

# CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

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True Confidence and Understanding Between Employer  
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## Internationalism and British Immigration

The labor movement of Canada, whilst in general it presents a solid front on certain questions, on the question of immigration, especially, that of British immigration, shows to the rest of the Dominion, the spectacle of a house divided against itself.

The International Trade Union movement, which is by far the strongest in America of any of the various branches of the labor movement in Canada and which has done the most amount of good for the workers of this Dominion, has several times through its officials declared to the authorities at Ottawa that they are in favor of restrictions in general against immigration and thereby against immigration from the British Isles. The Canadian Labor Press is in a position to know that these views do not meet with the approval of a large number in the labor movement who are more inclined insofar as an immigration policy is concerned, to take the viewpoint of British Labor which is exactly the very opposite to that of the Canadian Labor movement.

Recently criticisms have appeared in the press of Great Britain in particular by Dean Inge, criticizing the MacDonald Government for its belief in an open door immigration policy. The British labor movement, basing its policy on an international viewpoint, has always held to the view that any worker who wishes to make his living in Great Britain should be allowed to come there. This may or may not be wise insofar as Britain is concerned and possibly there might need to be some exceptions to that rule but at least it is consistent with the principles that British labor professes. It is however, a curious paradox that the officials of a movement based on Internationalism such as the Canadian Labor movement is, have such a narrow National outlook on immigration. Even from the point of view of labor organization, this outlook is wrong for the entry into Canada of the younger generation of Britons who are at present growing up in an atmosphere of trade unionism would undoubtedly strengthen the labor movement here, for the tendency on their arrival would be to become active members of Canadian organization, thus helping to build up the movement in Canada. If the Canadian labor movement wants to pursue a practical sensible policy on immigration it ought to use what influence it has to have a liaison between the British Government and the Canadian Government so that British citizens desirous of creating for themselves better opportunities in Canada would be assisted by both Governments to come to this country, start the foundation of a home and help to build up the prosperity of this great Dominion.

## The Cost of a Pair of Shoes

Toronto, Ont.—One frequently hears the high prices of these times discussed as if the entire blame rested on the high wages paid to labor. Yet the direct labor, the work of the wage-earner, becomes an ever-lessening fraction of the cost of any one thing.

The great trouble is that wages, salaries, commissions and profits have to be paid to an increasing number of intermediaries between the raw material where nature provides it in the crude and the ultimate consumer of the finished article.

Consider a pair of boots. Bulletin 260, page 159, of the United States bureau of labor statistics, says the labor on a pair of shoes costs only 37 cents, including the pay of superintendents, office staff, foremen and all persons connected with the necessary working of the factory plant. The wage-cost of making the shoes is only 37 cents.

A great many other costs bring the price up before the shoes leave the factory. The cost of leather are other materials has to be taken into account, and the cost of overhead and of selling. There was labor in the

providing of materials, in their transportation and delivery, and in the shipping of the shoes.

Then they are bought and sold two or three times before they reach the man who is going to wear them. Perhaps, before they are finally sold to the user of them they may have been shown to five or fifty customers who did not buy them, and they may have been on the retailers shelves (paid for by him, but unsold by him) for two months or two years. Money is worth interest whether it is in a savings bank or in boots on a dealer's shelf—and this interest has to be paid by boot and shoe buyers whether they know it or not. Although each particular pair of shoes does not always pay its own share of the interest the total turn-over of the stock must pay it, or the retailer fails in business.

Shoes are kept in paper boxes, and labor is employed in making these. There is printing on the boxes, and labor is used in the printing and in making of the machinery that does the printing. The retailer occupies a store which labor built, shelves and counters had to be put in by labor, chairs and tables are used. Boots and shoes have to pay for all the labor and must pay the rent.

It is a highly complicated system that furnishes you with the boots you wear—or anything else that you wear or use—and quite a surprising host of persons share in the difference between the 37 cents paid for labor in the shoe factory and the \$12 that your boots cost you when you bought them.

## James T. Gunn Fears Difficulties Will be Encountered With Abolishing of Lemieux Act

### "Canadian Labor Press" Representative Now in Great Britain Consulting With British Labor Leaders Sends Cable Voicing His Opinion

James T. Gunn of the editorial staff of the Canadian Labor Press who has been sent by this paper to Great Britain on special work, was one of the signatories to the Toronto electrical workers union's application for a board under the Dominion Industrial Disputes Act, which led to the test case before the Privy Council, in a cable from London, England states: "It is the end of industrial disputes act after eighteen years and it leaves us in a state of confusion; there will be an awkward condition of affairs if an industrial dispute now cuts across provincial boundaries. Who is going to handle it? Every province may have its own legislation and the legislation of each province may be different.

"There is provincial trades disputes act in Ontario, but the machinery it provides is so cumbersome it has been left in disuse for ten years.

"One satisfactory feature, however, is that the validity of the federal act, which has long been doubtful, is now decided upon.

Gunn is speaking this week at labor meetings in London and Glasgow.

## Waterside Workers Out on Strike

Sydney, Australia.—The Waterside Workers' strike throughout Australia defies all efforts to secure a settlement. The men are displaying great solidarity and have the support of other unions.

At all ports the waterside workers refuse to work on any overseas vessels the cargoes of which have been handled by men employed by the non-union labor bureau of the Overseas Shipping Companies at Sydney—a bureau established to try and introduce the open shop policy on the Australian waterfront. Vessels loaded by men from the bureau are forced to lay up or leave Australia without cargoes.

As the non-union labor bureau is established only at Sydney there is no trouble in the other ports except that unionists will not touch the non-union work.

The following unions are likely to be also involved in the dispute, carters and drivers, motor transport workers, railway workers, seamen, engineers and firemen, ships painters, marine cooks, bakers and butchers, and dockers.



## THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

## Labor's Interest in The Tariff Question.

### How Labor Is Dependent on the Tariff for Employment and for Good Wages

(This article appeared in the January issue of the Congress Journal)

The assumption that tariff protection is a matter of concern for employers only is entirely wrong. Workers have on numerous occasions shown their keen interest in the same as the following instances show.

The miners of Nova Scotia demand the imposition of a tariff duty against U. C. coal so as to insure a larger home market for their product.

Shipbuilding trades demand at least a 20 p. c. duty against foreign built shipyards to maintain wage rates and yet compete successfully for Canadian ship construction.

The printing trades are urging tariff protection against imported printed matter so as to conserve for Canadian printers the several million dollars worth of advertising and similar matter now printed each year outside of Canada.

Patternmakers have on many occasions requested the fullest application of tariff duties so as to prevent importation of patterns under the guise of models, which are admitted free.

Canadian shoe operators are voicing strong objection to the present increase of the British preference which they claim has resulted in large imports and thus lessened their own opportunities for employment.

### Not Blind to Abuses

These are only a few of the more outstanding cases, all of which clearly demonstrate the statement that workers are interested in tariff protection. This should not be taken, however, to mean that labor is blind to the abuses of tariff protection which at times have been disclosed, or that they blindly accept the present method of fixing the tariff. On the contrary they realize that unsatisfactory conditions are possible in many tariff protected industries and further realize that little change can be expected so long as political expediency, instead of business methods, govern tariff policies.

The views of organized labor on this matter are set forth in the following pronouncement adopted at the convention of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada and supported generally by labor organizations throughout the Dominion.

"Your Executive is of the opinion that tariff decisions should cease to be made a matter of political expediency and the decision for their maintenance, or abolition, should be reached only after exhaustive inquiry and with a view to enabling the worker, in such industries, to be paid proper wage standards, without destroying the industry by unfair competition from sources outside of Canada. We recommend the formation of a Tariff Board on which organized labor should have proper representation, created with full powers to deal with this subject in a similar manner to the Powers exercised by the Railway Commission on railroad matters."

What this signifies is that labor accepts the policy of tariff protection for industry as a necessary corollary of the protection of their own means of earning a living.

Free trade ideals are held by most workers, but they know that, like disarmament, these ideals can only be brought into effect by general international agreement and that isolated national action is not likely to be successful in improving their condition.

Great Britain is often referred to as the home of free trade, but anyone entering its ports, receiving the long printed list of dutiable and prohibited articles, and undergoing the rigorous customs inspection is soon disillusioned as to that. In fact, there are no really free trade industrial countries, although geographical location, trade routes and numerous other matters vary the degree to which the policies of protection for home industries are applied.

Even were international agreement reached to establish free trade, it would be necessary to, at the same time, establish freedom of movement for all peoples, and labor has not shown itself as yet ready for this.

### Supports Quota Law

United States labor supports the drastic restrictive quota law. Canadian labor demands regulation of immigration so as to admit only assimilative classes and those willing to adopt and help to maintain established standards of living. Australian labor refuses entry to Orientals. South African white labor draws a line of demarcation reserving certain skilled trades for themselves alone. French labor is fighting to protect its economic interests against the invasion of numbers of immigrants now pouring into that country from Italy and other points. Austrian labor protests the unrestricted admission of underpaid Hungarian workers, and similar conditions exist in many other countries. Even if all tariff protection were internationally abolished it would be absolutely essential that the restrictions referred to above should be simultaneously removed so that workers irrespective of nationality, race or color could follow to any other country the industry in which their training and skill enables them to best earn a living.

It is too late to discuss whether Canada should, or should not, be an industrial country, and as to whether with the abolition of all tariff barriers its citizens could be supplied with all needed manufactured products from the United States, Great Britain or other countries. Nearly one half the working population of Canada is now engaged in manufacturing or the distribution of manufactured products, and their interests demand the same consideration and protection from the State as that of any other class. Workers engaged in our industries have, in thousands of cases, not only invested their entire savings in the building of a home, but also have mortgaged their future for years to come to complete their payments on the same. Their ability to do so is dependent in most cases on the continuation of the industry in which they are employed and the closing down of a factory which might, only to minor degree, be serious to capital, means everything to the workers. Too little thought is generally given to this tremendous collective investment of the workers which would be utterly destroyed if the continuance of our industries was made impossible or seriously interfered with.

### Barriers Needed

It is in this direction that one of labor's greatest interests in tariff protection lies. Of almost equal importance, however, is the need for forming barriers which will prevent the importation of manufactured products made under conditions that Canadian labor could not, and would not, tolerate. Recent information as to the exploitation of child labor in the textile mills of Japan, China and India, and the importation of goods made in foreign prisons demonstrate this very fully. Canadians have no control as to whether goods imported into Canada are produced in insanitary factories; by sweated labor, or by the exploitation of women and children, but through the imposition of a tariff these goods can be prevented from unduly competing with those produced in our own country. An outstanding instance of how this can be applied is the recent decision of the Austrian Chamber of Deputies authorizing the Government to increase, by an amount not exceeding one third, the import duties provided by customs tariff on industrial products imported from states which have not adopted the Washington Eight-Hour Day Convention of 1919, and whose standard in regard to hours is considerably below that of the said convention.

An ideal tariff is one which would equalize the differences between labor costs, transportation, accessibility of raw materials, etc., of imported products and those produced in Canada. It is useless to merely advocate a policy of "Buy made in Canada goods" if foreign goods made under much worse conditions can be imported to sell at a lower price. Necessity oftentimes forces the average wage earner to take advantage of every economy, even though it may result in creating unemployment for themselves or some other worker at a future date.

It is wrong to assume that tariff alone is responsible for profiteering. Experiences in England, and exposure of excessive profiteering in foodstuffs and other articles not affected by tariff in this country amply proves this.

Labor will co-operate with any other group to expose profiteers whether they gouge the consumer under a tariff protection or by a trust monopoly. But the exposure of such abuses is not sufficient to induce labor to accept a policy of abolition of tariffs which would undoubtedly destroy a large number of the industries at present operating in Canada and force into either idleness or un-congenial occupation thousands of those now employed in such industries.

## Farm and Other Labor

Brockville, Ont.—The need for an adjustment in economic factors and class relationships bring a larger return to the farmer in relation to that now being obtained by labor which is the great factor in the cost of living, was emphasized in a striking way by C. W. Peterson, editor of the Farm and Ranch Review, Calgary, in addressing the annual dinner of the Canadian National Newspapers and Periodicals Association last week. Mr. Peterson submitted figures obtained as the result of exhaustive investigation of the Liverpool market to show that there had been practically no change in the average returns to the farmer since the 16th century; for that century the average for wheat was \$1.17, for the 17th century \$1.20, for the 18th century \$1.17, and from 1900 to date \$1.23. During the same period the return to the city worker increased from 25 cents a day to about \$8 a day.

Even when we take into consideration, says the Financial Post, the increased productivity of farm labor through modern machinery there still appears to be a wide discrepancy between the return to the farmer and that to the organized industrial workers, particularly when it can be pointed out—as Mr. Peterson does most effectively—that while the farmer is working 14 to 15 hours a day organized labor is campaigning for a 44 hour week.

But while Mr. Peterson thus presents the case for the farmer, he strongly condemns the radical programs being suggested by agitators. The farmers, he declares, represent the greatest, capitalistic class in the community; a class which should be a bulwark for stability.

False ideals were being held up to bring about an unholy alliance between the farmers and the Reds—an alliance economically unsound when the farmer, himself working capitalist selling the products of his labor in an open market, had to pay, at least, eighty per cent. of the cost of everything he bought for labor securing privileges through agitation and organization.

However, Mr. Peterson stated his not only avoid stirring up strife, but as to an alliance with the farmers, were being dispelled. There were evidences of a decided return to sanity on economic questions. In North Dakota where the radical movement had been carried to extremes and where the state went "nearly broke" as the result, there were indications of a return to sanity. All these developments, he argued, placed a serious responsibility on those who had an influence over public opinion to bring about a better understanding between capital and labor, between farmer and banker.

## Quotaizing Canada

Regina, Sask.—Application of quota restrictions to immigration from other countries in this hemisphere is recommended in the annual report of the Secretary of Labor at Washington. That is a logical step in carrying out the selective immigration policy of the United States, although it is one which responsible officials in Washington have hesitated to propose. Whether the Congress will adopt it remains to be seen. A similar proposal was negotiated at a previous session. As a Welshman born and a naturalized citizen of the United States, Secretary Davis probably would not have made the recommendation unless he felt it was warranted by the circumstances. Anyway, the United States has the same right as any other sovereign country to say who shall not come to reside within it.

As far as Canada is concerned, a sentimental regret will be felt that it is proposed to make the invisible line separating the two countries more acutely visible; but we are beginning to get used to that sort of thing. Armed guards to keep out Canadian

whiskey and a tariff wall to keep out Canadian wheat have prepared the way. Arthur Meighen will applaud Secretary Davis' proposal, as a discouragement of Canadian emigration; and here will be many who will feel much the same way about it. At the same time there will probably be many in the United States who will not regard with favor a proposal to materially reduce immigration from Canada, which appears to have been acceptable to the American people, while permitting a large immigration from certain countries of the Old World, whose people are not so readily assimilated. Assuming that the basis of any quota that may be established will be the number of Canadians already in the United States, a fair stable quota, sufficient for all ordinary purposes, will be fixed. Canadian citizens will still find it easier to get through the needle's eye than Canadian agricultural products do. A good many Canadians who might otherwise emigrate will stay at home and assist in developing their own country; and Canada will cease to be a flag station for European emigrants on route to the United States. That will not do this country any harm.

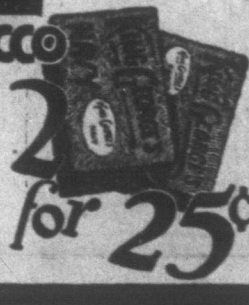
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