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LABOR'S DEMONSTRATION

First Provincial Labor Demonstration a Gigantic Success—Moose Jaw Was Well Represented

The first provincial labor demonstration in Saskatchewan took place here under the most favorable circumstances on Monday last when Regina and Moose Jaw organizations affiliated to celebrate Labor Day. The visitors from the neighboring city arrived by special train and were some five hundred strong. The organization of the parade took place at Trades' Hall at 11 o'clock, when the procession started headed by Grand Marshal T. A. Stanlake and headed by Chief White of the Regina Fire Department. The various unions looked natty in their parade dress, and the floats of the different crafts added to the spectacular features of the procession which was conducted with military order. The music was furnished by Prof. Laubach's band, the Sons of England band and the Moose Jaw concert band, and the citizen's band.

The judges of the parade were J. F. Bole, M.L.A., C. H. Gordon and E. McCarthy. The prize to the union presenting the best appearance was awarded to the Moose Jaw Carmen, who wore blue and white overalls and black caps.

CIVIC WELCOME

Reaching Railway Park the unionists were welcomed by His Worship the Mayor, who was introduced by President Molloy, of the Trades and Labor Council.

Mayor Smith was warmly received and he said that he could fittingly welcome the visiting union men to the city for he had served his time at the workman's bench. He regarded the men of brain and muscle as the greatest asset of the Dominion. The foundation of this province's prosperity will be well and truly laid if the work is done by the artisans and mechanics. He admonished them to be strong morally as well as physically, for a great deal depends on Christian character. With one or two modifications his worship added he could subscribe to every plank of their platform. On the whole he believed it was a splendid platform and therefore he personally largely endorsed it. "I trust," concluded his worship, "that your labor unions will be a success—that you will have abundant prosperity—and above all, that you will be good, staunch, noble, loyal Christian citizens."

Jas. Somerville, president of the Moose Jaw Trades and Labor Council, explained that the present activities of the railway prevented many unionists from coming to Regina, but their organizations had done their best. (Applause.) He agreed with Mayor Smith's statements that in no town the size of Regina in the west, could they have paraded on so many streets and kept out of the mud. They never saw any mud until they approached the park. (Laughter.) A year hence they expected to hold a labor day demonstration at Moose

Jaw. They were trying in conjunction with other organizations of the province to arrange a provincial labor day for Saskatchewan, and this was the beginning. An excellent beginning too. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Somerville deprecated attempts to make bad feeling between competing towns. The aims of unionism, he said, were international. They wanted a worldwide brotherhood of workmen.

Everywhere and always, labor and capital strove against one another. Some people will tell them that the two interests were identical. He could not see that. Identity of interest was a myth. Labor must organize to hold its own. Both Labor and capital were trying to do the best for themselves, and how could they have an identity of interests? Labor everywhere has got to fight for itself, and he was glad to see that the foundations of unionism in this province were being well laid. When they met next year at Moose Jaw he hoped their feeling of comradeship would be greater than ever. (Applause.)

Fair Wage Clause

J. F. Bole, M.L.A., said he thought that when the government set aside a day in the year on which labor should be recognized, they did not contemplate that it should be spent in idleness, but that people should come together at certain places for a joyous holiday. If the visiting delegation came to Regina next year, they would see greater improvement than had already been referred to. They would see under construction the parliament buildings, in the contracts for which, he understood a fair wage clause would be inserted to protect the workman. (Applause.) Apart from the material advantages of unity he thought they should congratulate themselves on having come together for the sake of the cause itself. His opinion of trades unions was that of Mayor Smith. He said that no one who read the history of the struggle between capital and labor and of the rise of trade unions, could come to any other conclusion than that the unions had benefitted the public as well as their members, and that the need of such organizations had not yet gone by. Some of the finest men living were leaders of trade unions, and the statute books

WE CLOTHE THE
MEN FROM
HEAD TO FOOT

bore evidence of the effects of their work.

Unionism and Efficiency

Though in Canada conditions were less acute than in some other countries, there was good reason for the existence of unions. He did not believe that anywhere in the world was labor on such a sound and businesslike basis as in this young country. (Applause.) It appeared to him that the first result of organization should be to make the laborer more comfortable, to ensure for him a just share of the profits of his labor, and the speaker believed that at the present time such justice could not be obtained without unity to enforce the demand.

He closed with a word of warning. He thought that the unions should be careful and exclude the dishonest, the idler and the incompetent. When the societies were in such a perfect state of organization that the working card of any union was a guarantee of competency, the individual would get the highest wages and the public respect would be won. For it would be recognised that the unions were not merely a benefit to their members, but to the nation at large. (Loud applause.)

Secretary's Address

Hugh Peat, secretary of the Regina Trades and Labor Council said it was at once his proud privilege and pleasure to stand on that platform and to look over that great concourse of people and to know that that splendid gathering had been made possible through the instrumentality of organized labor. He remarked the progress of unionism in Regina and said that the great strides which had been made in the last two years should be an incentive to further effort. Organization, he said, had made it possible for the workers of the world to have brighter and better homes; organization had redeemed the workers of the world from a rabble of humanity, uneducated, unintelligent, sullen and morose in their ignorance, to a veritable nobility of manhood, with lofty ideas and noble aspirations, and, he continued, it rests with you, each and every worker in this mighty province of Saskatchewan to spare no effort in inducing all those who are still outside the protecting fold of unionism to enter, so that the day will not be far distant when the prophecy of Scotland's greatest bard will be fulfilled, and "man to man the world o'er shall brothers be for a' that." His stirring speech was very favorably received.

THE IMMIGRATION QUESTION

BY JAS. D. SIMSON

Of all matters that to-day closely touch the interest of trade unionists in Canada the immigration question is perhaps one of the most prominent. Thousands of immigrants, both white and yellow, are streaming into the country, and as the majority of these people do not care for an agricultural life they flock to the more populous towns and cities, and are to-day creating a glut in the labor market. When all trades are overcrowded, when all local unions have a long list of unemployed members and when numbers of unskilled men and women are walking the streets, then wages are bound to go down and the result is that nearly every class of the community suffers. The working man does not earn so much therefore he cannot spend so much, and the storekeepers feel the difference. They will not give credit where they have no reasonable hope of ever seeing their accounts settled, and whether they give the credit or not they can never hope to show a good margin of profit when wages are low and when the working man has to look twice at every nickel before he parts with it. The manufacturers next feel the pinch and realize

that there is no market for their goods, that their factories are turning out too much. Therefore they proceed to still further reduce the wage bill and to pay off a few more men and women to swell the ranks of those already looking for work. This makes matters still worse and the men who to-day are shouting for more immigrants and more cheap labor will in days to come feel the heavy consequences of their own short-sighted policy.

A great deal has recently been said about the growth of the Canadian West and numerous statistics have been put before the public to prove this, but there is one thing that proves that growth more than anything else does and that is the tremendous spread of the spirit of unionism in this province. The eyes of the whole world are to-day upon the Canadian West and no one but a pettifogging pessimist can doubt the bright future that lies before this splendid country. We have a great army of stalwart, husky men, and bright capable women, but still we want more. Yes, more, of the right sort. There are thousands of acres of land within the boundaries of this Province fit for culti-

vation, and we want the men and women who will take up this land. We do not want shiploads and trainloads of destitute immigrants dumped into our cities and towns which are, in many cases, already overcrowded, there to tramp the streets day after day in search of work until at last they have to be supported by some charitable organization or are confined in an asylum for the insane. Neither do we want to see the country overrun by a horde of Asiatics who can turn the unskilled white man from his job just because the Asiatic can live on far less than a white man can. No, the class of immigrant we need to-day are those who will go on to the land, and turn a practically barren desert into a land of peace and plenty where the wheat yield averages 40 bushels to the acre and will fetch \$1 a bushel in the open market. These producers will in turn become consumers, and during this period the labor market will right itself.

A fair rate of wages for the working man means continued prosperity for all classes of the community; and wherever this idea prevails there will be found the ideal land of milk and honey, the land where every one is fully employed during the period set apart for toil, and where, instead of a mob of destitute men seeking work we shall see a community of happy and contented men and women, secure in the knowledge that they are earning enough to live

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on, enough to educate their children with, and still have some left to provide for their old age.

It is not too late yet to make an effort to secure the right class of immigrants, and it is to be hoped that the delegates from Regina to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, which convenes on Monday, September 16, at Winnipeg, will use their utmost endeavor in an effort to restrict the tide of immigration now pouring into the country, which threatens to swamp an already overcrowded market.

The evils resulting from a rush of immigrants of all nationalities to one country can be seen to-day in England where until quite recently men and women from every clime were allowed to land practically without restriction, and at once commenced to underbid the local labor market, glad to get work at any price. The skilled mechanic was pushed from his job by a foreigner who would work longer hours for less money and the unskilled laborer was unable to find work for the same reason. To-day the most acute internal question in England is the unemployed. "What shall we do with them?" cry the well-to-do? The workhouses are full, and the poor rates are continually increasing, and the condition of these poor people has become almost a national calamity.

Beware! Canada! Don't follow in the footsteps of the mother country. Let us do our utmost to have some restriction placed on the immigrants now flocking to our shores. Let us do our utmost to secure the right class of people for this country, and we will live to see in the near future a great and prosperous Canada—a country that will look good to those who study the science of political economy.

The Regina Trades and Labor Council beg to tender their hearty thanks to His Worship the Mayor, Mr. J. F. Bole, M.L.A., Mr. C. H. Gordon, Mr. E. McCarthy, and all others for their presence and help on Labor Day.

Bricklayers at Winnipeg have obtained an agreement involving an advance of 5 cents per hour on January 1, 1908, the agreement to remain in force until May, 1909. A half-holiday on Saturday was also granted.

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