

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

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THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

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Following in brief is an outline of our Policy:

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

The Moral Aspect of Prohibition

By Trade Unionist

WHILST many arguments are advanced on economic or quasi-economic grounds in support of prohibition, it still remains the case that the principal basis put forward in its defence is that of morals. Morally it is declared by clerical supporters and social service workers it is irrefutable. The right of man to take intoxicating liquors must give way to the greater right of the community to abolish what in their opinion is an evil.

Close analysis, however, shows that this basis has not the soundness its supporters declare. Let us take the common agreement by all moralists as to what a right is. A right is defined as a moral power of action inviolable from interference with a due observance of the moral law. It will be noted that a right is not liberty to do what one wants provided one does not interfere with the liberty of another, for, as will be obvious if we accepted that, then each would have the liberty to commit adultery, for example, provided we allowed a like liberty to others. It follows, then, that the right of liberty to do what one wishes must be subservient to moral laws.

Now the right to take beer or whiskey is a perfectly valid one and the act of drinking is morally indifferent until carried to excess. But our prohibition friends declare that it is evil and leads to the abuse of liquor and therefore ought to be prohibited. Here we come to the flaw in prohibition reasoning. It is a very modern error into which they fall and it is this that the abuse of a social institution is a legitimate reason to abolish it.

It is the reasoning underlying the Socialist attack on property. The use of private property, therefore, it is urged, is abused and leads to very great evils, such as poverty, slums, etc. and therefore the institution ought to be abolished.

The use of drink leads to intoxication, declare the prohibitions, therefore it ought to be abolished. All moral arguments advanced in support of prohibition are based on the assumption that man derives his rights from the organized community and Western civilization spent 1914 to 1918 in opposition to this doctrine on the battlefield.

The act of drinking is neither morally good or morally bad, all being dependent on the circumstances under which it is done. If a man spends for beer or whiskey that which ought to go towards his family's upkeep then morally he commits a wrong action, for he violates the liberty to live off his family. If he drinks to excess and becomes intoxicated, then he commits a moral wrong against himself for he degrades his own personality.

If, however, he drinks moderately without violating the rights of others, then he is acting morally for he is exercising a moral power of action with regard for the like rights of others and with a due regard for the observance of moral standards.

The arguments of prohibitionists then are seen to be unsound morally and what is needed instead of the Ontario Temperance Act, is a movement to inculcate greater self-control and greater knowledge of true morality.

Sane Labor Prevails at Congress Convention

(Continued from page 1)

Three resolutions, numbers 36, 37, 38, which were all grouped together by the resolutions committee, were responsible for the morning's debate. The committee recommended non-concurrence in all of them. These resolutions, which were sponsored by more than a dozen trades councils and locals miners and railway carmen, chiefly from Edmonton and Glace Bay, urged very strongly autonomy for all Canadian unions, authority for the Canadian unions to decide alone all strike questions, and an increase in the per capita levy assessment, so that the Dominion Congress might be the real centre of trade union power in Canada.

In the discussion which followed, Ald. Joseph Shubert, of Montreal, shouldered the lion's share of the burden of defence of the existing trades organization in Canada, and was chiefly opposed by Delegate Watson, of Toronto; Jack MacDonald, of Toronto; Kazanagh, of Vancouver; Brodie, of Vancouver; Delegate McKenna, of Toronto; and Ernest Ingles, of Toronto, took their stand with the Alderman from Montreal.

When after the lunch interval and after the vote had been taken on the foregoing resolutions, the question of the censuring of the members of the congressional executive was brought up it proved to be somewhat a continuation of the morning debate, as the importance of a unified labor movement was stressed continuously by opposing speakers.

Just as the recommendations of the resolution committee in the morning

to affirm the action of the Congress at the Vancouver convention last year, adhering to the present labor organization in Canada and expressing confidence in their efficiency, was carried unanimously, so the recommendation in the afternoon, asking non-concurrence in resolution 34 presented by the Toronto Labor Council, to convene a conference between the International Federation of Trades Unions and the Red Internationale of Moscow in order to "arrive at a common international program and plan of action," was upheld.

Not in Accordance With Facts
President Tom Moore, in reference to the above resolution, claimed that the preamble introducing it was not in accordance with the facts of the case. The resolution read: "Whereas there was exhibited at the Vienna Congress of the International Federation of Trades Unions on June 2nd of this year a strong desire of a section of the international, led by the British delegation, for a rapprochement with the Russian Trades Unions hitherto debarred by the federation—that a conference be arranged between the two internationals in the interests of the class struggle on an international scale."

Delegate Purcell, of the British delegation, was said to have been in agreement with this desire and to have condemned the attitude of the executive in refusing to consider it.

Mr. Moore, who attended this Vienna Congress, stated that Delegate Purcell was actually agreeable to the decision of the executive. He said: "Mr. Purcell, who was chairman of

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THE OTTAWA DAIRY

(Continued from page 1)

relations which they have always maintained with their employees. Under the company's system the drivers are co-operative sharers in the business. They are on a commission basis, and when a driver works hard he works to his own special advantage as well as the company's. The heads of the various departments are all men well above the average and have been trained to their various duties.

It seems to have been pretty well established that Ottawa pays at least two cents per quart less for its milk than Montreal, Toronto and other of the larger cities. The Dairy Company claims that the lower price in Ottawa is due to the centralization system—to the fact that there are so few concerns supplying milk. But be that as it may, Ottawa has received recently a lot of very flattering notice because of its lower prices.

Ottawa Advertised

During a milk discussion in the New York State Legislature at Albany, Ottawa was referred to as an example of low milk prices due to centralization. The city of Rochester, New York, had a milk investigation last year. The civic committee in its report advocated centralization as a remedy for Rochester's milk troubles, and mentioned specifically three cities were centralization had worked out to the advantage of the people, viz.: Ottawa, Calgary and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The report made the following interesting reference: "An examination of the conditions in these cities shows clearly that these milk monopolies have not taken undue advantage of their power, but have as a matter of fact rendered to the cities named a service unequalled by the milk industries of any other cities on this continent. In these cities the cost of milk has been kept to the lowest point, and the dealers' spread or share of the milk price has been lower than in any other cities."

Dr. North, of New York, who is a consulting specialist in milk and kindred things, in a milk report in December, 1919, also referred to Ottawa's low spread of 3½ cents as opposed to spreads of 4½ cents in Philadelphia, to 7½ cents in Boston. In the same report Dr. North, in referring in detail to the Ottawa case, made the following very complimentary references to the Ottawa Dairy:

"The Ottawa Dairy must be rated as masters in the milk business. A survey of the methods by the methods described in the previous paragraphs shows them to have the lowest costs in every scale. Of fourteen companies whose business has been surveyed by Dr. North, that of the Ottawa Dairy Company has shown the highest degree of efficiency in every department."

As a result of the above and other references to Ottawa, a number of visitors have come here during the past year from Baltimore, Boston and several other places in the United States to get an insight into the methods of the Ottawa Dairy Company.

The Directors

The Board of Directors of the Ottawa Dairy Company is nicely balanced between rural and urban. The producers are represented by Mr. Ben. Rothwell, one of the best known farmers in Eastern Ontario, T. A. Spratt and Archie Scott, whose names are household words in the surrounding counties. The urban interests are represented by such well known men as Gordon C. Edwards, Hugh Carson, A. E. Provost and John Bingham. Mr. Rothwell is president, and John Bingham vice-president and general manager.

that Congress, had no intention of opposing the executive at any time. Since the convention he still acts for the federation. As for the executive of this Congress it has always been in favor of a rapprochement with all the organized workers of the world but in the light of recent events and knowledge it is unfair to ask it to differ with the Vienna Congress."

Frontal Attack Given Up

He illustrated the attitude of the Red Internationale by quoting from the Soviet official organ and a speech by Zinoviev as follows: "Let us be under no illusion; we cannot set up powerful trades unions in Germany. To do that would drive all the workers into social democracy. Therefore we have given up the frontal attack."

"Is there not an ulterior motive all too plain in a statement of this kind?" asked the President of the congress. "Whenever there is evidence of sincerity," he continued, "the congress is always willing to seek the rapprochement with other organized workers. This resolution does not contain the facts of the case, and, in my opinion, should not be passed by the delegates."

"Because the Moscow Reds have sent out instructions, to bore from within and to thus destroy our present labor organizations in Canada, the resolutions committee recommends non-concurrence in this resolution," stated Chairman Marsh in introducing the motion of the Toronto council to hold an international conference.

Here Jack MacDonald, of Toronto, asked if a certain telegram from Tomsky, chairman of the Russian Trades Unions, said to have been sent to the congress, had been delivered. Secretary Draper had not heard of it.

"If it has come I am in complete ignorance of it," President Moore declared, "but I don't want a suggestion to go abroad that there is anything

of this nature of which the executive is afraid and cannot publish and if it has come we will get it and read it to you."

It was found later and on being read by the secretary turned out to be a very harmless affair in which Tomsky wished the congress success in its deliberations.

Removal of Wage Officer Asked

Council to Urge Ottawa to Replace Dominion Fair Wage Official

Vancouver, B.C.—The Trades and Labor Council recently empowered its secretary to ask Ottawa to remove Dominion Fair Wage Officer Fred Harrison from his post in British Columbia. It was claimed by Delegate Dunn for the building trades council, that Harrison had not enforced among shipowners here an agreement rating the wages for carpenters.

The secretary of the Dominion Trades and Labor Council will also be asked to assist in carrying out this agreement.

W. H. Cottrell announced that an organization of a Greater Vancouver branch of the Canadian Labor Party has been effected. Point Grey, South Vancouver and Vancouver are represented. Delegate Hoover is president and William Dunn is secretary-treasurer.

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To Supply Oratory in Labor's Ranks

Speakers' Service Bureau Founded; Teaches and Provides Speeches.

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, over the signature of its vice-president, Mr. H. H. Broach, is sending out word regarding the Speakers' Service Bureau, a non-profit-making Labor institution founded at Minneapolis several months ago.

The idea is to create a mail service agency to assist in training and developing Labor speakers and to furnish Labor students and officials with all kinds of speaking material, with addresses, debates and so on. The Speakers' Service Bureau proposes to help fill the great need of the Labor movement for more and better speakers.

Tanner Says Many Workless in East

Sees Lesson for Manitoba in Tourist Traffic Benefits

Winnipeg, Man.—C. A. Tanner, M.L.A. for West Kildonan and St. Andrews returned recently from a two-months visit to Toronto, Montreal and other eastern cities. He said conditions in the east were in bad shape, and that while shipload on shipload of newcomers were being brought into the country, there were hundreds and thousands of men in the large cities who were out of employment and unable to secure work.

"The tourist trade is bringing in a lot of money to some of the cities, and were it not for this source of revenue some of the tradesfolk and hotels would not be able to continue in business," said Mr. Tanner. "There is a lesson for Manitoba in the experience of other cities," he continued. "I believe the completion of the Emerson highway would be a good thing for the province, as nothing attracts the tourist as much as good roads."

Cannot See Way Clear to Build Yet

Premier Announces Site of Proposed Administration Building Tied Up

Toronto.—To a deputation from the Trades and Labor Congress of Ontario introduced by Hon. Dr. Carr, M. L. A. of Hamilton, Premier Ferguson announced that as much of the property on the site of the proposed administration building is tied up by long leases, the government cannot see its way clear to commence construction of the proposed three million dollar building for some time yet.

He also said the government is favorable towards strengthening the fair wage laws of the province, and promised to transmit to Hon. Mr. Nickle a proposal to further amend the mechanics' lien act.

Foreigners Get Work Instead of Canadians

Welland, Ont.—A delegation appeared before Welland City Council charging that Government contractors on the Welland Canal were refusing work to English-speaking men and employing foreigners in their places. They were very strong in their condemnation. The Council, considering the case out of its jurisdiction, was not very sympathetic. The farmers in this district are not able to secure enough help and they say the average men demands such a rate of wages that it is more profitable for the farmer to let part of his land remain idle.

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AURANIA'S MAIDEN TRIP

New Cunarder Will Join Canadian Service Next Year

The Aurania, newest addition to the Cunard fleet, will commence her maiden voyage on Saturday when she sails from Southampton and Cherbourg to New York. She is a sister ship of the Andania, Antonia and Ausonia, at present running between Montreal and Channel ports, and with her other sisters Alaunia and Ascania, will form the fleet of Cunard steamers on the Canadian service next year.

The Aurania, launched in February last, is a one-class cabin steamship of the latest design and has accommodation for over 500 cabin passengers and 1,200 third class travellers. The ship is 538 feet long, 59 feet beam and of 15,000 gross tonnage. The engines are of the new double reduction geared type, burning oil and the construction of the vessel embodies the latest developments of comfort and safety that are the fruits of over 84 years' experience enjoyed by the Cunard Line.

The public rooms, writing room, library, lounge, smoking room and verandah cafe are on "A" deck. The children's playroom, on "D" deck, is equipped with the latest play devices for children.

The staterooms, designed for two, three or four passengers, are unusually large and well lighted, being situated amidships. As there is only one class of cabin passengers carried, all staterooms are in the most desirable part of the ship. They are furnished with careful thought for the passenger's comfort and equipped with every modern convenience. Another feature, which is such that it gives the maximum of fresh air.

To Open Dominion Office for Labor

Capt. J. A. F. Hayden to Represent Railway Organizations' Paper

Ottawa, Ont.—Captain J. A. F. Hayden, M. C. president of the local Allied Trades and Labor Association, and who has been prominent in organized labor circles, has secured an important appointment, having been chosen by the board of directors at Washington as the Canadian representative of "Labor." This paper is the mouthpiece of the sixteen standard railway organizations on the American continent and its ramifications are very extensive.

Captain Hayden and Mrs. Hayden have just returned from Washington to which city the former was called by the directors to receive his appointment and he will shortly open an office at room 211, Sparks Chambers, which will be known as the Dominion office for "Labor."

Appeal to Board

Ottawa, Ont.—A demand for higher wages and better working conditions, affecting commercial telegraphers employed by the C.P.R. and the Canadian National Railways, is now before a board of investigation under the Lemieux Act. Among the demands made by the men are: (1) equal pay from Morse and automatic operators, (2) standardization of percentage ratings, (3) standardization of clerical wage scales, (4) recognition of the union and establishment of the union shop principle. The C.P.R. telegraphers are asking for an increase of 45 per cent, in pay, while that company is proposing a cut of 5 per cent.

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