

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

Buy Made In Canada Goods, Keep Canadian Workmen Employed

A Fair Tariff Would Remedy This

FROM our Vancouver correspondent comes a story which points out the necessity of more co-operation between the West and the East on matters pertaining to our National Welfare.

It is essential that we carry a trade within the Dominion as far as possible if Canada is to benefit to the utmost, but out Vancouver way this point is not considered as much as it might. The particular case we are referring to is the endeavor of the National Iron Works of Toronto to meet foreign competition in the supplying of iron pipes to Canadian cities. Of course it is impossible for the National Iron Company to quite meet the prices of foreign competitors because Canadian workers receive a much higher wage scale and exchange rates operate against us, but this is offset by the superior quality of the Canadian pipe and the money is kept in Canada to be spent by Canadian workers. However, the short-sighted policy of some of our people does not make allowances for this and they believe that a few cents saved in the purchase price of an article is economy. The City of Vancouver is to be congratulated for realizing the difference and awarding their contract this year to the Canadian concern and our correspondent hears on good authority that they intend to do so in the future—but—our correspondent continues—"Point Grey and other outside suburbs of the city bought where they could get the pipes cheaper; that is, pipes made in Germany, France and other countries. . . . The City of Vancouver did give their contract to the Canadian firm this year and paid a little more money to get a good Canadian pipe, but places like Point Grey prepared to buy the cheaper pipe and give the contract to a foreign country. I am told that a lot of men on the councils of the smaller places are always raving about "Made in Canada" goods, but when they have the opportunity to buy Canadian goods, they turn it down."

Tradesmen Protest Canal Wage Cut

After a lengthy discussion, Toronto Building Trades Council decided to enter a protest with the Federal Government against the reduction in wages of mechanics and laborers employed on the Welland Canal, which reduction was put into effect by Hon. James Murdock, under the fair wage Order-in-Council on April 1.

The view of the Council was similar to that expressed by organizations in Hamilton and in the Niagara district. It was held that no benefit could accrue to the Government from the reduction in wages, that wage-earners would suffer, and contractors reap additional profits through the cut. The Council also will ask the Government to restore the wage rate of 1921.

The council decided to ask corroboration from the Federal Government of the statement made in the British House of Commons that the Canadian Government guaranteed a job for every man under the Empire settlement scheme. Secretary William Varley said it was a surprising statement in view of unemployment in Canada.

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Following in brief is an outline of our Policy:

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

The Worker and Racing

ONE would imagine from the public statements of Ontario politicians that it was their duty to prevent the worker from enjoying the sport of horse racing. No attention however has been given by them to what the working man's desires are, in the matter. This attitude is simply placing the worker in the position of a child who requires to have its path made for it during its lifetime; it shows a tremendous ignorance on the part of our politicians of what working class psychology is. The fact is that it is not the wealthy classes who enjoy and support racing but the great mass of ordinary citizens who are in the main workingman.

The writer, who recently returned from Great Britain, had an opportunity of observing this at the Grand National run last month outside of Liverpool. Thousands after thousands of working men could be seen at Liverpool Station going to Aintree where the race was run, even a liner scheduled to sail to Canada at three o'clock on the day of the race was held back until 9 p. m. so that the passengers could view the race before sailing. This indicates how strong the feeling is in Britain toward the sport of kings and it is unthinkable that the sport of horse racing could be made subject to the same petty regulations and restrictions that exist in Ontario. The British working man would not for one minute allow his liberties in this matter or in any other matter to be curtailed without exerting tremendous opposition against it.

The moral of the British attitude for Ontario workmen is that every effort should be strained to get these iniquitous laws off the statute books and it is the duty of the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress to pass a resolution to that effect so that the real views of the worker are presented to the Government of Ontario, and the impression dispelled that the Canadian worker is less concerned with the preservation of his liberties than his British brother.

The Consumers Gas Company of Toronto

THERE has been considerable propaganda conducted in the City of Toronto in favor of a publicly owned gas system.

The writer recently had the opportunity of comparing some of the British public owned gas systems with that of Toronto and frankly the advantage is to Toronto consumers.

The cost of gas in Toronto is approximately the same as the average in Great Britain, but the amount consumed by British users in proportion to the population is very small. As a matter of fact it is only in the better class houses that gas is used for cooking and in the smaller towns only a small proportion use gas for lighting. In efficiency and operation the Toronto system is far away ahead; for example, in the City of Glasgow where the gas is supplied by the Glasgow corporation, numerous householders whom the writer interviewed declared that owing to the red tape, mistakes were very often made and when complaints were made, that very little satisfaction could be obtained.

The truth is that even in Great Britain where publicly owned gas systems are compared with privately owned systems, the comparison is all in favor of the latter. There is a keener spirit of public service amongst the employees of private systems that does not seem to exist in the publicly owned systems. There the feeling seems to be that having obtained a city job they are placed for life, therefore no special effort should be exerted to see that the consumers' desires if possible are carried out with promptitude, courtesy and cheerfulness.

After comparison the writer is convinced that Toronto has a gas system second to none in the world.

Unemployment in Canada

ONE would imagine after reading the public statements of Canadian Labor leaders that the volume of unemployment in Canada during the past year was much greater in proportion to the population than that of Great Britain. For the benefit of our readers the "Canadian Labor Press" gives the figures issued by the Labor Department, Ottawa, for the period ending September 1924. It will be seen that contrary to popular rumor, unemployment is decreasing.

Percentage of Unemployed in Canada—1923 and 1924			
1923		1924	
January	7.8	January	1.7
February	6.4	February	7.8
March	6.8	March	6.7
April	4.9	April	5.1
May	4.9	May	7.3
June	3.4	June	5.8
July	2.9	July	5.4
August	2.1	August	6.5
September	2.0	September	5.0
October	4.8		
November	6.2		
December	7.5		

Unemployment figures are based upon the number of unemployed union members, the number of which, for statistical purposes is taken at 150,000. Unorganized labor unemployment is not included in the above figures from the Department of Labor. The department informs us that the ratio of unemployed in unorganized labor is slightly larger.

In the percentage of unemployment, men absent from illness, sickness, strikes and lockouts, is not included.

INJURED WORKERS RECEIVE LARGE SUM AS COMPENSATION

Total benefits awarded by the Workmen's Compensation Board during the month of March amounted to \$459,201.37, \$396,017.33 of this being for compensation and \$784.04 for medical aid. The benefits issued during the first quarter of this year were \$1,312,136.10, as compared with \$1,529,077.93 in the first quarter of 1924.

The number of accidents reported in March was 4,517, of which 15 were fatal. The total number for the first quarter of the year was 12,655, as compared with 14,144 during the first quarter of 1924. Both the number of accidents and the amount of benefits are considerably less for the first quarter of this year than for the first quarter of last year.

PROTECTION NOT A MATTER OF INDIVIDUAL CONCERN

(From "Industrial Canada")

Any tendency which would seek to make protection a matter of concern to individual industries or groups of industries, without considering the needs of industry as a whole, should be deprecated. Protection is a national policy and only insofar as its scope is nationwide should it be supported. It is true by tinkering with the tariff, governments have reduced the protection accorded to particular interests below the danger point and hardships as between industries have been introduced. But this circumstance does not alter the basic fact that protection is a general policy and should not be approached from the standpoint of the needs of any one industrial group.

A manufacturer, immersed in the affairs of his own industry, and intimately acquainted with its peculiar problems, may perhaps be pardoned for regarding the tariff question from the ground of its application to his particular industry. He realizes that protection is necessary for its well being and continued existence, and he is prepared to work for the retention of adequate protection for it. But he may become indifferent to the difficulties of manufacturers in other fields and, while advocating protection for his own industry, may overlook the necessity of presenting a united front for the general welfare.

There should be team play among manufacturers on this vital matter of protection for industry. Indeed, all Canadians who believe in protection as the essential policy for the development of the country should work together against those forces which are seeking to undermine the protective system. It may be taken for granted that any indication of division among protectionists is eagerly seized upon and used to the detriment of the cause, rendering it all the more important that unity of purpose should prevail.

We believe that the great majority of protectionists are convinced that they must stand or fall together and are prepared to support protection on general principles. If there are those who may appear to regard the question in a more selfish light, let it be hoped that they do so from lack of knowledge of the truth and that they will presently come to realize the absolute inter-dependence of all branches of industry and their relation to the general welfare of the country.

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