

# CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

A National, Sane Labor Paper

True Confidence and Understanding Between Employer and Employee Absolutely Necessary to Industrial Peace.

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## Organized Labor in the Dominion

After a decline in membership for three years the Labor unions in Canada saw a slight increase last year, according to the report of the Labor department. In 1919 there were 378,047 members in all classes of organized labor but the number fell to 276,621 in 1922, and last year rose again to 278,092, which is just 100,000 less than it was four years previous. This loss was due to disruptive forces in the Labor movement, to the less prosperous times, and in a measure to the drift of Canadian workers to the United States. The heaviest loss was registered in 1921 when there was a drop of 60,000 in the Labor organizations of the country.

The international unions still represent the great bulk of Labor's strength in Canada. In spite of a loss of 2,307 last year, their membership was 203,843, or 73 per cent. of the total for all Labor organizations. The "non-international" unions, including those in the Canadian Federation of Labor (as distinguished from the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress), reported a membership gain of 11,342. Independent unions, chiefly the O.B.U., had an increase of 871, making a total of 9,934 members, while the "national and Catholic" unions, which exist mostly in Quebec, suffered a loss of 3,333, bringing them down to 30,000.

It will be seen that the main features of the year were the large gain by the purely Canadian unions and the serious loss by the "national and Catholic" unions. The slight increase in the total membership for all Labor organizations, in spite of the exodus to the United States, which was still in progress, was apparently due to increased organizing activity.

Among the cities, Montreal heads the list with 152 local branch unions, of which 97 reported 37,771 members. Toronto and Vancouver follow, and Winnipeg stands fourth with 73 branches, of which 59 reported 7,143 members. The next cities in order are Ottawa, Hamilton, Edmonton, Calgary, London, Victoria, Quebec.

Benefits totalling \$21,176,941 were paid out by 62 international organizations operating in Canada during 1923. This included \$11,883,222 for death benefits, \$1,328,633 for sick and accident benefits, \$2,338,795 for old age pensions and other benefits, and \$8,542,000 for strike benefits.

These strike benefits were partly paid, of course, by United States members of the unions affected. But on the other hand, Canadian members contributed to strike benefits paid in the United States.

## Overtime Pay and the Minimum Wage

Employers and Employees Not Responsible for the New Legislation

Calgary, Alta.—Taking the stand that the receipt amendment to the Minimum Wage Act, which allows the board to fix the rate for overtime pay, was not brought in through any representations made by them, employers told the minimum wage board recently that it was for those who were responsible in advocating the amendment, to explain the reason for it.

As it was finally agreed that the board itself was responsible for the amendment as passed at the last session of the legislature, the meeting adjourned until afternoon. The adjournment was necessitated by the absence of Judge Carpenter, chairman.

James Kellas acted as chairman in the absence of Judge Carpenter and Walter Smitten and Mrs. Harriet Ingraham were other members present. A number of employers of labor were present at the meeting, which was held in the school board offices. John Hanna, secretary of the board of trade, spoke for the employers. Fred White, M. L. A., represented the trades and labor council.

Working Conditions  
Mr. Hanna maintained that conditions for working were as satisfactory

as could be expected. It would be an advantage if longer hours could be worked in some instances, but the employers were not asking for that. What they did think, however, was that people who were responsible for getting the amendment placed in the act should explain their reason for doing so.

The employers had certainly had nothing to do with it. They had been invited to attend a conference after the amendment was passed by the house.

Fred White said he wanted to make it clear that the amendment was not introduced as a result of representation by the employers. He understood that it had been brought about by the board itself.

Then, said Mr. Hanna, the board ought to explain its reason for the change.

As Judge Carpenter was not present it was agreed to adjourn until he could attend.

Owing to the fact that Judge Carpenter, chairman of the minimum wage board, will be unable to attend before that time, the meeting called in Calgary for a discussion of the amendment to the act, has been postponed until another date. Judge Carpenter was unable to attend the meeting called for recently and it was felt that it would be useless to proceed unless he was present in order to present the board's objects in applying for the amendment which allows them to set the rate for overtime pay.

## Immigration Policy Under Fire

Large Gathering of Delegates at 22nd Annual Convention of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario on Victoria Day

St. Catharines, Ont.—Delegates from all over the province assembled at the St. Catharines Labor Temple recently to take part in the 22nd annual convention of The Labor Educational Association of Ontario. In every particular the convention was a decided success. Many important questions were considered, the various resolutions were given careful and thoughtful consideration by the delegates. After serving as president since 1918, James F. Marsh, international representative of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, withdrew from the presidential contest. James A. Sullivan, ex-organizer of the International Cigar-makers' union, was unanimously chosen president for the ensuing term. The 1925 convention will be held at Kitchener.

### Election of Officers

Delegate E. W. O'Dell conducted the election of officers, which resulted as follows: President, James A. Sullivan, Hamilton; vice-president, Walter Harrie, St. Catharines; secretary-treasurer, Joseph T. Marks, Toronto; executive council Larry O'Connell, Toronto; William Abey, St. Catharines; E. W. O'Dell, Hamilton; C. L. Sevirgy, Brantford; W. H. Stewart, London; F. Ackernecht, Kitchener; B. R. Warren, Windsor; William Stokes, St. Thomas; Colin Cashore, Owen Sound; James F. Marsh, Toronto, and E. J. Follwell, Belleville.

### Government Under Fire

Not only was the Dominion Government's immigration policy under fire but Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas, Colonial Secretary in Premier MacDonald's Government, was taken to task for his reported statement in the London Times that the supply of labor in Canada is not adequate.

Mr. Walter Harrie, president of the St. Catharines Trades and Labor Council, started the immigration discussion when he submitted the following resolution, which was unanimously carried by the delegates.

### Inaccurate Statements

"Resolved, that this convention of the Labor Educational Association of Ontario deprecate the statements accredited to Hon. J. H. Thomas, which must have been made without full knowledge of the facts and heartily endorse the statements of Mr. Thos. Richardson.

"And be it further resolved that it be instructions to the secretary to immediately cable to Mr. Thomas protesting against his alleged inaccurate statements, and that a communication be sent to the Rt. Hon. J. Ramsay MacDonald, prime minister of Great Britain, pointing out the labor situation in Canada.

### Colonial Secretary Criticized

Delegate E. Ingles (London) said that he was surprised to read Mr. Thomas' statement. After saying that it is criminal to bring people into Canada at the present time, the speaker raised laughter when he said: "Mr. Thomas got into office with a typewriter and stenographer, and not knowing what to do with them he (Mr. Thomas) has been using them to broadcast inaccurate statements."

### Something Wrong

Proceeding to quote statistics Delegate Ingles stated that for a period of 50 years at the end of 1923, 1,117,000 native born Canadian people had migrated to the United States. Mr. Ingles added that it had cost the country \$6 a head for every immigrant coming into Canada. "There is something wrong somewhere. I am given to understand that there are 82,000 people in Canada waiting to migrate to the United States. The only wonderful possibility for immigrants is the possibility of them starving to death. We can not be too strong in our condemnation of the immigration policy of the Dominion Government, and the misinformed British Colonial Secretary," concluded Delegate Ingles.

### Ours on Dominion Government

Delegate H. S. Mitchell (Hamilton) said that immigration had been a subject of discussion since the pilgrims arrived in the Mayflower. "You can rave and rant," asserted the speaker, "but when all is said and done the onus is on the Dominion Government and not on the British Labor Party. There should be a quota system in Canada similar to the United States, and we should see to it that the people that come to this country hold the same ideals and composition of society same as the bulk of the people onus is on the Dominion Government.

### Unfair to Canadian Workers

"We should place the blame where it rightly belongs," assailed Delegate E. W. O'Dell (Hamilton), who added that it is manifestly unfair to Canadian workers for the authorities to bring immigrants to this country. Mr. O'Dell stated that a Government Immigration Agent in Manchester told two machinists who recently visited the Hamilton Labor Temple, that as soon as they reached either St. Catharines, Hamilton or Brantford, work would be waiting for them. In closing, the speaker said that recently 70,000 pairs of German-made boots and shoes had been imported into Canada, which had been bought in Germany at 52 cents per pair by certain large departmental stores.

### Urged Caution

Delegate Bert Furey (Hamilton) urged the delegates to be cautious in their criticism of the Motherland's Labor Government. "We must remember that Mr. Thomas is only one cabinet minister, and that the Canadian Government rules this country," emphasized Mr. Furey.

### 4,000 Addressers

Hearty laughter followed when Delegate Leo Worthall, International Journeymen Barbers' organizer, said that recently he received a communication from the editor of *Hairdressers' Journal*, London, England, which enquired: Is there a possibility to place 4,000 hairdressers in Toronto?

### Flooding Canada

Delegate John Taylor (Hamilton) declared that the "worst immigrants don't come from the British Isles. We want immigration on a quota basis," said Mr. Taylor, who added that a deliberate attempt is being made to flood Canada with surplus labor.

### Foreign Exchange Rates and Cheap Labor conditions are causing the ruin of Canada. Proper Tariff Protection will provide the strong bulwark we need to fight off this death-dealing enemy.

## Labor Too High For the Farmer

Ottawa, Ont.—"Fundamentally there is nothing wrong with our prairie provinces, but temporarily there is a great room for improvement," said M. F. Resvold, of the Natural Resources Intelligence Service, before members of the Topographical Surveys Society at their regular open meeting in the Topographical Surveys' quarters. "Take the case of the province of Alberta," Mr. Resvold continued, "Looking into the future what can be seriously wrong with a province which is endowed with natural resources to the extent with which Alberta has been endowed? This prairie province alone has 72,000,000 acres of agricultural lands of the Dominion and more than any other province of the Dominion. It possesses 1,635,625 million tons of coal reserves, 14 1-2 per cent. of the world supply, 21 per cent. of North America, 72 per cent. of the British Empire, 87 per cent. of Canada and more than any other country in the world except the United States.

If Alberta's agricultural industry alone was developed as intensively as that of Denmark she would be capable of supporting a population of considerably over 20,000,000 people.

"On the other hand there is much wrong which time and perseverance will eradicate. The farmer in the west is at present suffering from a financial burden incurred during the period of high prices and easy credit and at the same time he is very seriously handicapped in attempting to make ends meet by the lack of proportion between the prices he has to pay for those things he must buy and the price of those things he sells. Farm labor and manufactured goods are altogether too high for the price of wheat, oats, butter, pork, beef."

Ottawa.—The employees of the Ottawa street railway have signed a two-year agreement with the company with wages at 49 to 59 cents an hour.

A realtor is a man who can divide a swamp into lots and make you imagine fine dwellings all over it.

## Co-Operation Through Plant Publications

By W. R. R. Winans

Safety and accident prevention are subjects not to be overlooked in the organ. The greatest annual loss to industry is through accidents. To reduce accidents is to lessen the cost of doing business and to increase the wages—it is possible to pay the workers. Great care should be exercised lest these subjects be overworked and the employees become "fed up" on "safety first" and accident prevention propaganda. Articles telling of accidents to employees can be carefully written to point out the economic loss through accidents in industry, and to show the advantages to all through a reduction in the number of casualties.

A worthy aim of any publication is to increase thrift, savings, home-building and wise investments, and to point out the value of insurance.

In a diplomatic manner the organ should attempt to quicken the patriotism of the readers. The duties of citizens should be called to the attention of the employees through the columns of the paper. The publication which fails to endeavor to raise the standard of citizenship is overlooking a duty not only to the company, but to the nation as well. This is not merely a wartime duty.

A "humorous" column or department will be enjoyed by all, but even

into subjects pertaining to the production of raw materials, tools, etc., purchased and used by the company. The scope in this branch is almost unlimited and depends to a considerable extent upon the readers.

General news articles or stories may concern matters of community interest, company activities, plant extensions, addition of new machinery, methods or new processes. In stories pertaining to new machinery, automatic parts, new methods of processes, and attempt must be made to answer the question which immediately enters the minds of the employees as to how it affects his well-being. The history of industry records the substitution of machine methods for hand labor, but always the ultimate result is that the worker's position has been bettered. Nevertheless, the question continues to be asked by the employee when changes are made, of the nature mentioned above. To meet these question and to relieve the mental anxiety of the men is important.

The editorials must be broad-gauged, liberal and fair. Attempts at "high-brow" writing will not meet with success. The "we" attitude, properly and sincerely handled, will attain results.

In some instances the employee publication may be one of the undertakings of the employee association. In fact publications so conducted are very successful, as the employees feel that such a paper is their own and any suspicious as to management dictation is eliminated to some extent.

(The writer then devotes considerable space to the general make-up and typographical features of employee magazines: the selection of a printer, and other similar details not necessary to reprint at this time.) He continues:

In the final analysis, a great deal depends on the editor. He must be the final judge and jury of each and every item and article that goes into the publication, and it is his brain that must produce many of the articles and editorials, which will be far-reaching in effect. His is no small task and the individual selected for the position must know and understand his readers. He must keep in close touch with them. The editor should not be hampered by any petty censorship of the management. It is the duty of the management to exercise great care in choosing the editor, and once having made a selection, to

explain frankly the real ideals of the management in employee matters and then leave the responsibility of editing the publication entirely in the hands of the editor.

## Compensation Board and General Hosp'l.

One Not Living up to Contract, While Other Is, It is Stated

Prince Rupert, B. C.—At the meeting of the hospital board recently Ald. MacDonald brought up the matter of payments to the general hospital by the Workmen's Compensation Board. He considered a definite understanding should be arrived at with the compensation board as to the exact amount they are expected to pay for hospital treatment of workmen. According to a section of Workmen's Compensation Act the compensation board provided from crutches to serums but they did not provide for any such thing. They provided \$2.50 per day only. The hospital were living up to their part of the agreement but the government and the compensation board were not living up to theirs.

Harry Birch, secretary to the hospital thought the board should get together and thrash these things out. People were under the impression that the W. C. B. should do things which they do not do. Ald. MacDonald stated he was in correspondence with the Workmen's Compensation Board authorities in Vancouver and expected further word from them. After further discussion the matter was left over until the next board meeting when further correspondence will have been received from the compensation board.

## Welfare of Mothers and Babies in G.B.

An important report just published by the Minister of Health discusses the conditions affecting the welfare of mothers in Great Britain. Although the infant mortality rate in England and Wales has been reduced during this century by over half, the maternal mortality rate has remained practically stationary. About four mothers lose their lives for every thousand children born.

So far the most satisfactory substitute for sole leather is the telephone.

## Toronto and the Postal Strike

One of the most curious developments of the postal strike was the attempt made by the Ottawa Journal to prolong it. On June 28 on the very eve of settlement, the Journal put forward the plea that only Toronto was suffering, that Toronto deserved to suffer because its press had not denounced the strikers, and that Toronto should therefore be left to suffer a while longer. The Journal went so far as to remind the government that nothing was to be lost politically by keeping Toronto "in a mess." It commented sarcastically: "If the King government isn't careful, Toronto will refuse to vote Liberal at the next general election." The Journal's references to the general aspect of the strike in Toronto were as follows:

"A great many people in Canada will be disposed to let Toronto stew in its own juice. . . . Has anybody outside of Toronto suffered very much because the mail service in Toronto has been upset through a stupid strike? Let those who directly or indirectly encouraged public servants to adopt an intolerable course stew for a while in the mess that has resulted."

These quotations are presented as an example of inter-city malice and envy rare in the Canadian press. They are perhaps equally interesting as an example of fallacious reasoning. The strike at Toronto and Windsor deprived one-fifth of the province's population of postal facilities. To argue that none among the other four-fifths suffered as a result is to display a curious ignorance of the inter-related complexities of provincial business and provincial prosperity.

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