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The Canadian Labor Press

OFFICIAL ORGAN ALLIED TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF OTTAWA. ENDORSED BY Hamilton District Trades and Labor Council.

A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

A FAVORABLE COMPARISON.

COMPARISONS may or may not be odious, but on this side of the border labor and capital may congratulate themselves that they at least finished their conference, held at Ottawa, September last, in terms of friendship, respecting each other's view point, and with an earnest endeavor being apparent of making or co-operative effort to the Dominion's progress.

Our cousins across the line have also held a conference of the two essentials to industry, but with an entirely different ending. The conference was brought to an abrupt conclusion, with the employers' group denying the right of collective bargaining, thus causing the workers' group to take the only recourse of retiring from the conference; truly an unfortunate ending with too much at stake.

So far as accomplishment of the Labor Conference in Canada is concerned, little can be said; but a lot can be written in its favor, if only from the point of endeavor, which is the correct path to the gate of actual results, which results, though not in sight, can be assuredly anticipated by the manner in which the employe and employer group found common ground for agreement. In some respects, what were formerly points of controversy became rights acknowledged.

A position entirely different falls to the lot of the contending parties in the United States. A breaking-point was reached, and if possible a wider division than heretofore has been created. A distinctly unfortunate circumstance has been reached, whereby through the employers' attempt at a dictatorship, they have perhaps unwittingly given a wider scope to the lawless sections of the I. W. W. and its kindred ilk.

The workers must be organized, and if deprived of the protection of the legitimate international trade union organization, through autocracy of the employer, there is but one avenue, and that leads to mob association, with its wrecking implements. The wrecking directorship has no code; everything in the way is the quarry, with the very social fabric as its ambition's end. This method was invited when capital forced labor to stop to confer.

Before retiring, the A. F. of L. executive turned to the employer group, and said: "The word you have spoken here means nothing. You have defeated the labor group in its declaration, but we will meet you again in conference, and when we do meet you there you will be glad to talk collective bargaining."

The Canadian conference commenced in a correct spirit, was continued in the same way to the end, and thus the Dominion did show an example which it is particularly unfortunate for our across-the-border relatives could not have been copied with advantage.

REAPING THE HARVEST.

INFORMATION now to hand gives an index of the great successes that labor candidates have attained in the recent municipal elections in Britain. A quarter of a century bridges the period for the real work of reaching this accomplishment. Now the balance of power in some instances and a preponderance in others is the situation municipally.

Creditable information states at the entry of labor representatives into this field, that in a northern city a successful candidate's calling was the driving of a bakery van, and a sign that the council was in session was the horse and van awaiting the driver's pleasure at the imposing entrance of the city hall. This is not a myth, but a reality, with records showing that the aesthetic tastes of some of the old party representatives were outraged by the worker's entry into municipal government.

We now see the harvest being reaped from twenty-five years of propaganda, and the results have radiated the rays of workers' representation to the lands of many tongues. The harassed efforts of the pioneer, continued with lack of sympathy from within and without, have finally been acknowledged as correct, and the results attained are in the nature of a repayment for those who blazed the trail.

With the ascendancy of labor in Britain in the centres where in control, the work in the municipal field will be watched with interest, not only by their constituents, but in remote sections. The millennium is not expected, but there is no question that good civic government will be the result, to the benefit of all and sundry.

The success in the old land should give courage to the workers of Canada. If there be a fraternal message from the tongue of results, it surely is, "Go thou and do likewise."

"JUST PORK."

IT is a case of "squeal" all around, speaking of that valuable food known as pork. The purchasing public give their grunt, which is far from being a grunt of satisfaction. The Chamber of Commerce follow suit, whilst the packers claim they are the most abused, and so emit the loudest squeal. The most interested figure has its squeal silenced, and drastic measures would seem to be the only remedy for the elimination of the squeal of the consumer, the packer and the Chamber of Commerce officials.

POLITICS and PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

By Special Correspondent. After a stormy two weeks' passage in the commons the Grand Trunk bill is now having an equally turbulent time in the Upper Chamber. By the time this is in print, the fate of the measure will be known. For the past two weeks the Upper Chamber has been the scene of the most intense lobbying. There has been lobbying by the principal interests which are opposed to the measure, and lobbying by the government to keep its followers in line. Threats were made of an appeal to the country and of the appointment of new senators to carry the bill through. In addition there were intimations of drastic senate reform if the bill was killed. Incidentally there is good reason to believe that the government has under consideration the question of senate reform next session.

FROM COAST TO COAST Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing. TOM MANN BACK IN HARNESS. Poultry farming can no longer claim the activities of Mr. Tom Mann, who has been called to a high position in the labor world by election to the National Democratic Union, the Amalgamated Society of Engineers. This is the post relinquished by Mr. Robert Young on his election to Parliament for the Newton Division in Lancashire. The election was by ballot and Mr. Mann secured a large majority over his opponent, Mr. J. Kaylor, a member of the executive. Born in a Warwickshire village, Mr. Mann was at an early age working first on a farm and then as a pit lad at the age of 11. Tom Mann was apprenticed to engineering at 13, and became first organizing secretary of the National Democratic League. With John Burns and Ben Tillett he came into prominence in 1888, during the great dock strike, as organizer and speaker, and later as secretary of the Dockers' Union. He was a leading orator at labor meetings for many years, also secretary of the I.L.P., and at various times has helped to organize not only dock and engineering, but railway men, warehousemen, and unskilled workers. For several years he lived and worked in Australia; for a public house—the Enterprise, in Longwood, near his home, was the center of his activities. He has contested Parliamentary seats on four occasions, been arrested in Hamburg and Melbourne, and expelled from France and Belgium for his leading part in all parts of the world. When he retired in December last year, to start poultry farming, the Sailors' and Firemen's Union subscribed £1250 to the Transport Workers' Federation £100.

WESTERN CANADA

WINNIPEG MAY HAVE P. R. A bill providing for proportional representation for Winnipeg will be introduced at the next session of the Provincial Legislature. The matter has received the consideration of the Government for the past year and many members are now strongly in favor of it. Winnipeg will be the only district in Manitoba which will have proportional representation as the city constituencies are the only ones for which there are more than one member.

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STATEMENT OF POLITICAL FAITH BY LEADER-ELECT OF UNITED FARMERS

Mr. E. C. Drury, U.F.O. Leader-Elect, declared his political faith to the caucus which made him its unanimous choice in the following statement: "I am accepting the position to which you have elected me, I feel keenly sensible of the honor which you have conferred upon me, and also of the great responsibilities which accompany that honor. The position is unique in the political history of the province, and so far as I am personally concerned, is not one which I should have chosen, as I realize that the bed upon which you have placed me is likely to have more thorns than feathers in it."

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal—Cain.

COMPULSORY DIVORCE HAS DIED

Compulsory divorce if the husband and wife do not love each other was recommended by Professor Earl Barnes, formerly of Leland Stanford University, speaking at Boston recently at a state workers' social conference.

TORONTO DOMESTIC WORKERS TO HAVE A SCHEDULE

The Domestic Workers' Union at Toronto, in again springing to the fore, Mrs. J. Macgregor, president of the Women's Labor League, announced that a schedule has been drawn up for the benefit of the domestic and will be submitted to them to pass on at their next meeting.

WOMEN IN HOUSE OF LORDS

The House of Commons last week adopted an amendment to the pending bill for the revival of the disqualifications, permitting women to sit and vote in the House of Lords.

MISS HELEN CUTTERIDGE MARRIED

An event in which the whole of the Organized Labor world was more or less interested in took place recently at Bellingham, B.C., when Miss Helen Cutteridge was united in holy bonds of matrimony with Mr. J. P. O. Fern, a returned soldier.

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The Schrader Gauge contains a large air chamber which has only one opening. During the operation of testing the air pressure, the air chamber of the tire and the air chamber of the gauge, become one combined, continued change in pressure is automatically connected to no leak, no matter how infinitesimal, is possible.

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WHO PAYS?

Who pays the cost of our idle rich? Of our wasteful luxurious class? That live on the product of others' toil. On the labor of the human mass. Go ask the man with the shovel and pick. The man in the mud of the ditch. The man that toils the whole week through. I pay for the idle rich.

Who pays the cost of war's foul crime. Of the murders and blood and tears. Of the awful carnage of human hate. That blackens the weary years. Go ask the man in the mill and the mine. The man in the sod, the man in the slime. The man that dies in the darkness of night. I pay for war's foul crime.

Who pays the cost of rum's foul brood. Of the awful crop of the deadly still. Of the wild debauch of the drunken row. The fearful price of our liquor bill. Go ask the poor sot with the stupid stare. The wretched wife in the tattered home. The straggling children, the insane, if you will. We pay the cost of rum's foul brood. —By P. D'Alban.

PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION

The People's Forum at its opening meeting for the 1919-1920 season at the Regent Theatre Sunday evening, in securing a vocal speaker Mr. Ronald Hooper, honorary secretary of the Proportional Representation Society of Canada, Mr. Hooper in a splendid address surrounding the electoral methods at present in use and after advancing arguments against them showed the many advantages of a vocal vote and was completely responded to by the persistent applause with an encore. Mr. A. Tremblay was heard to great advantage in several organ selections. The "close of Hooper's address members of the audience asked many questions.

Mr. Hooper was entirely optimistic, and indicated that the system of voting in Ontario would soon be changed to proportional representation. He also stated that a study of the balloting in East and West Ontario in the recent provincial elections showed that under proportional representation Mr. H. P. Hill and Mr. John Cameron would have been elected, with Mr. Pinard and Mr. G. Hurdman as runners-up.

"Proportional representation is not an academic question any longer, but is entering a field of practical politics," said Mr. Hooper, declaring that the signs of the times pointed to an evolution in political methods. He said that the national ideals and the continued extension of the franchise. Proportional representation was a reform in the electoral method of which the single member constituency was the greatest evil. This method was crude and frequently resulted in serious injustices as minorities were not represented, and in many instances completely disfranchised. Mr. Hooper gave many instances of what had happened in Canada, and stated that in the Dominion general elections of 1896, the Conservatives secured 71,000 more votes than the Liberals who had a majority of 30 seats.

Among the other evils of the present electoral system was gerrymandering, or the art of changing boundaries of constituencies, so that the bulk of the voters would be in favor of one particular candidate. Mr. Hooper said that the single member constituency would be immediately abolished and in its stead larger electoral districts electing several candidates would be instituted. The single transferable vote would also be introduced. This means that the voter could mark his ballot for his first, second and third choices, etc. and in the event of his first choice being utterly defeated or in the event of his vote being marked to the credit of the second or third choice as necessary. In this manner Mr. Hooper claimed living conditions would be truly represent the great mass of the people.

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GET PROPOSED FOR RAILWAYMEN'S SECRETARY

Railwaymen are appealing to members of their union to subscribe to a proposed national testimonial to J. H. Thomas, M.P., their general secretary, in recognition of his services during the strike. The intention is to raise a fund with which to purchase for Mr. Thomas a house.

TO ESTABLISH LABOR CABINET

The scheme for creating a central labor authority, a "Labor Cabinet," to co-ordinate the industrial activity and deal with any emergency that may arise in industrial disputes, is making progress in Britain. The present plan is to establish a special department under the control of the Parliamentary Committee of the British Trade Union Congress. This plan will give the labor movement a leadership. Harry Gosling, who was leader of the leaders of the recent railwaymen's strike, stated that the proposed cabinet would have a capacity of one hundred members.

NEVER AGAIN.

"Ab, how well you must know the face of Nature, and know it in all its moods! Have you ever seen the sun sinking in such a glare of glory that it swallows up the horizon with it? Have you not seen the mist sliding down the hills top like a spectre? Have you never, when on an impassioned, seen the moon, struggling to shake off the grip of the ragged, rugged, storm-cloud?" "No, Miss," responded the fisherman. "I used to see them things, but I'm on the water-gang now."

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