



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

POINT OF RADIATION.

RESOLVED, that whereas the tariff issue is being forced to the front as one of the most important issues to be dealt with at the approaching federal elections, and

"Whereas, irrespective of the fact that it is a strictly federal issue, this convention of the Labor party of Ontario must deal with it owing to the necessity of placing candidates in the field at the federal elections; and

"Therefore, be it resolved that this convention favor the following plank in the party platform:

"The gradual elimination of import duties on all necessities of life, such as food, clothing (including boots and shoes), and the tools and machinery used in production, the revenue derived from these sources to be raised by direct taxation of land values and luxuries."

Thus the Independent Labor Party of Ontario recorded their opinion in resolution form on the question of the tariff. The position taken is carefully worded "gradual elimination" of duties being woven in the texture, and gradual having no metric value, the various ideas may perhaps be satisfied by same. From this angle alone the Laborite candidate has a safe platform plank and the adherents to the cause may find no fault with same.

That the tariff question was admittedly a Federal matter, an adoption of any resolution, meaningless or otherwise, may be objectionable, finding a counter, if the various provincial labor conferences undertake to place on record their several views. It will be readily granted that similar provincial labor conferences as that recently held at London, Ont., have equal rights in presenting their ideas on the tariff or any other question, and will no doubt take advantage of same.

Can it be expected that on such a supreme matter identical thoughts will prevail? So much the better for all concerned if the Ontario unit has presented the happy medium, but in the event of divergence of opinions provincially, an unfortunate situation will be in evidence when it comes to Federal House Labor representation platform. Perhaps this was one of the snags to be avoided which called for the Hon. W. Rollo's vote to be in the nay column.

Would a safer course to be assured of unity of acceptance not have been preferable? This could have been secured in a variety of ways. A simple expedient would have been by the selection of a small committee to confer with similar representation from the other provinces, and they to decide on a Federal programme, not alone on this question of tariff, but on a variety of matters, the importance of which forces them to the front in matters of public interest.

This question has also to be dealt with by the Congress executive, and a pronouncement by that body would carry a Dominion flavor, as the representatives of the organized workers from East to West. A provincial stand on a Federal matter has no strength save and except if endorsed by the other units which make up this Dominion. The resolution from Ontario is just so valuable or valueless as it is made by the voice of the other sections of the Dominion.

If endorsement is gained for the Ontario voice, happy perception of the ideas was in evidence, but contrary action will add to the melting pot already overloaded with resolutions, and present again dangers of dissension, from a provincial body bolting Federal food without knowing the digestive powers of the other provinces, with whom they are co-partners, and should have ideas and aims in common.

"INVASION THAT FAILED."

AMUCH heralded intimation that the anti-trade unionists of the west, would attempt their wrecking tactics in the East, was generally viewed with unconcern. That such an attitude was justified is amply proven to date, where one big failure is the handmaiden of the efforts put forth. What is known as the Ottawa Valley, has been lately the scene of action, with the only concern temporarily secured from workers, whose period the trade union movement has been too brief to differentiate between the genuine article and the gold brick.

The leading apostle in this adventure has a patent on opponents' titles, one of which he calls the A. F. of U.—and he can be readily recognized by those who have heard him from this description. So that there may be no case for mistaken identity, however, another lead is here given, and the Ottawa Valley failure is justification for naming him Joe Benighted.

NO STRIKE IN THREE YEARS.
No strike in three years, and another peaceful year assured through an agreement with employees, is the record of the California State Building Trades Council. Referring to this condition, in his annual report, Secretary-Treasurer Tyntine said: "Stop with me and think of it: A period of three years with all kinds of wage raises, due to the

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

THE DOCKERS' INQUIRY.

The report of the court of inquiry into the wages and conditions of employment of the British dock laborers was issued last Wednesday. It recommended a daily minimum wage of 16s. for day and night workers on a basis of a 44-hour week. The report is signed unreservedly by Lord Shaw, chairman; Sir Lionel Fletcher, representing the employers; Ben Tillett, Mr. Goulding and Robert Williams, representing the dockers; and A. Pugh, representing the other workers.

John Smethurst, representing the other employers, signed with a reservation disagreeing with the minimum wage. The court approved that the workers should have the "right to have their lives ordered with a full regard to those comforts and decencies which are promotive of better habits."

A minority of two, Sir Joseph G. Brookbank and Frederick Scrutton, signed the majority report objecting to the minimum rate of 16s. for the least experienced worker, as corresponding increases will be claimed by the higher grades of dock workers. The estimated cost of increase is 115,000,000 per annum. Reference to the award to the dockers by the Industrial Court, the headquarters of the Dockers' Union stated that there was a prospect of the special court ceasing its investigations because of the drastic changes which the recommendations of the court involved. The dockers were prepared to accept the invitation of the Ministry of Labor to discuss the application of the report. They are also anxious that the inquiry should proceed further without unreasonable delay.

STEEL WORKERS WIN.

The South Wales steel workers have won, says the Daily Herald. The Conciliation Board of the trade met at Swansea, and the employers conceded the 40 per cent advance for which the men struck a fortnight ago. They returned to work without the inquiry proceeding. The advance will be paid as from January 18.

It was also agreed that a sliding scale for the future regulation of wages should be drawn up.

DOCKERS' AWARD.

The findings of the Court of Inquiry into the dockers' wage claim for 16s. per day were issued last Wednesday. The report states that a trade situated as the dock industry is the claim seems a strong demand upon the part of Labor, though in Labor it seems a fair and just demand. Its conditions all be made square with the vital needs of the hour.

PAYMENT BY RESULTS?

Preparations are now complete for balloting the members of nine engineering unions on the subject of payment by results, says the Herald. The ballot papers, which are returnable by April 28, provide for a vote for or against.

EMPLOYERS' OFFER.

This ballot is the outcome of the negotiations with the engineering employers offered terms as to night work and overtime, on condition that the employer should have freedom to introduce his works in agreement with his workpeople, any all of the following system of payment by results:

- (a) Straight individual piece-work;
- (b) Company or collective piece-work;
- (c) Individual premium bonus or any other bonus system;
- (d) Company or collective output bonus.

Piecework prices and bonus or basis time to be such as will enable a workman of average ability to earn at least 33-1-3 per cent. over his basic rate, excluding war bonus. Time rates of wages to be guaranteed, irrespective of earnings under any of the systems.

Bank Clerks Want Conciliation Board

Following a conference with representative of branches in Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, H. C. Clay, secretary of the Bank Clerks' Association of Toronto, stated that the association would be satisfied if the chartered banks would agree to accept a Board of Conciliation upon the wage schedule which had recently filed with the banks. Mr. Clay stated that legal advice had been sought by the association, and that the opinion was expressed that the association came within the Industrial Disputes Act.

"Since our schedule was filed with the banks we have received communications from all but two of them. From the communications we infer that they are prepared to negotiate with us," said Mr. Clay. "However, we would prefer to adjust our differences by a Board of Conciliation, with all of the banks as a party to it."

Mr. Clay stated that one bank had given an increase of ten per cent. in addition to its December increase; another promised a more substantial increase in June than is annually given, and other banks were sending out questionnaires to their employees upon the cost of living since the association had been formed. The clerk said all the grievances,

SENATOR ROBERTSON.



Minister of Labor, who this week introduced important labor legislation in the Senate, and stated that during the present month the conference on co-ordination of Labor laws would be held at Ottawa.

Service Button Workers.

Notes Of Particular Interest To Ex-Service Trade Unionists.

MANY DEMOBILIZED FROM BRITISH ARMY.

The British War Office states that 2,017 officers and 17,815 men were released from the British army during the latter half of March, and that since the armistice 4,018,096 officers and men have been demobilized.

THAT CANTEN FUND.

Answering questions asked in the House by Major Andrews, Centre Winnipeg, Sir Edward Kemp stated that it is not now possible for the Government to estimate what amount of profits of the expeditionary force canteens (France), and the navy and army canteen board, will be apportioned to the Canadian Government, as these institutions have not yet been able to complete their balance sheets to the termination of their period of trading.

An overseas board of trustees has been appointed to receive payments on this account. The sum of £137,434 has already been transferred to these trustees. Units of the overseas military forces have transferred £118,612 to their respective trustees in Canada. The paymaster general O. M. F. C. transferred \$45,997 of this amount for the units concerned. The balance of the sum transferred by the units themselves.

Major Andrews asked if any deduction had been made from recoupment or canteen fund on account of barrack damages. The overseas minister replied that units in England maintained a fund from which they were able to pay for barrack damages. Where a unit was disbanded, its surplus funds were paid over to the paymaster general, O. M. F. C., in full payment for barrack damages, or otherwise made thereafter from these funds, were made in accordance with the conditions of the contract. The amount of damage done during camp riots by members of the Canadian forces to canteen equipment and stores of the Military Forces was completed and deducted by that board from the profits payable by it.

C. E. F. PASSES.

April 1, marked the passing into history of the official name, "Canadian Expeditionary Force." On that date the transfer of all the remaining units under that designation to the permanent Canadian Expeditionary Force was completed and all that now remains is a glorious tradition of five and a half years' splendid service.

WILL EMPLOY RETURNED MEN

The principle of engaging returned men whenever possible at the hotels all over the C.P.E. system was laid down at a conference held Thursday at the Hotel Vancouver of managers of C.P.E. hotels. Mr. F. L. Hutchinson, general manager of all the Canadian Pacific hotels in the C.P.E., presided. Following the conference Mr. Hutchinson met officials of the Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment at Vancouver.

THE CONSTRUCTIVE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

The industrial workers are working out their own destiny through the constructive trade union movement. We have built up a wonderful movement, which cannot be destroyed by enemies within or without or by its pretended friends, and volunteer patrons and advisers.

The trade union movement was born of necessity and will continue to live for the same reason. Nothing can destroy it. We cannot even destroy it ourselves. We can injure it, wound it, cripple it, and set it back, but we cannot destroy it. The labor movement is infested with all kinds of agencies intended to destroy it. Here and there and occasionally it has had to contend with gradations with bribery, with bribes, with spies, with misdeeds, with gunmen, politicians, hostile judges, injunctions, conspiracy and other restrictive and repressive laws as well as the manufactured prejudice and much subtle propaganda and powerful interests. Despite them all it still lives.

We, however, are not in a shell. We do not exist for wholly selfish reasons. We are mindful of the rights and interests of all other elements of society. We concede to others the right to mold their own destinies without interference from us, so long as in the exercise of this right they do not interfere with our just rights and privileges. We welcome the disinterested advice and cooperation of others, but reserve to ourselves the right to select our own ideals and to choose our own methods of obtaining them, so long as we do not interfere with the just rights, privileges and interests of anyone else.—Cigar Makers' Journal

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal—Can.

BRITISH WOMEN CIVIL SERVANTS PROTEST.

Twenty-five young women, bound with red tape, tied in harness made of the same material, and carrying placards, marched in procession recently, along the Strand, down Whitechapel to Downing street, and then to Parliament Square, to advertise a mass meeting of the British Federation of Women Civil Servants to protest against the failure of the Reorganization Committee of the National Whitley Council of the Civil Service to recommend equal equality of treatment as between women and men. Several posters were carried, bearing such inscriptions as "Women ask a fair field," "No favor in Civil Service," and "The Federation of Women Civil Servants calls for the amendment of the Whitley Report to embody equality of treatment for men and women."

"We are very much dissatisfied with the report," said Miss Ring, hon. secretary of the Federation, "and we believe that the unequal treatment of men and women. Although there are only about 5,900 permanent women civil servants, we believe that this report, if accepted, will set an unequal standard for the women and men in other avenues of employment. "We consider that remuneration should be equal for men and women in the same grades. Extra allowance for the upkeep of a family should come from some outside state grant, but we would be prepared to concede the granting of extra increments to fathers during the years when the children are young, provided that the women began and finished on an equal rate of pay."

LABOR IN FAR EAST AWAKENING.

Governor Ohada, as a representative of the Japanese Government, has been studying various governmental activities in Washington and has expressed particular interest in the work of the Department of Labor. He has indicated deep interest in the manner in which the Department of Labor operates in the adjustment of industrial disputes. This is but one of a number of indications of the quickening interest in the Far East in industrial institutions of western civilization.—American Federationist.

POLITICS and PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

There will be a conference in Ottawa probably before the end of this month, of representatives of the different Provincial Governments, labor and the employers in each province, who will seek to co-ordinate the various provincial laws affecting labor, and at the same time will consider extending the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act. This announcement was made in the Senate this week by Senator Robertson, Minister of Labor, in introducing the amendments to the act which provides for arbitration in the case of disputes between employers and employees in public utilities.

Senator Robertson stated that the proposed conference was in accordance with the action taken at the Industrial Conference last year. The question of extending the Lemaux Act to cover private industries, which could not be classed as public utilities, would also be considered and the Provincial Governments would be asked to either take steps themselves to bring such provisions into force or allow the Lemaux Act to be extended. This would guarantee a square deal for every man whether employed in a public utility or not.

The Minister of Labor said the proposed changes in the act had for their aim the bringing about of more efficient administration of the provisions. Under the present act it was sometimes necessary to appoint several Boards of Conciliation to cover a dispute between, say, mine operators and their employees, when one board could do the work. The employer's representative on each of these boards was frequently the same man but the various employers might name half a dozen representatives.

Another provision would make it certain that the majority of the men affected were behind the request for a Board of Conciliation. Amendments were also proposed to section 34 of the act which would provide for a flat rate of \$2.00 per day for witness fees in all provinces, instead of ranging from 75 cents to \$3.00 per day, according to the witness fees prevailing in the

different sections of the Dominion. The proposed amendments to the act would also prohibit either a lock-out or a strike while a Conciliation Board was working on any dispute. Senator Robertson instanced the case of Toronto, where citizens had been put to great inconvenience because employees of a public utility, the street railway, had refused to await the finding of a Conciliation Board, but had gone on strike. He said this was due to a narrow interpretation being placed on clause 57 of the present act. The proposed amendment would make it unlawful for either a lock-out or a strike to be declared once a Board of Conciliation had taken up a dispute, until the report of the board had been communicated to the Department of Labor, and by that department to the disputing parties.

Another amendment would permit the minister to appoint a board where none had been applied for, if a strike was in progress, or if a strike seemed imminent, when he believed such action would be in the public interest. This, Senator Robertson felt, would avert many disastrous tie-ups.

Discussing compulsory arbitration which had been mentioned by Senator Dandurand, the minister said there was much to be said both for and against the principle. He favored the method in force on the Canadian Railways, however, where by the Canadian Railway Board of Adjustment, composed of representatives of employers and men, settling disputes without trouble. All strikes on Canadian Railways had been averted during the war and he hoped this spirit of get-together could be fostered.

Answering Senator Dandurand, Senator Robertson said that the removal of a lot of red tape which had formerly caused dissatisfaction with the Lemaux Act, had led labor organizations to regard it in a different light, and instead of demanding its removal from the statutes the labor men were now asking for its extension to other than public utilities.

Senator Nichols (Toronto) thought a permanent chairman of conciliation boards should be named. The present system frequently brought disagreement between representatives of men and employers as to choice of a chairman. The result was the appointment of a county judge, and the frequent acceptance of a fifty-fifty arrangement on the men's demands. There would be no "playing to the galleries" if a permanent chairman of conciliation boards was appointed, similar to the appointment of a judge of the ex-chequer court. The judge would

then be independent and Senator Nichols would make it a life appointment.

Senator Robertson said this matter had been given consideration, but in view of the fact that last year there were 35 boards in operation of which it was operating at one time, it would not be possible to have one permanent chairman without taking up the work to a great extent. Satisfaction with the working of the act had grown from speeding up the workings of the investigation machinery and any delay would bring dissatisfaction immediately.

Senator Bestock suggested that when the bill reached committee stage, the minister might give an outline of what would come from the amendments. He asked if bank clerks would be considered as entitled to a board under the act. The minister replied that banks were not considered public utilities, though perhaps they should be.

DEMOCRACY IN INDUSTRY.

"There is a clear difference between 'industrial democracy' and 'democracy in industry,'" writes President Perkins in the official Journal of the Cigar Makers' International Union. He insists that the two terms should not be confused.

"Speaking of democracy in industry," he says "the term should not be misunderstood, and when once understood and defined clearly should not be abused."

"The day has gone by when an arrogant, autocratic employer or a dyspeptic superintendent or foreman can abuse workmen under his simply to gratify a whim or a dislike, or for some fancied offense, which in the final analysis under square dealing is not an offense. "The kind of democracy in industry that applies only to the work room and working rules and not to the board of directors or the commercial management should not be questioned. If we go beyond working rules and the working room proper, we must assume responsibility for the successful conduct of the business, and by the rule of fairness stand a proportionate share of the losses."

"The whole of Russia is in our hands, but we cannot work, and disorganization increases every day."—Antipoff, a Bolshevik.

Common sense is undoubtedly a good thing in its way, but it has broken few records.

Coal Situation Much More Serious Than the Public Willing to Believe It Is

Difficulties Not Only Due to Higher Prices—But to Increased Difficulties in Mining and Transportation

The public seem content to believe that because they have heretofore been able to secure their annual coal supplies that the warning now given by the Government is not to be considered seriously—because they say "Oh, we always get coal, we always will."

But You Won't

The price of anthracite today is \$17.00—and by fall it will be higher. The Provincial Fuel Controller has announced that, in his opinion, there is no possibility of prices ever coming down again, and he urges the people that substitutes must take the place of coal. This being so—and IT IS SO—you will naturally appreciate the BEST SUBSTITUTE.

Writing us under date March 31st., the Fuel Administrator for Ontario says:—

"Recognizing the important part your industry must take in stabilization, also in eliminating to the greatest degree possible, seasonal difficulties, I would urge you to put forth every effort in the speeding up of your output, so that every ton possible may be available to meet the demand. In this period of unrest the greatest possible co-operation is essential, and I will depend on the results of your efforts to assist me in successfully averting sufferings attending a coal shortage."

Are you taking—can you afford to take chances with the difficulties ahead—suppose that YOU get YOUR supply, what about the hundreds who will not be able to do so without your co-operation and ours?

You put money in Victory Bonds to help save Canada from an enemy. Can you do better now than put money into fuel stock to save us from our annual enemy—winter—with its cold and attendant evils that results from an insufficient fuel supply?

Victory Bonds pay you 5½ per cent. Oakoal stock—on the basis of an output of only 200 tons per day, and at a profit of only one dollar per ton will pay you over 30 per cent—and will multiply the value of the amount you put in, in addition to saving you 15 to 25 per cent in your annual fuel bills. Is it not worth while then, getting in now—on the ground floor?

This stock is going to go higher and higher—because the Oakoal Industry is an essential industry—for in producing fuel it conserves the wastes of cities and solves the sanitary disposal of those wastes.

No other industry does this—Oakoal is O-A-K-O-A-L, and must not be construed with any other fuel or Company of a similar name, so do not confound it with any other. Oakoal stock is purchasable only at par value—and it has only been offered at ONE price.

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