Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

GIVE US MORE PEP.

PEP is something that puts the "joy of the job" into a workman's heart and hand. It's the thing that makes the lambs gambol with glee, the colts prance with joy, the calves throw up their tails and run like fury, the birds sing lusty notes, the frogs croak on the creek bank, the insects buzz, and hum in the air, the milkman whistle as he jogs along, the blacksmith laughingly beat the iron into shape, the plowman urge his horses with a "gee-up, there," the engineer wave a kiss to his sweetheart as the engine starts on the rails, the woodman smilingly plunge his axe into the giant tree, the boss and his men rush to their work with a cheery greeting. It makes mechanic and laborer "live wires" on their jobs; the soldier "goes over the top" with clinched jaws, and courage knows no fear; the live salesman hies to his calls with shoulders squared, pride in his heart, and nerves atingle with anticipation of new success. Oh, Pep is something that makes the Canadian workman a good citizen, a good union man and a good producer, worthy of all the consideration of hours and wages that an appreciative country can give him.

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EDUCATIONAL MOVIES.

THE man who has an eye to see—though he be deaf, dumb and unlettered—may have the world's news and knowledge delivered to him daily on a film. Knowledge is the Friend of Labor. Educational movies are the messengers of Knowledge. Good movies exert a good influnce.

The educational "movie" is the workingman's trip to the homes of the rich—and also the trip of the rich man to the homes of the toilers. There are pictures thrown on screens that show the misery, squalor and ill-health, caused to a great degree by long hours of labor and small wages. Showing these conditions as they are in less favored sections of the world will hasten their passing everywhere.

The moving picture has long ago passed the first mile post of entertainment; it has become in short an Ocular Institute of Geography, History, Industrial Processes, Ethics, Citizenship, Deportment and Patriotism. And workingman and his family may take an evening course in this Ocular Institute for a trifling sum. Some day the schools and colleges will teach many things by means of the "movie," and one of these things will be the progress of Industry, and the ennoblement of Labor through Education and Co-operation.

Here's to good movies. There can't be too many of them.

* * * *

DAWN OF THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

LEADING Canadian cities are adopting the 8-hour day. Progressive Brantford, with a progressive labor Mayor, leads the way. Beginning May 1st, the London and Port Stanley Railway Co. will place itself on record as the first Canadian radial to inaugurate the eight-hour day. Toronto controllers approve of a scheme to give an eight-hour day to Toronto civic employes. The cause of the shorter day is fast gaining favor everywhere in Canada.

* * * *

A BUSINESS TONIC.

THE protection of Union Labor is a good tonic for business. Only the very foolish would think of undermining union wage standards built up through years of effort. This point is well taken by Samuel Gompers, who once said:

"The Old Quack medicine which the old school of political economists always prescribed for the body industrial whenever any grave question arose, questions of importance to industry, commerce or finance, was: cut wages, cut wages, cut wages, as a remedy for industrial stagnation. Because there was such a small, comparatively small, avenue for the markets of industry, the products of industry, wages must be cut as a remedy, so that by this means the consuming power of the great masses of the people should be reduced and the stagnation actually be made all the more acute."

But the day of unjust and indiscriminate wage cutting is over. The cutters are being cut.

Union Members—Mail This Today.

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INDEPENDENT LABOR PARTY
NOTES FROM OTTAWA BRANCH

Notwithstanding the unfavorable weather that prevailed on last Sunday, there was a very good audience turned out to hear Lieut. Frank J. P. Crean, superintendent of the Ontario Government Employment Bureau, speak on "Economic Re-distribution."

As superintendent of this very important branch of the Government's work, Lieut. Crean was admirably adapted to speak on a subject that is of peculiar interest to the workers at the present time.

Referring to economics, not as a science, but as a growth or development in human ideas, the speaker showed that the cave man using his club to impress his superiority upon his weaker brethren was the first exponent of the law of economics, and his methods were followed, perhaps not literally, but in an equally effective manner by his successors, i. e., the capitalist and the big corporations today. The cave man being followed by the mystery worker, who, discarding the club, relied on the cupidity and superstition of his fellow-creatures, impressed them with his apparent knowledge of the secrets of nature, and persuading them to believe that it did not matter so much what hardships they endured in this world, if they followed his teachings, they were assured of eternal felicity in a future state of existence.

"We cannot afford to ignore the lessons learned from the war, inasmuch that they have showp us that without co-operation, on the part of the workers of the free peoples of the world, with their respective Governments, autocracy and force would have triumphed, the war may even have been necessary to bring this fact into prominence, we all are appalled at the enormous loss of life entailed in the gigantic struggle, and would gladly have sought some other method of vindicating the principles of justice and right, but it was not to be, the horror fell upon us, and in the hour of the trial of democracy, labor responded, and to labor in a large measure was due the ultimate success of our cause.

"But now we cannot go back to the old pre-war conditions, we must not allow the methods of the cave man to again be in the ascendant, we must endeavor to find a system of mutual helpfulness, whereby labor will be assured of a just and equitable recompense, employer and employe should be able to meet on a common ground, and not only discuss, but co-operate in the fulfillment of their tasks.

"Science and education should be the handmaidens of labor, for what did the employer pay his worker? Was it for energy? that were indeed small comparable to machine or horse power; was it for skill? that has, to a large extent, been replaced by marvellous machinery; was it for time? That is a negligible quantity and cannot be transferred. What the worker was largely paid for was none of these, but for his intelligence, the faculty of executing orders, the retentive power of memory to embody an idea into concrete form, the something that places him far above the category of a unit possessed of so much physical power or machine-like skill, and it was because of this, and because of the increase of knowledge among the workers that rendered it essential for the employers of labor to recognize the inalienable right of the workers to an adequate return for their labor, for the workers to recognize the responsibilities of the employer, and for each to recognize the universal brotherhood that exists between them all, and to work together for the common welfare of the race."

Seldom has such an eloquent address been delivered before the party, and we can only reiterate our regret that the weather prevented more from being in attendance.

We should like to see every union man in the City of Ottawa attend these meetings; they are of great educational value, and the question period and general discussion that follows are not the least interesting features of what has proven to be a highly successful venture on the part of the local branch. We trust to be enabled to carry on until the end of April, which closes our winter session.

The party desires to record its gratification of and its congratulations to Bro. John C. Cameron on his appointment to the Ottawa Municipal Housing Commission. We feel that in Mr. Cameron, Labor will be capably represented, and we know that his experience not only in the building trade, but in the labor movement generally, should prove of inestimable value to the Comission in their work.

CALGARY CONVENTION OF WESTERN UNIONS.

An item of import in the labor movement in Canada was the action at the inter-provincial conference at Calgary, when every delegate present voted solidly for breaking away from International affiliation subject to the approval of the general membership of the delegates' respective unions.

This of course will be the fly in the ointment as the organizations represented will stand pat on its International affiliations is the expected result of the referendum.

Not only this, but a new organization subject to a referendum, was formed to embrace the whole of the workers. It will be known as "the one big union." In order to carry this into effect, the conference adopted the following recommendation of the policy:

"We recommend the name of the proposed organization be "The One Big Union."

"We recommend the conference elect a committee of five, representing geographical location for the purpose of carrying out the necessary propaganda to make the referendum a success.

"We further recommend that delegates from each province meet and elect a committee of five to work in conjunction with the central committee in carrying on the necessary propaganda to accomplish the wishes of the convention.

"We recommend the drafting and issuing of the referendum be left to the central committee,' also receiving and publishing returns of the vote.

"In the opinion of the committee it will be necessary to establish an industrial form of organization to work through the existing trades council and district boards and no definite plans of organization be submitted until after the referendum has been taken.

"The committee further recommend that after the returns of the vote are received the 'central committee' call a conference of representatives of trades councils and district boards to perfect the plans of organization, basis of referendum of affiliated membership of five thousands or less to be one delegate, over five thousand, two delegates, over 1,000, three delegates.

"We recommend that an appeal be made to the trades councils and district boards for the payment of two cents per member affiliated to finance the educational campaign for the inauguration of the 'One Big Union.'"

Several other important resolutions were adopted, mostly without discussion. These included freedom of speech and the lifting of the ban on certain literature and the release of political prisoners; the expression of an open convention that the system of industrial soviet control by the selection of representatives from industries was more effective than the present system of government; the demand for a six-hour-day of five days a week and sympathy with the Russian Bolshevik and German Spartacan revolutions.

No comment was made by P. M. Draper, secretary-treasurer of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, when his attention was called to the action of the Western labor men in creating the "One Big Union," and endorsing the Russian and Spartacan revolutions.

Mr. Draper stated, however, that it was probable that the executive council of the congress would be called together for a meeting to talk over the matter.

"Until such time there will be nothing to be said," added Mr. Draper. "Officially we shall take no cognizance of the resolutions passed by the Calgary convention of labor men as they appear in the press. When we are officially notified of any split with the Congress then we will act according. If they mean to set up a new union and cut themselves away from the congress and the International, then it is up to them. Congress is a legislative body and its function is not neglected."

Mr. James Simpson, of Toronto, in dealing with the same subject stated:

"I regard the Labor element in the Western Provinces more radical than that east of Fort William and Port Arthur," said Mr. James Simpson today, in commenting upon the action of Labor men in Calgary yesterday, when every delegate present voted solid for the breaking away from the international affiliation. "I am not at all surprised to see that they have made a declaration of a new type of organization. I cannot understand, however, how the breaking away from the international affiliation should be decided upon, because it is quite possible for the workers to so federate in their individual capacity as to make such an organization equally as effective as the one big union.

"I regard it as important, a due recognition should be given to the evolution of the machine in industry and its bearing upon the skill required in production. The constant improvement of machinery is reducing a skilled labor to merely dexterous labor, and this condition lends itself to the one big union which they have decided upon. It seems to me, having regard for that fact, that the closer federation of organizations would be more in harmony with the evolution of industry. I would regret the breaking of international bonds to promote one big union when the same result can be obtained by retaining international affiliation and establishing a closer federation."

Regarding the proposed scheme of some organizations to inaugurate a six-hour day, and a six-hour week, and that of others to have an eight-hour day and a five-day week, Mr. Simpson said that the demand for an eight-hour day was coming from the miners up in Northern Ontario. To eliminate the existing dissension of the different organizations he said: "The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada should be more active in calling together representatives of labor from all over the country to formulate demands of a national character to make the hours of labor, and other working conditions uniform, instead of the workers of each province making separate demands."

STRIKES THE RIGHT CHORD.

The Canadian Labor Press, the official organ of the Allied Trades and Labor Council of Ottawa, gives, in a recent issue sound advice to its associates as well as to the employers of Canada.

"During the crucial period of reconstruction there must be no disastrous difference between Labor and Capital—no rending of our national industrial fabric," it says. "On harmony between employers and employes depends the solution of most of the problems coincident with transition from war-time to peace-time conditions. Co-operation there must be—and it must be genuine and wholehearted. On real co-operation depends the present and future of Canadian industry. For the good of the country as a whole there must be a meeting ground, a point where both Labor and Capital can meet each other half way. Both sides must be ready to make some sacrifices to achieve a great good later. There can be no quibbling or hair-splitting on either side; the issue is too big."

This is sterling patriotic commonsense. Labor and Capital are the opposite oars in the one boat. If they pull against each other, both suffer. And never was Canada's industrial sea in a more uncertain state than now; never was it more necessary for the lookout to watch carefully for squalls. Only with skill at the helm and co-operation at the oars can we be sure of avoiding disaster.

Unquestionably our social system operates unjustly in many instances. But it is improving and will improve at a continually more rapid rate. And it has at least this advantage over a class autocracy or a dead-level communism, in that it is constantly fluid. Class and class are interwoven and constantly changing. The laborer of today is the industrial king of tomorrow.

As a matter of fact, it is impossible to define our boundary between Labor and Capital. Almost without exception the so-called capitalists are workmen and the workmen in the vast majority are capitalists. Only the man who has no stake in the country, no money in the bank, no Victory bonds, no ownership of land, dwellings, household goods or tools, of whom there are few indeed in the blessed country, can join with any enthusiasm in the socialistic slogan: "Strike! We have nothing to lose!"—Montreal Star.

BOOKBINDERS OF CAPITAL MAKE REPLY.

A defence of the bookbinders of the Printing Bureau, and a sharp criticism of the findings of the commission which investigated and reported upon the cost of Government printing and bookbinding at the Bureau, is contained in the following communication:

"The bookbinders of the Government Printing Bureau beg leave to place before the public our side of the situation as it exists today in the Printing Bureau. The report of the economic commission is by no means the first of its kind to which a long-suffering staff has been subjected. Some years ago another commission discovered that we were loafers, drunkards, and many other things we should not be. We were reformed and placed under the charge of experts (not bookbinding experts) and these in their turn having made a failure of, we are to be reformed again.

The bookbinders of the Bureau are not inefficient, but are composed of a capable class of mechanics, who in many instances could not be excelled for workmanship in the Dominion, and who, if allowed, are willing and able to make the bindery department of the Bureau a paying proposition. Being continually held up to public view as inefficient in order to cover the sins of others, is naturally no stimulus towards efficiency.

"The trouble is, the Bureau is a publicly-owned printing and bookbinding establishment, much to the regret of the Master Publishers' Association, who regard the work performed there as so much lost business for themselves, and with the aid of politicians have prevented it being what it should be, the model establishment of the Dominion, and a credit to public ownership.

"During the year 1912 the bookbinders had a dispute regarding wages, which was taken to the Hon. Dr. Roche, then Secretary of State, who explained to them that the employing publishers did not desire the positions in the Bureau to be made attractive. The Hon. Louis Coderre, who finally adjusted matters, was careful to state the same thing, so it was not open to any doubt. The agreement which was entered into at that time (1913) was broken by the Government, as was also the one made in 1917 by the Hon. Mr. Patenaude, and no later than last May, when a $1 increase was due to the bookbinders, who had been receiving $22 per week, we were compelled after about two months' negotiations with the management, to appeal to the Hon. Mr. Burrell, who settled it immediately; which seems to indicate that our management is hostile towards us.

"Since the year 1913 we have received 15 per cent., or $3 per week increase. During these years the cost of living has borne hard on many of us. Yet no staff has responded more liberally to the various war funds and numerous calls on their earnings than the bookbinders. Two members of our room have laid down their lives, and one has lost a limb, and other has been seriously wounded; and some are still on service.

"Last winter a committee was formed in the Bureau to watch the progress of the Civil Service reclassification, as we were anxious to have some form of superannuation. To our inquiries of the management, the only answer we could get was 'It is not for you.'

"When the Government gave the $250 bonus, the management on being approached, said we were not entitled to any bonus. They never by any chance took the view that they might try and get it for us. However, the Government did give us a bonus of $104, which (considering they have taken $1 per week off our pay since they broke faith with us in 1914 and later in 1917) is no great amount. Still we are grateful for this measure of justice, and have no doubt whatever that the rest of the $250 will be forthcoming. Some of the mechanics did, indeed, receive it.

"The report of the commission tells of a saving of $55,000 which might be made by reducing the staff. These printing experts, having little knowledge of book-binding find it, too, involved. But wishing to give a gentle rap, guess about $55,000.

"It would not be possible to save that amount in any other way than keeping our work in the Bureau. We have proof of work being sent out while we were comparatively idle. If less work were sent out, not only would we be busy, but very likely room could be made for some returned men.

"The mechanical staff have no control and are not to be blamed for what they cannot prevent. Any suggestion coming from us would be resented instantly. We are food for commissions; they could not exist without us. They come and they go. If they reform us, the politicians will get busy. All this is against the best interests of all concerned. We suggest the Bureau was established to prevent excessive prices by private contractors. If, as has been shown by this report, public ownership is a failure, it is due to mismanagement. In the event of the Bureau being abolished the work will be performed by contractors, who will combine, and the costs will be increased. The Bureau has survived and no doubt under a management which would take the staff more into its confidence and allow them some part in its direction, a great change could be made for the better.

"In conclusion we could cite other causes of complaint, but we will only say we are condemned without a hearing by a commission which to the best of our knowledge was composed of men not book-binders but master printers. Outside of our foreman who has been in charge of the Government Bindery since its inception, there are no members of our craft in any executive positions.

"The book-binders are not ungrateful for any kindness, and wish to say that for the first time in their history employes who have been sick through the recent epidemic have received their pay. We acknowledge that with gratitude.

"But the adding in the cost of our two weeks' holidays to make our pay seem larger, is a small piece of business. We do not believe the public have any objection to the book-binders receiving the usual holidays granted."

VERSATILE.

WANTED — Maid, very good needle-woman, and fond of animals, to valet gentleman.—Ad. in London Times.

Labor News From the Busy City of Hamilton

LABOR'S VICTORY.

Last Saturday, public ownership scored its greatest victory in Hamilton, when the property owners, despite a vigorous opposition, carried the Hydro Radial by-law by an overwhelming majority of 2,737. Considering the adverse weather conditions, a big vote was polled, the ballots, when counted, recording: For Hydro Radials, 6,172, against 3,435; majority, 2,737. Enthusiasm, unprecedented in the Ambitious City's history followed the announcement of the victory.

And wow! "pop" went the big interests who subscribed most liberally to finance the campaign to defeat the by-law, and Sir Adam Beck, Ontario's champion of public ownership. Sir Adam and his small army of Hydro cohorts put up the fight of their lives. They left nothing undone to put the aims and objects of Hydro Radials fairly and squarely before the public.

As the Canadian Labor Press forecasted at the onset of the whirlwind campaign, there was no question regarding the by-law's result. When last the property owning electorate voted, the by-law was defeated by over 500 votes. But since then the public have received a rude awakening. No longer are the masses content to allow the "interests"—railways, corporations and captains of industry—to dominate. The latter folk have reigned long enough. They heeded not the "handwriting on the wall," so they have themselves to blame.

It was a magnificent victory for public ownership, and should floor for all time the camouflage, and selfish and avaricious ulterior motives to beat Hydro Radials and not essentially to try and reduce the tax rate, must now close shop.

Nelson township also, with a majority of 103 carried Hydro Radials. But unfortunately in Saltfeet, the by-law was defeated by 41 votes. But that insignificant hamlet will not deter commencement of Ontario's Hydro Radial undertaking. Not only will the people's project mean reducing passenger and freight rates, but a real accelerated service will soon be afforded the people between Toronto, Niagara Falls and Buffalo.

I. L. P. NEARS THE 1,000 MEMBERSHIP MARK.

Financial Secretary William Casaday, at last Friday's meeting of the Independent Labor Party in the labor hall announced that the membership of the central branch was now 832, and by the next meeting, he prophesied over 1,000 members, and never was the organization in a more flourishing condition, not only numerically and financially, but in prestige and enthusiasm.

Jack Kincel and Herbert West were the lucky winners of the $35 suit of cloths, and $10 pair of trousers for enrolling the largest number of new members in the recent campaign. Mr. Kincel got 176 new members, and Mr. West, 75. The third man has not yet been named.

Albert Corner directed the members' attention to the fact that legislation was mooted in some quarters to empower provincial policemen to search private residences suspected of having concealed firearms. He said if the Ontario Legislature passed such an act, the same would be a travesty on the rights of citizens. Mr. Corner was supported by other speakers, and it was decided to depute Secretary Arthur Gibbon to write Allan Studholme, M. L. A., for East Hamilton, to supply the party with a copy of the bill.

Controllers Halford and Halcrow addressed the assembly on Hydro Radials. By unanimous vote the meeting went on record favoring the Hydro Radial by-law and further, urged all members to not only vote for the measure, but to get out and work on election day. Many of the members voluntarily offered their services as scrutineers.

ALL WANT MORE PAY.

Many local trades unions are losing no time in trying to get more pay for their members by May 1st, and those organizations, whose members are unlucky enough to work more than eight hours daily, are after the shorter work period. From a journeyman, the C. L. P., learned last week that the Bricklayers' and Masons' union will request an increase from 70 cents hourly to 75 cents per hour. The "brickies" work eight hours daily. Over three hundred men are affected. Another journeyman said the union wanted $1 hourly. This was substantiated by a contractor.

The painters' and decorators' want an advance from forty-five to sixty cents per hour, also an eight-hour work day. At present, they work nine hours daily. About 150 journeymen belong to the local union, which never was in better shape. A boss painter told the C. L. P., correspondent that he anticipated the men would get what they asked. Trade was never better in the painting business, he said, and the union boys are level-headed and reasonable.

On Monday, March 10, Eddy O'Dell, general organizer of the International Boot and Shoe Workers' Union, representing local unions Nos. 238, 232, 444 and 234, (ladies') waited on the management of the Macpherson Shoe Company, and presented a request for a forty-four hour work week, and a pay increase averaging ten per cent., effective May 1. About 300 male and female union employes are effected. The help generally work piece work. The male cutters now receive 44 cents hourly. At present the factory operates 55 hours weekly.

After the firm's officials have duly considered the request a conference will be held between representatives of both sides. Should neither agree, the matters involved will be submitted to arbitration.

The carpenters' contractors of Hamilton have formed an association of which J. F. Bremner is president elect. According to Arthur Dickeson, business agent, district carpenters' union, the new body will accelerate the holding of a conference to deal with the journeymens' recent request for a seventy-five cents hourly wage scale and a forty-hour work week.

The plasterers' who are 98 per cent. organized locally, numbering about eighty, employed in seven union shops, have made a request for 80 cents hoursly. This is an increase from the present rate of 62 1-2 cents hourly. The men work forty-four hours weekly. It is said the bulk of the contractors are favorable to conceding the boost.

At present the journeymen plumbers' and steamfitters' receive 56 1-4 cents hourly. The mens' agreement expires in April, 1920, and the union has no desire to violate the same, but in the meanwhile, Messrs. Ald. Thomas O'Heir, T. Arthur and Ralph Bowes have been commissioned a committee to interview the bosses to ask an increase to 60 cents per hour, and prospects look very bright for the plumbers'.

JAMES SIMPSON ADDRESSED OPEN FORUM.

James Simpson, the well-known labor leader, addressed a crowded audience in Loew's theatre last Sunday afternoon, under the auspices of the Hamilton Open Forum. "Jimmy" is always favorably received here, and Sunday was no exception. To his auditors, he related how he found and observed things — political and otherwise — during his tour of New Zealand. Infrequently during his oration was the speaker interrupted with tumultuous applause, which he well deserved. He told his audience that if the labor people of New Zealand wanted to build a Labor Temple and hadn't the means, all that was necessary was application to the Government, and the money was speedily forthcoming. All the street railway lines in New Zealand were, with one exception, said Mr. Simpson, municipally controlled and operated with satisfactory results to the people. Incidentally, the speaker hastened to congratulate the people of Hamilton for their magnificent victory of Hydro Radials. Sir Adam Beck, he said, amid prolonged and rapturous cheering, was Ontario's champion of public ownership. In the same breath, the speaker commended the voters' support of the by-law, in spite of the opposition of the three Hamilton newspapers. "There's a great struggle in New Zealand," said Mr. Simpson, "between the people and those who want to use the people for their own selfish and private interests."

During his stay in New Zealand, there were three bye-elections. Three Socialists, one Labor and one Government candidate were returned. The three Socialists, incidentally, had been in jail. Mr. Simpson concluding, characterized the Union Government of New Zealand as "endowed with no pride of ancestry and absolutely no hope of posterity."

Crown Attorney S. F. Washington, K. C., was the chairman.

WHEN WILL THE WOMEN'S SHORTER WORKDAY MATERIALIZE?

During the war, orators and writers failed not to extoll femaledom of Canada on every conceivable occasion, for the wonderful and sacrificial part of the fair sex of all classes had rendered in the Empire's hour of trial. Shortly after the war's start, when Canada's manufacturers started to make munitions, upon which women were very largely engaged ten hours and even more, daily, was worked. Then, later, the Imperial Munitions' Board fixed eight hours as the maximum daily toil for the womenfolk; which was heartily appreciated. But, alas! what do we find since the armistice was signed, particularly in Hamilton? Women and girls have to work nine and ten hours daily in Ambitious City factories. Morning after morning it doesn't entail close observation to note the tired and wan faces of the women en route to their toil in the mills and factories. Some of them have to travel packed like sardines in early morning street cars. Some of them strap-hanging. The clothing manufacturers of the city have inaugurated a working-week of forty-four hours, commencing April 1.

But there's a ray of sunshine perceptible for the far too long houred toiling females. Many of the organized trades are after the eight-hour work day hot foot, and are sure to get it.

Eight hours daily, or less, is enough for any woman to work in a factory. Incidentally The Canadian Labor Press emphasizes, "Wouldn't it be wonderfully sisterly, if My Lady would urge her captain of industry 'hubby' to shorten the hours of employment of women in his mill or factory?" The present affords a splendid and opportune opportunity for Canada's reputable womens' organizations to interest themselves in the shorter work-day, for their less fortunate womenfolk—financially and socially speaking.

CONTROLLER HARRY HALFORD OUTCLASSED THE MAYOR.

A storm in a tea-cup was precipitated at last Tuesday's meeting of the Board of Control, when Controller Harry J. Halford (labor) requested his confreres to recommend to the City Council the endorsation of a request from the Trades and Labor Council in urging the provincial Government to abolish property qualification for municipal office.

Mayor Booker (independent) demurred, and said he wished to go on record as opposed to the request.

Controller Halford came right back when he said that a man may become Premier of Canada, and not own a dollar. If a man wishes to be a common city alderman, he must be worth at least $1,000. I call that unfair legislation, and Mr. Mayor, let me say, in closing, that if I wished to enter into a discussion with you on this subject, I could knock all your arguments into a cocked hat."

At this juncture, Controller Peebles intervened. "Here, this is shocking," quoth he. "Let me soothe your wounded feelings," as he produced a bottle of grape punch from his bulging pocket. Each controller and the scribes received a glassful.

"Look not on the wine that is red," quoth Controller Halford, as he looked longingly at the bottom of his empty glass.

"You are a little rusty on your quotation," effervesced Mayor Booker. "Look not on the wine when it is sparkling and red. That is the quotation, Harry, my boy."

"I guess I'd have to go some to outpoint you in Scripture quotation," smilingly observed Controller Halford, who is more familiar with the far more advanced labor quotation than Scripture. But all the same, Harry was right, and Mayor Booker, despite the fact that he is one of the stalwarts of the James Street Baptist Church, had to play "second fiddle" to Harry, who, by the way, is an expert on the violin.

RY. EMPLOYES FOR 8-HOUR DAY AND WAGE INCREASES.

Railway clerks, freight handlers and station employes met in Montreal to discuss the terms of a new basis of pay and general working conditions, the principal feature of which is that an advance in wages equal to twenty-five per cent. is asked for by the men. A proposed memorandum of agreement between the railway companies and the Dominion Transport Company as employers, and the members of the International Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, Freight Handlers and Station Employes was approved and adopted, and the officials of the union were authorized to forward the proposed memorandum of agreement to the employing corporations. The agreement is intended to cover the period from 16th April next to 15th December, of this year, the navigation season.

It provides for an eight hour day at a rate of sixty-five cents per hour, as against forty-three old scale, and in the case of salaried employes, a general increase of 25 per cent. is proposed. There are corresponding increases asked for in regard to overtime duty. Men called upon to work meal times on week days are to be paid double time, and on Sunday or legal holidays, quadruple time. All questions arising as to working conditions or discipline are to be settled through the grievance committee to be appointed by the local unions, and it is suggested that all employes shall have the right to absent themselves from business in the interests of their unions. At the expiration of the agreement in December next, it is proposed that the employes of the companies concerned shall revert to the rates prevailing in the McAdoo schedule, and that the men shall receive all back pay accruing to them under the provisions of that schedule.

FERNIE MINERS AND COMPENSATION ACT.

Gladstone Local of the United Mine Workers, of Fernie, B. C., have expressed themselves favorable to changes in the Compensation Act, as follows:

"Whereas, the purpose of the Workmen's Compensation Act was to establish a form of state insurance for furnishing to workmen in industrial pursuits a reasonable measure of compensation. The coal mining district is classed as one of the most hazardous in the province, and is being assessed at about the highest rate. Payment on such assessments have resulted in a surplus being formed in the Workmen's Compensation Board, enabling such board to use it for other purposes, such as loans to the Government. It is believed that loans so made have been used in the purchase of certain lands in the South Okanagan district, which lands, in the opinion of this meeting, should have been expropriated by the province, for the reason that the said lands were acquired by the owners by questionable methods, as alleged by supporters of the Government of 1916.

"Administration of the act has proved disappointing to the workmen, inasmuch as the compensation capable of being allowed thereunder is not adequate. The purchasing power of the dollar, as compared with pre-war times, is only 43 cents. Compensation allowed to widows and orphans fails entirely to provide the barest necessities of life.

"The Government has seen fit to propose an amendment to the Compensation Act to increase the salaries of the members of the Workmen's Compensation Board, forgetful of the rights of the dependents. The Workmen's Compensation Board has a Kaiser-like power in administering the act, such power being in opposition to the age-old ideas of British justice. The workman or his dependents have no option but to submit to the decrees of the board. There is no representative of the board in the District of Fernie. The District of Fernie provides more revenue many times over per capita than any other part of the province.

"Be it therefore resolved that this meeting places itself on record as being in favor of the board being represented in the Fernie district by permanent representatives; that the compensation to the dependents be increased 100 per cent.; that the workmen have the option of taking proceedings at common law in case of serious injuries and where it is suspected negligence exists; that the act be amended to allow appeals from the decision of the Workmen's Compensation Board to the Court of Appeal."

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Broken Orange Pekoe Tea, the finest of all the fine teas sold in this store. Delicious flavor and economy combined. Regular 70c value. Specially priced for Saturday, lb. 51c

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You can buy this Coffee assured of its goodness, flavor and economy. As Prices of Coffee are advancing it would be sound advice to buy ahead. Saturday, lb. 39c

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Clark's Mincemeat, can 26c
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Fancy Seeded Raisins, 15 oz. pkges. Reg. 17c. Saturday, 2 pkges. 26c

Oxo Cubes, 2 tins 29c
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Rice, excellent quality, 3 lbs. 23c

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