

# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

## PROPOSALS HAD EFFECT

According to a report the Labor-Farmer coalition government of Ontario is to withhold their previous intention of going into the cement plant buildings construction, at least for the present the matter is to be held in abeyance. The announcement of the embarking into this enterprise by the government caused quite a furor more particularly with the directly interested present source of supply. There is a pregnant reason for the change of plan of the road building government and it is seen in the statement that "with the price of cement tending downward the Drury government has decided not to go ahead with the construction of the proposed provincial cement plant." It is no stretch of the imagination to connect the lowering of prices with the threat of the government to go into business. Thus we see the "coon come down" without the firing of a shot of the real ammunition. Yet the blank cartridge had such a reality to those who had placed the target a movement of strategy was wisely made. Other directions than cement making would seem to call for action and if it can be accomplished in similar fashion the large field of endeavor is worthy of investigation. There must, however, be no game of bluff, for if the hand is called this government of enterprise cannot afford to do otherwise than show that their progress is built on ability of performance and not threats.

## TO PRESENT THE TRUTH

Organized workers of Australia are leading themselves to a crusade whereby the false propaganda of its opposition may be met at least on equal terms and the means of the press may be utilized as an antidote to the unfair press itself.

The Australian Worker claims it has reached a stage in its existence which renders it imperative that it should be able to cope with the falsity by which it is assailed in many directions and efficiently refute the slanders of unscrupulous enemies.

Opposition has organized falsehood to a point of amazing effectiveness. It has created a situation that insinuates itself into the homes of the working class and by ironic perversion of ingenuity actually in many instances fills them with hostility to their own interests and with an angry distrust of those who are fighting against tremendous odds that they, the workers, may enjoy the fruits of victory.

The rulers of men have always understood the value of falsehood. They have paid it great attention in every period of history, have encouraged organizations for its dissemination, subsidized them lavishly and granted them great privileges.

Where labor's gospel is spoken, the people hear it gladly. Where labor's truths are uttered, they are acclaimed by the multitude. All that is needed is the machinery of publicity. Provide it and finance it in adequate measure and its triumph is assured.

## OPPORTUNITY OF ACQUAINTANCE

Closer acquaintance with conventions of the organized movement from those who are considered outsiders always results in an appreciation of same. Whether it be manners or methods of carrying on the business or a closer study of the individual going to make up the convention assembly. It is decidedly to the interest of the worker to extend an invitation to attend a "workers' parliament" and see it in action, to those who are in the opposite camp of industry, with a surety that old time prejudice will be swept aside.

Labor is short on tooting of its own horn in this as well as other respects. What may be applicable to the Trades and Labor Congress is equally truthful of the American Federation of Labor Conventions. At the recent Convention of the latter body held at Denver, the Denver Express placed its estimate on the gathering stating:—

"Denver folk who fail to visit the A. F. of L. convention, now being held in their auditorium, are missing an opportunity.

"If you have been infected with the current misconceptions of union men, which are peddled by the cheap magazines, go down and see for yourselves.

"The parliamentary conduct of the convention is away ahead of the American house of representatives, in the opinion of the writer.

"The general run of the delegates are of the hard, practical type—they've been through the mill.

"People who fondly imagine that the glib, young commercial secretaries and the big-paunched type who do the talking for the 'open' shop movement around chambers of commerce or from the arm chairs of exclusive clubs, are up against something easy, ought to pay a visit to the auditorium and have a once-over of the men in session there.

"Denver business men who were foolish enough to listen to four-flushers like Herbert George or Fred Bonfills (local citizens

alliance), or the rest of the labor haters, are beginning to suspect that they backed the wrong horse. A visit to the auditorium will confirm this impression."

## SHOWING ITS INTEREST

Co-operative advice is given by the Canadian Co-operator to the American Federation of Labor who, having provided funds to protect American working men from loss through the fraudulent exploitation of co-operative principles or practice, that great organization might, with advantage turn its attention to the Co-operative principles or practice, that great organization might, with advantage turn its attention to the Co-operative Society of America. While apparently such a scheme is legally permissible in the United States, any pretence to investors which might be made to the effect that it is based on the principles of the Rochdale Pioneers should provide the basis of a successful prosecution. The most effective remedy for such abuses would, however, be to secure the enactment of a Federal Co-operative Law, or in the alternative, as many State Laws as possible, defining, as in Ontario, what a co-operative society really is, and providing punishment for any person or corporation not complying with the statutory definitions when using the term "co-operative." There is a great deal of ignorance on this continent as to co-operative principles, and it is a grave scandal that people desirous of economizing in the cost of living, and of contributing to the building of a new and happier Social Order, should be victimised to the extent of millions of dollars by the schemes of financial adventurers, which has been the case for many years past.

## FEDERAL LABOR DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Employment reports for the week ended July 2 were received by Dominion headquarters of the Employment Service of Canada from 4,993 firms employing 577,138 workers. For the previous week these identical firms had reported total payrolls of 575,867, the difference representing a very slight increase in the aggregate volume of employment. Comparing the figures for the week under review with the base week of January 17, 1920, the index number of employment was 87.4 for the previous week it was 87.1, and for the corresponding week (July 5) of 1920, it was 107.8.

Twelve industrial groups reported increases over the previous week aggregating approximately 5,000 employees, of which the bulk was absorbed by the reopening of railway shops after a temporary shutdown. Eighteen industrial groups recorded aggregate reductions approximately 4,000. The favourable balance was caused almost wholly by increases in the iron and steel group due to the railway shop reopenings indicated,



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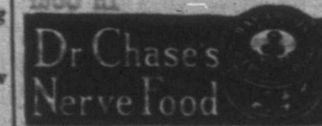
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declined in the Ontario-Quebec district. The logging industry continued to show seasonal decrease, chiefly in Ontario and British Columbia. The losses in building construction were shown principally by Ontario and Manitoba. The only other contractions of note took place in water transportation, on the Pacific coast and to a lesser extent at Maritime ports. Losses on a small scale were exhibited by textiles, in the Ontario-Quebec district, principally in garments and personal furnishings; by wholesale trade largely in Quebec; by non-metallic mining, chiefly salt and asbestos in the Ontario-Quebec district.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year the majority of industries showed lessened employment, exceptions being local and water transportation and hotel services. The greatest favourable comparisons in this respect were shown by iron and steel products, textiles and railway transportation. Compared with the previous week the Maritime district and British Columbia also showed unfavourable balances. In the Maritime district this was caused chiefly by further contractions in fish canning and packing and slackness in water transportation. No noteworthy expansions occurred; the index of employment in this district was 88.0 as compared with 109.7 for the same week of 1920. In the Ontario-Quebec district the chief item was the re-employment in railways. A supplementary increase on small scale occurred in water transportation at upper St. Lawrence ports. Losses of some importance occurred in the pulp and paper industry of both provinces and also in building construction in Quebec. Ontario featured further declines in logging. There was lessened employment in the textile industries of both provinces but more especially Quebec, and also in salt and asbestos mining. Wholesale trade in Quebec declined slightly. The index number for this district stood at 85.3 as against 107.4 for the same week last year. The Prairie Provinces owed their favourable balance chiefly to an increase in railway construction in Manitoba. The only other noticeable expansion occurred in railway transportation. No declines of importance were reported. The index number of

employment was 94.7 as compared with 109.7 for the corresponding week of 1920. The downward movement in British Columbia was due largely to declines in lumber mills partly of a temporary nature. Supplementing these were losses in water transportation, logging and railway construction. There were no noteworthy expansions in industry in this province. The index number of employment was 92.6 as compared with 106.2 at this time last year.



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