

The Right to Organize.

It is now nearly one hundred years since the British Parliament enacted legislation legalizing trades unions. Since that time a tremendous struggle has been waged by the workers to enforce what to-day is recognized as a fundamental human right—"the right", as the Commission on Industrial Relations phrased it, "of workers to group themselves together for the purpose of selling their labour power collectively to their employer, instead of making individual agreements."

The Liberal Party has consistently proved its friendship for organized labour. Its leaders believe in industrial organization. Trades unionism is not an experiment; it is the product of centuries of human experience. According to the Labour Department returns there were 246,000 organized workers in Canada in the year 1918, and that number has since been greatly increased. There are over a million industrial workers in Canada, and over twenty-five per cent. are organized. That the Liberal Party is in accord with this important section of the community is indicated by the Toronto Liberal Convention which declared its stand for:

"A law prohibiting employers from compelling their employees to enter into agreements not to enter into labour unions, and a recognition of the principle of collective bargaining."

The Liberal Party has recognized that labour is something more than a mere commodity, and that the time has gone by when capital can safely continue to appropriate to itself the sole control of industry. The workers and the community must be called to the councils of industry.

With this in mind, the Liberal Party has declared in favour of councils of all classes in industry, both in the individual establishments, in particular trades, and for the Province at large.

Should the Liberal Party assume office an era of democratic interest in Labour and its problems will be inaugurated.