

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

J. A. P. HAYDON, M.C., Editor. A. H. BLACKBURN, Circulation Mgr. J. D. SULLIVAN, Business Manager.

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The Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

GUARD THE MOVEMENT.

WHETHER the gates to membership in the Independent Labor Party of this Dominion are too wide, or sufficient discretion is exercised in the selection of its members, has become a matter of controversy, bidding fair to be a real live issue as the growth of the workers' party continues.

It is too plainly in evidence at conferences or conventions that admittance has been gained by membership card, the possessors of which expound and support ideas contrary to the ethics of the Labor Party.

It is claimed that some card carriers in the party of advancement also carry membership cards in other organizations, whose means of attaining their dreamy objective leave the word scruple as an unmeaning or unknown term.

Members of the International Trade Union Movement have been primarily responsible for the birth and growth of the Labor Party in this Dominion, carrying into the programme the same principles, that it is by evolution and not revolution, the workers' problems will be effectively solved.

It would indeed be unfortunate if any setback was encountered at this successful period in the history of the party, and observant care is a necessity to see that no serpent is inside the fold spreading poisoned-fanged doctrines. There is one precautionary measure, which would forbid membership to anyone carrying a card in a dual organization, or having membership in a body having Soviet ideas.

The trust confided to the Independent Labor Party is too sacred to admit of any trifling with chance. It is a drastic ill requiring a drastic treatment. A straight bonafide membership is the only safeguard to avoid tarnish, or of being the dupes of the unscrupulous with no time like the present for the erection of the necessary safeguards enclosing a workers' party.

OVERSEAS PROP FAILS.

Anti trade unionists, especially in the western section of Canada have had for their idol overseas Tom Mann, and his personality has been worked overtime in the efforts to show the favors he bestowed on the One Big Union idea.

Now Tom Mann has failed, them miserably, as clearly shown at the recent British Trades Union Congress. This is best proven by an extract from the anti's organ of B. C., as follows: "Tom Mann, received a very good reception on taking the platform. His address, however, was mainly concerned with Clynes and past records. He did not carry much weight. It was during his address that a reference to Thorne drew the remarks of hostility from the delegates."

Whilst the foregoing is from a special correspondent, it is no stretch of the imagination to credit the source to "one of the gang," who was in attendance from Vancouver, when Tom Mann made his address. Such a news item that their strong man overseas "did not carry much weight" has taken all the overseas wind from the sails of the anti's, and they are surely now becalmed insofar as British support is concerned, if they ever had any, which is a question of doubt.

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

POSTAL WORKERS' AIM.

Speaking at a meeting of the Post Office Workers' Union, Norwich, recently, the postal secretary, said that the postal workers should be in the forefront of every movement to bring about a new and better world.

The postal industry was publicly owned. That was the first stage. It was then that the people appointed to positions of control be elected by the Post Office workers.

BOOT WORKERS' NEW WAGES.

An agreement has been reached between the National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives, and the employers in regard to the recent claim for increased wages.

Whether all districts will benefit equally depends upon the agreement already in existence that an increase of at least 25 per cent. on the old piece-work rates must be given.

FRENCH MARINE WORKERS ORDER A STRIKE.

A strike of the French marine workers has been ordered by the Maritime Union in all parts of France. The strike is already in effect at Marseilles and Dunkirk.

The strikers demand the liberation of sailors who mutinied in the Black Sea in 1917, and all persons condemned for military or political offences or for acts committed while participating in strikes.

300,000 WOMEN THREATEN TO STRIKE.

Threats of a strike of 300,000 women in industry to force the adoption of an eight-hour day and a minimum wage, if the Legislature does not enact such laws at the present session, were contained in a statement prepared by representatives of the women's joint legislative conference of New York.

The strike proposed was demanded by Miss Rose Schneiderman, president of the New York Women's Trade Union League, who notified the women's joint legislative conference that the 75,000 trade union women in the state will no longer "dillydally around trying to have bills passed by a reactionary legislature controlled by Speaker Sweet and the manufacturing interests of the state."

Both the eight-hour day and the minimum wage bills are now in the assembly committee on rules, of which Speaker Sweet is chairman. Last year the Speaker refused to allow similar measures to be reported out for consideration on the floor.

LABOR SCORES ANOTHER VICTORY.

By-election results made public this week give an illustration of the growing strength of the British Labor Party.

In the Dartford constituency where the election was held on March 27, J. Mills, the Labor candidate, was elected. He received 13,810 votes. R. Mellor, Coalition Unionist, and Tom Wing, Independent Liberal, the leading candidates who opposed Mills, polled between 4,000 and 5,000 votes each. There were five candidates in all. The vacancy was caused by the death of J. Rowlands, Liberal, who in 1918 had a majority of 9,120 over a Labor opponent. The Labor vote in the present election was more than double that of 1918, while the Coalition candidate commanded less than one-sixth of the total vote.

In the by-election at Stockport, also held on March 27, J. H. Jones, Coalition Liberal, and W. Greenwood, Coalition Unionist, were elected, polling more than 22,000 votes each, while Sir Leo Money, on the Labor ticket, polled 16,000 votes. Stockport is a two-member constituency and both seats were vacant. Dartford is a Labor gain over the Coalition Government. J. Rowlands was a Coalition Liberal and was elected at the last election by a majority of 3,129.

WELSH MINERS GIVE STRIKE NOTICE.

The coal situation came to the front again this week when miners in South Wales gave notice they would strike within a fortnight in support of strikers in the Tynesid colliery, Monmouthshire. The South Wales miners voted 11,163 to 22,141 against acceptance of the Government's last wage offer, on which miners' locals throughout the country are voting. A majority in other districts had voted to accept the offer.

300,000 ORGANIZED FARM LABORERS IN ENGLAND.

"One of the most interesting features in the labor movement in England," said President Tom Moore, of the Dominion Trades Congress, who returned to Vancouver last week after attending the Government's 300,000 International Labor Office at London. "It is the new farm workers' organization, which has a membership of 300,000. The members have secured a 48-hour week with extra pay for overtime. Not only the workers, but the farmers appear to be satisfied with the innovation," concluded the congress chief.

FRENCH MINERS OUT.

Practically every mine in France's great coal fields is idle because of a strike of 100,000 miners who are asking for a living wage. The strikers charge coal owners with attempting to nullify the eight-hour law by keeping wages at the starvation point. The miners were paid from 19 to 21 francs a day, with 40 per cent. receiving 14 francs or less. The coal owners have offered 18 francs with one franc bonus. The men are standing for 25 francs, with 60 centimes (12 cents) bonus for each minor child.

"NOBODY LOVES ME"



Service Button Workers.

Notes of Particular Interest To Ex-Service Trade Unionists.

BOYS' SERVICE AND TRAINING FORCE.

Murton, the noted Toronto lacrosse player, who went to South Russia last June with Col. Raymond Collishaw's squadron, is back in London as is also W. L. Hay, of Winnipeg. Murton speaks with keen pleasure of his experiences, doubtless partly because he has returned with a charming Russian widow, as his wife.

He participated in Denikine's retreat which gave way completely before the Bolsheviks, and his opinion is that Bolshevism has no possible lasting force, even in Russia, where the peasantry, he says, is too ignorant, even for Bolshevism.

COST OF C.E.F. TO SIBERIA.

The total cost of the Canadian military expedition to Siberia was \$2,323,900.

This was the information which Hon. A. L. Sifton gave to the House recently in reply to a question P. E. Casgrain put. The number of officers and men sent from Canada was 4,214. Of these 12 were discharged in Siberia, 23 Imperial instructors remained in Siberia, 26 remained with the British military mission, 11 resigned, four deserted, 13 died and one was not accounted for. Three men were accidentally killed, and 16 died of disease. There were no wounded. The annual pensions payable to dependents of deceased soldiers would amount to \$2,635.

The force, Mr. Sifton said, did not leave Vladivostok district. The cost of supplies, ammunition, etc. (except the initial issue of personal equipment and clothing for the Imperial Government, which assumed responsibility for same upon shipment from Vancouver and any balance remained in their hands.

Female trade unionists in Sweden now number more than 59,000.

BRITISH I.L.P. REFUSES TO AFFILIATE WITH THIRD MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL

Glasgow Conference Refuses To Be Stampeded By Younger Revolutionaries.

The rejection by the British Independent Labor Party conference at Glasgow of a proposal to affiliate with the Third Moscow International marks an important decision which will have far-reaching consequences on the Labor movement in Great Britain.

This question of international association overshadowed all other issues discussed by the conference and considerable apprehension existed among Labor leaders of moderate opinions lest the delegates should be stampeded by younger revolutionaries into taking a step which would have the effect of making armed revolution a definite plank of the Labor Party platform.

An extremely serious split among Labor politicians was considered probable if the Bolsheviks captured the machinery of the Independent Party. The conference vote ratifies this danger, and advocated Russian methods are thus left without any real influential organization to further their aims.

This decision to continue along constitutional lines will be immediately reflected in the choice of candidates to fight parliamentary elections of holders of "Red" views, being less likely than formerly to be elected. Bolshevism, laborites will henceforth furnish much more dangerous opposition to Coalition nominees, and by this delegates' decision the prospect of a parliamentary Labor Party are enormously improved.

Philip Snowden and Ramsay MacDonald, once notorious for extreme opinions but now among the moderates, are chiefly responsible for this striking defeat of the Reds, another convincing advocate of constitutionalism being Mr. Benson, of Stafford, who interpreted Lenin's term "Arming of the proletariat" as a social revolution by putting machine guns into the hands of Post-house habitués.

Of scarcely less importance was the decision taken by the conference to secede from the second international. This leaves the British Labor movement without any European association and free to formulate its own policy.

The Origin of The Union Label

The union label or union stamp is strictly American in its origin. It was born in the city of San Francisco, Cal. in the year 1874 and to the cigarmakers belongs the credit for having used the label successfully.

During a sand-lot agitation of Chinese exclusion in San Francisco, a manufacturer of cigars attempted to employ Chinese labor. The trade unionists waged a determined and intelligent resistance, and assured of public patronage, the question arose as to how the consumer might discriminate between the union-made cigar and the "rat shop" filthy made cooile product.

At first, a white label was used, placed upon all boxes of cigars made by white men, signifying that those boxes of cigars bearing the white label were made by white men as against the yellow of the Orient. In the following year, during a strike of cigarmakers in St. Louis, a label was printed in red ink, and at their next convention, held in Chicago in the year 1880, the red and white became embroiled in a controversy as to whether they should adopt the white label or the red label as their universal label, when as the story goes, one of their

Bates & Innes, Ltd. CARLETON PLACE, ONT. Manufacturers of Pulp and Paper Mill Felts, and Men's Knitted Underwear: Ottawa Valley and Velvoknit Brands.

Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal.—Cain.

WOMEN WORKERS IN BRITAIN INCREASE.

A great deal has been written lately about the present surplus number of women and about the large number of unemployed women and if one conclusion emerges more definitely than any other from the consideration of these facts, it is that more and more women are compelled to earn their own living. It is said that more women are working today than have ever worked before, but it should be remembered that there are a much greater number of women dependent for their livelihood upon their own skill, initiative, and hard work.

Their means of maintenance has been reduced or taken away from them by the loss of their profession which they wish to enter be closed to them by narrow-minded prejudice, or they find themselves untrained for the work—sometimes because they surrendered to war work the period of the lives that would normally have been devoted to training. The Ministry of Labor's training scheme for women, recently published outlining plans of work that carries in the interests of production, if the example of that town were followed more generally, it would, probably be found that the women's contribution to work would improve all the way round.

GOVT. WOMEN'S PAY UP.

An agreement in regard to the wages of women in Government employ was reached recently between the Association of Women Clerks and Secretaries and the Treasury. The working week is 44 hours. In London, women temporary clerks receive increases of from 7s to 9s per week.

The scale includes the following: Grade I clerks, 62s rising by annual increments of 2s 6d to 65s 6d. Grade II clerks, 58s, rising by 2s 6d to 61s 6d. Grade III clerks, 52s, rising by 2s to 54s. Short-hand typists, increases of 5s and 6s 6d per week respectively for each of the two grades bringing the maximum wage to 63s 6d. Copying typists, 4s and 7s respectively.

FROM "EURYPIDES"

This is true liberty, when freeborn men. Having to advise the public may speak free; Greater he who can, and will, deserves high praise; Who neither can, nor will, may hold his peace; What can be juster in a state than this? —Milton.

In England skilled labor has the preference for all kinds of work.

MANY SCHOOLS CLOSED.

There are 18,275 schools in the United States that have been closed because teachers have been starved out and cannot continue on the low wages paid, said Arthur E. Holder, member federal board of vocational education. He has summarized the board's investigation of this question and declares that "the paramount issue of today is the welfare of our children, our schools and our teachers."

The British Amalgamated Society of Engineers has a membership of over half a million.

Coal Situation Much More Serious Than the Public Willing to Believe It Is

Difficulties Not Only Due to Higher Prices—But to Increased Difficulties in Mining and Transportation

The public seem content to believe that because they have heretofore been able to secure their annual coal supplies that the warning now given by the Government is not to be considered seriously—because they say "Oh, we always get coal, we always will."

But You Won't

The price of anthracite today is \$17.00—and by fall it will be higher. The Provincial Fuel Controller has announced that, in his opinion, there is no possibility of prices ever coming down again, and he urges the people that substitutes must take the place of coal. This being so—and IT IS SO—you will naturally appreciate the BEST SUBSTITUTE.

Writing us under date March 31st., the Fuel Administrator for Ontario says:—

"Recognizing the important part your industry must take in stabilization, also in eliminating to the greatest degree possible, seasonal difficulties, I would urge you to put forth every effort in the speeding up of your output, so that every ton possible may be available to meet the demand. In this period of unrest the greatest possible co-operation is essential, and I will depend on the results of your efforts to assist me in successfully averting sufferings attending a coal shortage."

Are you taking—can you afford to take chances with the difficulties ahead—suppose that YOU can get YOUR supply, what about the hundreds who will not be able to do so without your co-operation and ours?

You put money in Victory Bonds to help save Canada from an enemy. Can you do better now than put money into fuel stock to save us from our annual enemy—winter—with its cold and attendant evils that results from an insufficient fuel supply?

Victory Bonds pay you 5 1/2 per cent. Oakoal stock—on the basis of an output of only 200 tons per day, and at a profit of only one dollar per ton will pay you over 30 per cent—and will multiply the value of the amount you put in, in addition to saving you 15 to 25 per cent in your annual fuel bills. Is it not worth while then, getting in now—on the ground floor?

This stock is going to go higher and higher—because the Oakoal Industry is an essential industry—for in producing fuel it conserves the wastes of cities and solves the sanitary disposal of those wastes.

No other industry does this—Oakoal is O-A-K-O-A-L, and must not be construed with any other fuel or Company of a similar name, so do not confound it with any other. Oakoal stock is purchasable only at par value—and it has only been offered at ONE price.

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