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LABOR EDITORIAL

YESTERDAY—TODAY—TOMORROW

This, the first issue of the Edmonton Free Press, marks another milestone in the advance of the Organized Labor movement in Edmonton. Since the formation of the Trades and Labor Council about fifteen years ago the growth has been steady. As a result of pursuing our cause by legitimate and honorable means, we have attained to that present position in the city which merits and has secured for us the respect of many who could not at one time see eye to eye with us. There are many more who still remain very indifferent; however, we have not lost hope, rather are we encouraged to go on, and through our medium beat down all false conceptions that at present hide from the view of those people the true principles and ideals of Organized Labor. Should not every city, large and small, every province and the Dominion, be proud indeed of the advancement, through organization of labor, of all that contributes to the welfare of the very soul of the community—the people who toil. It has been and continues to be a hard, uphill fight for Organized Labor to justify every effort put forth to attain the present standard and achieve what, until this day, it has achieved and enjoys. Organized Labor—however, its make-up changes—has come to stay and all the while make progress, and in the making and achievement of that progress steadfastly vindicate every means used.

The slow evolutionary process of attainment by Labor, along many lines which it must show more rapid advance, is something for which Labor alone is responsible. Organized Labor grows steadily and in that growth sees the accomplishment at hand in the new social order of what, to many people has been and still is, characterized as "utopian."

Labor sees the goal at hand that with the new days will usher in new strength and renewed life to the ranks, both skilled and unskilled, organized and unorganized, and through the perfected organization, knows the great cause of Labor cannot fail. It is a staggering thought that brings home to many of the world's people what in the near future looks like becoming a fulfillment, viz.: the vastly changed social conditions. Most people are not prone to forget or let go their hold on the old order of things that burdened the world with social injustice and suffering long before any conflict started in Europe. Tragic indeed, but it cost humanity the war and its awful toll in human lives to bestir that humanity to a great something—that something is still being moulded—faster in a day these days than it was in a decade before the great war. It is called Democracy. Whatever it be it is coming to pass and with its coming the older order of things is fast passing away and must give place to what will be established in the new ideal, the realm of Democracy, long overdue.

Labor demands only an inherent right which is full justice commensurate with the righteousness of Labor's cause. To those allied with us in the promulgation of a clean, true and honorable cause we call for a fuller enthusiasm and a larger activity. To those whose attitude towards us is in opposition we seek, through the columns of our medium, to educate them to a fuller understanding of our aims and ideals and our ultimate objective. We have no desire or intention to use methods at any time of the insidious character and reserve to Organized Labor the right to hold our actions, at all times the result of mature judgment inviolate.

We have no desire that ours should be interpreted a class movement designed to benefit only Organized Labor, as the unorganized workers today with ourselves enjoy the fruits of Organized Labor's achievements. The welfare of the human family, a welfare founded on principles that will preserve the integrity and carry all the fundamentals of character building, that educate the will, thereby bringing about right conduct from within, these things are what we are speaking for and acting with one end in view—their consummation.

The organization of the yet unorganized will hasten the evolutionary process and bring to fullest realization the conditions by which Labor will be known as such and be respected in a larger measure than the world has heretofore known, and through these channels of organization the soulless management policies that have permeated industry in the days gone by and still exist will give place to a fuller and a freer age of co-operation in the days at hand and yet to be.

CONSISTENCY NECESSARY

The recent Calgary Labor Conference Call clearly set forth the purpose of the assembly. The business transacted at that "August" gathering was absolutely foreign to the conference call—yet this absolutely foreign business was enacted, and by a great would-be majority, passed in the interests of Organized Labor.

To complete that consistency all Trades Councils are asked to assess membership two cents, etc., etc., for payment of printing accounts. This particular "One Big Union Bulletin" does not print particularly One Big Union Propaganda, but also goes so far as to abuse the local Labor Party and individuals connected therewith, which propaganda was no part of Calgary Conference program. The purpose for which the "One Big Union Bulletin" is being used is absolutely foreign to the purpose it is supposed to serve—and you are asked that you contribute through an assessment to pay the printing of such mean and contemptible work, by those responsible for the subject matter that seeks only to satisfy a nugatory element. We cannot play the man with ourselves and descend to such tactics. Let Organized Labor display again the consistency that has built for it the present unshakable foundation on which it stands.

WHO IS LABOR?

Labor. Who is Labor? The Edmonton Free Press represents Labor. Who is that? Labor is the man who works in the store six days a week, rents or owns a house, large or small, lives with his wife and family, sends his children to school, attends his lodge, his church, social functions, and greets you when upon occasion you meet: Labor is the engineer who pulls the train that carries you on a journey, who eats and sleeps and works and plays as you do; Labor is the bookkeeper, the freight clerk, the butcher, the baker, the mechanic, in short he is the man and the woman who sell service. Labor lives next door to you, across the street, in the flat above. All Labor is not organized, but all organized Labor works for the betterment of the life of all Labor. It is a fact that all Labor does not approve of all the acts of all organized Labor all the time. Organized Labor makes mistakes the same as any other organization composed of humans, for to err is human.

Organized Labor is ever ready and eager to learn, to find the best solution to social and economic problems affecting so vitally the masses of the people. The door stands open wide ready to receive as brothers those of any labor pursuits who would care to join and assist in the task. Even more, organized Labor goes out on the highways and invites all workers to come in and have an equal voice in seeking a right and just solution to problems as they arise. When the Edmonton Free Press officially represents the Trades and Labor Council it necessarily represents the interests of all who sell service, whether those engaged in such service are formally organized or not.



Don't Let it Topple
Our Boys Have Bled to Save Civilization
Don't Let Anyone Overturn it

Reproduced from Cartoon by Rollin Kirby in the N.Y. World



OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

(By R. McCreath, President Edmonton Trades and Labor Council)

To the People of Edmonton, and To the Membership of Organized Labor:

In co-operation with Henry J. Roche of this city, the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council, through its complete endorsement of the Edmonton Free Press published by Mr. Roche, recognizes this paper only as the official publication of Organized Labor in Edmonton. Mr. Roche appreciates the intrinsic value of Organized Labor to his publication and we acknowledge the great service from the education and progressive standpoint that such publicity must render to our cause. The Trades and Labor Council through its Press Committee, will be responsible for all matters relating to Labor published in the Labor sections of this paper (excepting such matter as appears in correspondence columns and the back page editorial). It is the desire of Mr. Roche and the Trades and Labor Council that this be a truthful, educational and at all times an interesting and valuable paper, and your Committee will use every vigilance to that end. We trust this will prove truly a community paper, and through the dissemination of publicity in the interests of our cause, that not only the members of Organized Labor but that all Edmonton people will find in the Labor columns subject matter that will prove of interest to them, and always be well worth reading. There is no greater forward movement in the world today than the forward movement of Labor—organized and unorganized. To keep pace with the movement get on the subscription list of the Edmonton Free Press.

All members of the Organized Crafts are requested to give names and addresses to the Secretary of their Local, so that the entire membership may be put on delivery or mailing list and paper sent gratis pending such time as your subscription is taken care of in the regular way. To advertisers and to all others who have co-operated in the work of establishing the Edmonton Free Press, I express appreciation on behalf of the Trades and Labor Council.

CONFERENCE MAY PROVE OF VALUE

Will Stimulate Movement for Closer Co-operation By Trades Unionists

(By Alex. Ross, M.P.P., Labor Member for Centre Calgary.)

The Calgary Western Labor Conference just terminated was the largest informal conference of Labor ever held in Canada, the reports of which were given wide publicity. The flood of oratory which deluged the prairie city has subsided, leaving confused impressions in the minds of those interested in economic problems, as well as in the minds of many of the delegates.

The more aggressive element stirred, prepared, saw, conquered, and departed, no doubt happy in the hope that for once their views had matured.

What surprised me most of all was the evident utter disregard for, or lack of knowledge of, the aggressive element of the feelings of the mass. It would appear that those who dominated the with that phase I am in accord, as it is a common occurrence to attend a conference and find the mass indifferent and undecided; that is a criticism that can (Continued on Page 2)

INFANT MORTALITY AND LOW WAGES

Research As To Relation Between Wages and Babies Gives Revelation

(By F. E. Mercer)

The 1918 report of the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor contains much information bearing upon the relationship of wages to infant mortality. The findings of the bureau are based upon an intensive field investigation in eight United States cities over a period of six years, which included interviews with the mothers of nearly 23,000 live-born babies. It was discovered that where the head of the family earned less than \$450 a year, 16.8 per cent of the babies died; and where the earnings were between \$450 and \$550, 13.4 per cent died. Where the earnings were from \$550 to \$1,050, and from \$1,050 to \$1,250, the infant death rate was 8.4 and 6.4 respectively. Nearly 27 per cent of the 23,000 children investigated had fathers earning less than \$550, while 18 per cent had fathers earning \$1,050 and over, and only 12 per cent had fathers earning more than \$1,250. According to an official estimate, 230,000 babies under one year old died in the United States during the year 1916.

POSITION AS TAKEN BY MODERN LABOR

Four Types Engaged in Struggle Between Capital and Labor—Why?

(By F. E. Mercer)

Among the forces on both sides of the fight between Capital and Labor can be found four types—the old fashioned, the sentimentalist, the real progressive, and the bully. The old fashioned are they who believe that on the one hand trade and industry must always go along the lines of competition and that every man stands or falls by his own strength. Such are many small business men, such even are some trades-unionists whose aims are only to make the state of the worker better while still keeping him a worker. The sentimentalists are the most numerous. On the capitalist side we find the vast majority of women confident that a clean collar denotes a clean soul; the majority of the clerks in offices, shophands; the majority of the men in professions, lawyers, doctors, etc. And with them stand the modern employers who want to keep their workmen quiet (Continued on Page 7)

UNIONISTS' RESPONSIBILITY TO THE ORGANIZATION

The Seattle proposal which was endorsed at the recent regular meeting of the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council, will commend itself to the most ardent and loyal Trade Unionists. The reason for this is that it seeks to have their own organization bring about the desired change. This is both scientific and logical for these are the very institutions that the wage worker has given both his time and money to in order to make them what they are today.

To start at this date to organize a separate union composed of western wage workers can spell nothing but defeat and loss of all that has been put into your present own Unions. Remember you are the members composing the International Unions, and if the Unions are not up to the minute the responsibility is ours. And we cannot shirk our duty by passing the "Buck to Willie."

The Trade Unionists of Seattle realizing their position are attacking our problem manfully and seriously. And they are asking their fellow Trades Unionists not to throw away all that they have; not to take a vote to sever their connection with the rest of their fellow Trade Unionists, but to have the following brought about. Proposition No. 1, "Shall this International, by referendum vote, select three of its members to represent this International in conference at a time and place to be named (preferably by the President of the American Federation of Labor) at as early date as possible after such election for the purpose of effecting the amalgamation and consolidation of all International Unions into as nearly as possible twelve units, grouped approximately as follows:

Amusement Trades, Building Trades, Clothing and Textile Trades, Culinary and Provision Trades, Marine and Transport Trades, Metal Trades, Mine Workers, Postal and Federal office Employees, Printing Trades, Railway Workers, Telegraph and Telephone Workers, Timber Workers.

Allowing local unions to retain their present status and at the same time permitting them to act as a group unit dealing with an International Unit, thus greatly adding to our organizations efficiency and very materially reducing overhead expenses.

The interchange of card without cost is then dealt with. The beneficiary phase of our organizations. Blanket agreements, covering all crafts in a given plant. To secure uniformity of wages.

That whatever is agreed to at this conference is to be ratified by the membership. Here is a real plan to help the Trade Unionist forward, here is something that makes for unity and not disruption. The Seattle Trade Unionists have started their campaign. The Edmonton Trades Council are asking our own body the Executive Committee of the Alberta Federation of Labor to carry out the spirit of Resolution 25, passed at the last meeting of the A.F. of L. as in the recommendations of officers. The necessity of closer ship between members of craft unions and amalgamation of allied International Organizations.

We all realize the need for co-operation on the part of the defects were inherited, and from the bitterness and the struggle for the legal existence of Unions. Prior to the war there were periods of very remarkable industrial prosperity from which the masses of wage earners got no benefit at all. The gulf between the classes was made wider and the well of bitterness deeper than before; because employers very foolishly withheld terms of reasonable benefit for the workers which could have been conceded. However the war has given us a great inheritance, it has vouchsafed the spirit of co-operation. Let the Trade Unionists not forget to make the best use of their responsibility to the community and to themselves.

GREAT ORGANIZATION MOVEMENT

Today is an epoch of union organization. Never before have people engaged in common lines of endeavor been so active in banding together for mutual welfare as now. In trades and callings where unionism has been given little thought in the past, the workers are uniting and joining hands with Organized Labor. It is a hopeful sign through organized effort right can be made to prevail against might. Justice is served best when championed by a united front. This organization wave sweeping over the country may be explained by stress due to high cost of living without corresponding increased pay envelope.

A WORD TO YOU

This copy of the EDMONTON FREE PRESS is sent to you with the compliments of the EDMONTON TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL. Its purpose is educational and it must be read to be appreciated. As you are vitally interested in the part Labor is taking in "Reconstruction" you want this paper regularly. Fill in the Coupon below, enclose one dollar (\$1.00) and mail to the EDMONTON FREE PRESS, 834 Tegler Bldg., Edmonton. Do it RIGHT NOW.

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