and aiding your employer in profiteering off yourself and your organized fellow workmen. Law is the science of reason and reason is just common sense, so why procrastinate—better yourself by affiliating with your trade union.

SHOULD BE ASSETS IN FIVE YEARS

Sir W. MacKenzie Says Possibilities of C. N. R. Should Help Country Soon

"In the Canadian National System Canada has one of her biggest potential assets," says Sir William MacKenzie, "their possibilities are immense."

"Can Sir Henry Thornton make them pay?" was asked.

"I could turn them into an asset within five years. Thornton can make them pay if he is a dictator, and I think he is," smiled the man who built so much of the system.

"What the National System needs is a dictator," emphasized Sir William, "a man who will go ahead and do things, irrespective of politics. He has been given a free hand, and he must see that he insists on retaining it."

The Montreal Star today says: Reports current in railway circles here today, and for which confirmation is lacking, insist that either S. J. Hungerford or C. A. Hayes will join the staff of the Canadian Pacific Railway at an early date.

Since the resignation of D. B. Hannay as president of the Canadian National Railways, Mr. Hungerford has been vice-president and general manager of the system. He was formerly operating vice-president. Mr. Hayes is vice-president in charge of traffic.

In some quarters the rumor of changes was accompanied by the suggestion that this would be the first of a series of transfers by which high officials of the Government system would be taken over by the Canadian Pacific. At C.P.R. headquarters here there is emphatic denial given the suggestion that a plan is afoot to undermine the National lines through the taking over of important executives. It is suggested that a natural interchange of employees is quite inescapable, but that any plan of undermining is pure fiction.

U. S. A. SENATE NOT RECIPROCAL

No reciprocity treaty with Canada is likely to be brought about, according to Senator McCumber, chairman of the Senate finance committee. He points out that the tariff act makes no provision for reciprocity and that a special treaty would be needed. He doubts whether this could be arranged or ratified by the Senate. Senator McCumber does not believe that the tariff law will seriously cut down importations and predicts it will not eventually divert Canadian trade from the United States.

WOMAN'S BODY DISCOVERED IN SALVAGED VINDICTIVE

What greeted the sight of the salvagers of H.M.S. Vindictive, when the great blockship was raised at Zeebrugge is revealed by Lieut-General Sir Edward Bethune. Sir Edward, who is approaching three score years and ten, signed on as a cook, or cabin boy, on the ss. Gundreda, one of the most up-to-date salvage steamers. He was present when Capt. Fryatt's ship, the Brussels, H.M.S. Iphigenia, H.M.S. Thetis, and Vindictive were brought to the surface. When salvaging the last vessel, relates Sir Edward, the crew of the Gundreda had the feeling that they were in touch with the dead—it was almost as though they were opening up a tomb. When the great ship rose to the surface there were found on board the remains of a woman. No one knows to this day who she was or how she came to be there. The Admiralty were horrified at the breach of discipline but honourably kept the secret. The remains were given the same burial, with full honours, as those who had fallen in the battle, and it was a very sad moment when the poor body was brought ashore. Every man on the Vindictive expedition was a volunteer, and in Sir Edward's opinion the woman may have had someone dear to her on board. Rather than be parted, she secreted herself on board and died with her gun.

LABORER AND CRAFTSMAN IN ANTICIPATION GARMENT STRIKE

Manufacturers in Montreal Take Action for Dominion Organization.

MONTREAL.—Definite steps were taken Wednesday at a general meeting of clothing and garment manufacturers at the Windsor Hotel to launch a Dominion association, to be organized on national lines and to work as a part of the Canadian Manufacturer's Association. There were about sixty representatives of the various firms interested in what are known as the needle trades at the meeting, representing all the leading firms of Montreal and several from Ottawa.

These were all unanimous that the time had come when this industry should form a Dominion association for the furtherance of its special interests, and a resolution to that end was adopted without a dissentient vote.

A committee was also appointed to proceed with as little delay as possible toward the organization of the association, it being stated that with members already secured in Toronto and Ottawa, and fifty members in Montreal to begin with, the association would start out with a membership of over a hundred, representing the leading firms of Canada in the allied lines of business under the "needle classification."

The internal administration of some Trade Unions has perhaps provoked a division of view between, say, the active workman leader and the equally active chief officials. Methods of management can be better adapted to the present-day needs of great organizations. When membership was small and when the unions or the industries were comparatively local, old-fashioned or centralized procedure sufficed for the purpose. As unions have become more national and count their members in hundreds of thousands there has grown up the need for internal modifications and for reform in methods of Trade Union management. This need has not always been recognized, and while membership and other changes have been on the march systems of Trade Union government have stood still. Without asserting a preference for one particular method against another, I am safe in citing the experience of the union with which I am associated. In the higher branches of administration and executive management men from the workshop and officials from the union act together with equal responsibilities on all decisions of importance. They vary very much in their knowledge of questions, and the officials naturally are as a rule the best informed because they are in daily touch with the business of the union and questions affecting the members. All the same, the man from the works can be helpful and impart a "membership view" which is not in the same degree possessed by anyone else.

Associations and joint responsibility on these lines make for a high degree of understanding and unity, and tend to prevent either the suspicion or the jealousy which can arise where management is left solely to officials or is placed solely in the hands of men in the workshop possessed perhaps of everything except the greater experience and the wider outlook which officials acquire in the course of their service.

TRICK SCAFFOLD SAVED JOHN LEE

Comparison of the double hanging of Benney Swim at Woodstock, N.B., with the famous English case of John Lee, who survived three visits to the gallows, brings from H. W. Karn, of Sydney, C.B., warden in the penitentiary at the time of the Lee hanging, the declaration that a trick scaffold, built by other prisoners in the prison, saved Lee's life.

The Lee executions were the sensation of England a quarter of a century ago. "The Babacomb murderer" as he was called, lived in a suburb of Torquay, Devonshire. He was condemned to death for murder and sent to Portland Convict Prison. There three efforts were made to hang him. Each time the rope broke, popular report said. Intervention by Providence was his salvation, the English were convinced. One London Sun day paper, even, published the rumor that a white dove was seen hovering over the scaffold at the third unsuccessful hanging. Lee's sentence was commuted and he served time in Portland.

Warder Knew Lee Well.

"It is not correct to say that the rope broke," says Mr. Karn in a letter to The Standard after declaring that he was a warden at Portland and knew Lee well.

"What actually happened at the attempt to execute Lee was that the trap doors refused to move on the lever being drawn. Lee was taken back to his cell and the trap doors planned around the edges. They would fall when Lee was not on them."

"Superstitious people believed that it was an act of Providence, not knowing the real cause. Up to that time scaffolds were built by prisoners, but that was the last one they built. On it being taken to pieces it was discovered that the scaffold was a trick scaffold. The weight of one man locked the doors. The man stood in a certain position when the hanging was going forward, and unconsciously caused a cleft of wood to project under the trap doors. When he moved from that spot the cleft disappeared from sight."

HOPE FOR IRELAND THE GENERAL NOTE

Special Correspondent of Daily Express Tells of Improvement All Round.

I have just emerged from a six-months' journalistic imprisonment in Ireland, and I am convinced that the country has now reached the threshold of an era of peace and prosperity unprecedented in her history.

Strife between the twenty-six counties in the south and north-east corner with its one million people is disappearing.

De Valera and his boot-thirsty followers are badly beaten. Five thousand of his supporters lie in prisons awaiting deportation to a desert island two thousand miles away.

Ireland has not yet voted to join the League of Nations, but with the passing of the fourteen articles in her new constitution she has virtually taken her place among the leading nations of the world.

The new government is asserting and upholding its authority, and is framing with the new Constitution in harmony with the Treaty.

The new Government is governing and Irish leaders are leading, says a Special correspondent of the Daily Express, who has been in Ireland for six months.

The president, William Cosgrave, has already proved himself to be the most capable leader the country has yet had. His straightforwardness, his unimpeachable character, and his unshakable determination to stand by the treaty with Great Britain, have inspired the greatest confidence in the people.

Mr. Cosgrave is not an idealist. Idealists have done great harm to Ireland in the recent years. He is a thoroughly practical man.

De Valera himself and the "renegade" Erskine Childers are hunted men. Any peace overtures they may now make are not to save only their faces, but also their lives.

The settlement of the Irish Post Office strike, is of enormous importance in the new conditions in Ireland, says the Westminster Gazette. It stands as the first clear victory for the new Government in the assertion of its authority. This was no ordinary industrial dispute. The strike was a challenge, on the part of a large body of civil servants, of the position of the Provisional Government.

Had it succeeded in compelling the surrender of the new Ministers there would have been no effective authority in Southern Ireland at all. In those circumstances the Government was compelled to fight, and to insist on terms in the end which would be a clear victory for the Central Government. These terms it has won. The Post Office servants go back with considerable reductions in their wages, and with the understanding that they will do all that is possible to straighten out the chaos created by the fact that there has been no postal service for weeks over large portions of Ireland. The Government has shown its mettle; it has proved that it has the capacity to rule and the will to discharge the duties that fall upon it.

At the opening of the Irish Parliament we said that it was well that there was nothing spectacular about that event; that there was more promise for a quiet and successful government of Ireland in the humdrum business of the first sittings. The comment has been justified. The new Government has done exceedingly well in difficult circumstances, and although it has not produced any leader of magnetic personality, it has shown a very real capacity. In his quiet way Mr. Cosgrave has shown himself a man of strong character, who is determined that the Government shall function as it does in an orderly State.

APANESE QUESTION COMES UP AGAIN

The United States is confronted by another phase of the Japanese question. Japanese domiciled in the United States proper and in American possessions overseas are claiming the right to become citizens of the United States. Here and there a federal judge has decided in their favor. One case coming from the Hawaiian Islands was so difficult that the United States Circuit Court of Appeals at San Francisco submitted, as it had a right to do, certain questions of law to the Supreme Court at Washington. Upon the answer to these questions will depend the result of this litigation.

Up to date Japanese have been excluded from naturalization privileges by a law so ancient that the Japanese cannot possibly complain that it is an offensive discrimination against their nationals. In 1790 congress provided that only "free white persons" were entitled to naturalize. In 1870 the privilege of naturalization was extended "to persons of African birth or descent." In 1906 the whole naturalization statute was re-written and no distinction made against applicants because of race or color. The old statute of 1790 was not expressly repealed, but the Japanese through their counsel are contending that it was superseded by and does not constitute a limitation upon the statute of 1906.

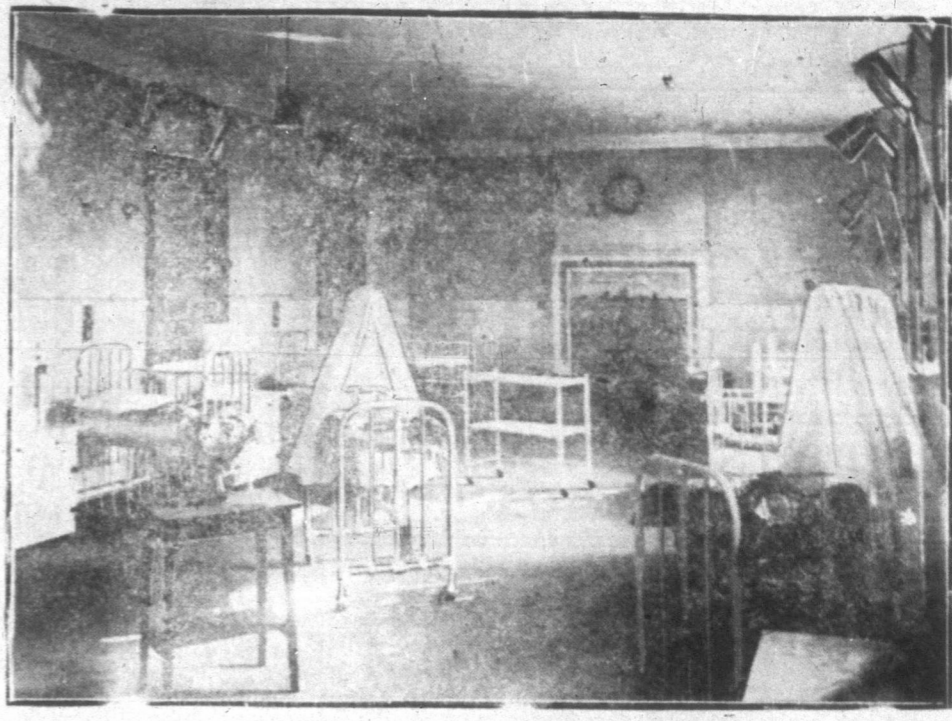
The case for the Japanese was presented to the Supreme Court on October 4 by Honorable George J. Wickersham, former attorney-general of the United States, and one of the leaders of the American bar. He contended that the act of 1790 was directly solely against colored slaves, and was never intended to apply to the Japanese. He pointed out that congress had passed a special law prohibiting the naturalization of Chinese, but mentioning no other Asiatics. He pointed to the fact that during the past century a number of Hindus, Parsees, Assyrians, Armenians and Filipinos had been naturalized. The color test had therefore not been applied in practice. As to the racial test, he declared that the Japanese were not Mongolians but belonged to the Caucasian race.

Should the Supreme Court sustain these contentions, a most serious situation would be presented. Fully one-half of the people of Hawaii are Japanese. They are "subjects" but not "citizens" of the United States. Thousands of persons of Japanese origin are now domiciled in California and Washington. The outcry from the states on the Pacific coast against naturalizing Japanese would be one that congress could not disregard.

Yet the Japanese would not tamely submit to a statute directed against them like the one which bars the Chinese from naturalization. They would retaliate in many ways and much of the old trouble between Japan and the United States would be revived. The decision of the Supreme Court will, therefore, be awaited with considerable interest. It will at least settle the question upon which the lower courts have divided. Should the court hold the statute of 1790 to be still effective, the Japanese would have no cause of complaint. That act was passed sixty years before Japan was opened to the world. Whatever hardship it works against them is accidental.—Manitoba Free Press.

COAL CONFERENCE

halt taken by the Engineering and Shipbuilding Trade Unions of Great Britain on the employers' proposal for the withdrawing of the war bonus has resulted in a large adverse vote. The operatives, however, will remain at work pending a conference between the leaders on both sides.



Queen Mary opened this new infants' ward in the Infirmary at Leeds, England

WILL TRY TO REACH POLE BY SUB.

By submarine to the pole is an undertaking which Prof. Anshuetz-Kaempfe, inventor of the gyroscopic compass used on German submarines during the war, will attempt if he can secure associates with nerve and money enough. The submarine itself must be built abroad owing to the peace treaty, which prohibits submarine construction in Germany, but Prof. Anshuetz-Kaempfe has secured designs and estimates from leading German submarine builders which he claims prove the project entirely feasible. The venturesome professor does not contemplate making the entire journey from the ice barrier to the Pole in one drive, but to take advantage of the openings in the ice, which he claims are everywhere in the Polar ice field during the summer to navigate the boat from one breathing place to another until he reaches the Pole. Once there the members of such an expedition would have the opportunity of making prolonged scientific observation which would be barred to air explorers.

TO MEMORY OF BATTLE OF YPRES

The anniversary of the first battle of Ypres was commemorated on Tuesday in London by the sale of corn flowers on the streets in aid of the Ypres League, which has decided to establish a permanent hostelry in Ypres for the poorer people who journey there to visit the graves of their dead. Princess Beatrice, patroness of the league, drove through London, briefly halting at various centres, including the Criterion theatre, where she received a bouquet from Viscountess French, and the Mansion House, where the Lady Mayoress presented her with a bouquet and a cheque.

Subsequently the Princess placed on the cenotaph a giant wreath of corn flowers enclosing a shield inscribed "To the glorious memory of over 200,000 Britons who fell at Ypres salient, 1914-1918, from the Ypres League."

The pipers of the Scots Guards then played a lament as they marched slowly round the cenotaph.

Finally Princess Beatrice placed a wreath on the grave of the unknown warrior in Westminster Abbey.

BEATTY SAYS IT WAS THE NAVY.

Earl Beatty visited Brighton the other day, when the freedom of the town was conferred on him. In a speech afterwards he said our sea power, and the security it brought, was built up at vast cost, but the war showed how fully the expenditure was justified. It enabled not only the British Empire, but the whole civilised world to be saved from disaster. The nation which menaced the peace of the world had been crushed, and, although human wisdom had not been able to still completely the great upsurge which shook the world, we could at least feel that the worst was behind us. Earl Beatty afterwards unveiled the Brighton war memorial.

IN LEAVES OF OLD MUSIC.

"A literary find has been the subject of much discussion in legal circles recently," says the Daily News. "Early in the summer a London bookseller purchased a pile of papers and music from a well-known firm of auctioneers for \$5. These were resold for \$50 to the owner of an oil bookshop in the provinces, and he discovered hidden between the leaves of the music of a 16-page pamphlet of the early works of Shelley, 'Posthumous Fragments of Margaret Nicholson,' Oxford, 1810.

"He submitted it to a London expert, and learned that only five other copies were known to be in existence. Then he sent it to the auctioneers from whom the first purchaser had bought his bundle of papers, and the pamphlet realised \$6,000.

"The point in which the interest of booksellers and collectors centres in whether the original owners of the papers have any legal claim either against the bookseller who made \$6,000 profit on his lucky purchase or against the auctioneers.

"The music and papers in which the Shelley pamphlet was hidden here, it is stated, part of the library of a well-known collector, and were placed in the hands of the auctioneers for sale."

The Soviet Government states that Russia is prepared to undertake armed intervention in the Kemal interest. If Lenin and Trotsky are to be kept out of them, future wars will have to be marked "Private."

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