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ELMER E. ROPER, Editor

AUGUST 21, 1920

#### TEARING DOWN AND BUILDING UP

It would be foolish to believe that the Hon. Arthur Meighen's vitriolic condemnation of the forces that he terms "destructive," is directed against the few revolutionaries that are to be found in Canada. Mr. Meighen is afraid rather-and we do not blame him-of the new progressive political movements that are perfectly content to rely upon the peaceful, constitutional methods of which the Premier would have us believe that he is the sole defender. It is these new forces that are responsible for Mr. Meighen's hysteria, and it is these that the Premier denounces as "destructive". The whole tone of his speech of last week reveals quite clearly that any movement which threatens old political traditions looks "red" to the new prime minister.

According to Mr. Meighen there are but two political forces in Canada, i.e., those who are building up and those who would tear down. And the Premier would have us believe that the former class is personified in himself and his followers. The inference is that those of other political faith constitute the class of those who would tear down. The only trouble with Mr. Meighen's analysis is that in actual fact the condition is exactly opposite to what the Premier would have us believe. The political policy of Mr. Meighen's party is one of stagnation and reaction. There is not one ray of hope for progression in any word of the Premier's since he assumed his present position, and the record of his performance in the past is not calculated to raise any great hopes of social progress so long as he retains that office.

The new political forces, condemned by Mr. Meighen as destructive, are, on the other hand, progressive, forward-looking movements, with definite programs for progress of a social nature. The only "tearing down" that the new political movements are likely to do is the removal of the obstructions to social and industrial progress and happiness. Their program is essentially a "building up" policy, as opposed to reaction and stagnation exemplified in the party of which Mr. Meighen is the leader

#### MAKE EVERY UNION 100 PER CENT. D.L.P.

The Labor Party is an organization that should draw to it every class of worker, skilled or unskilled, organized and unorganized. It is the one medium whereby the political views, ideals and aspirations of the working class may be given expression. Its mission should be to weld into one political movement all those whose economic and social interests are identical as are those of the wage-earning class.

It is natural and proper that trade unionists should be prominent in such a body, they having already come to understand the value of organization in an economic sense. In Edmonton as in Britain and in other parts of Canada, trade unionists hold many of the principal offices in the Labor Party Here the president is a locomotive engineer, the secretary a machinist, and the treasurer a printer. Of the vice-presidents shout half the number are union men. But until every unionist who has a vote is a member of the Party the union men and women of Edmonton are not properly represented in the membership of the political organization of Labor. As trade unionists let us be in the Labor Party one hundred per cent, streng. Then let us become missionaries to our unorganized wage-earning neighbors to the end that politically the workers of Edmonton might be united in the common cause of political representation of the wage-earning class. Let "Join the Labor Party" be the slogan of every trade union.

#### NEWS DISTORTION AND SUPPRESSION

When one class of newspaper takes upon itself the task of criticizing its atemporaries of another class because of the distortion or suppression of news, and the publishing of editorial comment in the form of news, the critic should at least see to it that its own skirts are cear. Criticism of the capitalist press-and the Free Press certainly cannot be accused of defending that institution-comes with very poor grace from so called working class newspapers whose offences are so glaringly noticeable along the very lines upon which they criticize others. Probably the worst possible example of this is to be found by a perusal of any issue of the O. B. U. organ of British Columbia, the B. C. Federationist. Quotations from the August 13 issue of that journal will serve to illustrate the unprincipled manner in which that paper is used to vilify and slander individuals who cannot see eye to eye with the secessionists. The following is from a stor: purporting to come from the Drumheller coal field:

"The miners of Aerial, after being idle for several months, were permita few men in the valley who would sell ther souls for a bottle of whiskey, and the International seems to be getting hem and is using them as an excuse to stay in the district.

This particular gem appeared on the top of the front page of the issue-

the capitalist press?

Then there was a debate held in Winnipg on Friday, August 6th, between W. H. Hoop and R. C. MacCutcheon on the one hand and J. R. Knight and John Houston on the other. The Western Libor News gave a very fair report of the debate with no comment. Did the Federationist? It did not. Printing Mr. Knight's address in full it proceeds to a very small extract from the less effective of Mr. Hoop's speech In the news (?) story of the debate we rad the following:

The report of Hoop's address in support of the A. F. of L., took up about five columns in the Free Press. It was typewritten and handed to the press at the close of the debate, and evidently short of argument for a grant of the speech of the speech of the debate, and evidently short of argument for a grant of the speech of the speech of the debate, and evidently short of argument for a grant of the speech of the speech of the debate, and evidently short of argument for a grant of the speech of the speech of the debate, and evidently short of argument for a grant of the speech of the debate, and evidently short of argument for a grant of the speech of the speech of the debate, and evidently short of argument for a grant of the speech of the sp

press at the close of the debate, and evdently short of argument lie used all the ruling class prattle about the O. E U. being a soviet organization, and evolutionary objects which the O. B. U.has taken on in the eyes of the em-

speech was a masterpiece of fact, logicand common sense

deal about the unfair handling of news matter.

### WHO MAKES A "MACHINE"?

came before the Halifax Trades Council for action, a number of delegates independence and he remains the loser by the transaction to that body proceeded to attack the Congress as a reactionary machine. The result was that the Nova Scotia city's central body will not be represented gress executive from the attacks of its enemies, but we cannot fail to com- the oratorical field to themselves. ment upon the inconsistency of the stand taken by the Halifax Council. It can be well compared with the "I won't play" attitude of a child who wants

If the Congress is not representing Canadian Workers as it should, the blame certainly lies with the latter themselves, and they alone can make any to almost every organization of every kind. Members of the rank and file do North Dakota's case. great deal of complaining about the administration of affairs, but when the matter of sending delegates to aunion or other Labor convention arises, the excuse of the Halifax Council a given and things go on as they have what the Labor movement would amount to if every trade unionist was covered. afraid of the development of a central body because it had or might develop a "machine." Every delegate at a convention represents some body of orranized workers. If the rank and file can control their delegates they can control a convention. If they cannot control their delegates it must be that Production is the able strategist that will win the war of reconstruction, but the producer must get his proper greatest critic of the "machine" sill hardly like to claim that such a condi-

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Extra Special.

\$4.95

Sizes 1 Ito 131/2. Regular values to \$5.75. Extra Special.....

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### THE CITY EMPLOYES' RECREATION

It is to be poped that the city council will remove from its books that autocratic, unreasonable and altogether distasteful resolution regarding the osition of a city employe's own time outside of the worker's resular hours of employment. The city council or any other employer is certainly not entitled to regulate the activities of working people except during the time for which the employer pays, and reason and right are on the side of the Trades and Labor Council when that body requests the rescinding of the Gompers Issues a Warning act that the industrial interests of lution referred to.

The performance of certain activities that may be work to one person ted to resume work only on condition that the signed the check-off Many of them signed, married men mostly, but several pulled out of camp. There are a few men in the valley who would sell the souls for a bottle of whister in his or her own time, it is nothing short of autocratic interference to employer to whom a worker sells his labor, is entitled to the fulfilment of sued public warning that the workattempt to prevent the person from doing so. Certainly the city or any other the letter and spirit of such a contract. But when an employer seeks to regulate the life of an employer in the latter's own time, it is another quesmentioned. Did anything more rotten than hat ever appear in the pages of tion altogether. If one worker desires to take his pleasure in chasing a foot-

We would say that the "impulse of contest" must ever be the great issue with political parties that are based only upon a desire for power.

Kansas employers were loud in their praises of Governor Allen of that About six lines was devoted to the iddress of Mr. MaMcCutcheon, whose state when it was thought that the "can't strike" law only affected the workers. But now it is found that the law works both ways and an employer When the B. C. Federationist cease to distort, color and suppress news must show the industrial court some good reason for the closing down of his it will be in a position to criticize others for a like offence. At present the secessionist organ could teach the majority of its contemporaries a great deal about the unfair handling of recommendation of the superscript of the superscript

No paternalistic scheme purporting to benefit the workers, no matter what the good which may be derived therefrom, can take the place of inde-When the convention call of the Tades and Labor Congress of Canada pendent organization. Better a man's physical conditions and take away his

After all the men and organizations that are accomplishing something and it the Windsor convention. It is not our intention here to defend the Con- securing material advantages for the workers, can afford to let others have

The women folks in the Free Press home will find their page interesting. We would be glad of the assistance of the ladies in making it more so.

A complete fusion ticket of Republicans and Democrats will be named to necessary changes. But they cannot do so by taking an attitude similar to combat the Non-Partisan League in the fall election in North Dakota. No the delegates who attend the Halifax Trades Council. The same rule applies doubt Dixon's "natural allies" phrase would be particularly applicable in

The Free press has not sufficient space to report fully the debate beween representatives of the International and O. B. U. forms of organization, always been. If the rank and file of a local union can control the local's which took place in Winnipeg. It is not possible to fairly reproduce extracts affairs, they can control any other Labor body. And if they do not do so, from the addresses, but readers would do well to send for the August 13th certainly they themselves are alone to blame. It is interesting to wonder issue of the Western Labor News, wherein the debate is fully and fairly

> · A D. L. P. button for each member of the Labor Party would provide an oportunity of showing our political colors.

of its conciseness and the convenient arrangement of the text.

### WORKMEN WILL RESIST REDUCTION IN PRODUCTION

Against Any Reduction In Wages

American Federation of Labor, has isreduction in wages or curtailment in increased production be ac ingmen of the country will resist any

pre-election or other purposes. that it was better to resist and lose

No Ground for Reduction of reduction was abandoned. We re- poker game.

peat that warning today. At all hazards we will resist wage reductions. There is no excuse and much less reason for a reduction in wages. We will olerate no reduction. Even yet we have ground to cover before we re-store to all the purchasing power of

the country have been calling for in-

reased production.

That "Increased Production" Cry "For months we have heard the cry, dinned and dinned into

our ears, increase production," Mr. Gompers said. "How can a policy of industry as a general policy or for pre-election or other purposes.

No Ground for Reduction
"The warning worked, and the policy don't try to keep the pot boiling in a

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