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THIS MEANS YOU

If we accused the average trade unionist of having no interest in politics we would very likely raise a violent storm of indignation about our heads. But paradoxical as the terms may seem, it would appear that many are only inactively or thoughtlessly interested. It is possible to be interested in the workings of the great planetary system of the heavens. But such an interest has no effect on the course of the planets. It is likewise possible to be deeply interested in what is transpiring in the councils of the Government at Ottawa. But such interest may not make itself felt any more than that of the astronomer upon the farthest star. But here the analogy ends. The astronomer is limited to an inactive interest; the voter is not.

The Labor Party is the political organization of the workers. It can only do its work effectively in the measure that it receives the support of the working people of this city. It can only truly represent the views and political aspirations of the workers, if they themselves compose its membership. The Party is not limited in its membership to trade unionists, but this thought cannot be too strongly emphasized: Can unorganized workers be expected to affiliate if they see that union men, who have already realized the value of organization in an economic sense, are holding aloof from the political organization? Trade unionists above all others should be active members of the Labor Party. They owe it themselves, to their fellow toilers and to their country to take more than an abstract interest in politics.

There may be a Dominion election this fall. And if Premier Meighen and his associates think it expedient to go to the country, the Labor Party will be shouldered with a tremendous task and responsibility, both in the choice of candidates and the conduct of the campaign. It will certainly need the active and whole-hearted support of every worker. And right here would be a good place to remind the reader that the regular monthly meeting of the Party takes place on Tuesday evening next in Labor headquarters. It would be an excellent time and place for YOU to join.

THE TEACHERS AND LABOR AFFILIATION

A writer in the July number of the A. T. A. Magazine, in dealing with the affiliation of teachers with Labor organizations, seems to show some lack of understanding as to what such action implied. "We teachers," the article reads, "needs to exercise great caution over affiliating with anyone, Labor or Capital, worker or aristocrat; we are the custodians of the child of both. Have we the right to side with either...?" Is it a question, we would ask, of "siding" with anyone? Is it not rather a question of policy, or, if we will, siding with themselves? The central bodies of organized Labor are mutually beneficial organizations. Unions are affiliated for the purpose of obtaining the benefit of the knowledge, experience and support of other organizations whose objects are the same. No union "sides" with the others, they unite. And that is the attitude from which the teachers must view the question of affiliation. If the teachers are members of the wage-earning class, and they are, why speak of "siding" with the class of which they form a part?

The American Federation of Teachers is a union duly affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. At a meeting of this organization in New York City, Professor John Dewey, of Columbia University, is reported by The American Teacher to have given an address that in the opinion of the Free Press more nearly outlines the proper attitude of the teacher toward organized Labor. In closing his address Professor Dewey made the following observation:

"There is one other thing I want to say. Why is it that teachers—who have not had to live by the labor of their hands and suffered the privations and difficulties of many of the members of the trades unions—have found it necessary in the time of need and extremity to turn for active support, not to manufacturers' associations and bankers' associations and lawyers' associations, and the so-called respectable elements of the community, but have had to turn to those bodies or organized Labor? I think that is cause for shame and humiliation on the part of the so-called respectable classes; but, I think on the other hand, it is a source of pride and self-respect for the members of these labor unions and is a reason why every teacher should feel proud to be affiliated with the labor unions."

"PUSSY-FOOTING" VS. ACTION

The salaries paid to men who are in the service of the Alberta Government are in a great many cases a disgrace to this province. It is an actual fact that men holding responsible positions in some of the important departments, men who have to oversee and be responsible for work performed, are receiving considerably less remuneration than the tradesmen who perform the work. Instead of being a model employer as it should be, the Government is actually treating its employes with less consideration than private employers are finding it good business to do.

What is the remedy? It is the same remedy that civic employes have learned to employ—Independent organization. In the city of Edmonton, for example, before the Civic Service Union came into being, there was much that was highly unsatisfactory. Men doing a certain class of work in one department were in many instances receiving less pay than others doing the same work in other departments. It was the union that established equality in that direction in Edmonton's civic service. Similar conditions, but much more aggravated, exist "below the hill," and in a large number of cases the salaries paid are ridiculously inadequate. The civil servants now have an organization. If they are desirous of making it count for something, let them step out and follow the lines that have proven successful for other workers. We would advocate dissolution as an incorporated body, and the forming of a Union—yes Union!—under charter from the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. Then affiliate with the local Trades and Labor Council and secure the backing and moral support of the militant Labor movement. Such a procedure will be found to give greater results than all the "pussy-footing" that might be employed from now until the last trump sounds.

THE REAL SOURCE OF EVIL

The appeal for greater production is without doubt a laudable one—if it is sincere. But when the appeal is only addressed to the workers it is not sincere. A case in point is that of the American Woolen Mills. This great industry has closed down for lack of orders and thousands of workers are out of employment as the result of the suspension of activities. This will mean, unless the mills open soon, that the workers who are out will of necessity go without proper clothing because they have made too much cloth. In-so-far as the woolen mill workers are concerned over-production has deprived them of the means of securing the things they have produced.

But as a matter of fact there has not been an over-production in the sense that the world is more than adequately supplied. The trouble rather is under-consumption, and for that the American Woolen monopoly is largely responsible. It was proven in the United States courts that this great company had made tremendous profits. Profits that were unreasonable and without precedent. The corporation only escaped conviction under the law because the judge ruled that cloth was not clothing, and the law only provided punishment for profiteering in clothing. If the woolen mills had operated at a fair margin of profit the cloth would have been cheaper. Consequently more would have been sold and the mills would now be running with the workers employed. The same line of argument can be applied to many other industries. The reason that there is a surplus stock of commodities on hand anywhere today, is because conditions are such that the people can not acquire the things they need. Let the people who are so insistent on blaming the workers for under-production, investigate conditions, and they will find where the actual trouble exists. As a matter of fact, however, the cry for greater production on behalf of the work-people is used to hide the real sources of economic evil.

DESTRUCTIVE—OF TORIISM

That was an exceptionally thoughtful, indeed brilliant, act on the part of the Canadiana Press correspondent who wired Hon. Arthur Meighen's address to the newspapers, when he informed us that the Premier's speech at Portage la Prairie on Monday was "non-political." We certainly would not have known it otherwise. There was nothing in the address but what might reasonably have been expected. It could not, as a matter of fact, have been more thoroughly characteristic of the man who delivered it, nor of the political gospel as represented by him.



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IT IS A POOR RULE THAT WON'T WORK BOTH WAYS

(By The Federated Press)
New York (N. Y. Bureau).—The injunction should prove a two-edged sword in the case of William M. Wood and his American Woolen Company. If workers are enjoined from striking against the public, why not William Wood, when he calmly closes down his mills, throwing 40,000 people out of work, and curtailing the production of wool to such an extent that winter clothing prices will be out of sight? That is the question being asked by the textile unions who are going to find out why the courts can't issue an injunction against the American Woolen Company.

The workers will not be alone in their attempt to nail Wood, however. In Lawrence there is a vigorous mayor named William White. Since the Lawrence mills closed down and threw 15,000 workers into the street, White has seen 2,000 foreign-born workers go back home to starving Europe. He has seen the rest of the men looking for jobs in a community where jobs are as scarce as coal. He knows that on the wages Wood pays savings are impossible. White, in short, wonders

SUPPORT THE MOULDERS

The Trades and Labor Council did the logical and proper thing on Monday night when the delegates to that body decided to come to the financial assistance of the striking moulders. The moulders have every justification for the stand that they took in refusing to accept the impossible terms offered by the employers. But with all the justice of their cause the men themselves and the women and children depending upon them must eat. A man can himself pull his belt up another hole and stay with the fight. But to look upon his wife and children going hungry is too much for the ordinary human to stand. Right here is where the morale of men on strike is in the greatest danger. But here also is where fellow trade unionists can most effectively come to their assistance.

The fund for the benefit of the moulders is being administered by a committee from the Trades and Labor Council and it can be depended upon that the monies collected will be expended in the manner that will do the greatest good. It is to be hoped that local unions will rally to the support of the moulders. The industries affected by the strike are tied up as tight now as upon the first day of the walk-out; and the financial support of the organized workers of the city is the last thing necessary to bring victory to the men.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Edmonton in 1921!
Everybody and his wife and family will be there. Where? Why at the big celebration on Monday. It's going to be a fine large day.

It costs one dollar a year to be a member of the Labor Party. But it costs the workers considerably more than that when they are content to allow every interest but their own to be represented in the legislative halls of the country. Tuesday evening, August 10th, in Labor headquarters, will be a good time and place to commence an active interest in the workers' political organization.

When the Secretary of the Building Trades Unit of the O. B. U. joins the International Union of Bricklayers, we would remark in the words of the grape nuts poet, "there's a reason." (R. C. Federationist and Calgary "Glow-worm" please copy.)

People must have food, and if food prices are permitted to soar, why of course people will not have money for other things. So that the food profiteers affect business in every line. But when a local wholesale house came out with a statement showing up the hold-up, was anything done about it? If there was any action taken it has been very successfully kept secret.

Providence, R.I. (N. Y. Bureau).—By a vote of 322 to 8 the Providence Chamber of Commerce has gone on record as in favor of the non-union dentists' company in the city is allowing the organization work among its employees to go ahead unhampered. **Join the Labor Party**

SILVER MINERS ASK LABOR GOV'T TO TAKE OVER MINES

(By The Federated Press)
Sydney, N.S.W.—A strike in connection with the big Broken Hill (Australia) silver mines has been in progress since May last year—over 12 months—and shows no signs of ending. A new development has now occurred in connection with the trouble—the miners having approached the Labor government to take over the mines and work them in the interests of the community. They claim that their demands can be granted in full and the mines worked at a profit, adding that it is full time that the community should insist upon a reasonable settlement of the dispute and not allow one of the finest and most profitable industries in the world to be held up in the interests of the rich shareholders, many of whom have never seen Australia.

Join the Labor Party.
what is to become if the 13,000 men who have no kindly if hungry Europe to go to. So he has called Wood to account.

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