

Editorial Page of the Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

SOMETHING MISSING.

At the Imperial Press Conference, recently held at the Capital, it would appear at first glance that every section of the publicity end of general news had its attendant drawn from all quarters of the British Empire. And yet there was an omission in that the Labor Press of Canada had no entry, which incidentally means the workers' voice in print had no place in the conference.

The omission may have been in the nature of oversight and no other motive may gain credence. True, there was direct Labor press representation from overseas, front rankers in the trade union movement, but this only accentuates the right of the Canadian Labor press to have similar consideration.

"What one does not have is never missed" is a trite saying, yet the experiences and participation of the Labor press of this Dominion may have been a welcome and thoughtful addition to the debates of the conference and the sessions in general. If it had but served as an educational period for a representative of the Canadian Labor press, the lessons would not have been lost.

The next conference may see this oversight remedied, finding the workers' voice of Canada in conference with the Empire's news purveyors, to which there may be no question of right from any section or objection from any individuals who attend a gathering of such importance as the Imperial Press Conference.

AROUND THE CLOCK.

With the present situation of the Labor movement looming large on the political horizon of having its representatives elected to the legislative houses in strength, through being the standard bearers of the popular party and platform, along with their co-partners the Farmers' party, an interesting period of its history is at hand. This will be in the nature of the political adventurer and mountebank proclaiming the change of heart and loyalty to the newcomers as the ideal party.

There is no other means of becoming a Labor political power than the securing of recruits from the ranks of those formerly of other persuasions, or a loyalty to the cause of the big trade union family of this Dominion. Little opportunity has presented itself for the workers to enable them to show solidarity and when the test comes there is every reason to expect favorable results. To date the trade union movement, as the pivot, has staged preliminary canters, the isolated effort prevailing being the forerunner of the future successful efforts.

All signs are showing that this is the growing period of the workers' party, and, although no barriers against converts may be erected, a thought in season would be in seeing that as few opportunists as possible are among the recruits, and especially should positions of responsibility in the party be in the hands of associates proven by time. This reasoning applies with stronger application to the party candidates selected. The quick change artist, or the one of all colors, is no strength, as witness the last election in England where the Labor candidate, H. Harden, failed, when the tide was at the full. This non-success has already been placed to the fact that the Labor standard-bearer had made three previous attempts to gain a parliamentary seat, once as a Conservative and twice as a Liberal. The changes of heart were too numerous to secure a Labor victory when such had been generally conceded.

An incident such as this will not be lost sight of, and that the firing element will find little encouragement from the Dominion workers' party of today is a safe prediction. Not only will the political sporting-chance individual find a chilled reception but the Soviet-red advocate will be placed in the same ineffectual category, as neither may be allied with the party when false steps mean disaster, and the period shows that straight candidates and correct movements are signals of success. The issue at stake is great, worthy of all that a clear-cut policy and clean-cut followers through conviction may present, with no entangling alliances or doubtful supporters to dim the Labor party's prospects. No around the clock political followers or reactionary dreamers in the ranks need apply their admittance may come about by false pretences alone.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal—Cain.

MT. HAMILTON WOMEN'S LABOR PARTY.

At the last meeting of the Mount Hamilton Women's Labor Party, held in the Mission Hall, there was a large attendance of members, marked interest now being centred in the forthcoming bazaar. It was announced that on Saturday, August 25, at Bartonville, the annual picnic of the six branches affiliated with the Wentworth district Labor party would be held. Members of provincial I.L.P. branches were cordially invited to attend. A communication was read from Senator Gideon Robertson, relative to the ladies' query as to the manufacture of sugar. The Minister of Labor explained that beet sugar was manufactured at Wallaceburg, but inadequate to meet the requirements of consumers.

UNITED WOMEN'S FEDERATION MEETS AT HAMILTON.

At the home of Mrs. J. Inman, Gibson avenue, the Hamilton representatives of the recently organized Ontario United Women's Federation assembled to consider matters in connection with the organization. Mrs. Inman presided. The ladies discussed the fact that of late a number of drowning cases had occurred in this locality, many youngsters having been victims. It was thought that no effort should be made to teach school children swimming and the art of life saving. It was elicited from several of the speakers that throughout the old land of Ontario, many school children were taught to swim in the various public swimming baths. Finally it was resolved to have a deputational visit to Premier Drury and his Cabinet in the immediate future, with a view to having the Government grant Ontario with provincial swimming boards for aquatics wherever swimming pools are available. The ladies will also endeavor to have simple economics taught in all public schools.

The internal business of the federation was next dealt with, it being decided to have the secretary communicate with all affiliated bodies. The Women's I.L.P. branches and trades union ladies' auxiliaries, explaining the purpose of the federation. Accounts of reports submitted during the session, prospects look very bright for the building up of a very big organization.

GOMPERTS' WAGE STAND STIRS LOW WAGERS

No Recent Statement Has Caused Such Comment.

No recent statement by President Gompers has caused such comment as his declaration that the trade union movement will meet wage reductions. THE POLICY IS NOT FAVORED by those who are advising labor to "produce more" and who are now reminded by President Gompers that increased production is not possible while the American Woolen Company, the Pennine, the railroad and other concerns are laying off workers by the thousands. "At all hazards we will resist wage reductions," said President Gompers. "There is no excuse and much less a reason for reduction of wages. Even yet we have ground to stand on before we reach the purchasing power of 1913." These declarations are especially distasteful to those editors who have written pandering essays on "labor's inflated wage scales," and on high prices because labor is a slacker. The toy balloon of these editors has been pricked. "The nation needs production," said President Gompers. "Employers have called for production too frequently as a means of driving the workers to unemployment, and in order to cast a reflection upon their efforts and their honesty and integrity. There is no trouble with the efficiency of the workers. There is too infrequently an equal efficiency and integrity and intelligence in the management of industry. The action of corporations that today lay off thousands of men is nothing less than a tremendous indictment of management and a heinous outrage against people in need of every possible ounce of production."

WHY THE MINERS STRUCK

The failure of the United States bituminous coal commission to adjust wages of certain classes of mine workers is the cause for the miners' strike in Illinois and Indiana, said President Lewis of the United Mine Workers. This award was made over the protest of the miners' officials. Since the award, said President Lewis, mine workers in most of the fields have been employed but a small percentage of full time, due to faulty transportation. "In the meantime the coal operators are charging unprecedented prices for coal and are enthusiastically engaging in what one may term the sun dance of the profiteers."

REPORTS FROM TORONTO SUBURBAN RAILWAY'S BOARD

An increase in wages of 15 per cent to electrical workers employed by the Toronto Suburban Railway is recommended by a majority report of the board of conciliation which inquired into the dispute between the company and this class of its employees. The recommended increase is to all employees who are now paid upon an hourly basis. In regard to all employees who are paid by the month it is recommended that they should all be given an increase of ten dollars per month. When employees are called upon to do extra work they are to receive a minimum time allowance of not less than two hours, but only one minimum allowance shall be paid for in any one day. It is also recommended that seniority coupled with efficiency shall be the basis of promotion. The report is signed by Judge A. Barron, chairman, and George Kelly, the representative of the company. Louis B. Whitwite, the representative of the men, in a minority report objects to the above findings and recommends a higher rate of wages for the electrical workers.

UNION'S PEACE PLANS GRATIFY MEXICO

International Trade Union Leaders Welcomed in Mexico.

Mexican officials appreciate the efforts of the A. F. of L. to keep peace between the United States and Mexico, says Organizer Ibar, writing to A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison.

In a lengthy review of conditions along the Rio Grande River, the southwestern unionist says: "Mexican officials speak very highly of the many things that the American labor movement has done to keep the people of Mexico and the United States from going to war. The information in Mexico all have confidence in us and they feel that we helped them and protected them in a most unselfish and disinterested manner."

"The consuls of Mexico in the state of Arizona has specific instructions to safeguard the welfare of Mexican laborers by all possible means. The officials of the A. F. of L. as well as any and all kinds of representatives of our labor movement in Mexico are met with great cordiality by all the officials of the Mexican Government stationed in this country. The consular information in Mexico in the person of de la Huerta is strongly in sympathy with the American and Mexican labor movements."

"We were welcomed in a magnificent manner," reports Organizer Ibar, "at the general convention of the A. F. of L. and then said this: The (Mexican) presidential election takes place on the fifth day of September of this year. If I am elected president of Mexico I shall be very glad to welcome a delegation of Mexican and American labor representatives whom I wish to discuss any and all labor problems that may be brought to my attention. One of the first acts of my Government will be to help the laboring masses of my country."

General Obregon gave the trade unionists a letter of introduction to the Mexican Secretary of Labor, Donato Jimenez, at Paso, Texas, with the request that he discuss with the unionists "any and all suggestions they might have for the improvement of Mexican labor into the United States."

METAL TRADES DULL IN CANADA—BUSY IN U.S.

"Business Agent 'Dick' Riley, International Association of Machinists, returned to his office on Friday after a tour of the many I.A.M. district branches. To the C.I.P. representative he mentioned that already on this side of the border there was a slump in the metal trades, particularly in Toronto, the result being much unemployment. So far as concerned the United States, very few skilled mechanics are idle, trade happily being fair. Advice, however, has reached Mr. Riley from investigation in the States to the effect that machinists, tool makers and specialists are required in large numbers in many of the rail-road shops. The Southern Pacific Railway needs immediately 500 first class machinists; also the North West railroad and Chicago & Illinois Railway. Incidentally, the demand is only for members of the international trades union, positively no O.B.U. men being required."

BAN ON LABOR OFFICIALS AT CHIPPAWA AND WELAND?

"Yes, it's quite true, international trades union organizers, business agents and officials have not only been barred from the Chippawa development works, but forbidden to do any work on the job," declared Business Agent Richard Riley, Machinists' union at Hamilton last week. He said that the same restrictions prevailed on the Weland canal, by order of the Dominion Government. Mr. Riley characterized the restrictions as high-handed and autocratic and the matter would not be allowed to drop without some action being taken. It was the intention of the trade unionists that they who have been chased from both jobs to confer with the workmen affected at an early date.

MOTHERS' PENSION BOARD APPOINTED.

The three members of the Mothers' Pension Board, established at the last session of the Ontario Legislature, were appointed on Tuesday. They were: Rev. Peter Bryce, a Methodist clergyman, Toronto; Mrs. Adam Shortt, Ottawa; and Mrs. W. Singer, Toronto.

DEBENTURE BYLAWS.

Notice is hereby given that the following bylaws of the Council of the Corporation of the City of Ottawa, were passed by the said Council on the 28th day of August, 1920, and that same were registered in the Registry Office of the said City on the 5th day of the said month:— Bylaw No. 490—To amend Bylaw No. 425 with respect to the issue of debentures to the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of a Municipal Garage Collection System. Bylaw No. 491—To amend Bylaw No. 425 with respect to the issue of debentures to the amount of \$15,000 for the purpose of erecting St. Patrick Street Bridge. Bylaw No. 492—To amend Bylaw No. 425 with respect to the issue of debentures to the amount of \$50,000 for the purpose of the Collegiate Institute. Bylaw No. 493—To amend Bylaw No. 425 with respect to the issue of debentures to the amount of \$250,000 for the purpose of the Ottawa Civic Hospital. Bylaw No. 494—To amend Bylaw No. 425 with respect to the issue of debentures to the amount of \$5,000 for the purpose of the Carnegie Library Building. Bylaw No. 495—To amend Bylaw No. 425 with respect to the issue of debentures to the amount of \$15,000 for the purpose of acquiring lands for playground purposes. Any person who wishes to quash or set aside the said bylaws or any part thereof must do so within three months after the first publication of this notice and cannot be done thereafter. TRENCH'S REMEDIES LIMITED, 1207 St. James Street, Toronto, Ontario. AUGUST 1920. NORMAN H. H. LEVY, City Clerk.

Service Button Workers.

Notes of Particular Interest To Ex-Service Trade Unionists.

STARVING THE D.S.O.

Speaking at the opening of the exhibition of work by disabled ex-soldiers, at Westminster, England, Major-General Sir Frederick Maurice instanced several cases of distress which had recently come before the Officers' Association. One officer, he declared, commanded by the King to go to the Palace to receive his D.S.O., had to pawn his silver watch in order to buy material to get his clothes cleaned. And on that day, further, he did not know how he would get his dinner. In two other cases the families of officers who had gained distinction in the war were starving.

RETURNED SOLDIERS' INTERESTS BEING PROTECTED.

"The interests of returned soldiers and the interests of the Soldiers' Settlement Board are inseparable," declared W. J. Black, chairman of the board, during an interview last week. "Any statement to the contrary shows a complete ignorance of the whole question," he said. "It is the purpose of the board to see that justice is done to the soldier settlers. If there has been any wrongdoing, it will be punished. Major Barnett is the only person in the world who has had justice done, so far as the settlement of the land is concerned."

Regarding the Ananarth district, Mr. Black said, if re-valuation of the land was necessary it would be done. "In the case of 'D' settlers, it must be clearly understood that they themselves are in a very weak position. It was they who got the Soldiers' Settlement Board into difficulties. They admit that fact themselves in the sworn statements in Major Barnett's possession," said Mr. Black.

"We will take legal action against complacent," said Dr. Eaton Patterson, secretary of lands and loans, who is in the city to re-organize the local branch of the Soldiers' Settlement Board. "We have reasons to believe that real estate agents have used their inventive genius to put deals through our office. Where defrauding is proved, we will go as far as the laws of the country will allow. Any crookedness will be swept out of existence," he declared.

LETTER CARRIERS TO MEET AT PETERBORO.

The 18th annual convention of Letter Carriers will be held in Peterboro on Sept. 24 when 20 resolutions will be proposed, one of which will ask the Government for an appeal board.

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SCHOOL AGE IN ONTARIO TO BE COMPULSORY UP TO 16 YEARS.

In some quarters the coming into effect of the Adolescents' School Act, as announced by Hon. R. H. Grant on Monday is not thought to have the wide application that a reading of the bill indicates. After September 1, 1921, the act requires every child, except those specially provided for, to continue at school until he or she reaches the age of sixteen. The present compulsory age is fourteen.

The act makes provision for allowing children between fourteen and sixteen to leave school for work, where family circumstances make it advisable, but this can only be done on the permit of a school attendance officer and the child so excused from school must attend part-time courses of instruction for at least 400 hours each year. These courses will be established to suit the circumstances in each locality.

Organized Labor has for years advocated the enlarging of the school age to 16 and the new bill is the first step in that direction.

WILL RALLY WINNIPEG PAINTERS TO INTERNATIONAL.

Joseph Hunter, International Painters' organizer, is in Winnipeg, where he will start an organization campaign. Since the general strike last year, a noticeable slackness among painters to affiliate with any labor organization has been apparent, he said, more belonging to no labor body than are affiliated with the O.B.U. unit or the International. He will endeavor to bring them all under the international banner again.

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