

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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The finishing touches have been applied to the vast expanse of roof that is to cover the most elaborate plant in Canada devoted exclusively to family washings at our new building on Ossington Avenue, just south of Dundas Street. Ready and waiting to be installed is equipment that will do more to help Toronto housewives in their wash problems than anything that has hitherto been attempted. Keep in mind the fact that we are doing one kind of laundry better than any other plant, namely—family washings—and our very special method is called "Semi-Finished." Soft water—pure soap—separate washings—and lowest prices. Let us serve you.

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MR. MURDOCK GIVES ANOTHER REPLY TO MINERS' OFFICIAL

Fails to See How Interpretation of Industrial Disputes Can Be So Strained as to Legitimize Strike.

Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, replying to a telegram from Robert Peacock, Edmonton miners' secretary, that the strike in the western coal field was justified, wrote that he "had not supposed and responsible trades union officer would seriously contend that the interpretation of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act could be so strained as to legitimize a strike occurring nearly two years after the deliverance of a conciliation board."

F. E. Harrison, labor department, Calgary officer, has been instructed to investigate the situation in the Edmonton coal fields and report to the minister as early as possible.

Mr. Peacock, in his message to the minister contended that the strike was justified because after the 1920 board of conciliation filed its report, "The operators refused to comply with the majority award and still kept on operating their mines."

Minister's Telegram.

The text of the minister's telegram to Mr. Peacock follows: "Your message of sixth received. You claim in effect that the present strike is not illegal because of an inquiry conducted by a board of conciliation and investigation established two years ago with regard to a dispute between Edmonton coal operators and members of your organization, its findings having been made a few weeks later. I am not, of course, in a position to offer a judicial view on the point here raised but I had not supposed any responsible trades union officer would seriously contend that the interpretation of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act could be so strained as to legitimize a strike occurring nearly two years after the deliverance of a conciliation board. The lapse of so long a period as two years would under normal industrial conditions so greatly change the aspect of a dispute with regard to wages that a new dispute would be assuredly created, and none would be better aware than yourself how abnormal has been the industrial situation during the past two or three years, and how much less therefore could an enquiry conducted two years ago before a board of conciliation and investigation be reasonably regarded as leaving parties to a dispute arising two years later free to disregard the provisions of the statute."

Recollection Uncertain.

"I do not recall the conversation of last July, to which you refer, but feel entirely confident that nothing would have been said by me which could be properly held to support the view you now advance. On the contrary, the unfortunate industrial conditions existing in District 18 during last summer are but an apt illustration of the changes which have been occurring during the past two or three years with regard to wage conditions in coal mining as in industry generally, and of the utter unreasonableness of the suggestion that an enquiry started at the close of the year 1920 should be effective for the purposes of the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act in a dispute occurring on the eve of 1922."

"It is not clear in what way, if at all, the good offices of the department can be effectively exercised while the workmen remain on strike and in this way, I must maintain, show so serious a disregard for the laws of Canada, but F. E. Harrison, the Calgary officer of the department, has been instructed to visit Edmonton immediately and he will make a full report on the situation."

Mr. Peacock's telegram to the minister stated: "Replying to your letter of November 25, I beg to ask you as to what process of reasoning we can justify the calling of the strike in the Edmonton field, as you claim it is in violation of the law, if you would peruse your records you will find that a board of conciliation under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act was granted in December, 1920, and an award was handed down in the month of February, 1921. The majority report was signed by the chairman, Mr. Fisher, of Saskatoon, and Mr. Robert Livett, representing the mine workers, and Solicitor Reid of Edmonton submitted a minority report for the operators. The operators refused to comply with the majority award and still kept on operating their mines. Now if we interpret the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act properly, after a board has rendered its findings either side is at liberty to take whatever lawful action is necessary to protect themselves, and having inclosed one eye, gazed at the man, mind your conversation with the representatives of the mine workers in the month of July, 1922, when you members of the Western Canada Coal Operators' Association to pay the present rate of wages in view of the fact that many of the non-union operators were paying just about half the scale paid by the said association, we have taken this stand in an effort to obviate the differentials now existing; also to raise the standard of the poor unfortunate mine workers of the Edmonton field, and we are endeavouring to bring this about by the only course left open to us after the operators have persistently refused to meet with us and discuss the question of the recognition of our union, and all we ask of you is to see your influence and power to see that the law is carried out, believing we have the right of peaceable picketing without undue interference by police officials. We regret we stated the Canadian Mounted Police. On further investigation we find it is the provincial police who are committing these acts. Trusting we can depend on your full co-operation in having the spirit of collective bargaining carried out."

SCHOOL CARTAKERS REQUEST OLD SCALE

Janitors Dissatisfied With Present Rate Paid for Overtime.

A deputation representative of the cartakers of the Ottawa public schools, appeared before the members of the public school board building committee at its meeting and asked that the schedule for overtime revert to the rate paid prior to the present scale.

The janitors are frankly dissatisfied with the schedule now in effect. This schedule provides only for a payment of 75 cents per hour for the first hour of overtime at nights and 25 cents for each subsequent half hour. Prior to last April, the caretakers were paid for night overtime at the rate of \$2 from 7.30 to 10.00 p.m.; \$3 for the period from 7.30 to 11.00 p.m.; and \$5 if their services were required later than eleven o'clock at night. It is this discarded schedule of payment which the janitors now want restored instead of the present basis.

Mr. J. Reid, of Glasgow school, and Mr. E. Chamberlain, of Breeze Hill avenue school, were the chief spokesmen for the caretakers. They emphasized the length of hours which they had to work ordinarily, and stated that their day's work averaged 12 1/2 to 13 1/2 hours, and stated that in some schools it meant overtime for the janitor five nights in the week. They pointed out, also, that an extra burden of overtime was caused by the numerous meetings, community entertainments, etc.; now being held in so many public school buildings.

THE WORLD WAR AND WALTER PAGE

Late American Ambassador Took Strong Attitude For Allies.

The life and letters of Walter H. Page shows the late American Ambassador to England in the light of a strong friend of the Allies.

It was the return to power, after long absence, of the Democrats that gave Page his opportunity of shining in a new sphere," says the Scotsman. "The 'Wilson era' had begun; he and Woodrow Wilson had known each other since they were boys; and he had an ardent admiration for the President and his ideas and ideals—although his belief in these became much modified when time and experience had put them to the test. From the start the new Ambassador was charmed by, and charmed London society by, the establishment of the kindest relations with our public men, and began a friendship, destined to become closer under trial, with Sir Edward Gray, then at the head of foreign affairs. His letters, give a frank and lively, yet sympathetic, picture of British life and society, as it was just before the war, and during the war. He credits us with 'more solid sense than any other great people; he could see no sign 'that the race was breaking down or giving out.'"

"They have an awful clam, I hear, and they have an idle class. Worse, from an equal opportunity point of view, they have a very large servant class, and a large class that depends on nobility and the rich. All these are economic and social drawbacks."

"The 'Scotch,' " he acknowledges, he never understood—although his wife was of Scottish descent. Writing of us to one of his sons, from Edinburgh on his way to Skibo in September, 1912, he gives a hasty sketch of the country and the race, which is part complimentary and part farcical: "I have never understood the Scotch. I think they are, without doubt, the most capable race in the world—away from home. But how they came to be so, and how they keep up their character and supremacy, and keep breeding true, needs explanation. As you come through the country, you see the most monstrous and dingy little houses, thousands of robust children, all dirtier than niggers. In the fertile parts fully cultivated—for Lord This-and-That, who lives in London, and of the country the fields are beautiful ones up here in summer to collect his rents and to shoot. The country people seem desperately poor. But they don't lose their robustness. In the solid cities—the solidest you ever saw, all being of granite—such as Edinburgh and Aberdeen, where you see the prosperous class, they look the sturdiest and most independent fellows you ever saw."

"Though Page's letters gave little sign of mental and bodily exhaustion, there can be no doubt that the strain of anxieties and the increased cares of office told heavily on the Ambassador's strength. His resignation, under medical orders, was given in August, 1918, when peace with victory was coming into sight; and he died, soon after reaching home, a few weeks after the signing of the Armistice.

He served his country ably and faithfully while making himself the friend of the nation to whom he was delegated. President Wilson, with whom he clashed sharply in views and temperament in the later years of his Embassy, said of him to Mr. Taft: "Page is really an Englishman, and I have to discount whatever he says about the situation in Great Britain"—which is perhaps an explanation of some of Wilson's mistakes.

"When Mr. Page was called across to Washington in the summer of 1916, he found that 'not the slightest interest was taken in his visit' at headquarters. The President was 'far apart on practically every issue connected with the crisis'; 'cold and irresponsive,' and 'interested only in ending the war'; access to him was had 'only by men the Germans have scared, or who have a complaint'; 'he was,' says the ambassador, 'the loneliest man I have ever known.' Lansing would 'speak only of 'cases'; Mr. Wilson 'shuts out the world and lives too much alone, feeding only on knowledge and subjects he has already acquired, not getting new and fresh news or fresh suggestions from men and women.' He had 'no social touch,' but 'did his own thinking untouched by other men's ideas.'"

"One day a friend and adviser of President Wilson's came into the Ambassador's office just as Page had finished one of his communications to Washington.

"'Read that!' the Ambassador said, handing over the manuscript to his visitor."

"'As the caller read, his countenance displayed the progressive stages of his amazement. When he had finished his hands dropped helplessly upon his knees.

"'Is that the way you write to the President?' he gasped.

"'Of course,' Page replied quietly. 'Why not? Why shouldn't I tell him the truth? That is what I am here for.'"

"'There is no other person in the world who'd dare talk to him like that!' was the reply."

LIVE WIRE MINISTER JOINS EARLY RISERS

Ontario Minister of Public Highways Finds "Morning Glories" Who Rise to Greet The Sun.

Hon. F. C. Biggs, the "live wire" minister of public highways of the Ontario Government says he believes in early rising, but he knows that some members of the U. F. O. have it over him like a tent when it comes to "quitting the hay" in the morning.

He relates that on a recent tour through Wellington Co. his party were compelled to stop overnight at a certain farmhouse. As it happened



Hon. F. C. Biggs.

there was considerable rivalry between this farmer and the one on the adjoining farm as to who usually began the days work first.

"The farmer with whom we stopped," says Mr. Biggs, "was to have an extra busy day and rose at 3.30 a.m., and to have the laugh on his neighbour on the pretext of borrowing something, he hustled over to his farm. He knocked at the kitchen door but was surprised to find the wife already cleaning up after getting away the breakfast dishes. Good morning, is Tom around?" he asked.

"'Why,' says the good wife, 'he was here early this morning but I think he is now down on the far lot.'"

MINE WORKERS TO FIGHT INJUNCTION.

Calgary, District 18, United Mine Workers of America, will contest the injunction granted by Mr. Justice Harvey on behalf of the Great Western Coal Company, Limited, restraining the officials of the miners' organization from picketing. The matter is now in the hands of their solicitor.

After a conference of the officials regarding the attitude taken in the Edmonton strike by Hon. James Murdock, federal Minister of Labor, a telegram was sent to the minister protesting against his decision regarding the Edmonton strike situation.



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THE IMMIGRATION POLICY

Initiation of "aggressive advertising and publicity campaigns in other countries is to be the first major move in Canada's new 'drive' for increased population. That is announced in the statement of the Government's plans which was made at Ottawa by Hon. Charles Stewart, Acting Minister of Immigration and Colonization. The Government is starting in the right way, at all events. Advertising pays countries as well as individuals, and campaigns outside of Canada are sure to bring profitable returns to the Dominion through increased immigration, providing such immigrants are going on the land, and not coming to swell the ranks of the unemployed in industrial centres.

Mr. Stewart and his colleagues propose to put forth much of their new effort in the British Isles. That, of course, is a sensible plan. There are great numbers of people in those islands desirous of getting into less congested countries and countries which offer more opportunity to the people of small means than is to be found in the Old Country, and there are no new settlers of better type than selected immigrants from Britain and Ireland. But the British Isles do not make up the only field from which Canada can draw desirable settlers. However the best feature of the Government's policy, in many respects, is the plan of putting forth special effort to induce Canadians now resident in the United States to return to their own country, take up land here and employ their energy and ability in the development of the homeland. Even in recent years large numbers of Canadians have left the Dominion for the United States while the total number of Canadians in the Republic runs into millions. Immigrants from the British Isles will make the finest of citizens, so will immigrants from some of the countries of Northern Europe, so will many Americans, but the greatest service an immigration and colonization policy could do the Dominion would be to bring back into this country the 'native sons,' familiar with Canadian ways and conditions, who, for various reasons, have become residents of other lands.

Ottawa is following what looks to be the right kind of a recipe. And the right kind of effort to bring about the repatriation of Canadians who have left the Dominion and settled in the United States, and to induce greatly increased immigration, is one of Canada's three great needs. Sound methods in the administration of the country's finances and sound methods in the management of the National Railways are the other two major national needs at the moment. Increase of population through repatriation and immigration, moreover, must, of course, make easier the solution of the financial and railway problems.

COULD NOT BE OTHERWISE

Mr. Lloyd George was reported the other day as saying that he would not dispute recognition as the official Opposition in the Commons with the Labor Party. Perhaps Mr. Lloyd George said nothing of the kind; he is surely too sensible a man to expect that a group of less than 50 members should be given standing over a group of more than a hundred. Recognition of the Labor Party as the official Opposition was the right and unavoidable course under the circumstances existing in the new British Parliament. As a matter of fact, if any group other than Labor was to be recognized as the official Opposition it would be the Independent Liberals who outnumber the Georgians by more than a dozen members in the House.

A FOURTH PARTY IN AUSTRALIA

There are already three strong political parties in Australia, and recent developments held out the prospect that a fourth may be in the field in time to take a hand in the federal general elections early in December.

In the present House, the Nationalist party, of which Premier Hughes is the leader, holds thirty-seven seats, just one-half of the total number, but the government has been able to hold office securely because the two other parties have found it impossible to agree. The Labor party stands second in strength, with twenty-four seats, and the third—the Country party—has thirteen. This would suggest rather delicate position for the government, but, as a writer in a London newspaper says:

"In reality, the position of Premier Hughes has been much more secure than the figures would suggest. There is not a shadow of community of interest between the low tariff Country party, and the high-protectionist Labor party, between the representative of the rural producer and the spokesman of the Trades Hall, with its dream of a rural workers' trade union and the introduction of an eight hour day and a fixed minimum wage for farm laborers; and Mr. Hughes, master tactician as he is, has adroitly contrived to accentuate the breach between the two parties, with the result that they have invariably been found on opposite sides of the chair in times of crisis."

If a fourth party is created by the revival of the Liberal party Premier Hughes' position might not be quite so secure, as the talk of revival is said to be due to the dissatisfaction felt by members of the Nationalist party who possess Liberal ideas. It is

hardly to be expected that, in the limited time at their disposal before the general elections, they would be able to muster sufficient strength to secure office, but the division in the ranks of the Nationalist party might leave the government in a position which would make it impossible for the present administration to carry on.

There is a possibility, however, that should the Liberal party be reorganized and secure enough seats to demand recognition, that a coalition between that group and the Nationalists might be formed in order to form a new government which would be strong enough to hold office.

To California via Canadian National Route.

At this season of the year, many Canadians are planning to visit California. Of course there are many routes, each with its special scenic interest, but, treating travel as a fundamental of education, why not travel one way through Canada. It will give you an opportunity of knowing your own country better, a chance to view the finest mountain scenery in America, and to visit our own all-year-round resorts on the Pacific coast, Vancouver and Victoria, where the grass is green and flowers bloom, and golf, motoring, and all outdoor sports may be indulged in throughout the winter months. Discuss this tour with any agent of the Canadian National Railways, before concluding your plans. "The Continental Limited," which runs daily between Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, is one of the finest all-steel equipment trains in America. For full particulars, apply to the Canadian National-Grand Trunk Railways, City Passenger Office, Cor. Sparks and Metcalfe Sts., Ottawa.

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A man who believed he knew all about parrots undertook to teach what he thought to be a young, mute bird to say "Hello!" in one lesson. Going up to the cage he repeated that word a clear voice for several minutes, the parrot paying not the slightest attention. At the final "Hello!" the bird protected himself, and having inclosed one eye, gazed at the man, and snapped out, "Line's busy."