

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 Canada.
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 and the New Emigration Law

Canada stands to benefit materially by the new United States Immigration Quota Law, which came into effect at midnight on June 30th. It will be of advantage to the Dominion in two ways, first, by the very considerable reduction of all quotas, and second, by the provision that restricts immigration from Canada by barring out all but Canadian-born or Canadian citizens resident in the Dominion for ten years or more, as compared with the present regulation that practically puts a one-year resident in Canada on a par with a bona fide Canadian citizen.

A study of the new Quota Law indicates that while the year just ending permitted an immigration into the United States of 803, under the new law the year's total will work out at 161,990, or less than one-half the previous figure. It is further apparent that all countries except France, which never reached its full quota, will have exhausted their quotas for the year, certainly before it is half over, and that the remaining prospective emigrants will require, as an alternative, to consider the prospects and possibilities of Canada, contiguous to the United States as the country most suited to their requirements.

Under the new law, requiring a ten years' residence in Canada, this country will cease to be the stopping-off place for Britishers and Europeans destined to the United States as their permanent place of residence, which will doubtless cause more United States steamship companies to divert their liners to Canadian ports.

Eight-Hour Day Use Growing in Canada

A preliminary report has been issued by the Federal department of labor showing the prevalence of the 8-hour day or 48-hour week in Canada. The report is based on organizations with fifteen or more employees and covers ninety per cent. of employees, except those in agriculture, fishing, etc. At the end of October last, 54.22 per cent. of all were on the 8-hour day or 48-hour week. A similar inquiry in June, 1918, revealed that approximately 50 per cent. were on the 8-hour day at that time.

The following are the percentages of employees in certain industries working 48 hours per week: Logging, 19.23; mining, 62.61; manufacturing, including printing, publishing and the production of electric current, 33.81; construction, 21.04; transportation, 91.50; communication, 21.04; trade, 62.45; services, including municipal employees, hotel and restaurant, laundries, hospitals, etc., 56.48.

Workmen's Compensation

The benefits awarded under the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Act during the half year ending June 30 amounted to \$3,092,998, as compared with \$2,956,547 during the corresponding half of the year 1923. The compensation for the half year amounted to \$2,667,959 and the medical aid to \$425,039.

The number of accidents for the past half year was 28,204, of which 171 were fatal, as against 27,745 for the corresponding half of 1923, of which 169 were fatal.

The daily average of benefits for the half year was \$19,827, and the average number of cheques issued daily was 609.

During the month of June 4,465 accidents were reported, of which 22 were fatal. The benefits for June amounted to \$481,793.

Going Around the Circle

An Ottawa newspaper announced the other day that stone-masons in that city have agreed with builders for a wage rate of \$1.10 per hour for the current season. The men were asking \$1.25 per hour. They compromised on the other figure, which is ten cents greater than last year's rate. Bricklayers, the newspaper says, are also asking for \$1.25. Agreement with them was not made at the time of the above report.

On the same date the intimation appeared in the press that wheat would likely go up this year to \$1.25 per bushel. Possibly before Christmas it might be \$1.35. This is a report from the United States. The reason given is that a decline of crops in the United States and Canada is expected.

There are many people in Canada who talk a good deal about making this country a cheap place to live in. We are not fascinated by the argument of such people. When we look at the countries of the world in which living is cheap we are not favorably impressed. The more important problem, we think, is to level conditions as far as possible. If it comes to pass that wheat goes up in price we will bear a good deal less about "cheapness" from one quarter, to wit, the Western provinces.

We believe in the workman being paid substantial wages. But he must expect the cost of living to respond to the level of such wages. The more he is paid the higher the cost of living is bound to go. He cannot have increased wages and reduced cost of living. The man who pays the wages must get the money from some one; and that one must get it from some other person. The burden of keeping up the level of wages inevitably becomes a charge on everyone; and the wage earner cannot escape his share of the burden.

The builder who pays \$1.10 an hour to his stone-masons and brick-layers, and proportionate wages to other mechanics, is compell-

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ed to charge those rates against the person for whom he is building. That person, if he is a merchant or a professional man, is compelled to add the increased cost to his bills against customers and clients. The man who is getting the \$1.10 may be among the first who have thus to respond. If not the first he will certainly be gripped at a later stage.

Labor and Politics

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has made it clear that organized labor as a body is not behind the movement launched at Cleveland for the nomination of La Follette as candidate of a third party for the presidency. Mr. Gompers takes the view that the American Federation of Labor is a labor, not a political organization, and can achieve greater results in politics by devotion to principles rather than to parties. Therefore he warns against association with any third party. The effect of third party movements, he says, is to weaken the progressive cause, because it is the progressive vote that is divided, not the conservative.

This helps to an understanding why the forces of conservatism are so strong politically. Their tendency is to stay united; the natural tendency of the progressives is to split. It sounds like a paradox, that the spirit of progress tends to impose a check on itself; but it is to be remembered that the real strength of a progressive movement is not always indicated by its voting power.

Canadian Fur Workers' Conference

While Montrealers were sweltering in the heat, delegates representing Canadian locals of the International Fur Workers' Union were meeting in annual conference in the Windsor, to discuss questions affecting its production of next winter's warmth-giving clothing.

Conditions of the fur industry in Canada were reviewed and plans for future activities were made. It was announced that the international union intends starting a general organization campaign. The union at present has about 15,000 members, of whom about 1,500 are in Canada, according to Morris Kaufman, general president.

One of the questions discussed was a new agreement with Toronto firms. The present agreement expires on August 15, but no change in the wage scale will be demanded, although amendments to the working conditions probably will be requested, it was said. The Montreal agreement does not expire until next January.

Newest Postmen in Line for Jobs

Those Who "Made Good" Will Be Absorbed Into Permanent Staff

Instructions which have been sent out by the Post Office Department in regard to the reorganization of the postal services in places affected by the recent strike were explained at the department as meaning that all men taken on during the strike who make good and display the necessary fitness will be kept on and absorbed into the permanent service and those who fail to measure up will be let go.

All half-time men who went on strike will be dispensed with. There has been no decision as yet concerning the strikers who have returned to work, but they are engaged meanwhile as helpers and paid at that rate, regardless of their previous rank. Eventually they probably will get back their old positions, save those to be retired under the Calder Act, of whom the number is considerable. In appointments to these permanent positions it is stated that those taken on during the strike and proving satisfactory will have every consideration.

Must Employ Township Labor

Small Numbers of York Township Men Employed on Sewer Work

Many complaints have been received at the various ratepayers' meetings on the small number of township men employed on the sewer work recently started in York Township, but according to the contractors, this will be rectified when a reasonable portion of the various trunks and laterals are started.

To Investigate Fatal Mine Explosion

New Glasgow, N.S.—J. E. McLurg, Vice-president of the British Empire Steel Corporation, visited the Allan Shaft here where four miners were killed and seven injured, but no opinion as to the cause of the explosion was given out. The affected area was walled off and danger of fire in the mine is believed to have been eliminated.

Ontario Scents a Farmers' Strike

Agriculturists Are Producing Only Enough for Their Own Needs

Toronto, Ont.—According to W. O. Galloway, director of the statistics and publications branch of the provincial department of agriculture, many official reports have been received by the department which would indicate that there is a movement resembling a farmers' strike among farmers in Ontario. Reports from numerous counties, it is said, suggest that agriculturists are producing only enough for their own needs, and are deliberately depreciating the values of their farms by neglecting improvements.

The situation is attributed by Thos. McGillicuddy, of the same branch, to the fact that "produce sells so cheaply farmers quit producing for market purposes." Statistics are given which show a decrease for the year 1923 in production of fall and spring wheat, oats and rye.

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