

Last Day of Social Welfare Congress.

VALUABLE ADDRESSES ON INDUSTRIAL MATTERS BY MESSRS. R. F. HORWOOD AND WARWICK SMITH.

This Year's Congress Considered Most Successful. Date for Next Year's Not Yet Set.

Yesterday's sessions constituted the last day of the Social Welfare Congress. For three days—Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, three daily sessions have been held, and lectures and addresses on many matters of supreme importance made. The various speakers have each been expert in the subject handled, and the auditors in each session were well and highly rewarded for their attendance. Depreciating the former ones none, it can safely be said that yesterday's lectures were the best of the Conference, dealing, as they did, with subjects so important and vital. The speakers at yesterday's sessions were Mr. Armitage, of Washington, U.S.A., Mr. Reuben Horwood, Mr. Warwick Smith and Rev. J. G. Shearer.

Afternoon. The Chairman, after briefly referring to the world-wide industrial chaos, introduced Mr. Armitage, of Washington, U.S.A., who delivered a splendid address on the responsibility of the Church in solving the problem and the Inter-Church World Movement. The duty of the Church was to impress upon the workers that it was taking an interest in their welfare, to go out amongst them, and give them confidence. The Church as a force in this connection has almost been unknown, it has taken little or no interest in labor, but the great movement now on foot should bring closer relations between the two. The Church should be able to secure a measure of justice as between employer and employee. The laborer must be made meet his employer as a brother. The one and the other should live up to this contract. The first lien on the employer is a living wage; the second pleasant surroundings, plenty of ventilation and light in summer, and warmth in winter in the factory. The men and women employees should be segregated. The Church was in duty bound to assist in bringing these reforms about. The relations between employer and employee should be of a Christian character. The investor, the director, the manager had a great responsibility, so had the consumer. The investor should see that his money was legitimately placed, the director that the profits were not made at the expense of life, worker, and the manager that those under him were properly treated. The consumer's responsibility was that when purchasing to take care that the product did not come from the sweat shop, that it was not the work of poorly paid labor. The Church was an investor, a director and an employer of labor. In many cases it had not measured up to the standard. The clergyman and the sexton were poorly paid. It has also failed when selecting its officials boards to get down among the laboring classes. Generally, it was the better class—the upper crust—that was selected to fill the Church official. The duty of the Church was to get down among the working classes, talk to them, keep in touch with them and advise them. When discussions between employer and employee arose, it was the duty of the pastor, to seek the cause and find a solution. If it could not be achieved by himself he should bring others to the fore, and in this way a

great deal would be accomplished. It is impossible this morning to even give a resume of the points brought out by Mr. Armitage, and it is a pity that his address in full is not at hand for future publication.

Mr. Reuben Horwood read an excellent paper (which will be published in full later) on "Industrial Life." Mr. Horwood dealt with the present industrial conditions in the city under several heads. (1) "A disinclination to co-operate." Getting together has been found to be a remedy for many an obstacle to human progress, but this community is strangely backward in practicing this means of development. Never was there a community less gregarious. Select classes and cliques abound on every hand. Labor Unions refuse even to associate with each other, much less with employers, and the latter maintain a studied avoidance of common ground with those they employ. The Government should interest itself in the creation of industrial canals. Labor should not be regarded as a commodity to be bought and sold. (2) "High Cost of Living": This was one of the chief causes of labor unrest. The working classes assigned the cause to profiteering, overlooking the fact that their own wasteful methods, and that high wages make for high cost of production. (3) "Flaming display of wealth": Here was a cause of unrest that frequently appeared with fearful results. (4) "Insufficient Housing": St. John's furnished an example of the housing problem highly developed. A falling off in building during the years of the war, a continued flocking into the city from the outports, in addition to natural increases in population; and an apparent reluctance to invest in this class of enterprise, are among the causes. The results are unhappy and blighting family conditions and inefficient, discontented workers. The remedies are extension of the street car system and a stimulation of interest in building investments. (5) "Fear of Want": This gaunt spectre haunts many a man with baneful shadow and robs him of his peace of mind. The laborer who is obliged to live from hand to mouth has always this real fear before him. Cramped and repressed environment, and distrust of constituted government, were also dealt with, the address being to the point and well received.

Mr. Warwick Smith read a paper entitled, "The Gospel of Labor." Mr. Smith, in the address of the evening, covered labor in all its phases as it affected St. John's. He showed that many improvements had been brought about during the last few years, through the influence of the city unions. In most of the factories the 8-hour day system had been inaugurated, better ventilation, better sanitary arrangements, and better treatment all round had resulted. Some of the employers have established lunch counters where meals are served at cost. One has placed baths at the convenience of the employees without cost, a couple have established sickness insurance schemes; another gives every employee a week's vacation yearly with fully pay, and another has employed a trained nurse to administer first aid in case of accident. One matter that needed consideration, was the child labor problem. In some cases children of from 13 years to 16 years were employed from 8.15 a.m. to 11.45. In other cases boys were employed at work on the wharves rolling flour, when they should be at school. In this evening's issue it is ever impossible to

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deal with the salient points of Mr. Smith's address, but it will appear in full in due course.

After Mr. Smith had finished, he and Mr. Horwood were warmly congratulated by the Chairman, and a request was made by Rev. Mr. Hemmeon that copies be given the Arbitration Board now sitting in connection with the dock strike. A discussion followed, in which the Chairman, Rev. Canon Vernon and Mr. Smith took part, after which Hon. Mr. Anderson spoke on the housing problem. He told of the deplorable conditions in the city and of the efforts being made to bring about reform. In the city at present some 2,500 homes are without water and sewerage connections. A movement was on foot to erect 625 workmen's houses, which would rent at from \$8.00 to \$15.00 monthly. The co-operation and financial assistance of the Government was needed in the matter, and Mr. Anderson hoped to see from 60 to 75 of the proposed dwellings completed next year.

With a few closing remarks by the chairman, and after Benediction had been given by Rev. Canon Bolt, the session closed at 5.30.

Evening.

The evening session in the College Hall opened with the Doxology, after which Rev. Dr. Bond, who presided, congratulated the visitors on having an audience who showed their great interest and support by attending despite the unfavorable weather. Rev. J. G. Shearer was the first to address the gathering and dealt with social ideals. A new day he pointed out has now dawned with a social conscience of sympathies and interest in welfare work of every kind. The war has contributed largely to ushering in that day and the world will never again be like it was before. There must be radical changes in ideals and sympathies. The spirit of Christian chivalry which we witnessed on the part of the Allies particularly of the Mother Country in throwing herself into the struggle reckoning not the cost, when the neutrality of Belgium was violated, and which was also splendidly demonstrated by the overseas dominions must be continued and developed to embrace service for the children and all needing help. Again there is social efficiency which depends not alone on the individual but on discipline and training. In education and on other lines there must be development according to the fierceness of the struggle. Personality has received a new value, and as not war, but illness and neglect are the greatest destroyers of life, health and justice have a new place as we enter on the new day following the clash of arms. Social ideals demand that nothing antagonistic to health, sound minds and moral character be tolerated but that all forces of an injurious, anti-betterment nature be driven out of our lives. In the future those who obtain power and wealth by questionable or immoral means, will have a hard time of it because they are cheating their fellows, though such in the past have been considered favorably and even honored. Profiteering again, that is the making of unreasonable profit by extortion and out of the necessity of the poor, is totally wrong and no man has a moral right to gains made out of the suffering of the people. The high cost of living is bringing home more forcibly than ever to all, the question of profiteering and a hard time is in store for the one who holds back necessities till scarcity has doubled or tripled them in price. In the new day there will be a transformation in industrial life which at present, generally speaking is war, employer and employee being organized with only their own interests in view. The result is strikes, which sometimes are justified, but which affect the whole people who must now take part. The Church can also assist and do a great deal towards bringing about Peace and co-operation through such bodies as the Service Council. The capitalist system cannot be replaced by any other yet, but the ideal for the immediate future is to banish from the minds of the toilers the idea of unemployed and destitution by social insurance workmen's compensation etc. The worker must be guaranteed an adequate wage to provide himself and family with decent housing and food, reasonable hours, and a fair amount of

leisure time, in which he may seek improvement. There is absolutely no hope of employer and employee agreeing unless they come together in some kind of Council including also a representative of the public to discuss all matters in dispute. The employer has no right to be an autocrat but must show a spirit of Christian democracy because if he gives the capital the employee invests his service and life. Hostility in industrial relations is to be banished by co-operation, each serving the other in the true spirit of brotherhood. The object will be attained when the master's spirit enters more fully into our industrial circles. The chairman referred to the state of the Councils finances and on behalf of the treasurer, Dr. Robinson appealed for support, the expenses in connection with the visitors' trip and stay here being large.

A solo was sweetly given by Miss F. Curtis, after which Mr. Armitage took the platform. He pointed out that the business of the Church is to put the mind of Christ into all parties in industry. In which field there are three fundamental principles. One is the inestimable value of the individual and the development of personality. The Church must pay attention to all spheres of industrial life and schools be shaped to give the fullest development to all. The second principle is that service is the supreme motive of our activities. The time has arrived when the people will no longer be led by the demagogue, but must get down to reason and let the idea of service predominate in the councils or conferences on all matters. Thirdly is the inescapable responsibility to social order. Profit making alone has heretofore been the mainspring of industry but this must be altered to the spirit of serving the people not the reaping of gain for one. It is our duty as Christians to see that reforms are brought about. We are only the stewards of all we possess and it must be used to the benefit of our fellow man. Now is the time to apply the doctrine of stewardship to industry and for the Church to teach it. These principles if applied will prove the solution of our problems. The spirit of Christ however is necessary to guard against going to extremes in gaining power or influence. Equal rights and combined effort must be looked to and mankind be convinced that the spirit of righteousness which exalteth a nation must and shall prevail. Mr. Armitage closed by warmly expressing his pleasure in coming here and on behalf of himself and friends thanked all for the hospitality extended.

Rev. Dr. Bond, felt all appreciated the services so splendidly rendered by the visitors and that new light had been thrown on various questions by the discussion of them. Pressure had also been brought on all to get down to work. A big programme had been laid before the people of the city and Island and the old feeling of complacency can no longer be entertained. He would take it upon himself to tell the visitors that their lessons will be taken up and improvement made along many lines. In saying good-bye he extended a hearty invitation to come again in the near future. The meeting closed with the National Anthem and Benediction by Rev. Canon Vernon.

SOCIAL SERVICE COUNCIL ELECTS OFFICERS.

Following the session in the College Hall last night, the local Social Service Council met for business. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—

President—Rev. D. B. Hemmeon.
1st Vice-Pres.—Rev. Canon Bolt.
2nd Vice-Pres.—Rev. Gordon Dickie.
3rd Vice-Pres.—Mrs. G. H. Emerson.
Secretary—H. Y. Mott.
Treasurer—Dr. J. A. Robinson.

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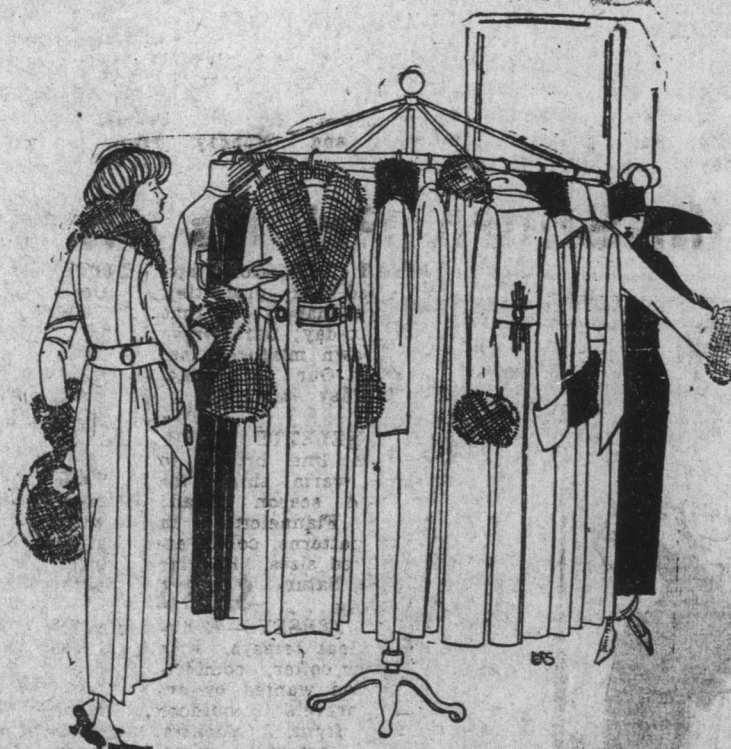
Prince Albert is a pippin of a pipe-pal; rolled into a cigarette it beats the band! Get the slant that P. A. is simply everything any man ever longed for in tobacco! You never will be willing to figure up the sport you've slipped-on once you get that Prince Albert quality flavor and quality satisfaction into your smokecosystem! You'll talk kind words every time you get on the firing line!

Most Newfoundland grocers now sell Prince Albert in the day tea tin. If your grocer does not handle it, tell him to order through this office. Leading Newfoundland jobbers are now supplied.

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