

PROMISE AND PERFORMANCE.

Some Observations on the Extent to Which the Demands of Labor Were Met by the Government During the Last Session of Parliament.

Following a session which was notable only for the "Indemnity Grab" of members, the Dominion Parliament has adjourned. For weeks the House of Commons and the "Indemnity" Senate have been in session in Ottawa and little, if any, legislation beneficial to the great producing masses has been enacted. The United States Congress has been called "Negative Congress" by the organized workers in the great Republic to the south, but this term is too mild to be applied to the present Government of the Dominion of Canada.

Despite all promises to reduce the cost of living we find, according to the Government's own figures, that the prices of commodities are steadily increasing and the workers find that their means of necessity are increased. The workers have repeatedly stated that increased wages are not the cure, for immediately following every increase up go the prices of commodities and the worker finds that his increase is of little or no use to him in providing for old age, improvement of mind and body and in the betterment of his standard of living. This in face of the fact that during the time of great industrial unrest the Dominion Government set up a board of commerce to curb profiteering. We all know that there is criminal profiteering going on in the land and the Dominion Government instead of seeking the great producing masses to forever put an end to this crime is giving a hand to it. Labor is more vitally interested in reducing the cost of living than in any other question and the Government is the only body which can deal effectively with the problem, but the present Government is not concerned. The members are safe and secure in their position for another year at least. "But what they will not feel the pinch of the ever soaring living costs they have increased the seasonal indemnity from \$2,500 to \$4,000—only eleven members voting against the measure.

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Industrial Conference was recommended, and this the Government carried into effect. Last September this conference met at Ottawa and the employees and the workers had their full quota of delegates present. Many questions were discussed and in the debate it is agreed by everyone who had an opportunity to judge that Labor representatives were easily the victors. Certain measures were unanimously agreed upon, but in other matters, pertaining to Labor, the Government has turned a deaf ear. One question was industrial councils. The only step made in this direction has been taken not by the Government, but by the Trades and Labor Congress and the Canadian Association of Building and Construction Industries. Representatives of these organizations met recently at Hamilton and formed a National Conference Board for the Building Industry and have asked the Department of Labor to name a chairman.

During the session just closed some measures unfavorable to Labor have been made law. The new Federal Franchise Bill makes it impossible for a labor union or a co-operative society to vote money for the assistance of any candidate who may seek political honors. The new law does not allow for the application of proportionate representation to the fact that the fact that the Industrial Conference, recommended by the Maternal Commission, is generally realized even by the Industrial Relations and included in Labor's requests. It does not provide that election day be a holiday and other provisions demanded by Labor have been either deliberately or carelessly left out.

The Minister of Labor, upon the repeated requests of numerous Labor bodies attempted in the Senate to have the 1919 amendments to the Immigration Act, whereby British subjects may be deported upon the recommendation of a Special Committee, abolished. Although he made a fight for the bill the Senate did not uphold him and the law stands as it was. The Minister of Labor, in his address at Toronto, stated quite frankly that the Dominion Government was pledged to this principle and that it would not be broken. He stated that the Government would not be broken. He stated that the Government would not be broken.

Another principle embodied in the Labor chapter of the peace treaty is the workers' right to organize. In the Government's reply to Labor's demand for legislation along these lines it was stated that the right would be given to all workers excepting those employed by the Government. Despite this promise, no law has been enacted. The Government has made no announcement on the matter has been made up to the time of writing. Labor's demand for an eight-hour day has thus been met with a negative answer.

Collective bargaining was demanded by Labor law making it compulsory was sought. The Government stated that this principle has always been recognized by the Department of Labor and the Government agreed with it. As the Industrial Disputes Act only applies to public utilities, other than those owned and operated by governments or municipalities, the Department of Labor has little or no jurisdiction over the other industries unless given the right by law. The law has not been enacted, and Labor's request has thus received its answer.

One could go on enumerating the various demands of Labor for wages, and in all instances the Government has given its answer in the negative. However, in passing it might be well to draw attention to the Commission appointed by the Government to deal with labor. Early last year when industrial unrest was at its height a Royal Commission was established to deal with Industrial Relations. On this commission Labor was represented by President Tom Moore of the Trades and Labor Congress, and John Bruce of the Plumbers and Steamfitters' Union. A majority report was brought in recommending many things. An In-

WAGE-EARNERS MUST RELY ON THEMSELVES

Much of Wage Loss Statistics Published "Pure Rot."

"If the workers depended on the public alone, they would rarely, if ever, make any progress, for the fundamental reason that the public is wholly selfish," says the National Civic Federation Review. It is declared that much of statistics on strike losses "is pure and unadulterated rot."

"The public does not want to be inconvenienced," says this publication. "In a strike on a street railroad the public does the walking and the workers do the carrying. How long may be the hours the men work or how small may be their pay, 'if they don't like their jobs,' the public generally says, 'they should get others, but under no circumstances make us walk.' How long would it have taken the public to wake up and organize to force the 'battered coal barons' to give shorter hours and increases in the pitifully low wages of the anthracite coal miner in 1907?"

"In regard to the appalling cost to the wage earners, there is another side to that question. The big headline figures about the losses of hundreds of millions of dollars on account of millions of days' wages being lost are frequently great fallacies. In some cases not a cent is lost and the increases in wages is a clear gain. The 1910 anthracite strike of six weeks only changed the date of the annual shut down of the miners. Just as much coal was produced for the year, but the miners got more for the portion mined after the strike. The headline statistics can always scare the public by multiplying by the wage rates, but no headline has ever pointed out another startling fact, and that is that in any normal year there are more days of labor lost on any three of the seven national holidays than in all the strikes of that year. Think of the three billion days lost on Sundays and Saturday afternoons, and yet nobody counts that a loss, but a gain."

"It is not meant by this that there is not unnecessary loss, suffering, injustice and abuse of power many times by the unions, but it does mean that a good deal of the statistics put out on the subject is pure and unadulterated rot."

BIG DISTRIBUTION OF SAFETY LITERATURE.

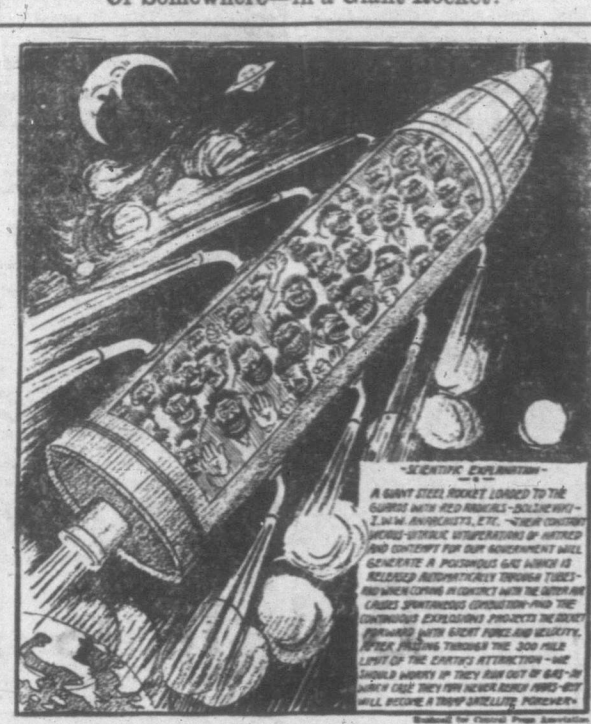
The Ontario Safety League continues to place a large amount of literature in the hands of motorists, school children, industrial workers, and others throughout the province. In the first six months of 1920, the league has distributed an enormous amount of safety material, including 22,000 industrial safety bulletins, 22,000 school safety bulletins, 19,500 special bulletins, 19,500 traffic bulletins, 12,500 motorist safety bulletins, 12,500 health bulletins, 5,000 new letters, 9,000 safety calendars, 12,500 leaflets to the "new man," 125,000 gummed seals, 12,500 safety cards, reports and posters.

The league has recently assisted in the formation of the Manitoba Safety League with headquarters in Winnipeg. The new organization has a bright future and should prove an incentive to other provinces.

Organization of the workers leads to better wages, fewer working hours, improved working conditions, it develops independence, manhood and character; it fosters tolerance and real justice and makes for a constantly growing better economic and political life for the burden-bearing masses.

It is estimated that from July, 1914, to July, 1918, there were approximately 1,200,000 women employed in industry in Great Britain. This number is exclusive of the 400,000 women who came from domestic service and smaller work-shops.

Why Not Deport Our Undesirable Aliens to Mars—Or Somewhere—in a Giant Rocket?



Loyal Dollars and The Union Label

By Charles L. Balne, Gen. Sec'y, Treas. Boot and Shoe Workers' Union.

The union label of the trade unions has been of far greater benefit to the laborer than any other device. There are numerous successful labor organizations of the present day whose success was founded upon their respective union labels. Among these is our own Boot and Shoe Workers' Union. We wish to express frankly our appreciation of the support we have received from trade union members and their friends and sympathizers which has helped our organization to become strong and successful and has enabled us to add our strength to the labor movement.

Our own experience has been duplicated by members of other unions. Every effort made to increase the sale of union labeled products has been repaid a hundredfold in added strength to labor's cause. Even the non-labor trades have benefited largely through adding strength to the whole movement, by using the union label as an organizing factor to include as many as possible of the workers of the respective trade unions.

Support of union labels is a practical thing of all unfair and non-union conditions. Every dollar spent for union label products is a dollar spent to support and to induce the union label movement, and a dollar withheld from aiding non-union concerns.

The great need of the present is that a larger percentage of genuine members and friends shall apply the union label principle religiously in all purchases, whether of goods or of services. The union label is a mark of goods made in non-union industries. Union members should not purchase goods from non-union industries. When they purchase union label products they are sure to be on the right side.

Women wage earners can do much in helping the union label cause. From a trade union standpoint nothing is cheaper if produced by non-union labor working for union-hating employers. Every dollar spent to support non-union concerns is used directly against organized labor.

Women wage earners also have much to do in helping the union label cause. The women of the home spend a large portion of the wages of their men folk. Any work done to induce the home women to spend the wages of their men in the support of union labels, and to withhold the money from support of non-union concerns, as a result is a most important addition to the strength of labor's cause at one of its weakest points.

In these days we hear much about the collective bargain. Organized labor is always struggling for a more complete recognition of the principle of collective bargaining. Every unorganized factory represents individual bargaining, which is really bargaining at all. In such factories the employer dictates and the individual employee must accept the dictation of the employer, or but no headline has ever pointed out another startling fact, and that is that in any normal year there are more days of labor lost on any three of the seven national holidays than in all the strikes of that year. Think of the three billion days lost on Sundays and Saturday afternoons, and yet nobody counts that a loss, but a gain."

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LEGAL CEREMONIALS UNFIT FOR INDUSTRY

Arbitration For Force Has Destroyed Spirit of Good-will in Australia.

Arbitration by force in Australia has destroyed the spirit of good-will so necessary in industry; it has enveloped industry in a stifling legal atmosphere that makes it impossible for employer and employee to develop a friendly spirit, and it has devalued the employee's sense of responsibility because arbitration courts now "fix things up." The above objections to compulsory arbitration in Australia are recorded in the Democrat, issued by the General Federation of Trades Unions of Great Britain, by a writer who has studied the Australian plan first hand.

The atmosphere of a court of law, with its ceremonial and delays, and legal interpretations, is unsuited for the settlement of industrial disputes," says the writer. "Where delays have occurred in hearings, owing to congestion, the men have often struck because, human nature being what it is, they refused to wait indefinitely. Even where delays are not unduly protracted the method is wrong. The parties meet under circumstances of restraint but unavoidable hostility; they directly interchanges views in a helpful way; but each endeavors, through the legal or secretarial representative, to persuade an impartial tribunal that it is wholly right and the other wholly wrong. Basically, it is an impossible method, if the aim be to create happier relations between the employer and the employee. That is the one result it can never achieve.

"What is needed is the direct contact of employer and employee; meeting together in person; not in order to fight out a bitter contest in a court room, but rather to help one another to find a mutual basis of settlement in their friendly atmosphere. Each would, sooner or later, realize the other's point of view—misimpression and groundless suspicion would disappear and then there might develop not only a sympathetic understanding, but also a righteous recognition of a duty to one another, and incidentally to the community. This thing cuts deep—and unless some conception of moral duty can be evolved—I confess I regard the future with apprehension."

SCORE PALMER'S SPIES.

United States Attorney-General Palmer's spies were scored by Federal Judge George W. Anderson of the Federal District Court, in releasing 17 alien radicals who were arrested in raids conducted by the Department of Justice. The court said:

"I cannot adopt the contention that Government spies are any more trustworthy or less disposed to make trouble in order to profit therefrom than are spies in private industry, except in time of war. Spies are necessarily drawn from the unwholesome and untrustworthy classes."

Judge Anderson referred to instructions received by the Boston Bureau of Investigation of the Federal Department of Justice regarding the use of "under cover instructions," and continued:

"The instructions necessarily imply that the department had in these parties pretended members of communist and communist labor party localities having sufficient influence so they could arrange to have meetings held on the night set for the raids. They show that the Government spies were then active and influential in these prescribed parties; they were not mere lookers-on."

A great man is one who can forget everything that flatters and gossips say about him.

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