



Editorial Page of the Canadian Labor Press



W. M. LODGE, Editor. CHAS. LEWIS, Circulation Manager. J. D. SULLIVAN, Business Manager.

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The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

PEACE RESTS UPON CONTENTED WORKERS.

WHEN the Fountain Pen of the last Peace Delegate has wobbled the final signature on to the Big Document, there remains one more big international problem — getting the world's workers back to work. Everybody will have to help with this problem. Peace rests to a great degree on Contentment, and contentment rests upon Work that produces something more than the bare necessities of life.

The monetary rewards of labor must be greater than those prevailing previously. There must be a more equitable system of distributing burdens and the returns for carrying those burdens. Brians and Brawn must be given greater recognition by capital, which, after all, is dependent upon labor, whether the labor be mental or physical. Hard-and-fast rules which have the effect of dividing the world into classes should be softened and the various elements should have more equal expression in controlling production.

The period of transition between war and peace is always more difficult than the shift from peace to war, because it lacks the keen patriotic sacrifice that entrance into the state of war brings with it. But the responsibilities are even greater, and these must be recognized. Conditions of work must be made more humane after the manner prescribed by Organized Labor.

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Neither is willing to take unnecessary chances. There must be boldness on the part of both elements. Labor and Capital must both come forward now as they did in moments of danger. It must not be thought that because the war is over all menace has disappeared. Unemployment and Bolshevism are grave menaces. Unless there be further devotion and even sacrifice, industrial and economic chaos may come and the world may face a condition even worse than that of war. With Capital ready to be used, the workers will have their chance; with workers ready to be used, Capital will have its opportunity. Work! That is the cry and need of men everywhere today. At work they will be able to feed themselves and keep themselves housed and clothed, and children educated. Every Canadian has a right to these things, together with the right of reasonable enjoyments. But the right must be based upon a willingness to work. Therefore, it is the duty of all Canadians to help provide work for all the workers, with the rights and health of the workers safeguarded by the principles of Trades Unionism.

ABOLISH TITLES.

It would be wise to abolish anything that threatens to drive a wedge between Labor and Capital. Titles are a cold wedge that may cut the feeling of Brotherhood in twain. Therefore, Abolish Titles. A few courageous members of the Federal House at Ottawa are out to drive Titles to cover. Here's hoping that they chase titles until the noble tinware rattles.

Titles have no part in this Country's life, particularly at this critical time when we are all striving to foster a more brotherly and helpful feeling among employers and employees. This is no time for the wholesale manufacture of "little Basswood Overlords" and "tin Czars." The watchword of today is Co-operation — more sympathy, more harmony and more of a get-together spirit between Labor and Capital.

Our men who deserve recognition for valiant action in the field cannot be too highly decorated and honored. But if they were to choose, no doubt, instead of titles of nobility they would prefer the much more practical titles to some good farming land in our fertile Canadian West. The men who toil faithfully in our country's industries would feel well rewarded by titles to good homes that will enable them to live comfortable and contented lives. Strange, but we never hear of a man being knighted for growing a record crop of grain, or for building a well-carpeted house. Burns, the great poet of the laboring class, said it all when he wrote: "The rank is but the guinea's stamp — the man's the gowd (gold) for a' that and a' that."

CIVIC FLOWERS.

Brantford has chosen the Daffodil as its civic flower. Glancing at the Toronto 'Tax Rate, this year, "Rose" is the only appropriate flower.

LONDON TRADES' COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

Some years ago it was proposed at the Toronto Trades Council that the sessions should be commenced with prayers. That live wire and successful organizer Leon Workall, of the Journeyman Barbers was the mover and declarer. It was to be evidence that laborers were not agnostics, as freely claimed by enemies to the workers cause. Now the London Trades Council has taken the decision in unanimous fashion that at the close of the regular meetings, the national anthem will be sung. This decision followed a statement by Delegate Young, who expressed great regret at having heard during a brief absence from the city the charge made that the London Trades and Labor Council was "improvident" and "disloyal."

"I don't believe it," declared Delegate Young, "but in order to give the lie to the slanders of the labor-men of London I ask that a vote be taken on a motion that 'God Save the King' be sung at the close of all our meetings."

Donald Wright paddled and a large quantity of business was dealt with by the delegates, one of the most interesting features of the evening being the report of the executive committee of the Trades Union of London, which had adopted the action of the executive committee of the Trades Union of London, which had adopted the action of the executive committee of the Trades Union of London.

Two or three cases of strike-breakers were reported and a debate followed. The speakers warmly expressed their very great appreciation of the action of the G.W.V.A. and other soldiers' organizations in warning the members against interference in the strike. A suggestion of one of the delegates that the members of the council and all trades unions in the city take the opportunity of this evening to publicly proclaimed on the day that the 1st Battalion returns to London to share in the welcoming home of the soldiers, was warmly welcomed and the secretary was instructed to notify City Clerk Baker that the Trades and Labor Council had taken the above action.

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RAILROAD WORKERS INCREASED PAYROLL.

It is estimated that the pay roll of railroads in Canada will be benefited to the extent of about \$7,000,000 by the recent order of the United States Railway Administration to pay increases of wages dating back to January 1, 1919. The organizations involved are the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Order of Railway Conductors, Brotherhood of Enginemen and Firemen, Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, and the baggage and yardmen's associations. The number of employees who will benefit by the order is about 30,000, over 1,200 of whom are in Toronto, the amount coming to about \$1,000,000. This is the result of the agreement by the railway brotherhood organizations with the Canadian Railway Board over what is known in the United States as "General Order 27," which became operative in Canada in the following way: In 1915 the brotherhoods agreed to the formation of Railway Adjustment Board No. 1, which is composed of the vice-presidents of the brotherhoods in Canada and representatives of the railways through the Canadian Railway Board. Two of the members of this board are Toronto men, S. N. Berry, vice-president of the Order of Railway Conductors, being chairman, and James Murdoch, of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen. In August last the brotherhoods agreed, through their officers, that the rates of pay on the "General Order 27" of the United States in the United States in "General Order 27," and all amendments thereto should apply to the Canadian railways. The board agreed that the Adjustment Board should take up all questions relating to wages, hours, grievances and other matters, upon which the decision of the board would be final. By virtue of this agreement, "General Order 27" has been amended, and the increases which are made retroactive to January 1, 1919, become operative on Canadian railways. Under the amendments strike tenders also benefit, and are to receive \$4 for an eight-hour day, and time and a half for all overtime. This agreement, it is believed, will lead to the standardization of conditions on the Canadian and United States railways.—Christian Science Monitor.

WHAT THE EXPRESS MEN SECURE.

By the decision of the Canadian Adjustment Board the 8-day strike of the employees of the Canadian Express Company, means considerable gain: All increases in wages are to date back to February 1st, which means \$70,000 back pay. The decision gives the employees the hour day to become operative on May 1st, 1919. Overtime is to be paid for the month of January. All the employees are paid by the month. This monthly pay is for eight hours per day, and for the balance of the month, two hours over time, it will be paid for at the equivalent of monthly rates. After the ten hours overtime, the rate will be at the rate of one and one-half at monthly rates for the hours worked. Employees are to receive \$25 per month increase over rates in existence at January 1st, 1918. During 1918 the company gave voluntary increases amounting to an average of about \$5 per month. The increases awarded by the Adjustment Board are to be the aggregate greater than the \$15. 12 1/2 per cent. awarded by the Conciliation Board. Employees who were getting \$40 per month on January 1st, 1918, will receive an increase of about \$5 per cent, and those receiving \$100 on January 1st, 1918, 20 per cent.

The meeting has been given a straight increase in monthly rates of \$25 per month over January 1st, 1918, rates. In addition, the messengers are to be paid one and a quarter cents per mile for all miles traveled over 8,000 miles per month.

CORRECT CHORD FROM SUNNY ALBERTA

The recent Calgary Labor Conference call clearly set forth the purpose of the assembly. The business transacted at that "August" gathering was absolutely correct, for the absolutely foreign business was entered and by a great world-majority, passed in the interests of Organized Labor. To complete that consistency all Trades Councils are asked to assess members, to provide for the payment of printed accounts. This particular "One Big Union Bulletin" does not print particularly One Big Union propaganda, but also goes so far as to abuse the local Labor Party and individuals connected therewith. The purpose of the "One Big Union Bulletin" is being used is absolutely foreign to the purpose it is supposed to serve — and you are asked that you contribute through an assessment to pay the bill of the subject matter that seeks only to satisfy a nagging element. We cannot pay the man with ourselves and condescend to such tactics. Let Organized Labor display again the consistency that has kept it in the present unshakable foundation on which it stands. — From the Edmonton Free Press, official organ of the Edmonton Trades Council.

BOLSHEVISM VS. TRADE UNIONISM

The following extract from a letter by Guy A. Aldred, editor of "The Spur," clearly states the line toward the Trades Union movement. "Let the truth be told; we, the Bolshevists, do aim at the destruction of Trade Unionism, which is the bulwark of the present capitalist state. We are out to destroy the State, and that heritage, political infamy, kings and stupid ideas of empire, and it is beyond the power of Welsh wizards to overthrow us or to destroy the menace of our influence. We wish to see the country from repeating the grave error into which Russia has fallen."

NOVA SCOTIA COMPENSATION ACT AMENDED.

Amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act have been passed by the Nova Scotia Legislature, in voting several important changes. Opposition to these changes was voiced, it being claimed that the bill would place too heavy a burden upon industry and would support the Workmen's Compensation Board with arbitrary powers. The following is a summary of the new bill, which is a sort of "dead end" in a child, if the school system is to be maintained, and does not make the best use of his life. The only remedy for the child is to extend the age of compulsory education from 14 to 16 years. Dr. Cody declared that when there was so much need of the conservation of the human resources. No state is safe if only some of its social units are educated, and the masses that should be educated, and not just the leaders. The use of the educational resources of the past had not been according to the best economic use of the would be to follow up and see that the child, if he is given more education just at the time he needs it, completes the elementary training. There was on the statutes an Amendment to the Act, which provided only one place in Ontario had ever done it under it. That was London, and it had since had to drop it. Dr. Cody proposed that the half-time and full-time educational features between fourteen and eighteen were incorporated insofar as the Amendment to the Act, which provided that the child should be in school, either full or part time; (2) part time sixteen to eighteen; (3) full time sixteen to eighteen. He explained that for part-time courses between fourteen and sixteen a child must aggregate at least four hundred hours of school, and that every child between sixteen and eighteen must take part-time education aggregating at least four hundred hours in a year, unless included in some of the exceptions, as provided in the act.

Dr. Cody expressed the opinion that when the practical work is combined with the theoretical, under the part-time plan, much better results would be secured. He said that the child would have to be at work or at school. Explaining the meaning he put upon the term "adequate education," he said that the child would have to be different types of schools, and he laid great stress on the need of general education. He proposed that the child be divided into three classes: (1) Classes for continuation of general work; (2) commercial and trade preparatory work; and (3) industrial and trade extension classes. There were many difficulties in the way, including that of securing the kind of teachers that were necessary, however, that make it necessary to have the people prepared for the law before it is put into operation. He hoped the Dominion Government would not go back on the provinces and fail to assist financially in education. However, he did not believe that the provinces should tackle the problem itself. He expressed the belief that the child would be different types of schools, and he laid great stress on the need of general education. He proposed that the child be divided into three classes: (1) Classes for continuation of general work; (2) commercial and trade preparatory work; and (3) industrial and trade extension classes.

NEW LAWS TO GOVERN IMMIGRATION

According to a despatch from Ottawa, the new immigration laws, which have been printed and distributed to the Government authority for excluding those deemed undesirable as settlers or likely to be a charge on the community. In doing so, there is a violent protest against Mennonites and Hutitees, who are conscientious objectors, being allowed in even though they may be of American birth. The new act gives power to prohibit or limit in number for a stated period, or permanently, immigrants who are of any religious, political, social, or of any specified class or occupation. They may be kept out either by reason of economic conditions or because of being deemed undesirable to the community. There is specific provision against the immigration and for the deportation of such as work for social justice. Those who would overthrow Government by force, who disbelieve in organized authority and who generally subscribe to Bolshevist or anarchistic theories are either to be kept out, or deported, or their symptoms developed after they arrive. An alien who is convicted of any crime in the country after the armistice and is guilty of espionage and conspiracy, or of assisting therein, shall be kept out or sent out. Chronic drunkards, people of mental inferiority, victims of tuberculosis and those guilty of crime or moral turpitude are also to be excluded. A child under 16 is to be kept out after July 1st. Any one over fifteen years of age who seeks entry must be able to read English, French or some language. There is a proviso that such people may bring into the country wives, unmarried or widowed daughters and parents or grand parents who do not possess this qualification. Numerous other provisions are calculated to facilitate and promote the process of hand-picked and selected immigration.

KITCHEN IN MOURNING.

Here, waiter! This steak is positively burnt black. Yes, sir, Mark of respect, sir. Our head cook died yesterday.

ONTARIO ADVANCED EDUCATIONAL BILL.

In the Ontario Legislature in the discussion of the act calling for compulsory school attendance of adolescents, it was generally admitted that with the passing of the act, the province will have in effect a more homogeneous educational measure, comparable to anything in existence in the world. Mr. Allan Stulhove, Labor member, regretted the Minister had left so many loopholes in the bill. "He believed that as it now stands there will be room for both the employers and the children to get out of the bill, and the children to get out of the bill, and the children to get out of the bill." Mr. Cameron explained the underlying principles of the Act, which has just been passed and then went over the details of the scheme. The whole of the bill is a comprehensive survey of the situation as it affects local conditions. Bad housing conditions had to go, and there had to be some care of the housing. Mr. Cameron said that the housing scheme was a live issue, the Ontario Housing plan was primarily to improve housing conditions. Bad housing was a world condition; people were herded together in unsuitable houses everywhere. A farmer would care of his cow more than his employees, and the same thing applied in the industrial world. So long as a man was on the job at the right time in the morning, the employer did not care who he was. Mr. Cameron instanced the case of Bethnal Green, a London borough where housing conditions were what he called desperate, and he sent more soldiers to the front than any other part of the British metropolis.

The purpose of the Ontario Housing Scheme is to provide the individual with a home to live in and not to double tenements or apartments built with the money. Mr. John Cameron, Labor member of the newly appointed Ontario Housing Commission in his address to the members of the Independent Labor Party on Sunday afternoon. Mr. Cameron explained the underlying principles of the Act, which has just been passed and then went over the details of the scheme. The whole of the bill is a comprehensive survey of the situation as it affects local conditions. Bad housing conditions had to go, and there had to be some care of the housing. Mr. Cameron said that the housing scheme was a live issue, the Ontario Housing plan was primarily to improve housing conditions. Bad housing was a world condition; people were herded together in unsuitable houses everywhere. A farmer would care of his cow more than his employees, and the same thing applied in the industrial world. So long as a man was on the job at the right time in the morning, the employer did not care who he was. Mr. Cameron instanced the case of Bethnal Green, a London borough where housing conditions were what he called desperate, and he sent more soldiers to the front than any other part of the British metropolis.

The housing act was also aimed to offset the shortage of houses which existed at present. A further purpose was to advance the way to a more equitable system of distributing burdens and the returns for carrying those burdens. Brians and Brawn must be given greater recognition by capital, which, after all, is dependent upon labor, whether the labor be mental or physical. Hard-and-fast rules which have the effect of dividing the world into classes should be softened and the various elements should have more equal expression in controlling production.

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BRITISH SHIPYARD WORKERS IN PROFIT SHARING.

The profit-sharing scheme initiated by Sir William Cresswell Gray, Bt., chairman of William Gray and Co., of West Hartlepool, has been inaugurated at the shipyards and marine engine works of that company. Under the scheme 20 per cent of the annual profits will be allocated to the workers. All employees, male and female, over twenty-one years of age, who have been in the service of the company for twelve months, will benefit proportionately to their pay. Willful loss of time to the extent of more than twelve days in any one year will disqualify the employee from sharing in the profits for that year. The time lost by lock-out or general district strike will not be deducted, but any time lost by a strike on a smaller scale will be considered willfully lost.

Four thousand workers in the Hartlepool will come within the scope of the scheme, which will extend to the company's West Hartlepool shipyard. The new scheme is operative for three years, and will then be renewable by consent. Sir William Gray says of the profit-sharing scheme that it was an honest attempt to promote better feeling and sounder mutual understanding between employers and employees. "In times past there has often been a feeling of suspicion on the part of the employees or their unions of any proposal put forward by employers," added Sir William, "it evidently being thought that in one form or another, the latter has some ulterior object in view. In this case I can assure them no such camouflage exists."

REASONS FOR FIGHTING WHY OF DOMESTIC SERVICE.

Under are three reasons why English girls fight shy of domestic service, loss of social status, long hours of duty and lack of companionship. These are the findings of one of the numerous committees which, on behalf of the Government, are trying to find a solution of the servant problem in this country. "The fact cannot be denied," says the report, "that domestic workers are regarded by other workers as belonging to a lower social status. The distinctive dress they are required to wear marks them out as a class apart, the cap being especially resented. It is sometimes stated that the 'servants' class is a relic of the old times, a class distinction which needs to be a spirit of bitterness. The same is one of the causes of the superior attitude adopted by other workers recruited from the same or even from a lower social status."

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank for ten per cent of the amount of the tender, payable to the order of the undersigned. (War Loan Bonds will also be accepted as security or war bonds and cheques required to make up an odd amount, which amount will be forfeited if the person or persons tendering decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or fail to complete the work contracted for.

The building to be fully completed and ready for occupation by the 1st day of September, 1919. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. The unauthorized insertion of this advertisement in any newspaper will not be paid for.

UNION MEMBERS—MAIL THIS TODAY. CANADIAN LABOR PRESS WEEKLY. 246 SPARKS STREET. OTTAWA, CANADA. Enclosed please find \$1 for one year's subscription. Name: Address: City: Province: Use Post Office Money Order, Express Money Order or Cheque.



The profits of a company which supplied houses which conformed to the standards required by the act would not be allowed to be made unreasonable. Not more than 8 per cent could be made. "One of the underlying principles of this act," he said, "is to build houses for use and ultimate speculation." Housing schemes would develop according to land available. An endeavor would be made to make the houses pleasing to the eye and possess more individuality than most houses do now. In the old land they were away ahead of Canada in this respect, which was also the case in Australia and New Zealand. A house under the act could not be rented or let by the occupier without the permission of the director of housing. At the same time the independence could be wiped out by the commission. The commission was given the power to appropriate land it considered desirable. Such proceedings would be carried on by a specially appointed body, and against its decision there would be no appeal. The price of the land would be fixed at its fair market value, and not at an inflated potential value.

Certain standards set. One rule laid down was that no house could be any more than 50 per cent of the land upon which it was favorably situated in matters of town-planning, said Mr. Cameron. They had many capable men in the line in Ottawa. At a near future date Mr. Thomas Adams, town-planning adviser to the Commission of Conservation, would address a public meeting under the auspices of the local housing commission. Several questions were asked of the speaker. One questioner said that the civic laborer and others in similar positions would be unable to afford to secure a house under the act. Mr. Cameron said economic conditions should be raised so that they would be able to afford to make use of the scheme.

Another questioner suggested the housing scheme was to encourage Bolshevism, and with this the speaker was inclined to agree. Mr. J. M. Macoun was in the chair and he announced that on Sunday Dr. E. Sapir would give an address on "The Attitude of the Intellectuals Towards Labor and the Employing Class."

LONDON STREET CAR MEN REACH SETTLEMENT.

The London Street Railway Company and its employees have arranged an amicable settlement of wage differences. An agreement was accepted by the men at a mass meeting held. The new scale will mean an advance of three cents an hour, and will give a maximum rate of 28 cents an hour overtime, and Sunday work will be classed as overtime.

TEXTILE WORKERS

Last Tuesday the newly organized Chapter No. 1122, of the Textile Workers of America, elected officers as follows: President, A. Roberge; Vice-President, J. E. Welch; Treasurer, J. A. McLachlin; Com. E. Wilson. The meeting was largely attended and much interest in being shown in the new organization. Among the visitors were Mr. Green from Ottawa and Mr. Playfair from Montreal, both of whom spoke. The membership is growing rapidly and a very large chapter will shortly be established here.

TENDERS WANTED.

SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, registered and endorsed on the envelope, "Tender for school at Belleville, Ontario," will be received up to noon of the 28th day of May next. Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a chartered bank for ten per cent of the amount of the tender, payable to the order of the undersigned. (War Loan Bonds will also be accepted as security or war bonds and cheques required to make up an odd amount, which amount will be forfeited if the person or persons tendering decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or fail to complete the work contracted for.

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