



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



Entered at Ottawa Post Office as Second Class Postage
The Canadian Labor Press
PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS, LIMITED
339 COOPER ST., OTTAWA

A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

EMANCIPATION OF LABOR

On numerous previous occasions the necessity, the purpose and the advantages of trade union organization have been pointed out in these columns. Every organized worker knows that all labor organizations have chosen as their principal mission to secure for its members better wages and working conditions. He knows that this object can only be accomplished by means of a strong organization, which derives its power from the combined determination and energy of its membership. He further understands that the organizations of labor are an inevitable necessity for only through them the workers are in a position to successfully defend themselves against all attacks directed against them by the employers' associations, which are being waked by them for the realization of their fondest aims under which they hope to destroy the labor organizations and to degrade their members to weak and unprotected slaves.

However, many workers have not as yet thought of the fact that the organizations of labor are factors of culture and civilization, which cannot be appreciated highly enough for the reason that they in a beneficial manner influence their standard of knowledge and education, increasing their interest in economic, political and scientific questions and making them more eager and fond of learning, thus leading them onward to a higher standard of civilization. This will be proved more conclusively in the following paragraphs.

Let us go back about three or four decades and find out how at that time it looked about the working class. A small group at that time fought and strove for higher ideals while the great mass remained entirely untouched by the ideal thoughts for great erliberty or organization. The employer was complete master over "his" workers and the latter, unprotected and subserviently tolerated every cut in wages and the inferior working conditions imposed upon them. Sure enough, there was repeated and much complaint about the prevailing miserable times but the key was missing, which would have opened the portals leading to better and more beautiful times. The occasion lowering of the living standard of the workers too often was soon forgotten. The employer was the dominating power and the few labor agitators, appearing at different places and occasions, had a hard road to travel. Theirs was the mission to overcome the great obstacles which ignorance and stupidity placed in their paths.

Thanks to their untiring work of education they finally succeeded in this mission. By and by light began to penetrate into the minds of the workers. They were made to realize their condition so unworthy of any human being and the means were shown to them whereby they might emancipate themselves from these miserable conditions and reach a higher standard of civilization. "Unite and you will become a power." The workers heeding this advice began to form organizations, which originally grew but slowly, finally developing into the great powerful bodies of our present times.

It was through these labor organizations that the workers gained in strength, power and self-consciousness; through them they increased their knowledge and education for their teachings gave them much cause for deep thought. They created among the workers a greater desire for knowledge. As a result thereof periodical labor publications made their appearance, every national trade union established its own official publication and in the course of years the trade union press attained its present powerful position of influence. Within but a very few decades the great work of education and enlightenment carried on by the trade unions made wonderful progress.

Today we find millions of workers within the ranks of the trade unions. Ever-increasing industrial struggles force the workers in ever-growing numbers into these militant bodies and the organized employers show for help against these organized and well-disciplined working masses. The latter are subjected to many treacherous attacks on the part of their opponents but firmly facing and combatting all obstacles they determinedly march onward toward their final goal, asserting themselves in their struggle against the absolutism of the employers and striving for their final and complete emancipation and just reward. Thus they seek to carry out the historic mission of the enlightened workers who have realized their class conditions.

The older ones among our members, who know from past experience what great work has been accomplished by our trade unions in all these years past will adhere to them and continue to strive with them with love and devotion and the younger ones, who joined our ranks in later years, will do well to always remember that the many good things, which they have found through and in the organization, required years of never-ceasing educational work and untold sacrifices. That they must always bear in mind and never forget. And that remembrance should inspire them to ever thought and ever action. Defend and protect your organization as you would defend and protect a precious talisman. Your organization has not only brought you better working conditions, it has also brought to you unity, self-consciousness, a better knowledge and a higher education. Unity makes us all strong, knowledge leads us onward and education is the greatest factor of emancipation. These factors supplement each other and are indispensable in the victorious onward march of the working class toward its final emancipation.—Exchange.

TEXTILE BOSSES EVADE PUBLICITY

Providence, R.I.—Textile strikers are attempting to force employers to prove at a public hearing that their wage-cutting policy is necessary. The workers have tied up this industry in Rhode Island because of a 20 per cent. wage cut and an attempt to re-establish the 54-hour week. As a public hearing the workers will show that not only is the 20 per cent. wage cut unjustified, but, on the other hand, will show that part of a year ago should be returned to the workers," said President McMahon of the United Textile Workers. The statement of the manufacturer

OUR NEW SERIAL

The Captives of the Kaid

By B. MARCHANT

Synopsis of Previous Chapters.

Thirteen-year-old Lalla was the granddaughter of Squire Trevor of Oakenhurst Manor. One day while visiting the picture gallery she came across a picture turned face to the wall. She was told that it was the picture of the Squire's eldest son who had been drowned by his father and had never been heard of since. During a thunder storm Lalla is lost in the woods, and is brought home by a young sailor who had hurriedly left without waiting to be thanked. Circumstances lead to the belief that the stranger is the son of the Squire's eldest son. Mrs. Trevor's brother accompanied by Lalla and her mother, start on a cruise to the West Indies. A storm wrecks the yacht and the crew are taken prisoners. Sid at Bashir, a native of the harbor of Arkis, is in the effort of burying his wealth in different places. Once he and his servant Hashem are followed by a boy named Ighil, who sees his master killed by the servant and the paper with the plan of where all the wealth is buried taken from him. A few years later when Ighil died a rich man whom Ighil recognized as Hashem is made Kaid. Twenty years have passed when a big ship casts anchor at the harbor to inquire for a yacht that is believed the stranger glided away into the shadows in search of his mules, and, growing ferociously, Boom followed at his heels.

The short half-hour the stranger had spoken of, grew into nearly two to have been wrecked there a short time before. Lalla's dog is found by Ighil badly wounded. Captain Elberby, of the large vessel, was refusing an audience with the Kaid. Ighil tells the story of the Kaid to Timbuctoo, who decides to hold up the Kaid. Timbuctoo demands information as to the whereabouts of the Squire's survivors.

Sir Basil was the first to realize this, and to urge his little band of followers to, at least, a temporary patience and acquiescence, since it would avail them nothing to be wounded, or perhaps killed, in the futile endeavour to assert their rights to freedom. And then, with a brave, calm front, though an inwardly sinking heart, he had set the example of resigned fortitude, which his men copied with varying success.

Had there been a weapon in the hand of any one of them, it had been had for the Kaid that day. But the trouble was that they were a defenceless company, and, therefore, at the mercy of the great, black tyrant, into whose clutches they had fallen. The two women and the child were to be left undisturbed at present, the Kaid consented to say, with the air of one who grants a favour; and, though inwardly gnashing his teeth, Sir Basil was fain to be grateful for even such a mercy.

How many miles was it to Mogadore, and the nearest coast, he wondered; and then he tried to remember all he had heard of the natural resources of the country, so that he might judge whether a man without food or weapons could stand a chance of winning through to the town with the story of black treachery to his victims. This wonder and speculation had absorbed his thoughts during the first day, but a whispered consultation with the mate during the darkness of the night had assured him of the entire futility of such a plan.

It would take two months or more to go on foot to Mogadore, even if a man had provisions and a weapon to guard him from attacks alike of savage animals, and equally dangerous, treacherous men. Then, allowing for at least a month's delay in getting the boat to work, and five or six weeks to do the journey back again, by that time the rest of us would doubtless be got clear away to



Could Not Sleep

Mr. Earnest Clark, Police Officer, 338 King St., Kingston, Ont., writes:

"For three years I suffered from nervousness and sleeplessness. I believe my condition was brought about by overwork. I had frequent headaches, neuralgic pains and twitching of nerves and muscles. I had indigestion, was short of breath and easily tired. I commenced a treatment of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, and seven boxes of this medicine relieved me of all my symptoms. I am now feeling one hundred per cent. better than I was, and have to thank Dr. Chase's Nerve Food for the good health I am now enjoying."

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"Why, yes, of course, I am English; and, pray, what are you?" demanded Lalla, very much disconcerted by the sound of tears in the voice of the poor tourist in sackcloth.

"English, too; only I had the misfortune to be shipwrecked on this inhospitable shore. But speak again, little maiden, and tell me about your life; my troubles are so familiar to me, that I am quite tired of hearing them; so talk to me in the sweet home speech, and let me know how it is that you have come to be wandering here alone."

"I am not alone; at least, I mean the others are not very far away. Mother and Mrs. Bent, the stewardess, are at a hut just over beyond that topmost tree that you can see on the side of that hill, whilst Uncle Basil, and the men from the Squire's workshop are working in a clay pit just over there," and she pointed behind her to indicate the spot.

"So many!" cried the poor fellow eagerly. "My dear little maiden, run and tell them I am here, and then, if they have human hearts in their bosoms, they will come and set me free."

But Lalla could only shake her head despairingly, whilst big tears gathered in her eyes. "I am so sorry for you, poor man, but we are prisoners too; and Uncle Basil and his men have horrid sentries posted to shoot them down if they leave off work, or try to escape."

"But there are a number of them! They can surely strike a blow in self defence! If they don't, they will come to be what I am now, and death would be preferable to this!" he exclaimed bitterly, wringing his hands and sobbing like a child, whilst Lalla sobbed too from sheer sympathy.

"Oh, I am so very, very sorry for you," she wailed.

"Bless you for those kind words, my child; but I had staid sorely in the hot and headstrong days of my youth, so I deserved to suffer. Only those men you speak of, if there are more than one or two, tell them that I have no arms, and that I am a tyrant, before it crushes them quite."

"I will tell them; at least, I will tell my mother, and she will whisper it through the door to Uncle Basil, or Mr. Davidson, when they next take care of us in the night. But I don't go near the men when they are at work; for, yesterday, one of those horrid sentries pointed his musket at me, and I ran for my life; here Lalla shook the long hair out of her eyes, clenching her small fist, as if nothing would have given her greater pleasure than to personally chastise that same evil-minded sentry."

"Poor little girl! Keep as close to your mother as possible, my child; only send my word to the men to make a bold bid for their freedom, before their strength deserts them. How I wish Ighil would come again! He would help me to help them—I am sure that he would."

"Who is Ighil?" asked Lalla, with great interest.

"A black man who has been kind like a ministering angel to me; the only friend I have had in all these dreadful, weary years; and again the poor fellow sobbed, as if the burden of his misery was quite too heavy for endurance.

"Years!" echoed the little girl in dismayed astonishment. "Have you been here so long?"

"Yes, and never in all that time have I heard a word of English, save that which I taught Ighil to use, until you came today with your sweet words of pity," answered the man, passing one lean, brown hand across his face, so that he could see

more plainly the fair-haired child standing on the ridge above him.

"What is it you are doing with all those boxes?" asked Lalla, making a move as if to go, for she guessed that her mother would be getting anxious at her prolonged absence.

"Making bricks for the sun to dry and harden," he answered, dabbing a mass of wet clay and chopped straw into one of the box-like frames, and then carefully smoothing it over.

"It looks rather nice work, something like making mud pies—Did you ever make mud pies when you were a boy?" Lalla demanded eagerly.

"I don't remember about the pies, but I know we used to get clay, and build a dam across a little stream that ran through the beech-wood. One day my brother Raymond and I built the dam so thick and strong that the water could not break it down, as the stream overflowed, doing no end of damage, and making the Squire—that was our father—so angry that he cut off our pocket-money for a month. Ah! but what happy days they were!" and the poor captive groaned again in anguish of heart, as he contrasted that long-ago past with the present.

Lalla gasped for breath. This man had had a brother Raymond; called his father the Squire; and spoke of the stream running through the beech-wood. Was he—could it be any possibility chance that this poor wretched prisoner, hidden away in the lonely Squire country, was the original of that famous picture which hung in the little room opening out of the picture-gallery at Oakenhurst Manor.

"Oh, tell me, please—tell me, what is your name, and where did you live when you were a boy?" she panted.

The man looked up from dabbing clay and straw into another frame, surprised at her eagerness.

"I have not always been a captive to my captives," he said, with pathetic humility; "but I was proud enough of it once, for I am a Trevor of Oakenhurst Manor, near Westminster."

"Oh, oh!" cried Lalla, skipping in a perfect ecstasy of delight; and then, without another word, she darted away to tell the wonderful news to her mother.

(Continued next Week)

FEDERAL MEMBER SUGGESTS INDEMNITY CUT.

One member of parliament has risen in the house to urge that his own industry, along with those of the 234 other members of the commons, be cut down. In the course of his speech in the debate in the house on the address, T. E. Ross, Progressive member from North Simcoe, urged the government to practice the strictest economy. He said he would go further, and would make a suggestion which probably would not be favorably received by his fellow members. This was that legislation should be introduced in the present session to reduce the members' indemnity from \$4,000, where it now stands, to \$2,500, the point from which it was increased two sessions ago.

The increase at that time, said Mr. Ross, had not been justified. He admitted that "the laborers were worthy of his hire" and that employing cheap men was not always economy, but he believed the indemnity should have remained at the former figure, and he would support any measure to get it back there. The member for North Simcoe added that he was making the suggestion voluntarily.

The attendance in the chamber was very light and Mr. Ross' suggestion was not received with any outburst of applause.

COAL STRIKE SEEMS INEVITABLE.

Secretary of Labor Davis and John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, exchanged views today on the threatening situation in the bituminous coal industry and

both were said after the conference to be of the opinion that a national strike in the union fields was inevitable. Mr. Lewis assured Mr. Davis again of the willingness of the miners' union to open negotiations for a new national wage contract, a proposition which mine operators are refusing to entertain.

Later Mr. Lewis declared the cessation of work in the union mines after April 1 was "coming about automatically," and asserted that "a bold commercial policy of the operators for which the public must pay" was in part responsible.

"If there is no conference between the miners' union and the operators," he added, referring to the bituminous situation, "there can be no wage contract drawn up. If there is no wage contract there won't be any coal dug after April 1 in union mines."

FOOTWEAR PRICES DROP ACROSS THE LINE.

Reduction in the price of shoes has been announced by the manufacturer of Boston and the old colony district generally comprising one of the largest men's shoe making centres in the United States. Although an authoritative announcement of the cut is lacking it is understood to be between 25 and 50 cents a pair, wholesale price.

The price reduction follows the recent award of a wage cut of 10 per cent., made by the State Board of Conciliation and Arbitration. This wage cut, it was said, amounted to from 12 to 15 cents reduction in the factory costs of Brocton grade well shoes and from 11 to 15 cents a pair in the shoes in adjoining towns.

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