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ELMER E. ROFFER, Editor

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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.

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 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.

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.

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.

NEWS DISTORTION AND SUPPRESSION

When one class of newspaper takes upon itself the task of criticizing its contemporaries 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 clear.

This particular gem appeared on the top of the front page of the issue mentioned. Did anything more rotten than that ever appear in the pages of the capitalist press?

When there was a debate held in Winnipeg 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 Labor News gave a very fair report of the debate with no comment. Did the Federationist? It did not.

When the B. C. Federationist cease to distort, color and suppress news 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 news matter.

WHO MAKES A "MACHINE"?

When the convention call of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada came before the Halifax Trades Council for action, a number of delegates 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 at the Windsor convention.

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 necessary changes. But they cannot do so by taking an attitude similar to the delegates who attend the Halifax Trades Council. The same rule applies to almost every organization of every kind.

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Sizes 1 to 5 1/2. Regular values to \$6.50. \$4.95

Sizes 1 to 13 1/2. Regular values to \$5.75. \$3.95



THE CITY EMPLOYEES' RECREATION

It is to be hoped that the city council will remove from its books that autocratic, unreasonable and altogether distasteful resolution regarding the disposition of a city employee's own time outside of the worker's regular hours of employment.

The performance of certain activities that may be work to one person may also be recreation to another who is not regularly so employed. And if a worker has the opportunity to augment his income by such activities in his or her own time, it is nothing short of autocratic interference to attempt to prevent the person from doing so.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Recently Mr. Norman Haggood has said of the political situation in America, "The parties express little more than the impulse of contest."

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 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 must show the industrial court some good reason for the closing down of his plant.

No paternalistic scheme purporting to benefit the workers, no matter what the good which may be derived therefrom, can take the place of independent organization. Better a man's physical conditions and take away his independence and he remains the loser by the transaction.

After all the men and organizations that are accomplishing something and securing material advantages for the workers, can afford to let others have the oratorical field to themselves.

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 combat the Non-Partisan League in the fall election in North Dakota. No doubt Dixon's "natural allies" phrase would be particularly applicable in North Dakota's case.

The Free Press has not sufficient space to report fully the debate between representatives of the International and O. B. U. forms of organization, which took place in Winnipeg. It is not possible to fairly reproduce extracts from the addresses, but readers would do well to send for the August 13th issue of the Western Labor News, wherein the debate is fully and fairly covered.

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

Another new book at the library is Mrs. Mary Beard's "A Short History of the American Labor Movement." The book is particularly valuable because of its conciseness and the convenient arrangement of the text.

WORKMEN WILL RESIST REDUCTION IN PRODUCTION Gompers Issues a Warning Against Any Reduction in Wages

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has issued public warning that the workmen of the country will resist any reduction in wages or curtailment in industry as a general policy or for pre-emption or other purposes.

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 tolerate no reduction. Even yet we have ground to cover before we restore to all the purchasing power of 1913.

Mr. Gompers called attention to the fact that the industrial interests of the country have been calling for increased production.

That "Increased Production" Cry "For months we have heard the cry, dinned and dinned and dinned into our ears, increase production," Mr. Gompers said.

"The action of corporations that today lay off thousands of men is nothing less than a tremendous indictment of management and a heinous offense against a people in need of every possible ounce of production. What is needed is continuous operation of industry. The mills and factories must run. Arrogance, bigotry and autocratic conduct of employers is a waste that society can ill afford."

Unless you have money to burn, don't try to keep the pot boiling in a poker game.

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