



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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The Canadian Labor Press
PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS, LIMITED
A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

TRADE UNIONS A NECESSITY

During the war the trades union movement demonstrated its country in a manner that could not escape recognition by all fair minded persons. Its hardest task was that of combating radicalism and because of its effectiveness against this pest—due to the peculiar position it occupied, unwillingly of course—the support of the movement was much sought after by all. As a consequence of this recognized power over an evil which, if left to go unheeded and uncurbed, could jeopardize the safety of the nation or the continent, trades unions were looked upon with favour by individuals, societies and governments. In other words, the movement grew by leaps and bounds and gained far more members and prestige than it had ever possessed. Its war record was highly satisfactory and very commendable, not because trades unionists did more than their share, or any more than the average, for they did not, but because the movement stood steadfast to the principles of democracy and was loyal to the country even though it was assailed on all sides by enemies of the movement and of our country.

The attempts of radicals to gain control of the labor movement are well known and the difficulty of combatting their persistent efforts is understood by any one who has kept in touch with conditions.

Now, however, much of what happened during the war has been forgotten or is lost sight of—such is human nature and, to an extent, it is well so. The enemies of trades unionism are now taking advantage of the opportunities afforded them by needless strikes, radical leaders and other weaknesses to bring about a reaction. To them a reaction seems necessary in order that the rapid growth in membership and prestige of the trades unions may be curtailed. The propaganda of those who are working for the open shop, the attention called to the many strikes and the unfounded rumours of secession all show that the foes of unionism are at work. Secession, in the main, incidentally, is but a protest by worthless radicals against the stand taken by sensible, conservative leaders in downing bolshevism and remaining loyal to the country. But it is, nevertheless, a detriment to the growth of trades unionism.

It is enough to know that the movement is to be called upon to further demonstrate its right to exist and enjoy a continuance of this progress, in order to make all trade-unionists on the de-

fensive. It is not sufficient, however, to merely be on the defensive—we must take the offensive.

Upon what shall we, then, build our foundation for future growth? What have we accomplished in the past, the fact that we stood loyal to our country is to our credit but—so did others; the fact that the trades union movement is founded upon the principles of democracy and justice—that is the best practical demonstration of brotherhood, is not enough. We must go further.

To us the road that leads to continuance of existence, to future progress of trades unionism lies more in the advancement of skill, and therefore, usefulness of the members of trades unions, both individually and collectively, than through any other single avenue. It is important that we organize, for numerical strength is necessary to our present and future accomplishments it is not desirable that there be a great surplus of workers; for an over supply is conducive to serious unemployment, but a higher standard of workmanship is far more essential than all else. For upon our usefulness depends our existence.

WONDERS OF WAR TIME SURGERY

Wonderful surgical operations carried out in France and the other fighting fronts during hostilities are described in one of the volumes of "The Official History of the War." The book is meant for the doctors, but contains much of interest to the general public. Instances are given of operations which at first sight were fatal. A trooper, wounded by a bullet, rode several miles to a dressing station and collapsed. An X-ray photograph of the man showed the bullet in the interior border of the heart. The patient lived for two months in that condition. Then he was operated on. An opening was made and the bullet removed by a pair of forceps from the extremity of the heart. This manipulation caused little distress in the heart, and the pulse only failed momentarily. A man was admitted to hospital after receiving a shrapnel ball wound. The ball was embedded in the wall of the left ventricle, and it was removed with a scoop. The cavity was treated with pure carbolic acid. The patient soon recovered. A soldier with a large wound in the chest proved to have a tear in the membranes surrounding the heart, and also a wound in the heart itself. This wound was carefully stitched with catgut on a curved needle. The operation was suc-

cessful. It is obvious from these surgical records that the popular idea that "a bullet in the heart" means death was wrong. A soldier whose heart was penetrated by a bullet from a rifle placed against his chest lived for a considerable time. A section of the book deals with blood transfusion. It was discovered to be possible to store live blood and to use it as occasion made necessary. The blood was drawn from willing donors during times of inactivity and kept for use during rush periods. The giving of blood to a sorely stricken man thus made no more demands on an over-wrought surgical staff than the giving of a simple saline infusion, and a far greater number of patients could be treated than under ordinary direct transfusion from one person to another. The blood taken for emergency was stored in ice boxes and the corpses preserved. This stored had to be heated to body warmth before being administered. No ill effects were observed from the use of preserved blood corpuscles except in one desperate case. Another important advance was that made in the method of dealing with that very formidable disease, gas gangrene, a disease of which, from its comparative rarity before the war, the pathology was but little understood. But on the Western Front it "quickly assumed a position of tragic importance." Eventually the surgeons practically abolished gas gangrene by removing all damaged tissue at the earliest possible moment after the wound had been incurred. Their admirable work in the treatment was facilitated by their discovery that the bacillus of gas gangrene only developed in the injured muscle.

HUGE PROFITS IN PATENT MEDICINES.

Women were frequently deluded into the belief that certain advertised medicines would produce a definite effect, and accordingly paid money which was out of all proportion to the value of the article purchased. This comment was made by the Shoreditch (London) coroner, when inquiring into the death of a domestic servant, a native of South Wales, who succumbed to blood poisoning at Bethnal Green. The evidence showed that the deceased, the daughter of a miner, finding herself in trouble, went to the shop of a West-end chemist and purchased a bottle of "hygienic pills," for which she paid 15s., but which the manager of the shop admitted were simply a well-known preparation of iron. Her death, however, had nothing to do with what she had taken, it being stated by the coroner that the pills were quite harmless. The coroner observed that to charge women the price certain chemists did was a swindle, representing a profit to them of about 3,000 per cent. for an article which was useless for the purpose intended by the purchasers. He recorded an open verdict.

PRESIDENT HARDING COMES IN FOR CRITICISM.

On the fourth of September President Harding had completed half of his second year in office. His first year was regarded as successful by the press and by the general record of opinion. Economies of expenditure were announced under the new budget measure. The Washington Conference, which dealt with the problems of the Pacific and the Far East, brought credit and praise to the administration. More recently President Harding has come under criticism; and his most typical qualities have been cited "disparagingly," whereas they had last year been accounted so praiseworthy. Labor leaders with insulting arrogance have denounced a President whom they could not control, after they had presumed unduly upon his friendliness and good-will. They have informed the country that to show their displeasure they will proceed in the fall elections to break up President Harding's supporting majority in Congress. Certain business interests, on the other hand, have been impatient with the President because he has not suddenly arisen at some given moment in the course of the past summer and settled the strikes off-hand by sheer masterfulness, and by the resort to powers of decision and action which are not constitutionally vested in his office. Still others have criticised the President because he has not used political and personal pressure to dominate Congress and to force the Republican majority in the two houses to settle this or that question under White House dictation.

"NO DIVISION OF THOUGHT BETWEEN EASTERN CANADA AND THE WEST,"

Says Vice-President of Eddy Company
TOUR THROUGH WEST GIVES GROUND FOR STRONGER BELIEF IN CANADA'S FUTURE

Anybody who is the least bit pessimistic about Canada's future should visit the Canadian West according to J. T. Shirreff, Vice-President of the E. B. Eddy Co., Limited, who has recently completed an extensive Western tour accompanied by John F. Taylor, Secretary and Sales Manager.



J. T. SHIRREFF
Vice-President of the E. B. Eddy Co. Limited
Hull, Que.

In the opinion of Mr. Shirreff, there is not the slightest ground for the belief, entertained by many, that there exists a cleavage of thought or of interest between the Eastern Manufacturer and the people of the West. First hand observation is every quarter of the Prairie and Coast provinces only served to prove that Eastern problems and the problems of the West are essentially the same. Mr. Shirreff found everywhere in the West a spirit of optimism and an ever young ambition that augurs well for the future prosperity of the entire Dominion.

The trip was undertaken with the object of studying Western conditions with a view to developing still further the Western business of the E. B. Eddy Company. Messrs. Shirreff and Taylor visited the Eddy agencies in every centre West of the Great Lakes, and expressed themselves as very optimistic regarding Fall and Winter trade.



JOHN F. TAYLOR
Secretary and Sales Manager
The E. B. Eddy Co. Limited

It is very interesting to note that despite so-called depression in some quarters, the Eddy plant is working at capacity and capacity truly enormous. A daily output of 125,000,000 matches, 125 tons of paper, 100 tons of wrapping paper besides fibreware tubs, washing boards, butter tubs and various other products, keeps between 2,000 and 2,500 Canadian workmen busily employed. With their own business steadily expanding and consequent upon their impressions of general trade conditions during their Western tour, both Eddy officials are confident that a new era of prosperity is just ahead.

WHERE TO HUNT IN CANADA.

There are many districts contiguous to the Canada National Railways where the hunter can get his limit bag of game. In the provinces of Ontario and Quebec they are numerous and within a few hours travel of your home. The excitement of the chase is wonderfully fascinating, and in addition, a week or two in the woods furnishes the finest kind of a vacation. Abundance of Moose, Deer, Bear and game birds are to be obtained with a minimum of effort and expense. Apply to nearest Canadian National-Grand Trunk Agent for hunting literature, or write C. K. Howard, General Tourist Agent, Toronto.

The Hard Part.

Millionaire (speaking to body of students):—"All my success, all my tremendous financial prestige, I owe to one thing alone—pluck, pluck, pluck."
Student:—"But how are we to find the right people to pluck?"

BLACK OUTLOOK ON CLYDE FOR COMING WINTER.

A Clyde shipbuilder declares that the coming winter will be one of the blackest ever known in the history of the industry. To this sombre prospect there is, however, some hope of a silver lining. An English shipowner has stated that he has 18 ships to build once he can get the price down to his requirements. A Clyde shipbuilder recently offered five ships "off his own bat" to his workers at pre-war prices plus allowances, which they declined. If prices still come down he may be able to go on. This offer indicates the necessity on the part of concerns with money lying idle in plant, etc., to find work. Australia is in the market for four meat carriers, the financing of the scheme delaying its placing. The Orient Steamship Co. is asking tenders for a new liner. On the Clyde this week two new contracts for vessels of 6,000 and 9,000 tons have been placed. And what of the two battleships? Their designs have been ready for three months, yet the Government holds them up. The chief managerial authorities at the shipbuilding centres have protested against this delay; but the Govern-

ment remains obdurate in refusing to liberate the specifications. Barrow and Tyneside have more than 20 per cent of their population idle, the Clyde a little less. The two battleship contracts would be a contribution to the alleviation of this privation.

BRITISH LABOUR COUNCILLOR ADVOCATES LETHAL CHAMBER.

Lethal chambers for human sufferers, with doctors and judges and executioners are advocated by Mr. A. E. Cook, a Labour member of the Bath City Council. He has given notice that at the next meeting of the Health Committee, he will move that the Minister of Health be urged to place a Bill before Parliament to give power to a medical tribunal to bring about the more speedy and peaceful end of the victims of cancer. "It is brutal," he declared when tabling his resolution, "to allow people to be dying, perhaps for twelve months, with the malignant fibre gradually eating their life away. Somebody should take the responsibility of ending this suffering. Whoever did so would be conferring a great blessing on suffering humanity."

WELL KNOWN ACTOR'S ADVICE TO YOUNG MEN.

Sound advice to young men is given by Mr. Seymour Hicks, the well-known actor, in his book, "Difficulties." Here are some of his hints: Cultivate the faculty of laughing at the world rather than with it. Sincerity is the great basic fact of happiness. Few decent men swear. Competing with the bargee is not a gentleman's job, especially as the bargee has taken honours in it before you began. There are many people worth loving. There are few worth hating. It is better to be an unsuccessful optimist than a successful pessimist. Give money, but never lend it. You will seldom get it back, and you will probably destroy a charming friendship. To dress unlike others is to dress badly. You can generally tell a man by his hat and his boots. The height of bad manners is to be rude to servants. On subjects usually shirked by parents Mr. Hicks writes intimately.



COL. JOHN A. CURRIE
Liberal-Conservative Candidate, South-East Toronto.

Col. Currie has had the great honor of being unanimously nominated by the Liberal-Conservative Party as their candidate in the election for the riding of South-East Toronto. His platform is to consistently follow and support the Liberal-Conservative Party and the progressive policies enunciated and developed by Sir James Whitney; to support to the utmost the Hydro-Electric policies of Sir Adam Beck, and to assist in extending and developing these policies as the future prosperity of the Province depends on the success of these great undertakings. At the same time he is opposed to the policy of the Government which deprives South-East Toronto of any benefit from Hydro Radials. He favours better liquor laws, that will do away with bootlegging, drug peddling, rum running, gunmen and murder; sensible laws that can be enforced without tyranny and the arbitrary violation of the fundamental principles of British Liberty and Justice; sane, common sense laws that will have public opinion behind their enforcement. He is absolutely against the return of the

open bar. He approves of rigid economy in the financial administration of the Province; the speedy building of the St. Lawrence canal, so that Toronto may soon be an ocean port; the building of good roads all over the Province, not all in front of Minister's farms; the development of the great Ontario Northland; Public Ownership of Public Utilities, and anything to increase industry, Commerce, good times and good wages. The voting will take place on Monday, the 23rd inst. The polls will be open from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. According to law, employees will have two hours without loss of time or pay to vote on election day. If present for time and employed a distance from your poll, telephone any of the Committee rooms giving your name, address, and where you are employed and what time a motor can be sent to bring you to the poll. Col. Currie is an outstanding figure for Labour in the House of Commons, his chief work being in connection with the restoration of status for pensions for Grand Trunk employees during the big strike of

1908. It will be remembered that when this strike was settled representatives of the Grand Trunk made a promise that the status would be restored. This promise was made to MacKenzie King and Laurier. The Grand Trunk has never kept this promise to the old Conductors and other employees whose pension was stopped when they went out with the other strikers in 1908. As soon as the Government began negotiations to take over the Grand Trunk Railway and make it a National enterprise, Col. Currie moved a special resolution in the House of Commons whereby these employees would be given the same status as promised, and got a promise from Dr. John Reid, Minister of Railways and Canals to the effect that this would be effected as soon as the Government took over the Railway. It was only a couple of weeks ago that the Government formally took over the Railway, and Mr. Kelly was relieved of his duties. Immediately the promise made to Col. Currie was put into effect and old employees were restored to the same status they held before the strike.

South East Toronto Bye-Election

WORKERS!

Only one Candidate has been manly enough to openly oppose the O.T.A. and to stand four-square on a moderation platform.

CALLAHAN

has pledged his support to secure

Government Control of Beer and Wine

VOTE CALLAHAN

Endorsed by
Moderation League of Ontario