



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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RAILWAY INDEPENDENCE

In recent negotiations with employees concerning wage adjustments the Grand Trunk Railway in effect declared its independence of the United States Railroad Labor Board. It was decided to establish three bases upon which the wages of each group of employees would be decided. For instance, car cleaners in the large cities will be given one rate of pay per hour; in smaller cities a slightly less rate will be fixed, and in the towns and villages a still lower rate will be given. This recognizes the variance in the cost of living as between cities, towns and villages. The general plan of the United States Railway Labor Board had been to set increase or decrease in wages for any particular class of employees at a fixed rate, regardless of the living conditions surrounding those affected.

To independent thought in Canada this plan of adjustment has never been comprehensible. The Board had never given recognition to the varying conditions in different parts of the United States, and the result has, consequently, meant that the man in the South, where railroading is an easier proposition than in the North, realizes a greater benefit by a wage increase and is less adversely affected by the decrease. Where Canadian railways have almost blindly followed the lead of the U. S. Railroad Labor Board, it has meant a far greater hardship. Even in comparison with the Northern States, railroading in Canada is far more difficult. Conditions in this country for more than half the year call for a greater physical strain and exercise of mentality than in the moderate climate of the republic.

The acceptance of the United States standard for wage and working conditions on Canadian railways in the first instance resulted from the fact that for many years no definite standard had been attempted in Canada. With the consolidation and centralization of Canadian railroads, it is only logical that wage and working conditions should follow the same course. The shippers of Canada would most assuredly raise a howl to high heaven if freight rates were governed by United States schedules. Why, then, should there not be the same independence in wage and working condition schedules.

The Grand Trunk Railway has taken a step in the right direction in this respect, and it rests with the other Canadian railways to make it unanimous.

ORGANIZED LABOR

Organized labor is raising the standards of working men by compelling them to think rapidly and to speak clearly. The trade-union movement has developed a company of speakers who are abundantly able to present the cause of the toilers. This is constantly being demonstrated at the national meetings of labor bodies, where statesmanship of the highest order is demanded and where some of the addresses would easily rank with the best that are delivered in the conferences and conventions of other national bodies.

Organized labor is raising the standards of working men by fighting the battle of all the people. It is carrying with it even the lowest and most degraded. Every victory won for the men and women at the top means a higher level for those lower down. While the trade unionist may for a time belong to the aristocracy of labor, he soon makes of that aristocracy a democracy for all.

DRY LAW IGNORED

Continued from Page 1.

ditions in the Pittsburgh district, writes the Tribune's correspondent. The Washington correspondent reports that some of the biggest liquor raids have been within the shadow of the nation's Capitol and that Washington is still extensively wet in spots. California voted a local enforcement law at the recent election, the slogan of which is "smash the bootlegger," but the report from there is that the status of the liquor question is neither better nor worse. Prohibition is reported to be a financial success in St. Louis, as the fines paid by violators exceed the cost of enforcement. Liquor, however, continues to be sold openly.

Baltimore reports the number of prohibition agents as too small to enforce the law. Omaha reports that liquor is now sold in 3,000 places, as compared with 300 before the enactment of the prohibition amendment. Kansas City, Missouri, reports whiskey plentiful, cheap and of a doubtful character.

It is to be hoped that for the sake of decency, at forthcoming conference on the liquor question between President Harding and the Governors of the States some effective method of wiping out the national disgrace will be found.

"I hope that the fact that the wet showed strength in your State does not affect your belief that prohibition needs enforcement."

"It needs more than that in some unregenerate districts," replied Senator Lorcham. "It needs reinforcement."

SURE OF HIS FUTURE

The popular American ambassador to England, Mr. Harvey, has been regaling his audiences at after-dinner speeches with several good prohibition yarns.

In wild Texas, he says, a prohibition officer was grilling a sheriff for not enforcing the Volstead Act. Illustrious stills were plentiful in the wild ranges. The sheriff pleaded that he did his best.

The prohibition officer doubted it, and had himself appointed deputy sheriff. He went to the wildest town and accosted a little boy.

"Say, kid, do you know where there are any stills here?"

"Sure, boss! My father keeps one."

"I'll give you a shilling if you take me to it."

At that moment the boy noticed the sheriff's badge on the waistcoat.

"Say, boss, will you give me that shilling now?"

"No. You get it when we come back."

"I'd rather have it now, 'cause I don't think you're coming back."

CAUGHT ON THE RUN.

Private Banks had been the most bashful and retiring little man in the Army. When women visited the camp he had always fled for shelter and stayed there until after they had left. So it came as a surprise when one of his former companions came across him in civilian clothes and was introduced to a large, husky girl as Mrs. Banks.

When he was able to get Banks aside, he asked him how he had met his wife.

"Well," returned the little man meekly "it was this way. I never did exactly meet her. She just kinder overtook me."

Patronize White Laundries Who Employ White Labor

NEWS FROM ACROSS

Continued from Page 1.

Trade Unions as that platform now stands," the letter said. The A. F. of L. could not agree to such a platform.

The Talbot Clothing Co. of Boston, Mass., was recently granted a sweeping injunction by Judge Martin of the Superior Court of Massachusetts against the Amalgamated Clothing Workers. The injunction is on effect most sweeping Labor injunctions in the history of the country. The respondents are strictly enjoined from seeking to impose closed shop conditions upon the company, and from visiting employees for the purpose of trying to induce them to leave or not to enter the employment of the company.

The prison population of the United States, not including the chain and road gangs and women committed to religious or charitable institutions, increased from 140,186 on July 1, 1917, to 150,131 on July 1, 1922, the Census Bureau announced recently. A rate of increase of 131 was noted in Federal and State prisons combined.

Radicals and Communists under the direction of the Trade Union Educational League, headed by Wm. Z. Foster, have launched the campaign to convert the Needle Trade Unions of New York City into "militant revolutionary organizations," and amalgamate them into one big industrial union.

The request for an increase in wages amounting to approximately 18 per cent, affecting 271,000 employees, will be asked of the U. S. Labor Railroad Board, E. H. Fitzgerald, Grand President of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, announced prior to his departure for Chicago.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., in a letter to the Chattanooga News, declares that no matter how difficult, conditions of employment of labor must be changed. The letter was in reply to an editorial expression of the newspaper on Mr. Rockefeller's statement condemning the 12-hour day in the steel industry.

Apprehension of legislation harmful to business as a result of the victories of radicals in the last election were expressed by delegates to the annual convention of the National Foundry Association, composed of corporations and individuals engaged in the operation of steel, iron and brass foundries. "November 7 was a bad day for big business," was the way in which one of the association expressed it.

The Pennsylvania State Federation of Labor met at Harrisburg, November 23 and was addressed by Governor Elect Pinchot. Among the discussions of the sessions was old age pensions and 48 hour law for women workers, and several amendments to the workman's compensation law.

Employment decreased in 29 and increased in 14 industries in October as compared with September, the Department of Labor announced recently. In the same period, 34 of the 43 industries reported increased payrolls.

The coroner's jury in investigating the Spangler mine disaster in Johnstown, Pa., found that the mining company was negligent in failing to provide a sufficient number of fire boxes in the mine and for allowing the use of open lamps known as gascones.

Representative of the A. F. of L. will hold a conference with Samuel Untermyer of New York, at which the proposed impeachment of Attorney General Daugherty will be considered, according to a statement issued by the Federation. In commenting on the action of the House Judiciary Committee in calling upon Congressman Keller to present what evidence he may have before the committee on December 1, Mr. Gomps declared this to be a totally unheard of procedure, and is undoubtedly calculated to bias the proceedings and to make impossible the proper presentation of evidence to support the impeachment charge.

The right to leisure hours for recreation and self-improvement as a part of real human liberty was declared an essential element in the progress of the nation by Mary Anderson, chief of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, before the delegates of the convention of the National Council of Catholic Women in Washington.

SEEK KIND HEART.

The dear old Scotchman tramped miles over the hills to get a bottle of medicine for a small boy who was ill in her remote village. When she had described the symptoms, the doctor set about preparing the mixture, one ingredient of which was a poison which could be administered only in the smallest quantities. She watched him pouring it out with the utmost care into the measuring glass. He poured a little from the bottle, held the glass up to the light, and then put in a few more drops. "Ah, doctor," she said reproachfully, "you needna be so stingy. Remember it's for a poor wee orphan laddie."

LIFE AT FORTY JUST OPENING

For Man of Experience and Honesty Says Henry Ford.

There is plenty of time for the man of forty who has not been able to save much, in a recent pronouncement by Henry Ford. Instead of echoing familiar advice usually given by capitalists of industry to start in early and save the pennies, the automobile manufacturer declares that if a man spends his time up to forty getting experience, he is better off, even from the standpoint of money making, than if he had kept closely on the job and saved every penny earned beyond absolutely necessary expenditures. Mr. Ford said all this in Boston, and a dispatch to the New York Tribune quotes him as follows:

"Until he is forty a man should be gaining experience; he should be learning all he can, particularly how to spend money. That is why I told you that the best advice that I could give to a young man anxious to succeed is: Spend your money—on yourself: get all the experience you can; don't try to save money and be a miser. Give me the man of forty who has had lots of experience, and if he's honest and truthful his success is a certainty."

I was about thirty eight or thirty nine years old before I began to think very much about making money. Before that I was too busy learning things and getting experience, which I have found of great value to me in more recent years.

Now a man should not be discouraged because he wakes up one day and realizes that he is forty years old and hasn't any money. He is really better off if he has a clear record and has gained much experience, because he has the incentive to put his experience to practical use and to profit by it.

Henry Ford has now all the money he wants, he says, and his policy as to further money making is stated as follows in the interview quoted in The Tribune.

My son and I are agreed that as long as our motive is to provide employment for just as many people as we possibly can, we will always have plenty of money. I haven't really tried to make money in recent years. I realized long ago that I had all the money I needed.

Some representatives of Hugo Stimmus came to our Detroit offices recently. I asked them what Stimmus was trying to do; what they were after. They admitted his motive was to make money; they were out to get stock control of businesses and to make all the money they could.

If that were our motive, I wouldn't be very confident of our future. We are now employing about 100,000 people, and we hope to employ many more. As long as that is honestly our purpose—to provide lucrative employment for just as many people as possible—my son and I will always have plenty of money to do the things we want to do.

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 their 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 out door 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.

THE VANISHING TRICK.

Harry C. Edgar, the leading insurance agent of Preston, Ontario, and formerly town clerk, tells of an occasion when a member of the U. F. O. had a good laugh at his expense.

The tiller of the soil had just taken out a substantial fire insurance policy and Harry had taken him into the leading hotel for lunch.

During the meal Harry noticed the farmer kept watching his mackintosh and umbrella hanging some little distance away.

"My good friend you don't need to keep your eye on your property. It's perfectly safe. You don't catch me watching my mackintosh as intently," says Harry.

"No," said the farmer quietly, "you don't need to. It disappeared about ten minutes ago."

CONAN DOYLE TELLS MORE OF FAIRIES

Frances and Elsie, Two Little Girls, are Friends of the "Wee Folks."

London.—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle can no more be thrown off the scent than could his most famous fiction character, one S. Holmes. Ever since two years ago, he astounded the world by announcing his belief in the entire genuineness of certain photographs in which alleged elves and fairies figured prominently, he has been working unceasingly to discover more and more about these wonderful little people who deign to reveal themselves only to the privileged few.

He has just published his book, "The Coming of the Fairies," an entrancing little work, which, however, has caused some reviewers a good deal of heated brain work as to whether the volume should be classified as "fiction" or otherwise. It includes a number of new photographs of the little people which are more striking than those with regard to which Sir Arthur made his original startling pronouncement.

As in the case of those original pictures, the new photographs were taken by two little girls living in a secluded country village in the West Riding of Yorkshire. When Sir Arthur first published in the Strand magazine his statement regarding two of these "fairy pictures" he had expected criticism and ridicule. He got full measure of both. But he was not to be diverted from his quest, and has occupied each of the ensuing two years in sifting all the evidence in the matter, checking up on details and minutely investigating the possibilities of fraud.

He has finally come to the definite conclusion that deception in the matter is out of the question, despite the fact that his friends and brother spiritualist, Sir Oliver Lodge, does not see eye to eye with him on this vitally important subject. Indeed, Sir Oliver when asked to comment upon the fairy pictures were sufficiently skeptical as to suggest that California classical dancers had been taken and superimposed upon a rural British background. But Sir Arthur thinks that any such theory is at variance with the facts, which, he says, show conclusively that the pictures were the unaided work of two children of the artisan class and that such photographic tricks would be entirely beyond their capabilities even if they wished to perform them.

More Evidence of Fairies. In his new book Sir Arthur brings support the stories and photographs of "Frances and Elsie," the two girls in question, in the shape of a report from a gentleman identified as Mr. Sergeant (a former officer of the tank corps) who visited Cottingham, in Yorkshire, where the little girls saw their gnomes and elves.

"Mr. Sergeant," says Sir Arthur, "is an honorable gentleman, with neither the will to deceive nor any conceivable object in doing so. He has long and the enviable gift of clairvoyance in a high degree."

A considerable portion of the book is devoted to "Mr. Sergeant's" report upon his observations in company with "Frances" and "Elsie." Some things he saw himself, while others were seen by one or both of the girls while in his company. Every conceivable kind of fairy came under the notice of this gentleman and the little girls—elves, pixies, goblins, gnomes, and "the extremely rare un-dies."

"In the back itself," reported Mr. Sergeant, "near the large rock, at a slight fall in the water, I saw a water sprite. It was an entirely nude female figure, with long, fair hair, which it appeared to be combing or passing through its fingers. . . .

"Frances sees a little Punch-like figure with a kind of Welsh hat, doing a kind of dancing by striking its heel on the ground and at the same time raising his hat and bowing. . . . A blue fairy. A fairy with wings and a general coloring of sea-blue and pale pink. A golden star shines in the hair. . . .

"Elsie sees about a dozen fairies. . . . As they drew near she remarked with ecstasy upon their perfect beauty of form—even while she did so they became as ugly as sinners. . . . They all leered at her and disappeared."

"One especially beautiful one has a body clothed in iridescent shimmering golden light. . . . She has cast a fairy spell over me completely. . . . An elf like creature approaches. He is not a very pleasant visitor. I should describe him as distinctly low class."

So there you are, There are beautiful fairies, repulsive goblins, sprightly pixies and low class gnomes. Take your pick.

But do not scoff or jeer. Listen first to the weighty argument evolved by Sir A. Conan Doyle—the argument which convinces the creator of Sherlock Holmes that these things can

be—say, are.

"There is nothing scientifically impossible," says Sir Arthur, "so far as I can see, in some people seeing that which is invisible to others. If the objects are indeed there" (which he appears to take as conclusively proved beyond dispute by the actual photographs), "and if the inventive power of the human brain is turned upon the problem it is likely that some sort of psychic spectacles, inconceivable to us at the present moment, will be invented, and that we shall all be able to adapt ourselves to the new conditions."

"It is hard for the mind," he further tells us, "to grasp what the ultimate results may be if we have actually proved the existence upon the surface of the planet, of a population which may be as numerous as the human race, which pursued its own strange life in its own strange way, and which is only separated from ourselves by some difference of vibrations."

OTTAWA MAN WINS NATIONAL CONTEST

Colbourne P. Meredith Comes First in Designs to Commemorate Historic Sites.

The first prize in the competition organized by the Canadian National Parks Branch of the Department of the Interior for a suitable design for a landmark to be used in connection with the marking of historic sites throughout Canada has been awarded to Mr. Colbourne P. Meredith, of Ottawa. The second prize is given to Mr. W. L. Somerville, of Toronto and the third place to Mr. Raymond Carey, of Winnipeg.

Over fifty designs from architects and artists in all parts of the Dominion were submitted and the selection of the more suitable types was made by the assessors, Messrs. Homer Watson, R.C.A., President of the Royal Canadian Academy; Percy E. Nobbs, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A., and J. O. Marchand, O.D.G. The monument is intended for marking historic sites throughout Canada of national importance and will carry a bronze tablet bearing historic data pertaining to the site on which it is erected.

Few Canadians realize what a wealth of romance lies buried in the pages of Canada's history. An indication of the richness of the historical background of the Dominion may be found in the fact that over six hundred and fifty sites have already been brought to the attention of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, which acts in an advisory capacity to the Department of the Interior. These include battlefields, fortifications, landing places of the United Empire Loyalists, explorations, etc., each one commemorating a stirring period in the discovery and upbuilding of Canada. Of these one hundred have been selected to date to receive the immediate attention of the Department.

Next year it is proposed to proceed further with the restoring and marking of a number of these sites and to continue with the preserving of ruins where they now exist.

When the general inspected an artillery outfit of colored negro soldiers in France he was struck by the snappy neatness and soldierly bearing of one particular member of a gun team.

"What are your duties, soldier?" queried the commander-in-chief.

"I've the doah tender to de Swablong Kam," he had replied.

"And what is that?" the general asked him.

"Why, I jus' opens the little doah in back o' de gun, and Bustus here throws a shell in and de corporal pulls de lanyard."

"Then what do you do?"

"We jus' drops back and say: 'Kaiser, count yo' soldiers.'"

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