

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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Following in brief is an outline of our Policy:

1. The Canadian Labor Press supports the International Trade Union Movement, of which there are approximately three hundred thousand members in Canada.
2. The Canadian Labor Press supports the policy of the present Dominion Trades and Labor Congress of Congress.
3. In the interests of the Canadian Worker, The Canadian Labor Press believes that Canadian industry needs adequate tariff protection.
4. The Canadian Labor Press advocates fair play to employer and employee.
5. The Canadian Labor Press stands for the betterment of Trade Union conditions in Canada and the welfare of our country at large.
6. The Canadian Labor Press is independent in politics and free from any political influences.

Canada's First Customers

Throughout Canadian history Canada has carried on, most of her trade with the United States and United Kingdom, and even to-day a consideration of Dominion trade, in a broad conception, can largely disregard business transacted with other countries. Taking the calendar year 1923, just ended, out of a total trade for the twelve months of \$1,918,264,789, a volume of \$1,032,416,594 was transacted with the United States, or more than 53 per cent., and \$515,311,938 with the United Kingdom, or more than 21 per cent. Thus these two first customers of Canada account for approximately 75 per cent. of the total Dominion trade carried.

By reason of the relative geographical positions of these two countries, of advanced development and large population, to the Dominion, and the kind of material Canada has for export, the Dominion has purchased to the largest extent from the United States whilst selling in much larger volume to the United Kingdom, thus bringing about respectively adverse and favorable trade balances. War conditions had the effect of accentuating the situation and augmenting these trade balances.

To go back as far as 1900, when Canada's total volume of trade with the United States amounted to \$155,000,000, the Dominion had an adverse trade balance of \$55,000,000, whilst in her total business with the United Kingdom, amounting to over \$130,000,000, the balance was a favorable one of \$62,000,000. By 1908, when trade with the United States had reached nearly \$300,000,000, Canada's adverse balance was \$114,000,000, and in a total trade of \$220,000,000 with the United Kingdom, her favorable balance amounted to \$32,000,000.

Trade Balances 1913-1914

By 1913 a total volume of trade with the United States amounting to \$575,000,000 resulted in an adverse trade balance for Canada of nearly \$300,000,000, and with trade with the United Kingdom standing at \$310,000,000, a favorable trade balance of merely \$31,000,000. Ten years later, in 1923, after suffering all the disturbances of the war years and no less disturbing factors of the post-war period of readjustment, \$1,000,000,000 worth of trade with the United States results in an adverse balance for Canada of \$188,000,000, and \$415,000,000 worth of trade with the United Kingdom in a favorable balance of \$205,000,000. In the trade carried on between Canada and the United States, the Dominion's heaviest importations are in iron and its products, amounting to \$152,854,567 and non-metallic minerals amounting to \$143,368,361. Canada's heaviest exports across the border are in the nature of wood and paper, amounting to \$226,346,429, which is approximately five times as great as any other division of exports, and represents more than one-half of the total export trade.

Principal Items of Export

The principal items of Canada's imports from the United States in the year 1923 were: metals, \$188,000,000; iron, \$152,000,000; binder twine, \$52,000,000; anthracite coal, \$44,000,000; cottons, 47,000,000; vehicles, \$29,000,000; and machinery, \$25,000,000. Her main items of export to the United States were: unmanufactured wood, \$100,000,000; metals, \$48,000,000; paper, \$89,000,000; manufactured wood, \$40,000,000; and grain and grain products, \$27,000,000.

Canada's principal items of import from the United Kingdom were: metals, \$22,000,000; cottons, \$19,000,000; alcoholic beverages, \$17,000,000; dyed fabrics, \$24,000,000; and tea, \$11,000,000. Her principal items of export to the United Kingdom were: grains, \$225,000,000; flour, \$25,000,000; cheese, \$22,000,000; meats \$22,000,000; and bacon, \$19,000,000.

Whilst Canada's import trade from her two first customers is growing in volume, due to an increasing population and greater industrial demand, the Dominion's export trade to these countries is swelling annually likewise. And in surveying this list of exported goods it is gratifying to see the increasing proportion of manufactured products and to realize that Canada's natural resources are leaving the country to a great extent in a manufactured or partly manufactured state.

Moncton Labor Bureau May Be Closed

Premier States the Office Will Be Closed When City No Longer Pays 25 Per Cent. of Cost

Fredericton, N.B.—That the Moncton Employment Bureau would be abolished if the City of Moncton refused to pay its usual 25 per cent. of the cost of upkeep of the office was the emphatic declaration of Premier Veniot during the discussion on the time of labor bureau appropriations. The matter came up on the vote of \$3,000 for the maintenance of labor bureaus.

Premier Veniot stated that the province had entered into an agreement with the Federal Government, to maintain labor bureaus in the province, on the basis that the Federal Government paid 50 per cent. of the cost and the provincial government and the municipality, city or town, where the labor bureau was located, each paying 25 per cent. on the understanding that the provincial government should have control of the office.

About two months ago the Department of Labor at Ottawa had notified the Provincial Government that the grant for labor bureaus would not be supplemented by an extra grant of fifty thousand dollars this year, with

the result that the provincial government and municipalities might have to bear a larger share than 50 per cent. He had notified the Federal Government that unless the Federal Government paid its full 50 per cent. employment bureaus would be closed.

Lewis Smith, Albert, referred to questions he had asked in the House in reference to the Moncton Bureau and the activity of the Premier in connection with that office. He said he understood the City of Moncton refused to pay anything more toward the upkeep of that bureau. "If the City of Moncton will not pay its 25 per cent. the City of Moncton labor bureau will be closed," replied Premier Veniot. He further stated that bills had been sent to the City of Moncton up to the end of March and they expected they would be paid.

Silby Barrett Returns to Mine

New Glasgow, N.S.—Silby Barrett, formerly provisional president of District 26, U.M.W. of A., has started to work in No. 24 colliery as a cutter, shooter and loader. According to reports from Cape Breton, Mr. Barrett has been offered the position as International Organizer by John L. Lewis but as yet has not accepted it.

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Labor Delegate Off Board of Trade

Regina, Sask.—Withdrawal of the delegate from the Board of Trade was decided upon at a meeting of the Trades and Labor Council recently.

George Peak told of attending the meeting of the Board of Trade. He spoke highly of the address given by R. H. Cook but declared that another speaker said that the farm laborer was paid too much and advocated that Chinese labor be brought in. Mr. Peak said that he had replied hotly to the suggestion and said that the farm laborer was not getting too much money, but not enough. He suggested that the Labor Council delegate be withdrawn from the Board of Trade, but on second thought he withdrew this suggestion. The withdrawal came too late to stop the discussion already under way on the question.

A. S. Trotter was in favor of an unofficial observer at meetings and he was backed up by A. F. Conrad. Mr. Conrad said that in his experience as a delegate to the Board of Trade meetings, he found that he could neither co-operate with the Board nor more than make a suggestion when they were wrong. He said that the delegate has no voice in the important business as most of that was done in committee.

"We don't want to withdraw our delegate," shouted Harvey Creighton. "We want a fighter there. Forget about co-operating with everybody. If they are wrong we want a scrapper there who will point out to them just where they are wrong."

Out-of-Work Fund Is Plan

Year Round Living Is Urged by Garment Workers' Head

"Our industry owes its workers a living throughout the entire year," says Mr. Morris Sigman, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, in urging that an unemployment fund be created. The cost, he says, should be a charge on the industry, as are other charges, and be contributed by the jobbers as well as manufacturers.

"How these payments are to be regulated remains to be decided upon later, but this measure will have to be carried out," said President Sigman.

The union official declared that employers, as well as workers, should rid themselves of the idea that reforms in the industry can be introduced only as the result of strife and struggle. Fighting may have been inevitable in the past as long as both sides could not begin to understand the nature of each other's part and relation in industry. Not being able to exchange opinions and without common ground among themselves, the only alternative in those days was fight.

President Sigman is confident the unemployment insurance plan can be established through sympathetic conference.

"The insurance fund will make it necessary to organize a labor bureau for the entire trade," said President Sigman. "It is necessary for the union, in order to come in touch with every worker not only after he is in the shop, but before he gets to the shop."

Locomotive Firemen Application Refused

Brotherhood Applied for Regulation Hours of Duty Employees

Ottawa.—The board of railway commissioners has refused the application of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers for an order prescribing such regulations as may be deemed necessary in con-

nection with the limitation of regulating the hours of duty employees engaged in the operation of trains of the railway companies, subject to the jurisdiction of the board.



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