

# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

## MORAL COURAGE NEEDED

One of the conspicuous qualities necessary to successful work in the sphere of labor organization is that of moral courage. It is the distinguishing mark of real motherhood or womanhood. Without it no human being is really free, without it no individual commands respect. The disappointments incident to human effort, the heartaches and the losses are usually attributable to the lack of this admirable trait on the part of those who fail in their undertakings.

What is it that distinguishes the successful from the unsuccessful? Why is it that so many working people are content to plod on in their daily routine of poorly-rewarded physical effort, while others, with no more real ability, pass on and excel in the struggle for existence, achieving and winning where the larger number seem content to serve and to barely exist? The question may be answered briefly by calling attention to the fact, apparent to all close observers, that relatively few possess the courage of their convictions and are willing to risk failure by putting their convictions to the test.

"He either fears his fate too much, or his deserts are small, who fears to put it to the test and win or lose it all," was written by a poet who understood frail human nature. Organized labor needs development of and exercise of moral courage. Then will come into its own, and not before.—Labor Advocate.

## GIVEN THE CORRECT MEANING

The "Machinist" says the union shop is a challenge to absolutism in industry.

In the union shop the employer is shorn of autocratic power to set wages, hours and working conditions. Here, joint bargaining is the rule. The workers have a voice.

In the non-union shop the employer is master. This employer is less frank than the Roman slave owner and the feudal baron, both of whom controlled the lives of their chattels. But their purpose is the same—mastery over the men and women of toil.

He makes no pretense of superiority and divine right, as did other autocrats. He talks of liberty and equal opportunity.

His liberty is to have each worker, single-handed, pit his wit and his need to labor against a trustified industry that is powerful enough to defy government, debauch the judiciary and corrupt public opinion.

His equal opportunity is for the workers to be content with wages set by him or by officials of the State who can be controlled by him.

This employer believes in labor organizations—if he has "the last guess." He must be the court of last resort, have the final word in every dispute.

To talk of liberty where non-unionism exists is mockery. There can be no democracy where employers have personally-controlled company "unions," and welfare systems, as did slave owners who boasted of their kind treatment to vassals.

There are only two systems in industry—union and non-union. The union system rests on collective bargaining and the workers' right to be represented by persons of their own choosing. The non-union system rests on individual bargaining with the workers pleading his own case or by a person the employer approves.

The non-union system is never referred to as such by feudal employers. Their publicity agents coin catchy phrases to cloak this un-American system.

Their "open shop," "free labor" and similar terms are tricky, deceitful and misleading.

Man's noblest ideals are "gutterized" by these labor exploiters who would destroy independence in their workers.

These non-union employers, these petty autocrats, lack the courage of German militarists who boldly declared: "Might makes right."

The need for trade union agitation and education was never so urgent.

The difference between union and non-union systems should be stressed at mass meetings, by discussion and every other publicity method.

Unionism means resistance to wrong.

Non-unionism means docility, servility and "squaw men."

### WOULD CONCEAL HUNGER

Huntington, W. Va.—Governor Morgan notified a Baltimore newspaper that Minden (Payette county) miners are not in need of assistance, and the Huntington Advertiser repeats this statement in its issue.

"Now that Huntington has responded to the appeal of Mayor Campbell and the commissioners, and Minden's very narrow escape from a deplorable situation has been established, a brief resume of the entire situation would not be amiss," says the Advertiser.

"When the pinch of poverty first hit Minden practically only a dozen families were affected. This increased rapidly day by day. As many as six families were being added to the destitute list every day before conditions at Minden were disclosed to the people of Huntington.

"There was one prevalent comment at Minden last week. It was reflected in every statement for help sent out. It was this: If Minden had gone without outside assistance for another 10 days conditions would have been such as to shame the heart of every citizen of West Virginia.

Mayor Campbell urges further contributions, and calls on West Virginia cities to aid.

### NEWSPAPERS RUN FOR PROFIT: WILL NOT PROBE THEMSELVES

New York.—Let the newspaper of the country probe their attitude on industrial questions, says the Bureau of Industrial Research in its "Challenges to the Press," issued to 700 editors and publishers.

When asked for his comment on this plan, President Gompers replied: "I regret that I can offer no optimistic opinion as to the outcome of the Proprietors of great newspapers are primarily employers. Their chief source of income is from other employers, by whom I mean the large advertising interests. It is my opinion that first of all no serious self-examination on the part of the press can be secured, and if it could be secured it would be an examination by a party of biased character and therefore fruitless so far as the general welfare might be concerned."

The Bureau of Industrial Research was associated with the inter-church world movement's investigation of the steel strike. Their report states that the public press "failing notably to acquaint the public with the facts." This general policy of the press has caused the Bureau to issue a questionnaire to editors relative to securing information on industrial questions and on the standard, ability, ethics of reporters assigned to labor matters.

Workers have lost faith in the public press and are establishing publications of their own, says the Bureau.

"The press is challenged by recent events to investigate itself in regard to labor news."

"The gravest duty that confronts the American press today is to bring these questions that have come out of the war into the forum of public discussion. The competent, independent, investigating reporter must come back to his own."

### HUNGER LOWERS WAGE IN TIMBER INDUSTRY

Seattle.—"The starvation policy of the lumber barons has made unheard of wage reductions in this industry possible," says Ray E. Canterbury, president of the International Union of Timber Workers.

"Never at any time has market conditions warranted a suspension of operations in this industry and in fact the mills and camps would have run full blast continually but for the concerted plan on the part of lumber owners," he says.

"Some sections of the country have suffered worse than others. The southern pine belt has received the worst of this conspiracy owing to the fact that in part of this nation men are murdered for organizing into unions while in other parts of the nation they are merely starved to death for organizing. Lumber workers in the south are receiving as low as 75 cents for a 12-hour day with the most miserable and oppressive rules that compel them to patronize company stores. In the great lakes section common labor is paid as low as \$16 per month in the woods and \$17.75 for a 10-hour day in the mills. The Pacific coast has nothing to boast of, with wages ranging from \$2.20 to \$3 per day of eight hours, as it is at least \$2 a day under a bare living existence."

### CO-OPS. HAVE GOOD YEAR

St. Paul, Minn.—Savings or profits from co-operative enterprises in 43 counties of this state during the year amounted to \$2,045,725.

### Will Morning Never Come

DOES this illustration picture your experience? What is more distressing than being unable to sleep? Sleeplessness is one of the most and most certain symptoms of exhausted nerves.

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### IMPORTING TROUBLE

New York.—"If the state of Kansas has tried out an industrial court and found it effective in preventing labor disputes or in settling them after they were begun, there would be some point in a bill drafted to establish a similar court in New York," says the New York World.

"The facts are the opposite. Kansas has tried out an industrial court and found that it got only fails to prevent or settle strikes, but actually contributed to the gravest obstacle to an understanding between capital and labor. It has been to blame for more walkouts, lockouts and fights to a single case."

An industrial court which has proved itself a liability in Kansas, a state mainly agricultural, could be nothing more than a costly nuisance to New York, with its complex, interrelated industries. The industrial life of a metropolitan district is a growing, evolving affair, a struggle in which clashing forces meet from time to time, to neutralize in a new balance of power. No court can make the necessary frequent adjustments, because there are no legal standards to apply to the problems of hours and wages."

### PARTY LINES WEAKEN

The weakening of party lines in the national lawmakers body plans the non-partisan element known as the "old guard." For years special interests have secretly operated as a bloc. Nothing was ever said about this bloc by men who are now protesting against the formation of groups that defy party discipline and publicly announce their purpose.

The senate farm bloc is the present concern of special interests and its defenders. Groups representing economic interests, organized along non-party lines, is the nightmare of those who have prospered under party discipline.

Various methods have been discussed for the beginning of a new era in legislation, and is in line with 40-year declarations by A. F. of L.

The "old guard" is bewildered because its orders are being ignored. Various methods have been discussed to check the new movement, but to date nothing has been found that will restore the good old days.

### RAILWAY WORKERS TO TAKE VOTE

Representatives of division 4 of the railroad department of the American Federation of Labor, which has jurisdiction over the shop trades of Canadian railroads from the Dutch districts consists in the Netherlands, has been informed by the Canadian Railway Association that the union workers they represent must accept as permanent a wage reduction of 3c an hour, temporarily made last July, or the railroads will insist upon a reopening of agreements at once.

The attitude of the railway association is being placed before the shop trades by their representatives. A vote has been asked for the result to reach Winnipeg by the end of the month, after which the committee from division No. 4 will have another conference with the representative of the railway association.

It is said that trades have opposed a permanent reduction and the same feeling has been expressed in the voting in other railroad centers.

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### SOUTH AFRICAN STRIKE IS SERIOUS

Outward indications of public repression of the seriousness of the general strike menace is now apparent throughout the Union of South Africa, says a Greater cable from Johannesburg.

Heavy coal traffic now passes Johannesburg en route for the coast where shipping concerns are anxiously replenishing their reserves. Even cattle cars are being used to haul coal.

A steady stream of police is moving towards Johannesburg to ensure order there while in Johannesburg itself the march of fully armed police is an hourly spectacle.

The situation is naturally regarded seriously in government circles in Pretoria. The Nationalist miners would gladly upset the present government if possible, but there is no threat against the constitution or of any revolutionary intent. Nevertheless the government is taking measures to guard against the possibility of a blaze, which might be caused by a spark, despite the efforts of the men's leaders to keep things in hand.

The mine workers' propaganda in the Dutch districts consists in the publication of a statement accusing the Chamber of Mines of seeking to remove color bar and give the Kaffir equal status with whites in the mines. The chamber replied denying the assertion and declaring that it desires only a readjustment of the working regulations in order to save the gold mines.

### BROCKVILLE HEARS ESTIMATE OF UNEMPLOYED

Hon. Geo. P. Graham, Minister of Militia and Defence and Minister of Naval Services, who left Brockville to attend the Liberal convention in South Essex, said he entertained no doubt that he will be re-elected by a large majority if an Opposition candidate is put up.

Regarding unemployment, Hon. Mr. Graham said that so far as can be ascertained, there are now 250,000 out of employment throughout Canada and the Militia Department has now nearly exhausted its supply of blankets, mattresses, etc. in assisting relief work in the larger centres.

### MONTREAL FIRM NOT TO BUILD ICEBREAKER

Canadian Vickers, Limited, at Montreal, have received instructions from the Department of Marine not to proceed further with the carrying out of work on the ice-breaker contract for which it had a cost of \$1,580,000, had been agreed by the late government a few days before it was defeated at the polls.

This was the statement of A. B. Gillham, managing director of the concern, who expressed the view that it would accordingly be impossible for his firm to mitigate the unemployment prevalent.

Speaking on behalf of the Canadian Workers' Federation of Returned Soldiers and Sailors, Bernard Rose stated that as the members of that organization were all directly affected, they would send a delegation to Ottawa, but lacked funds and therefore appealed to the general public to assist them to that extent.

It is stated in explanation that the Canadian Government had been informed by the late government some years ago, and subsequently transferred to the Russian Government during the war for approximately \$427,500, was stated by Alex. Johnston, Deputy Minister of Marine. This was one of the reasons why Canadian Vickers were instructed to stop work on the ice-breaker recently contracted for by the former government at a price of \$1,580,000. The Government had not definitely cancelled the contract with Vickers, however, but had stopped work in order to consider the problem.

The ice-breaker J. D. Hazen, said Mr. Johnston, was set present the property of the French Government and was in the harbor of Chébourg. The Department of Marine had the vessel inspected by an agent of Lloyd's, and the report showed the ship to be in first class condition.

### ACCIDENTS ARE COSTLY

Harrisburg, Pa.—In the six years the state workmen's compensation act has been in existence, \$59,939,531 have been expended by employers and liability companies for compensation insurance. Of this sum \$22,183,796 has been paid, and the remainder is yet to be distributed under the allotment plan.

During the six years 16,168 fatalities have been reported. The serious injuries to workers total 410,193, and the minor injuries, 599,701.

"There is a moral side" will not be considered. The probability of growing children with parents makes for laxity in moral teaching efforts to meet, not a living conditions by taking lodges, has resulted in a not inconsiderable number of illegitimate children.

### N. Y. TENEMENTS VILE, SAYS INVESTIGATOR

New York.—"In 17 years I have not seen tenement houses in this city so crowded, so much in want of repair, or so dirty," declares Dr. Annie S. Daniel, hospital physician and tenement house investigator.

"With the exorbitant rents and the absolute lack of consideration at the hands of the landlords, who paper falling from the walls and many cases dropping or dropping from the lath, and no chance of rent is forthcoming, how can we expect anything but mass disease, prostitution which cannot result in good Americanism?"

"I have found that the city law which were relaxed somewhat during the war, have not been tightened up again. It is very bad that whole families should be allowed to live in a single room, as in many instances I know, and the price charged are all out of proportion to the services rendered."

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