



Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

THE WORKERS AND IMMIGRATION

LABOR organizations in all parts of Canada are taking a very definite stand in the matter of immigration. In some quarters it is suggested that a ban be placed on immigration for a certain stated period. Others are protesting against the recruiting campaign being carried on in Europe by the Canadian Government and many of our larger corporations.

The Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has watched events for some time, and no doubt will have a concrete proposal to submit to the Government when the legislative programme is laid before the Cabinet.

In the meantime, however, it is well for labor organizations to carefully watch events. The announcement is made this week of the formation of a British Immigration Aid Association for Canada. Officers were elected, and it was decided to carry on a campaign in Britain for farmers, miners, timber and pulp workers, fishermen and domestics. All of this in view of the fact that already in Canada we have thousands of unemployed, and no prospects of work being secured. We have repeatedly stated that the labor movement of Canada does not desire to place any barrier in the way of workers in other countries from bettering their conditions by immigrating to this country; but we do say that the intending immigrants should be told of the conditions existing in Canada. This has not been done in too many cases, and workers have immigrated to Canada only to find that conditions have been misrepresented. They have been forced to make the best of an unfortunate condition. We have cases brought to our attention every week where workers brought from Britain are compelled to work for lower wage standards than exist in the industry in the locality to which they had immigrated. Workers have been brought to Canada in certain industries when a dispute was pending, and in some cases where a strike was actually in operation. This procedure should be stopped at once.

Mr. Lloyd George, Prime Minister of Great Britain, finding himself with an ever-increasing army of unemployed in that country, has announced that in the spring the British Government purposes emigrating to the colonies a large number of men "too young to be ex-service men." It is further stated that the British Government is prepared to send to the housewives of Canada a number of inexperienced domestics, provided the Canadian women will train them. All very nice from Mr. Lloyd George's point of view, but the Canadian workers have some say, or should have, as to what are the needs of Canada.

There is no need for immigration to Canada at the present time, and the Canadian Government should cease recruiting forthwith, and further, they should make it impossible for a Canadian employer to bring labor from outside Canada until all available labor in Canada is absorbed.

COMPULSORY VACCINATION

EFFORTS are being made by certain factions in Ottawa to enforce compulsory vaccination. We endorse the action of Mayor Plant on this question. Should the Board of Health decide to carry on an educational campaign in favor of vaccination, good and well. We are certainly not in favor of making it compulsory for the people of Ottawa to submit to vaccination. Much has been written and spoken on the question, and we do not purpose to go into a lengthy discussion at this time. However, we wish to lay a few facts before the workers of this and every other city in Canada where there is a possibility of the enactment of compulsory vaccination. The writer's second daughter was vaccinated in December, 1918, and is still suffering from its effects. In consultation with our family doctor he stated that the greatest danger of vaccination was the fact that live bodies were injected into the body. When they were injected there was no further control over them, and they never knew whether they would increase or decrease. With inoculation the doctor knows that if he injects a certain number of dead bodies that there never could be an increase in the number. The doctor further stated that if someone will invent a similar preventative for smallpox the horror of vaccination will have passed away.

No one who participated in the great war will oppose voluntary inoculation and vaccination. Every ex-service man knows that had it not been for inoculation and vaccination instead of 50,000 Canadian graves in France many thousands more would have died from sickness and disease.

Certainly the Board of Health should be allowed to carry on an educational campaign for voluntary vaccination; but we are certainly opposed to making it compulsory.

TIMBER WORKERS QUIT O. B. U.

CANADA'S ultra-radical "working class" organization, commonly known as the One Big Union, will soon be remembered only as a bad dream. Owing to persistent efforts of the international trade union movement these "rainbow-chasers" are rapidly passing.

ing. The Canadian Labor Press has repeatedly stated that the Labor movement is just as progressive as the members make it, and all this shouting about the rank and file was done with the sole purpose of destroying the influence of the elected heads of the movement.

At the Port Arthur Convention of the One Big Union the representatives of the Timber Workers' section of the One Big Union withdrew from the convention. We stated then that it was the beginning of the end. The officials of the O.B.U. said as the O.B.U. is a rank and file organization they shall decide. This week they decided that they would repudiate the O.B.U. and have returned to their old organization.

What has been the experience of the B.C. timber workers will be the fate of the rest of the workers who monkey with the O.B.U. There is only one movement in Canada today and that is the International Trade Union Movement. All workers should join an international organization and all international unions should affiliate to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

BLACKLIST IS BASED ON GREED

DEFENDERS of steel oligarchy "explain" this trust's refusal to sell its products to contractors who employ union labor.

"Steel owners have taken a leaf out of organized labor's book," they say. "Labor often refuses to work with non-unionists."

There is no comparison between the motives or methods of organized labor and Garryism.

The blacklist operates secretly. The leader of this sinister band in the employ of steel is now under indictment in New York city because he refuses to acquaint a lawful commission with his trust connections.

The strike is open. It is subject to the white glare of publicity.

The steel trust bases its blacklist on a desire for cheap labor, which means more profits.

The unionist strikes to hold his living standards. The fact that steel prefers non-unionists justify his fears that he cannot hold his gains and work with those who decline to aid him in maintaining wage scales and working conditions.

To the steel owner, less profits do not mean less milk and warm clothing for his babes and family, but that's what less wages mean to the worker.

To say there is similarity between steel's quest for profits and the unionist's refusal to work with non-unionists is to ignore morals, ethics and elemental justice.

To Garryism labor power is but a thing, merchandise, a commodity, as are ships, blast furnaces and railroads.

This is the far-flung cry of the Egyptian task master, the Roman slave holder and feudal lord.

Against this theory the unionist hurds his challenge of manhood: Labor power is inseparable from life.

A complete man must have intellect, will, spirit and physical strength. These, co-ordinated, mean labor power. He who controls labor power owns the man.

To live, to be free, workers must control their labor power, themselves. To permit others to do so, is to surrender every aspiration for a complete life.

Steel and its kind demand this control, although they are less frank than the ancients.

Organized labor denies this control, and around the difference can be traced the opposition of Garryism to trade unionism.

WHO LEADS ONTARIO GOVERNMENT?

DURING the discussion recently on the "open door" proposal of Premier Drury, of Ontario, the fact was revealed that under this "democratic" Government at Queen's Park the Prime Minister was not the head of the Government at all. So far as the constitution of the province of Ontario is concerned, he is probably the Prime Minister, but the central executive of the United Farmers have much to say as to the policy of the Government. More than that, in most cases they have the resignation of the United Farmer members, and if these representatives of the people fail to do the bidding of the U.F. central executive: Bang! In goes the resignation, and an election would result. Some progressive and democratic Government, we say. The question now arises: Who is the leader of the Ontario Government — Mr. Drury or Mr. Morrison? The Farmers' Sun will no doubt tell us at an early date.

THE TARIFF BOARD

HON. MACKENZIE KING, leader of the National Liberal Party, stated in an address at Peterboro last week that the people should be consulted on the tariff issue. Labor has protested against this eternal "playing" with such an important question. In the past all of the political parties have been content to "play politics" in the question of the tariff. Labor demands that no longer should the tariff be a matter of political expediency, but rather should a tariff board be established and keep the question as free as possible from the application of party politics, whether they be Liberal and Conservative, Liberal, Farmer, Labor or any of the others. Until this is done there will be no assurance that its application is fair and just.

SAME OLD GAG

THE Montreal Gazette continues to tell its readers that Labor leaders are responsible for all strikes. Again we wish to inform the Montreal Gazette that the members of all trade unions vote on the strike issue and no strike has ever been called where the membership themselves have voted against such action.

Industrial Hygiene

BY J. A. P. HAYDON.

Industrial hygiene is placed, by the preamble of Part XIII. of the Treaty of Versailles, amongst the "most urgent measures for the amelioration of labor." This question has since been receiving much thought from labor leaders and others. At the Washington Conference, in 1919, the employment of women and children in unhealthy processes was included in the agenda. The result was that the conference adopted one recommendation concerning the prevention of the deadly disease anthrax, and another concerning the creation in each country of government health services, whose special duty it shall be to care for the health of the workers. These two recommendations are now being discussed by the Government of Canada, and we are informed by an order-in-council dated November 4, 1920, that they may become law here.

Protection of Women. The question of women in industry which was adopted at the Washington Conference concerns the protection of women and children against lead poisoning. Unfortunately, however, the Federal Government of Canada has no power to enact it, and so it has been passed on for recommendation to the various Provincial Governments. Since it is in the interest of all that this matter be attended to, we feel sure that the Government of Canada will lose no time in having this recommendation made law.

General Health in Industry. The question of general health in industry was further brought before the Washington Conference, when the commission, after studying the question of unhealthy processes declared in its report that a health section should be formed in the International Labor Office. That health section has now been formed—it is a Service of Industrial Hygiene. The problems which this body will study are those that the Commission on Unhealthy Processes of the Washington Conference brought to notice in its report. Notable amongst these problems are: That of protection against infection by anthrax, in industry; that of prohibition of the use of Nitrate of Mercury in "car-roting" rabbit fur, and that of the prevention of poisoning by carbon-monoxide gas and lead. The Service of Industrial Hygiene is already collecting information on the two points—anthrax and white lead—as these have been placed on the agenda for the next year.

Will Study Health Problems. The duties of this health section do not stop with the questions submitted by the Commission on Unhealthy Processes, however, because it will inquire into many other important problems relative to industrial health. In every country there are industries that through incompetency or neglect, or perhaps both, have their workers, throughout all the hours of toil, living in a tainted, disease-ridden atmosphere. To study such situations with a view to ascertaining remedies, and to prepare draft conventions and recommendations of such for submission to the general conference will constitute an important part of the work of the Service of Industrial Hygiene.

Feeding Workers. There is one other problem which it shall be the duty of the service to study. It is a problem which does not touch us very closely here in Canada, which is of very vital importance to the workers of Europe. It is the problem of feeding. Industrial Europe today faces a very, very critical situation indeed, due to the scarcity of food. The depletion of reserves, the disintegration of war, a scarcity of money, the collapse of international systems, together with the skyward soar of the cost of living have well made it impossible for the workers to obtain the bare necessities of life. The various Governments have been obliged to increase their staffs to keep up production, and the numbers of workers make the scarcity of food more acute. And so the problem becomes more complex. We cannot hope that the Service of Industrial Hygiene will be able to mend the situation but they can study it and will at least be able to make some recommendations at the 1921 conference at Geneva.

Duties Varied. The duties of the Service are varied and highly important but it will receive the support of the International Health Organization of the League of Nations. This plan was approved by the Council of the League and has been submitted to the Assembly. The report reads: "That in regard to measures for the protection of the workers against sickness, disease and injury arising out of his employment, which fall within the provinces of the International Labor Organization, the International Health Organization will co-operate with and assist the International Labor Organization, it being understood that the International Labor Organization will on its side act in consultation with the International Health Organization in all such matters."

The Man in Charge. The man under whose direction the Service of Industrial Hygiene of the International Labor Organization has been placed is one of the greatest experts on health culture of the present day, Professor Louis Carozzi. Dr. Carozzi has devoted his whole life to the cause of hygiene. He was formerly head of a service at the Milan clinic. He was a lecturer on industrial path-

LABOR'S FIGHT FOR RAILWAY CONTROL

Gov't Pledge of June Last Insisted Upon.

LONDON, England, (Saturday).—The railwaymen in Great Britain are on the verge of a political contest for a share in the management of the British railways, and the struggle will be watched with interest by manufacturers throughout the country. Apart from the extremists and the Communists, who look to Soviet rule, as the only panacea for every ill, British Labor as a whole is conservative. While far from satisfied with their present lot, the great body of Labor here can see dimly that there are economic limits to the extent of the wages which can be earned, and are now concentrating their attention on improving the conditions under which they work. If wages can only be maintained at their present relative level, as the cost of living goes down, there will be little to complain of except for the fact that Labor has no control over the management of industries.

The question of joint control of railways is likely to give rise to political trouble rather than to industrial upheaval, if the Government adheres to its present intention. In the White Paper of June last, announcing its scheme of railway reorganization, the Ministry of Transportation definitely committed the Government to a plan to constitute joint management boards for the new groups of lines.

On these boards, the shareholders will be in a majority and these directors were to co-opt one-third of the remaining members from managerial officials, others being chosen by the railway unions. Now that the Government is about to draft a bill to give effect to the reorganization, nearly all business interests in the country are supporting the railway managers in resisting what they regard as a dangerous innovation.

It is known that J. H. Thomas, the railwaymen's leader, has urged on the Prime Minister the need for keeping to the pledge in order to avoid arousing the resentment of opponents of joint control to fight the offending clause strenuously when the bill is introduced.

The chief argument is that if the idea is once established, no business will be safe from demands of the same kind. This view affords a curious contrast to that of a section of the railway workers, which holds that the long struggle from workers' control.

"It is not revenge we want for poor people, but happiness; indeed, what revenge can be taken for all the thousands of years of the suffering of the poor?" — William Morris.

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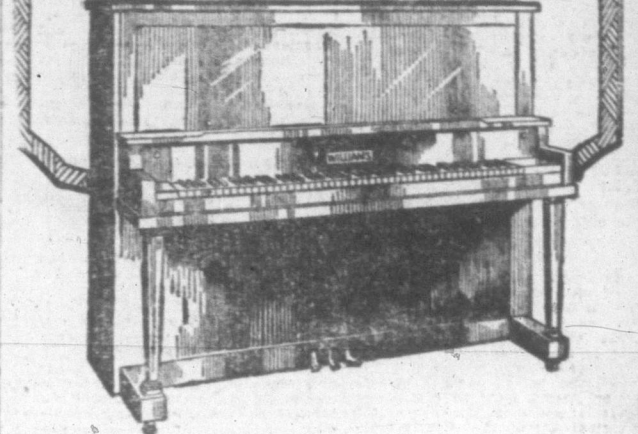
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