Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

BUSY PEOPLE VERSUS BUSYBODIES.

TI is a good thing that the powers that be are bestirring themselves to find work for the workless. Busy people promote harmony and prosperity; they have no time for bickerings and the smaller, trivial things of life. On the other hand, "busybodies," with too much time on their hands, foster strife. Keep the people busy, and professional doctrinaires, mischiefmakers, dreamers and prophets of violence will have to go to work, or starve.

The "busybodies" are parasites that attach themselves to the healthy growth of organized labor. They do not speak for the true trades unionist. It is of vital importance that the most earnest efforts should be put forth to deal quickly and effectively with an employment situation that must be met for the welfare of Canada from coast to coast. Steady employment is essential to the contentment of the workers and happiness of their families. Men out of work have but little inclination to take comfort even from wise counsel. A big loaf in the centre of the table is a fairly sure safeguard against lawlessness. But the big loaf can not be secured by the industrious men who are forced to take the "loaf" of unemployment. Labor and capital are to deal with the situation in its acute stages, and they may be sure of nation-wide co-operation. The beginning of this effort is seen in the plans for construction of roads, public buildings, and general improvements everywhere in Canada. Let public works start as early as possible.

Canadians are anxious to keep busy. We are keen to turn out vast quantities of "Made in Canada" goods. Radical agitators depend for their success in working their propaganda in times when the people, through no fault of their own, are forced into idleness. Measures that will result in providing public work will be a great national benefit. Keep the people busy and the "busybodies" will spread their "tongue-syrup" in vain.

E VERYBODY should aid Tom Moore in his move-Canada's fire losses have achieved the reproachful distinction of being the greatest in the world. The Commission of Conservation, in its last report on "Fire Waste in Canada," showed that the average per capita loss exceeded that of every other country. The per capita rate was \$2.73 per annum, compared with \$2.26 in the United States, and 64 cents in England. It is estimated that the total loss in 1918 was \$35,000,000, and \$20,000,000 during the previous year. Most of the increase is accounted for by fires in munitions plants and other war industries.

LABOR POLICY.

VERY concise statement of the principles set forth by the Independent Labor Party is given in a recent statement by Mayor MaeBride, of Brantford. Says this capable leader among the head men of the L. L. P.:—
"We are unalterably opposed to the revolutionary outbursts of certain individuals who represent themselves as labor men. Every recognized spokesman for the several labor organizations of Canada has gone on record emphatically for constitutional methods and the time we take strong exception to Government-by-ordering-council, and particularly to the order curtailing free speech and supervision of literature. From the present oblevery much disorganized and only the future can tell what the attitude of the Independent Labor party may be."

Wery large proportion of them we've with this more noise and wellding more influence their fellow-workers would not cause demand. The served their fellow-works work with the mesengend that they were gettive. Having been compelled to join themselved their fellow-works with the sent of the served their fellow-works keep their fellow-works keep their fellow-works with the sent of the served their fellow-works keep their fellow-works with the sent of the s

PREACHERS' UNION.

HERE is said to be an effort in the Old Country to form a preachers' union. It might not be a bad idea for the underpaid pastors of Canada to unionize. They might join Pat Green's Ottawa local of carpenters by declaring themselves as "joiners."

"PADDY" DRAPER IS BACK.

ELCOME to "Paddy" Draper—back from the Peace Conference overseas. Paddy Draper and Gus Francq were Canada's capable labor repre sentatives at international labor conclaves in Great Britain and Erance. When Paddy's ship pulled into home waters and docked, there were many of our war heroes on board. Cheers went up from the gathering on the dock. Hats, flags and handkerchiefs were waved. "D'yez hear that cheerin', Mike?" inquired one of the union laborers on the dock. "Shure and Oi do-and that's what leads me to say that Oi'll bet Paddy Draper is on board."

JUSTICE FOR ALL CLASSES.

Recently in England James Henry Thomas, Labor member of Parliament for Derby, former Minister and General Secretary of

National Union of Railwaymen, said:

"The next three weeks may determine whether our country, after emerging successfully from the world war, can avoid an industrial dispute whose consequences may be almost as dangerous as defeat by Germany.—It is essential that all relasses shall understand the situation and, without class prejudice or bias, recognize their responsibility, which they cannot escape.

"For four years the industrial life of the country has been expected by the country has been expected."

ducted on borrowed capital, which has created an atmosphere fatal to sound economic progress. You will have to do what the mation

t do—retrench and build up your tosses as soon as possible." Regarding the railway situation, Mr. Thomas said that three courses were open; the shareholders must have less, the public must pay more, or the State must subsidize the concern. The real difficulty of the moment was to find a permanent standard, owing to the vari-

There must in a democracy be justice for all classes. A fatal mistake would be made by either side assuming that because the con sequences are so terrible the other side would give way-



pay for equat work, and the eight-hour day.

The speaker believed that much of the labor unrest today was due to the same causes as that which caused the unrest at the end of the Napoleonic wars; the rich had grown richer, and the poor poorer. He did not wonder at the discontent, but rather at the docility of labor.

"Our statesmen are as helpless as

246 SPARKS STREET. -

that the workingmen found it expedient to organize in their trade unions, so that they may select from their ranks the most level-headed men and those most gifted with business aptitude.

Surely, if that is so, and it cannot be refuted, it means that when those who have been specialty selected by their fellow-workers to bargain on their behalf make agreements, those agreements ought to be received in the spirit of loyalty, and the bargains made ought honorably to be kept.

If we cannot guarantee that ourside of the compact will be kept, why make it? My honest opinion, also, is that the vast majority of the workingmen are fair-minded and just, and are willing to stand by any compact which is properly made in their name.

But their is another element, which says deliberately that compacts have no value to them at all.

Now, who are those men? How have they arisen? Whence do they derive their power?

I know many of them, and I think my fellow-workingmen can spot them as well as I cannot conceive any trades and properly in the property of the man and I think my fellow-workingmen can spot them as well as I cannot conceive any trades in the patch of the public health an act of this property in the patch of the property in the patch of property in the patch of property right of makes greenents, those agreements ought to be per a reduction of hours of labor, and I day of selected by the property of property

wealth, the means of production and of exchange.

They don't want trades unionists to succeed, as they believe our methods are far too slow. They want the millenium at once. They would like State to be run on Socialistic lines and that they should become the "hosses" of the future as soon as the "bosses" of the present are deposed.

Ler my fellow-workers keep in mind that at the general election we were openly told by Bolshevist candidates that unless they were returned to Parliament the industries of this country would be paralysed.

Rather strange talk that from men who preached democracy!

I have heard some of them say, when it suited them, that fully 75 per cent. of the electors were working men. Yet if those 75 per cent. of the electors were working men. Yet if those 75 per cent. of the electors were working men. Yet if those 75 per cent. The colonel expressed the opinion that tear gas in the future will be used in dispersing what he termined to the fully 75 per cent. of the electors were working men. Yet if those 75 per cent. Section of the loss of your state of the cossack system, which is being urged by large employing interests throughout the country. The country of interests throughou

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A DONALD DEAR.

formation of this argument, he.de-clared that every liberty filthed from labor had been taken by means of lied industry turning the reconstruction period, or conditions which had prevailed to some extent centuries before—equal

No Mob Law to Ruin Unions, Says J. Havelock Wilson, M.P.

The British Seamen's official, J., that is so that the many formation and nostrums of the held and construed not to be a commodity or article of commodity or article of commodity or article of common yet can any Government do so. It was for that reason principally that the workingmen found it expelled to the many fire many their ranks the most level-headed men and those most girted with business—apitude.

It was for that they may select from their ranks the most level-headed men and those most girted with business—apitude.

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valid regulation."

This means that if the bakery workers develop a public opinion regarding the unhealthfuiness of night work, a law "might be sustained."

If these workers depend on their seconomic power, however, and thor-seconomic power, however, and the power power

FOREIGN COMPETITION.

FOREIGN COMPETITION.

Manchesier, England.—The old pre-war cry that the textile trade cannot reduce hours in face of foreign competition, is losing its force, according to the Cotton Factory Times. This paper says:

"This means we must always have our working conditions regulated by the worst conditions in other parts of the world."

It is shown that America and many European countries are reducing hours and that "even india is stirring."

"No one will claim, surely, that Russia, Austria or Heiglum is cutting us out," says this paper.

"If this old stupid desire of opposing everything the workers sak for could be extinguished, we would make progress in these matters. It is fair to decide how long the workers shall toil than the workers themselves? We are not unreasoning revolutionaries on these questions and we desire the toilers to act sensibly, but we do get tired of the iname argument of foreign competition." That bogey has been used too often."

GORN OUT.

It was in the front line, and William and Willie were having a bit of something "ot."

Willie was doing the cooking, and suddenly be called:

"Hi, William, yer blinkin' patent stove's gone aht!"

"Light it again, then, stoopid!" called back William. "Got a match?"

"No. A match sin't no use. It's. GORN OUT.

match?"
"No. A match ain't no use. It's
gorn out through the roof of the
blcomin' dug out!"

NOVA SCOTIA FEDERATION

How Labor and Science Have Built Up Canadian Industry.

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No country in the world can face than can Canada. Her natural resources are almost beyond computation. Committee to committee to committee to committee to committee to committee to mendors go for a 44-hour in committee to committee to mendors go for a 44-hour in the formation in committee to mendors go for a 44-hour in the formation in the formation

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WAR CHECKS LIBERTY.

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