

Editorial Page of the Canadian Labor Press

DANIEL McCANN, Manager. CHAS. W. LEWIS, Circulation Manager. J. A. P. HAYDON, M.C., Editor.

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

THE REFERENDUM

ONTARIO has spoken. It is decided that the importation or bringing of spirituous liquors into the province of Ontario shall be forbidden. The result was expected. An analysis of the vote shows that most of the industrial centres voted "wet," while the large agricultural communities voted "dry."

Premier Drury stated at a public meeting in Toronto, on Sunday night last, that the majority shall rule, and the Ontario Temperance Act with the amendments will now be put into full force and effect. It is difficult to conceive how the effective operation of the act can be accomplished with such a large minority against it.

The campaign was a very bitter one, and the prohibitionists introduced many subterfuges in an endeavor to befog the minds of the electors. Ontario will now be bone dry, and three years will elapse before another referendum can be taken on this question.

Ottawa gave a majority of 7,177 against prohibition. An analysis of the Ottawa vote shows that the large working class districts polled a substantial majority against prohibition.

In the House of Commons, on Tuesday afternoon, Hon. J. T. Calder introduced amendments to the Drug Act to prevent the refilling of doctors' prescriptions for opium, morphine and other narcotic drugs. He stated, in introducing the amendments, that complaints frequently came to the department, particularly from Western Canada, that the refilling of these prescriptions, without the doctors' consent, has helped to increase the number of addicts. It was with a view of minimizing this evil that this amendment has been entered.

The Citizens' Liberty League, who fought on the negative side during the election, claimed that in the prohibition districts the use of poisonous drugs was rapidly increasing. The action of the Dominion Government would seem to bear this out.

SAMUEL GOMPERS.

THE announcement of the marriage of Samuel Gompers comes as a dramatic evidence of the rugged, vivid vitality of the man. The public has known him as the sturdy, resourceful fighter who never found himself blocked in one endeavor that he did not instantly plan another and more effective method of attack. His objective never varied—fuller and more satisfying life for the masses. No man can fight in that way in whom the current of life does not run high and strong, tingling with all the human instincts that are springs of human life. The power of Gompers as a fighter lies in the great humanness of the man. The key to his character is love—that eternal power that is timeless. Sustained by the inner spiritual force, Gompers has maintained a massiveness of power that has amazed the world through decades.

Those who know the inner man watched with apprehension the blows that have of late years stripped him of home life and the sustaining love of daily companionship. Then there came a change—something like a reviving of life power—something to be sensed and traced to its source. Gompers is speaking from a keen, alert mind, dealing with the problems of the day and the hour, using the language of current work and thought, aware of tendencies and able to discriminate the constructive. You find him today sought by the engineers, by the constructive financier, by statesmen of his own and foreign countries, by those who are trying to meet the problems of today and tomorrow with the sureness of complete understanding. Gompers is not an old man, he has simply been using seventy years of life crowded with a multitude of activities which have fitted him to do his work of each year a bit better than the past year. Instead of growing old he has grown into the fullness of living.

When Arthur Henderson charged Gompers with being fifty years behind the time, Gompers answered with an aeroplane flight from Buffalo to Rochester to keep an appointment, as part of the day's work. When the usual pre-convention rumors started this spring, voiced by the naive Hearst, who says Gompers is so old that he should be retired by the labor movement with "some dignified ex-title," Gompers responds by quietly taking unto himself a wife and thus beginning a new chapter in the book of life. As spring brings a flood of life creeping into all nature, so like the proverbial eternal youth, Gompers still seeks joy in living and working.

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POLITICS AND PEOPLE THROUGH THE TELESCOPE OF LABOR

The past week was the most momentous in the history of the present session of Parliament. From the time the House was called to order on Monday at three o'clock until adjournment, bitter debates marked the proceedings. On Monday, after the House went into Committee to Supply for the Marine Department, the Liberals and Agrarians united in opposition to the Government's proposal for Supply to complete its ship building policy. The House was in session from Monday, at three o'clock, until Tuesday at midnight, 23 continuous hours. During that time the Government was unable to get a single item for the Marine Department passed. The Prime Minister finally deferred the item and during the week applied Closure when the deferred items were put through the House, together with the interim supply for one-sixth of the amount required for the next fiscal year, which had previously been denied by the Opposition.

MONTREAL POLICE RESENT REMARKS

MONTREAL—A letter has been addressed to the Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice, on resolution of the Police Union of Montreal, protesting against remarks of Mr. Justice Weir recently directed against the police and detective force of Montreal as "disgraceful."

TO LET THE N. S. MINERS SELECT INSPECTORS.

HALIFAX, N.S.—During the brief session of the Nova Scotia Legislature on Thursday, Forman Way, Labor, Cape Breton, introduced a bill to amend the Coal Mines Regulation Act. The bill proposes that deputy inspectors shall be elected by a referendum vote of the men employed in the mines underground. Another clause proposes the introduction of an eight-hour day in the collieries, and provides a penalty for any person who pays, or receives pay for work performed in excess of eight hours.

Trade Unions Are Open

The phrase "closed shop" is of recent use. It was coined, and is employed on all occasions, by the enemies of trade unionism for a purpose. That purpose is to divert attention from the defensive action of union members, in preserving their union, to what is no more than an incidental consequence of that action. The union creates certain desirable labor conditions. The non-unionists try to destroy them. By not competing with one another for the employment, the unionists make their advantage. By compelling the non-unionists to leave the dictation of terms wholly to employers. That is the market A.B.C. of this feature in the case of labor. And then the employers, when the union has gained something through its activities, come forward with a demand for "the open shop," and make an appeal to the public in the name of liberty. To all the inhabitants of Easy Street—who complacently regard themselves as the "general public"—this slogan of the employing class sounds justified as "truly American."

TERMINOLOGY AND LABOR RELATIONS

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AS AID TO DISCUSSION OF OBJECT OF UNIVERSITY BULLETIN. CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts—During the discussion of industrial problems and relations of the past few years, particularly in the case of investigations and hearings held by extra-industrial committees and organizations, it has often been found that verbal misunderstandings have hindered the adjustment of labor relations. Recognizing this fact the Bureau of Business Research of Harvard University has compiled a bulletin entitled "Labor Terminology," which is the result of cooperative explanation by union labor officials and which attempts to frame, so far as is possible, universal definitions of terms which will be satisfactory to all parties concerned.

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Now, this situation has been analyzed times innumerable in these columns by writers for the labor and social reform press. Every point in it has been brought up, weighed and given its place. No intelligent observer of today but has had full opportunity to see clearly all the factors bearing on the question. Every citizen has been enabled to take his stand thereon. This being true, the trade unionists, having made plain their view, and believing it to be the true one, do not intend to permit their opponents to trace that view. This

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