

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

TALK ON UNION LABEL

Members of the Labor Union are not the only ones who should be concerned about the union label. Every lover of humanity should take an interest in the work of promoting the label.

Even the most chronic bargain hunter would, if she were fully aware of the facts, hesitate before buying a wrapper or night dress or underwear if she knew it was made in a room infected with the germs of tuberculosis, typhoid, smallpox, diphtheria, or a thousand other diseases.

And yet the risk every woman takes when she buys such articles in sweatshops.

More especially would any tender-hearted woman hesitate to buy them if she knew that those articles were made by the unrequited toil of helpless and hopeless widows, starving children and toddling infants whose eyes never saw a flower in bloom or the green grass growing, and who never knew what it was to be free from the pangs of hunger.

The absence of the label means that the goods might be—and doubtless were—made under just such conditions. The presence of the label is a guarantee that they were made by labor that received a living wage.

Why should not women in all walks of life take an interest in a movement that means so much to their sister?

If the humane women of this land would stop for a moment and think of all the misery and woe their bargain rushes cause their unfortunate sister; if they would pause for a moment and think of the cruelty inflicted upon helpless children by their efforts to get bargains, they would certainly quit it and be willing to pay fair prices for the goods made by happy women amid healthful surroundings.

The woman whose attention is called to these things and who pays no attention, but goes right on profiting by the sweat and sorrows of her sisters and the hunger and grief of God's little ones is not worthy the name of woman.

Without doubt the union label means a whole lot more than we have been giving credit for. It means more than temporary profits. It means hope and happiness for millions, it means joy to mothers and new ambitions for thousands of despairing men.

If you are not insistently demanding the label you are untrue to your obligation as a man or woman. If you are not insistently demanding the label, you are untrue to your fellows. If you are not preaching the virtues of the label to your non-union friends you are not a proper emissary and should receive a new baptism of the union spirit.—Garment Worker.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY HISTORIC

Opposition criticism to the eight-hour day labor along under false impression that this movement is of recent innovation. This is an entirely erroneous idea as when speaking on the regulation of hours in agriculture at the International Labour Conference in Geneva, Cesar Charlone, Government delegate for Uruguay and Deputy-Director of the Uruguayan Labour Office, said, speaking of conditions in his own country: "In 1593 there was an Indian code in existence which, in spite of many changes, offers us very wise rules to inspire the agrarian policy of our times. In fact, Law 6 of the Indian code in 1593 laid down that workmen should not work more than eight hours a day, four in the morning and four in the afternoon, in order that they should not suffer from the heat of the sun."

IN UNITY, GOING TOWARD PEACE

It is particularly satisfying to be able to record the official positions of British and American labor as identical in support of the International Conference on Limitation of Armament.

The conference itself is a real response to a real world public opinion.

If now, labor can carry its leadership forward in bringing the nations into an economic conference and if there can be developed an organic, continuing relationship between nations, the year 1922 will indeed be the brightest that ever dawned upon humanity.

Human hearts everywhere yearn for lasting peace, for a chance to live and to labor in peace, bending all effort to improving civilization and broadening the human horizon.

But human hearts have yearned from time out of mind. There must be more than yearning—there must be a voice to express the yearning. Let the voice speak!

Let there be created among men the institutions which will make peace possible.

For the bright new sun just now ascending into the sky to fall back upon the depths below the line of vision would be terrible tragedy. It will not be if humanity achieves its clear desire—and humanity will achieve that desire IF IT COMMANDS!

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LATEST PRICE PROBE

New York.—Striking butcher workmen Jer Attorney General Daugherty's announced probe of profiteering.

In a letter to the federal officials, officers of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen say the probe order "looks like a smoke screen to cover up the sins of the beef trust and the friendly inactivity of your department."

The unionists remind the attorney general that on Dec. 16 last they called his attention to price raising methods by the beef trust, but to date he has not even acknowledged receipt of the letter.

"Instead, we read that you have publicly charged the retail merchants of the country with the guilt of high food prices and have ordered Chief William J. Burzese to investigate the iniquities of small shop keepers."

"Coming at a time when the entire nation is aroused over the attempts of the packing interests to smash collective bargaining and make the public pay the bill in profiteering meat prices, your attack on the retailer looks like a smoke screen to cover up the sins of the beef trust and the friendly inactivity of your department."

"If action is not taken by the department of justice, we shall be compelled to conclude that justice is not to be obtained in this country through the duly constituted authority of government."

In a statement issued in connection with their letter to the attorney general, the unionists say: "Every one knows that the big fellows are the worst sinners. It is big business, not little business, which levies the biggest toll on the public. The course of meat prices in New York during the strike proves this. Wholesale prices rose 29 per cent. while retail prices advanced 19 per cent."

"We have heard a lot about the packers' control of the federal government. This campaign of the department of justice against the little shop keepers is a calculated device to dispel any illusions on that score."

SELL WHEAT DIRECT

Washington.—"For the first time in the history of American agriculture, farmers have sold their wheat direct to Europe without the aid of brokers, commission agents or other middlemen," says the All-American co-operative commission's news service.

The steamer Texan has left Portland, Ore., with 40,000 bushels of wheat for London and Antwerp, shipped by the northwest wheat growers, the farmers' co-operative agency of agency of the four northwestern states. While this is the first co-operative shipment of wheat to the center of the world's grain market, the northwestern farmers have already shipped nearly a million bushels of wheat to the Orient under special contracts. The valuable connections thus established will save hundreds of thousands of dollars for the farmers in commission fees and speculative profits at the same time reduce the cost of wheat four to the consumer by eliminating the speculative element."

RESIST FEDERAL PROBE

Washington.—If the government can "meddle" with the steel industry, it can control the public press, in the latest claim of 21 eastern steel corporations in its two-year contest with the federal trade commission. The federal board is attempting to ascertain production costs but the steel manufacturers oppose the plan. The commission recently attempted to secure production costs from coal owners, but were stopped by an injunction.

When these business men are called upon to raise wages, however, an investigation of the cost of living for workers is taken as a matter of course.

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FIGHTS RAIL GUARANTY.

Washington.—In a public statement Senator La Follette warns the country that the railroads are endeavoring to perpetuate the rate guaranty provision of the Cummins-Each act.

This feature of the transportation act will expire by statutory limitation on March 1.

"SUGAR COATED BUNK" IS FED TO WORKERS

Chicago.—It would profit workers if they supported and read the labor press rather than swallow the "sugar coated bunk" that is daily fed to them, says George W. Perkins, president of the Cigar Makers' International union, writing in the official magazine of that organization. "The privileged few and big interests know the value of propaganda," says this trade unionist. "It is said that a lie travels faster than the truth; that half truth is often worse than a whole lie. These people know that the constant teaching of false news and erroneous ideas creates a psychology that it takes years to destroy."

"The people, the public generally are really hungry for news. They swallow without analysis false statements made for ulterior purposes. It would be much better if the workers got their views on economics from the labor press and from their own official journals. It would be better still if the most of us got down to rock-bottom facts and did our own thinking instead of swallowing the sugar coated bunk that we get on the news stands for 2 or 3 cents per."

"Newspapers are useful as a time-killer, for baseball scores, etc. Some like them for divorce news, murders and dinner parties given to trained monkeys. We have no objection to anybody reading the daily press. We think they should, but when we come to our own head to get let us be guided by facts and our own deductions."

"The most of us know that a good bill of price, reasonable working hours and fair shop conditions are the proper things for us, and we, moreover, know that the only way to get these things is through the trade unions. On this there is no argument. Any one who disputes it has a tax to grind or has space to rent in the top of his head. He might be, however, repeating parrot-like, things he has heard from those with interests divergent from those of the workers."



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STRIKE INSURANCE BUSTS. COAL OWNERS HIDE PRODUCTION COSTS

Baltimore.—Circuit Judge Stump has ordered the employers' underwriters' agents to show why this concern should not be placed in the hands of a receiver. The request was made by the receivers of the strike insurance company known as the employers' mutual insurance and service corporation. The underwriters' agents was associated with the strike insurance company, and operated under a commission from the company.

Judge Stump was told that strike insurance business is bad, with everything going out and nothing coming in.

TROOPS FOR STRIKE.

Frankfort, Ky.—Although local peace officials have not requested troops, Governor Morrow has ordered four companies of the national guard to Newport, where a strike of steel workers has been on for several weeks.

WHY WALL STREET WINS

New York.—Wall street can fool others, but it never attempts to fool itself, is the hint contained in this statement by the Wall Street Journal, which wage workers might remember with profit:

"Wall street is not wanting in faith, but it does not greatly believe in accidents. It is so much a part of its business to reason back from effects to causes, to protect itself against the future by reasoning from causes to effects, that it has small room for the idea that events which seem fortuitous are really so."

URGENT OLD AGE PENSIONS. Columbus, Ohio.—On January 10 and 11 a state-wide conference will be held in this city under the auspices of the state federation of labor to discuss old-age pensions and take suitable action thereon. Fraternal organizations are invited. Several of these bodies have declared for old-age pensions.

PICKETING ENJOINED

Bridgport, Conn.—Judge Kellogg of the superior court has enjoined picketing by newspaper printers where a strike has been on since last August.

LONGSHOREMEN STRIKE.

Portland, Me.—Several hundred longshoremen suspended work after failure to reach an agreement with steamship companies. The strikers recently accepted wage cuts but refused to reduce their working conditions.

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OPPOSE GUN MEN.

Charleston, W. Va.—The central labor of this city has appealed to congress against the brutality of coal owners' gun men in West Virginia. The unionists charge that Sheriff Clavin of Logan county is using his position and the other county machinery to persecute miners, and that he is being aided by Governor Morgan, who has assigned state constables for this work.

The constables are making wholesale arrests for imaginary offenses and Clavin, it is stated, issues warrants without regard to facts, while men are railroaded to jail without preliminary hearings.

The workers ask that congress act to the end that this reign of terror be stopped.

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