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Saskatchewan Labor's Realm

Weekly Labor and Social Reform Newspaper.

Justice, Truth, Fraternity. "Labor Omnia Vincit."

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The Liquor Question and the P.P.A.

On another page of this issue will be found a letter written by James Nixon, Kinbrae, Sask., to the Esterhazy Observer, a copy of which paper was forwarded to us at Mr. Nixon's request.

At a later date we received the following communication from the provisional secretary of the Comrades of Equity:

"The provisional committee request that the Editor of the Realm should understand that the Comrades of Equity, while expressing no opinion on the question of prohibition, regret that the letter appearing in the Realm of June 19th, written by W. C. Paynter, should have been inserted as having been written by the President of the People's Political Association, the C. of E. being out for the support of every producer whether he be a moderate drinker or a total abstainer. The question of prohibition will be taken up and settled as provided by the resolution passed by the P.P.A. at the Regina convention, i.e.: 'Whereas it is the opinion of the People's Political Association of Canada that the liquor traffic as at present administered is in opposition to the best interests of the people.'"

"Be it resolved that we instruct all delegates to this convention to refer the matter back to their several organizations so that a referendum may be taken to find the real opinion of the people on this matter."

Moved by Jas. Nixon and seconded by J. Bigton that the above be forwarded to the Editor of the Realm for publication.

In reply to the above communication the Editor desires to thank the provisional committee of the Comrades of Equity for defining their position with regard to their relationship with the public utterances of the duly elected provisional president of the P.P.A. At the same time the Editor desires to repudiate the responsibility for the article being signed by the president of the P.P.A. Mr. Paynter was elected president of the P.P.A. at a meeting where the Comrades of Equity preponderated, he is also a member of the latter body, and the minority accepted the contention implied in the majority vote at that convention that he was well qualified to fill the position to which he was appointed, and to carry out the desires of the delegates as expressed in the resolutions adopted at that convention. Since the day of the convention the secretary of the P.P.A. has received no official communication of any kind from the Comrades of Equity, and no protest has been registered by any officer or member of the party to the attitude taken by W. C. Paynter in the article referred to, except in the Esterhazy Observer which we have just received.

At the convention on June 10th, it was decided that the Saskatchewan Labor's Realm should continue under its old name until such time as we were in a position to know what support could be given from the farmers, when the name would be changed to the People's Press, if otherwise satisfactory. Up to the present date no expression from the farmers has been received, so that the columns of this paper have remained open to anyone desiring to contribute articles on social reform as heretofore. If at any time the conditions of the resolutions expressed in Convention on

June 10th are carried out, and this paper is made the official organ of the P.P.A., it will then become the duty of the Editor to see that there shall be nothing in its columns that shall conflict with the principles of the P.P.A. as laid down at the last or any subsequent convention of that body.

Labor's Realm has never yet deviated from its principles. It is a weekly labor and social reform paper, and is in sympathy with the opinion expressed by W. C. Paynter in so far as he desires to restrict the evil and pernicious influence of the liquor traffic as at present administered, but it does not support him as the president of the P.P.A. calling upon every thinking man and earnest christian to rally to the support of the association, and use it to wipe out this and all other evils that are a menace to our national life. We have on more than one occasion contended that the real solution of the liquor traffic will be found, not in the abuse of the licensed victuallers, not in any revolutionary spoliation of the liquor interests, but in the creating of a greater ideal amongst working men. When men are brought at last to realise that the sister, the wife, and the mother need the money they ruthlessly squander over the public bar, the evils of the liquor traffic will cease to be noticed, and in the natural and ordinary process of evolution the public bar will fall into desuetude and will become a secondary instead of a first consideration with hotel keepers.

Mr. Jas. Nixon would appear to be perfectly justified in his contention that Mr. W. C. Paynter had no right and no authority to call anyone to his aid as president of the P.P.A. to fight for the abolition of the liquor traffic or any other evil. The constitution of the People's Political Association distinctly stipulates that all matters at issue shall be decided by the initiative and referendum, and the subject of the liquor traffic, which was generally accepted as one of the most important social problems that will have to be faced in the near future, was deferred until such time as a referendum of the people could be obtained on the matter. It is therefore obvious that Mr. Paynter erred, inasmuch as he anticipated the result of the referendum on the subject, and in doing so was liable to censure from the following of which he is the appointed head. At the same time, whilst strongly disapproving his precipitate action, we are nevertheless constrained to think that he was actuated only by the purest motives, and sought to remedy a crying social evil rather than that he was a conscious autocrat flagrantly abusing his power and privilege as the president of the new association. He sought to enlist the sympathies of the Church in a matter in which the Church should be the prime mover, and if he had done so as an individual would be worthy of praise instead of censure, but in his capacity of President of the People's Political Association of Canada, he overstepped the bounds of propriety by abusing his official power.

Notes and Comments.

If all the sub-contracts for the New Parliament Buildings are let to Montreal firms, it means a considerable importation of labor and a subsequent scarcity of jobs for local workmen.

A meeting of the Comrades of Equity is called for July 18th, for the purpose of nominating an Independent Candidate for the coming election.

Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, recently denounced the reports emanating from Denver that he is fighting for the nomination of Bryan. He disclaimed any

preference for or against Bryan. He reiterated the opposition Republican platform and Taft. We are going to Denver said he, to try and get the labor planks in the Democratic platform, the same as we did at the Republican convention. We are not seeking candidates, but seeking pledges that labor will get its rights before the law.

The Republican Party have little sympathy with Gompers and his anti-injunction plank. President Gompers says in referring to labor's plea for its rights before that august assembly: "We asked for bread and they gave us a stone." The millions of American working men will do well to remember that when election day comes round.

Athos, in our Socialist column this week, sounds the true and sincere note of reform, when he seeks to unite the forces of labor regardless of the conditions implied in a name. Socialism, in the main, preaches the spirit of class consciousness. Organized labor is becoming class conscious. The farmer is awakening to the fact that the corporations which exploit him, and at whose mercy he is both ways, i.e., when he buys his implements with which to produce and again when he desires to dispose of his produce, does not belong to his class; unorganized labor is class oppressed and have been for so long that real consciousness is dawning, and any effort to form a coalition of all these forces is in the right direction, and when completed will herald the beginning of the end.

Council for Sydney

W. R. Trotter is doing excellent work in the eastern provinces for organized labor. On July 3rd he was in Sydney, C. B., doing organization work for the Trades Congress of Canada.

On his journey to Sydney, Mr. Trotter stopped off at Moncton and held a very successful meeting there, which resulted in a strong committee being formed, comprising members of all organized bodies in the railroad centre to bring about the organization of the Trades and Labor Council, and a big success is assured.

Mr. Trotter made some interesting statements regarding the work and magnitude of the Congress. It now represents over 15,000 trade unionists who will send to the convention about 150 delegates, and the importance of holding the convention in the great eastern part of Canada cannot be too strongly impressed on its citizens. Each city and town throughout the whole Dominion will be represented, and there is no shadow of doubt that the fame and importance of the city of Halifax will be carried back to all parts of this great country by each and everyone of the visitors.

Two years ago when the congress met in convention at Victoria, on the Pacific coast, both city and province entertained the delegates in right royal fashion realising the vast importance to themselves as an advertising medium, owing to very many of the delegates acting as reporters during their visit for their own local newspapers.

Exactly the same thing happened in Winnipeg last year and a further idea of the feeling on the matter there may be gathered from the fact that the city gave \$1,000 and the Province of Manitoba \$500 towards the costs of the convention. The Manitoba Government also granted the use of the Assembly Chambers for the meetings of the delegates, and during their debates Premier Roblin was a most frequent visitor besides many leading ministerial members.

During the past two years Mr. Trotter has been employed by the congress on organizing work between the great lakes and the Pacific coast where he invariably met with remarkable success, and his ability in this class of work is fully assured. Mr. R. P. Pettipiece has now been appointed western organizer on the same territory, and Mr. Trotter has been asked by the congress to devote his attention to the Maritime Provinces.

There will be a meeting of the carpenters in their own hall here in the city on Monday evening next. On the Tuesday following a meeting will be held to organize a Trades and Labor Council in this city, under the Congress of Canada. On Wednesday evening a mass meeting will be held at Glace Bay, and on Thursday evening a mass meeting will be held in Sydney.

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