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H. A. WEBB, BUSINESS MANAGER

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COWANSVILLE, P. Q., CANADA, JAN. 20, 1910

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A CONVINCING EYE-OPENER FOR WORKERS

How the Labor Thieves Assembled at Montreal to Banquet at the Windsor, and Fraternize with M. P.'s sent to Parliament by Canadian Workers

On December the third, 1909, one section of the labor thieves of Canada assembled in Montreal for a feast. This was the Banquet of the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. This is the Association that smashed the Eight Hour Day Bill at Ottawa. This is the Association that considers the smashing of such measures a splendid record. This is the Association that pays lobbyists, to lobby against labor bills of all kinds. This is the Association that brings pressure to bear upon members of parliament to make them betray the workmen of their countries into the clutches of the manufacturers.

Read closely the circular letter sent out by the Secretary of Manufacturers' Association. Read it two or three times carefully. Then read the rest of this article.

At the banquet were the Hon. L. P. Brodeur, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, and Richard L. Borden, Leader of the Conservative opposition in the Dominion House.

I was not present at the banquet. Socialists and wage workers were not wanted, save in the capacity of waiters. This was a meeting of the slave drivers of Canada. So I must give the report of the meeting from the daily papers.

The Montreal Star gave a page to the report of this Banquet. Brodeur spoke on the Canadian navy. This the Star reported in full. But the significant part of the speech of Brodeur is reported in the following words. "Before coming to the part of his address touching on the Canadian navy and the attitude of the French Canadians towards Imperial defence, Hon. Mr. Brodeur SPOKE OF THE GOOD RESULTS OF PARLIAMENTARIANS MEETING MANUFACTURERS, and also of the increase of manufactured products and exports."

Thus spake the Hon. Brodeur. This man considers it good for Parliamentarians to put themselves in the way of the influences of the manufacturers. The manufacturers employ special parliamentary agents to bring pressure to bear on M. P.'s to hit labor hard. Brodeur gets up before this bunch of legalized labor thieves and tells them plump that it is good for them to meet the M. P.'s. What do you think of the Hon. Brodeur now? What do you think, you men who waited with heart sick hope to have two hours struck off your daily toil for your masters, what do you think of the man who is piling the building of a Canadian navy on your backs? How long are you going to remain patient under your burdens?

But, say some wage workers who are Conservatives, R. L. Borden is better. The Conservatives believe in collective ownership and justice for the workers. The Conservatives would have given us eight hours. They were outvoted by the Liberals. Borden, however, is tarred with the same stick as Brodeur.

Borden was at this meeting. His opening remarks are thus reported by the Star.

Mr. R. L. Borden, M. P. also responded to the toast. He heartily concurred, he said, in the opinion of his friend, Mr. Brodeur, he almost said "Admiral Brodeur," as to the importance of having in the Canadian Parliament representatives of the manufacturers. The Parliament could not be truly representative unless delegates of every element of Canada's citizens were there. Stress of business affairs had kept many out of public life, but the manufacturers should remember that Canada could not have a proper Parliamentary government unless all elements actually participated in its composition.

"IF I HAVE ONE REPROACH TO UTTER AGAINST THE BUSINESS MEN OF CANADA," HE SAID, "IT IS IN THIS REGARD."

The Manufacturers maintain agents at Ottawa to smash labor legislation. Many manufacturers are Senators and M. P.'s. Yet Borden gets up on his hind legs and tells the Manufacturers that he don't like it because they don't get their interests sufficiently looked after. Read the letter of the Secretary of the Manufacturers' Association again and tell us what you think of Borden now.

There were many other Also Spokes at the meeting. Among them was

Sir Thomas Shaughnessy of the C. P. R. He declared he was a manufacturer as his Company manufactured locomotives and cars. As a manufacturer Shaughnessy is interested in seeing labor smashed. Not only is the C. P. R. a labor thief by directly robbing the wage workers through the laws made in the interests of the capitalists, but it is also a great parasite on the tax payers of the Dominion. This corporation received from the Dominion government sixty-two million dollars in cash and twenty-five million of acres of land. Do you wonder Shaughnessy finds himself perfectly at home among the exploiters of the laboring classes of Canada?

Has this article opened your eyes? If it has, what are you going to do about it? Are you still going to vote for the men put up in the interests of the labor thieves? Or are you going to get into the ranks of the organization that wants to see workers elected to Parliament who shall be pledged to vote for all laws that will benefit the workers and against all laws in the interests of labor thieves, and whose ultimate aim is the abolition of the labor thieves altogether? It is up to you workers to get into the political fight yourselves. Free yourselves from both the Liberal and Conservative parties and get into the political fight on your own behalf against the men who are robbing you.

WORKERS UNITE

Take a squint at the letter in the centre of the front page. Then let me talk to you a moment. The manufacturers are out to get all they can out of their business. They unite to fight labor. They appoint parliamentary agents to bring "pressure" to bear on Members of Parliament to boost profits and hammer labor. They defeated the Eight Hour Bill. Their Secretary declares that this is but one small part of its activity. When the manufacturers get busy, let the workers look out.

In Germany there are two groups of workers. These workers fight each other. There are the red unions and the black unions. The black unions are organized by the bosses. A house divided against itself falls. The workers in Germany are divided against themselves. Therefore the struggle of the German workers has been hard.

In Belgium there are yellow unions and red unions. The yellow unions are run by the bosses. Belgian workers have had to contend with their bosses while divided against themselves.

In Canada shall the laborers go through the same experience? There are national and international unions. These two rival organizations are more or less opposed to each other. In Cape Breton, while one union strikes, the other union stands in with the bosses.

Workers of Canada, unite. You have all to lose by being separated. Your interests are common. Your enemies are not workmen. The workers are your brothers in bondage.

Do you see that letter in the centre of the front page? Does it tell a tale to you? Who rejoice when you workmen get fighting among yourselves? Your bosses. Who are frightened when you unite in your own interests? The members of the master class. Who killed the eight hour day bill? Your masters.

Is it not time that you workers began to see where your interests lie? Unite on the political field. Your lives are miserable. Your jobs are not safe. You are robbed directly of over half of what you produce, and indirectly of far more than that. The class that likes to see you divided is the class that robs you. While you squabble, the one with the other, over the poor little wages the bosses fling you, the bosses are electing members to parliament and the legislatures. They are giving to themselves the raw material of this fair Dominion. While you fight each other and are asleep to your true interests, your masters are training an army against the time when you awake.

Workers, unite. The longer you are divided the harder will be the struggle you will have to conquer for yourselves the things you should have.

CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

TORONTO, MARCH 5TH, 1907

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

DEAR SIR:

Almost every Session of Parliament, whether it be Federal or Provincial, witnesses the introduction of legislation that is of vital interest to manufacturers. Some of it is favorable; if so, you desire to see it pass. More frequently its enactment would prove positively injurious; in that event you earnestly pray that it will be defeated.

What do you do? What can you do? If you have ever endeavored to fight a Bill single-handed you will appreciate what a tremendous task it is to produce results. As an individual manufacturer you have neither the time nor the money to devote to work of this kind. Yet the salvation of your business depends upon its being done, and being done promptly.

This is where the benefits of organization and co-operation come in. What an individual cannot even hope to do, a powerful association can accomplish with comparative ease.

It employs special Parliamentary agents, men of tact and experience, under whose guidance the numerous influences of the Association are brought into play in a manner that cannot fail to be effective.

Have you ever stopped to consider what this really means to you? Has it ever occurred to you what an amount of trouble you would have if the Canadian Manufacturers' Association were to disband? Do you not think it is to your interest to keep that Association alive, to make it strong and vigorous, so that it can go off fighting your battles?

The Association needs your assistance. It feels that it has earned your support. Its successful campaign against the Eight Hour Day Bill alone has saved the price of your membership fee a hundred times over. Yet this is but one of a long list of items which go to make a splendid record of Parliamentary achievement.

In other fields of activity the Association has been equally successful, and has proved equally valuable to manufacturers all over Canada. May we not hope to be favored with your support? Full information on any point will be gladly supplied on request.

Yours faithfully,

CHAS. S. MEEK
Chairman Membership Committee.

G. M. MURRAY
Secretary.

HOW FAR WILL A DOLLAR GO?

In another article I have given the statistics of 1901 which were for the year 1900. The following statistics are for 1905. These statistics are not so complete as those of 1900.

The Dominion government compiled statistics for 1905 of the total manufacturers of Canada, together with the number of wage workers with their wages. According to these figures there were 15,796 establishments employing 356,034 wage workers. The wages paid for labor amounted to \$134,357,925. The total value of products amounted to \$18,352,603. The government statistics do not give the cost of raw material, nor the wages of the bosses, nor the other expenses. The statistics are gathered every ten years. These statistics therefore are compiled from government data and not compiled by actual census enumerators.

These statistics show that the average wage of the industrial worker in 1905 was \$371. In 1900 it was \$290. Money wages, therefore had advanced twenty-eight per cent.

A plute paper would jubilantly cry out that the worker was being better treated and would declare that the worker did not know when he was well treated. As a matter of fact the wage worker was a little worse off in 1905 than he was in 1900.

In 1900 the wages paid in industrial establishments, averaged 17.6 per cent of the total value of the manufactured goods. In 1905 the wages paid were 18.7 per cent of the total product. Here the difference is not twenty-eight per cent but only 1.1 per cent. So that if the workers bought what they themselves produced, they would have been better off in 1905 by 1.1 per cent instead of 28 per cent.

But the workers do not buy what they produce. To a great extent they manufacture and do not consume. The labor thieves do the consuming. How much chocolate and cocoa, condensed milk, tailor made

clothes for men, tailor made clothes for women, silk and silk goods, billiard tables, jewelry, dressed furs, etc. do the workers use? We must go to some other standard than the manufacturing standard to find out if the workers are benefited or not. That standard is the gold standard.

Between 1896 and 1905 the world's gold supply increased from \$4,400,000,000 to \$7,500,000,000. In twelve years the gold supply has been increased by \$3,100,000,000 or by more than 70 per cent. In the period therefore between 1900 and 1906 the gold supply increased by a little more than the rise in wages.

Between 1896 and 1906 wages rose from \$253 to \$371 or 31 per cent. The gold supply rose 52 per cent. That means that it took fifteen dollars in gold in 1905 to buy what ten dollars in gold would have bought in 1895. As far as wages were concerned, while the worker in 1895 had ten dollars to pay for ten dollars worth of goods, in 1905 he had only thirteen dollars to buy fifteen dollars worth of goods with. Between 1895 and 1905 the wage worker found that the purchasing power of his wages had shrunk two dollars in fifteen.

Since 1905 the process has continued and the purchasing power of the dollar has shrunk still further. The supplies of gold have grown enormously and are growing more rapidly every month. Moreover the banks have been given permission to issue paper currency without any backing of gold whatsoever. So that in addition to more gold we have more paper money. This means that the purchasing power of the dollar the workers get is shrinking smaller and smaller. The worker kicks, but the gazaboos who are running the government in the interest of the labor thieves do not give a hoot. They are out to benefit their friends and not the workers. Say, workmen, when are you going to wake up to the skin game that is being played on you?

Capitalism is a legalized system of thieving.

The Circular in the Centre of this Page is a facsimile of that sent out by the C. M. A., except the underscoring. Read Closely the Underscored Lines

THE EIGHT HOUR DAY BILL

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association is a powerful organization for the protection of the profits of the manufacturers. Its activities are numerous, and always in the interests of the manufacturers. The manufacturers make their profits out of the difference between what they pay for raw material and labor and what they sell their manufactured products for. Thus it is to their interest to increase the price of their products to the public by protective laws and monopoly agreements. It is also to their interest to keep down the wages paid the workers and to prevent the working time of the day from being shortened.

The Manufacturers cannot be blamed for this course. They are in business for what they can get out of it. They are not in business for the health or comfort of their employees. They are there to make all they can.

What I am going to say about the manufacturers, therefore, is not with any animosity against the manufacturers themselves. All I want to do is to point out to working men, unionized or otherwise, the power of the manufacturers and the methods they use in attaining their ends.

One of the great aims of the workers of the twentieth century is the reduction of the working day to eight hours. This does not mean that the workers are lazy. This simply means that the workers want more time to spend with their wives and children, for self cultivation, for the study of politics and for recreation. When men are compelled to work ten, twelve, and more hours a day, the men cannot live. They only exist. They are nothing but flesh and blood machines for grinding out profits for their bosses.

The workers, two years ago, endeavored to have the Eight Hours Bill passed by the Dominion Government. That bill was thrown out. That bill was thrown out through the lobbying of the paid agents of the Manufacturer's Association. The Manufacturer's Association, whose members live off the unpaid labor of the workers, saw to it that the men upon whom rests the burden of the work of Canada should not be freed from one minute's toil laid upon them by their masters.

Listen to the following quotation from a circular sent out secretly to the members of the Manufacturers' Association urging them to still pay their assessments for the support of the Association.

"The Association needs your assistance. It feels it has earned your support. Its successful campaign against the Eight Hour Day Bill alone has saved the price of your membership fee

a hundred times over. Yet this is but one of a long list of items which go to make a splendid record of Parliamentary achievement."

You workmen who think that your bosses are your friends in Parliament should ponder the above paragraph soberly, earnestly and seriously, and make up your minds that you will elect your own comrades to Parliament to make laws in your interests. Your bosses will see to it that their henchmen will do all to keep you working long hours on low wages:

The worker is robbed directly of about one-half of what he earns and indirectly of four-fifths. Do you not believe this? Then go to your boss and he will tell you not to believe Socialist papers. It is to his interest to keep you in ignorance.

"All my life I have seen my family and my class suffer under the inequalities of a system that produces paupers at one extreme and multi-millionaires at the other. That's why I'm in this work."—Elizabeth Gurley Flynn-Jones.

Capitalists assert that socialism will destroy the home; while at the same time they will evict a family if the rent is not paid. How long are you going to believe that old lie that Socialism will destroy the home?

IS THE EIGHT HOUR DAY POSSIBLE?

Very frequently we hear the cry of the manufacturer that the eight hour day is impossible. It has been the cry of the manufacturers through the past century that it was impossible to reduce the hours of labor. In 1839 little children as young as five years of age were toiling in the cotton factories of England sometimes sixteen hours a day. In that year Shaftsbury moved that the hours of labor for children be reduced from sixty-nine per week to fifty-eight. Mr. Pease, a Liberal M. P. and a Quaker, declared that, "if the hours of labor were abridged, he must, unless he submitted to torture and over-drove, the children, inevitably close his factory." That was in 1839, so the wall of the profit hunting manufacturer that he would be ruined if the hours of labor were reduced is no new thing. Take a squint at that manufacturers' letter and get their true view of the matter.

Is the eight hour day possible in Canada? Undoubtedly it is. In many trades the eight hour day is already here. The printing trade has it. Other trades have it. All trades in Canada could have it.

On the labor of industrial workers in Canada in 1901 the profits were eighty-five per cent of the wage bill. After paying all expenses including cost of superintendence, the profits were eighty-five per cent. That means that for every fifty-six hours worked the worker spent thirty hours in reproducing the value of his own labor power while the owners of the machinery of production received as profits the products of twenty-six hours of labor. The average week in 1901 was fifty-six hours and a fraction. Now, supposing that the week was reduced to forty-eight hours and that the workers did not work any faster or that the method of production was not revolutionized, following the reduction of hours, the result would be that the bosses would still have eighteen hours of labor from the workers the result of which would be clear profits.

Generally on the reduction of hours, changes are introduced which go to reduce the waste of labor, labor becomes more productive, and the bosses do not lose so much. But even if the hours of labor were cut down with the worker producing no more per hour, the bosses would still make a big profit. But the profit, instead of being eighty-five per cent of the wage bill, will only be sixty per cent. You can now see that Mr. Secretary of the Manufacturers' Association was perfectly correct when he gleefully informed his masters that the defeat of the eight hour bill had put hundreds of dollars into the pockets of the bosses. In 1905 this 25 per cent extra profit to the masters amounted to \$20,000,000.

The above figures hold good with regard to the other industries. The profit of the street-railways of Canada were ninety-six per cent of the wage bill. The profit on the steam railways is about ninety per cent. The profit on the labor of miners came to about one hundred per cent. And many of the miners have the eight hour day already.

The eight hour day is perfectly feasible. But when Alphonse Verville introduces a bill which would force the government to buy only those supplies made under the eight hour day condition for the workers, your Members of Parliament are more or less hostile to the bill and relegate it to a committee composed in part of men notoriously hostile to the measure. Take another look at that letter on the front page, read carefully that clause about influencing Members of Parliament, and then, if you voted for a Tory or a Grit at the last election, go kick yourself for your past foolishness and make one great, big everlasting resolve, that you will never more be fooled by smooth-tongued capitalist politicians into voting yourself into slavery.

The wage worker on the railway earns about a thousand dollars a year. The next time you meet a track hand going home, ask him how much he gets of the thousand dollars a year. If he denies the fact, you can gamble on the fact that his boss has him hypnotized.