

# Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press



Entered at Ottawa Post Office as Second Class Postage  
**The Canadian Labor Press**  
PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE CANADIAN LABOR PRESS, LIMITED  
A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

## THE LIVING WAGE

The Wage Question, which has been productive of so much friction between industrial proprietors and workers and has precipitated so many industrial strikes, comprises a set of economic problems which not only remain unsolved, but some of which have never been frankly faced.

An agreement as to the ratio of the division of profits between Capital and Labor can never settle the wage question. For sometimes there are no profits, and at other times there are losses, in the prosecution of industrial enterprises.

No specific contract providing a minimum wage during any particular period, for the employees of any industrial corporation, or for the workers in any trade or trades, can be regarded as a solution or even as having any significant reference to the wage problem. For what is a fair wage one season may be inadequate or excessive the next the corporation may suddenly go into insolvency and be unable to pay any wages at all or there may be such slackness in the trades to which the minimum wage contract applies as to reduce the earning opportunities of the workers below what will supply the barest needs of the most modest standards of living.

The wage question implies something more than a successful barter between employer and worker. It raises issues that go to the foundation of the modern economic and social systems.

There are two extreme positions taken on the wage question, on behalf of Capital and Labor respectively.

There is on the one hand the claim put forward by some employers that only such wages should be paid as the exigencies of the trade permit—that wages should rise and fall, according to the fluctuations of the market. Pressed to its logical extreme, such a claim carries the untenable inference that craftsmen should be paid no wages at all when the product of their toil does not happen to yield a profit to their employers.

Over against this contention may be placed Labor's equally untenable demand for a minimum wage that will enable the wage-earner to maintain his family with all modern comforts and conveniences, under virtually ideal conditions.

When the least capable workman in receipt of the minimum wage rises to a virtually ideal state of productive efficiency, such a wage standard may be attainable. Otherwise, it must remain in the realm of things hoped for, but unseen.

While it is reasonable to expect that the rise and fall of commercial prices will to some extent affect wages, it still cannot be said that the minimum wage of workers in any line should follow the price fluctuations of the market. Any industry which fails to concede the right of its employees to a reasonable living wage, year in and year out, is paving the way for its own destruction. Any industry which cannot do so, is doomed.

It is at least quite as important for any industrial concern to maintain a highly disciplined, expert, efficient force of workers in its employ, as to have its plant consist of the most modern machinery and equipment. Whether business is good or bad, whether prices are high or low, money must be spent, and is wisely spent, in keeping the plant in an efficient condition. It is surely understanding the case to say that the vitalizing energy of the whole enterprise—the force of employees without whose fidelity and skill production and profits would be impossible—warrant and will receive equally considerate treatment from any provident industrial management.

What then are the factors to be considered in order to arrive at a definite and permanent solution of the wage question? They

are really not so numerous after all. They include the ability of the industry to pay, having regard to production costs and market competition on the one hand, and an equitable return for the capital expended on the other. They also include the character of the workers' services, whether they possess high value, whether they involve hardship and danger, and whether they be skilled, unskilled, temporary, seasonal, or permanent. Finally, they include reference to the re-education and living standards of other classes of workers. It is of the essence of organized society that the rights of the classes comprised in it and even of the individuals belonging to it, be considered in relation to one another. The supply of things that satisfy human needs is limited. If one class of workers gets more than its share, some other class will get less than theirs. And wages are nothing else than the means of measuring the workers' share of the necessities and conveniences of life.

The genuine "living wage" is the one that not only allows the worker himself and his family to live, but his employers as well, and likewise his fellow-craftsmen in other lines of useful, productive effort.

## THE WELSH WIZARD A GREAT FIGHTER

Says Philip Gibbs, Noted Author in Harper's Magazine.

Lloyd George, as many other great men have done in the past, identifies himself with the interests of the nation, and the interests of the nation with himself. "L'etat, c'est moi!" he says with Louis XIV. He is perfectly aware that owing to his peculiar qualities of genius there is as yet no other leader in England who can challenge him or take his place. He is unrivalled in oratory, in debate, in quickness of wit, above all, the knowledge which is the greatest gift of generalship and governance—when to attack and when to retreat.

Always he has his ear to the ground, listening to the distant tramp of feet. Whenever it comes too near he gives ground, "according to play," and then with superb audacity and a sure touch attacks his enemy in an unexpected place. He retreats with the greatest grace in the world, yielding to the inevitable with a beau geste, as a generous gift. In debate his success is largely due to that. He grants as much of his opponents' argument that they are stupified by his candour and disarmed with his chivalry. As a rule, he states their side of the case with more persuasive oratory than they could dream of doing. He goes farther than they would dare. It is what he calls "taking the wind out of the enemy's sails. Then he breaks through their line of battle with the "Nelson touch," and destroys their last resistance with his broadside.

This is what he most enjoys. It makes him feel young and fresh. His baby-blue eyes glow with the light of battle. It appears to that keen sense of humour which is a large part of his power and a cause of his weakness—a double-edged weapon. For it is his sense of humour which enables him to preserve his mental uisage after years of intense strain bearing down upon him from all quarters. Anxiety, dangers, attacks from front and rear, leave him strangely unscathed because he has the gift of laughter, sees great fun in it all, a merry adventurer.

## NEW PSYCHOLOGY

Psychic analysts was occupying the public mind too much, and the professional mind too little, said Lord Dawson of Penn in his presidential address to the Medical Society of London.

Biochemistry, on the physical side, and psychology on the mental, were making strong claims to attention, the former in quietude and the latter amid the noises of the market place. Medicine, if it was to fulfil its work, must take mind phenomena more closely into its study and keeping.

The newer psychology was accepted with seriousness and almost fervour by widening circles of the laity and a group of medical specialists, but at present it was regarded with doubt, if not with aversion, by the bulk of the medical profession.

The way in which all sorts and conditions of people without a scientific training, or medical knowledge, not only discussed but sought to apply analytical psychology would be ludicrous if not so dangerous.

Psycho-analysis was a highly specialised method of diagnosis and treatment which could not be said to be without effect either for good or evil, or both, on the patient. It must often be an exploratory operation on the mind, and if they did not accomplish good they were not sure that the result was negative.

It was the first day of school and the teacher was taking the names of the children, those of their fathers, and the business of each one. Small Lucy gave her name and that of her father, but hesitated and became silent when it came to his business. Urged by the teacher, she blushing said:

"He is Aunt Jane that does the woman's page and the beauty column of the Daily News."—Country Gentleman.

## TOM MOORE ON GOVERNING BODY

Among the Six Workers' Delegates Chosen.

LONDON—Tom Moore, of Canada, is among the six workers' delegates to the International Labor Congress elected to the governing body of the International Labor Office, says a Roster despatch from Geneva.

The incident which led to the resignation of several government and employers' delegates owing to the refusal of Hon. James Murdoch, when presiding over the convention committee, to put two motions to a vote at the meeting, has been settled by referring the matter back to the governing body for further inquiry. This body will report four months before the next conference meets.

In the course of the discussion today, regarding the allotment of seats on the governing body, Hon. Ernest Lapointe, of Canada, protested against the proposal that France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, and the United States should each have one of the sixteen seats. He contended that this involved a radical alteration of the peace treaty and declared that article 293 of that instrument was expressly inserted to prevent anything happening such as the committee now proposed.

He upheld Canada's claim for representation and said Canada wished to come to the conference as an equal. He objected to the United States being included in the list as the United States had refused so far to participate in the conference. He felt sure that Americans would come to the conference when they thought they should and not before.

Mr. Lapointe said he made these declarations not only in the interests of Canada, but from consideration of the interests of the labor office as a whole, which should be based upon the ideas of justice and peace.

## GEORGE C. DOUGLAS IS A YOUNG MAN O' PARTS.

Mr. George C. Douglas is described as a prominent young man of the city of Ottawa.

Mr. Douglas is further described as the youngest municipal association executive of Ottawa. He is just exactly what he looks—twenty-one years of age. But he is secretary of the Glebe Municipal Association and a good public speaker. He is also a charter member of the Lions Club of Ottawa, and is connected with a number of other associations in the capital.

So far Mr. Douglas has made no attempt to obtain a seat in the house of commons which is quite convenient to his activities, but then there has not been a general election since he was twenty.

## LUCKY OFFICE BOY COL. HAM HELPED

Trust Col. Ham to Find the Humorous Way Out of a Difficult Position.

J. Murray Gibson, of the Canadian Pacific Railway tells the following story of his friend Col. George H. Ham.

George Ham has always had the reputation of making other people happy, and one of his pursuits is helping people out of trouble. This attribute is widely known, and one day a lad who had been dismissed from the Bank of \_\_\_\_\_ went to Col. Ham and told him his troubles.

"So you left the bank?" queried the colonel.  
"Yes, I got fired," said the boy.  
"Give me the money," said George.  
"It wasn't for that," retorted the youngster. "They sent me a letter."  
The boy produced the letter, when the colonel read carefully. Then:  
"Let's see the envelope." This was looked over.

"Have you been to the bank yet?" he asked in a moment. "No" was the response, the boy thinking the colonel had taken leave of his senses.  
"Well," he asked again, "have they called for you?"  
"No."

"Well, this envelope says, 'if not called for in five days return to the Bank of \_\_\_\_\_.' Now, beat it or the time will be up."

The boy took the advice and is now on the fair way to become the president of the institution that once fired him.

## DISTILLERS' BIG DEAL

A deal, involving very large figures, is reported to have been completed between American capitalists and the Distillers' Company of Edinburgh.

Through its control of the distilling of grain whisky, the Distillers' Company possesses a practical monopoly of the production of yeast.

Since the prohibition of distilling in the United States, Americans have endeavored to produce yeast from other products than alcohol, but the experiments failed.

Negotiations were afterwards entered into with the Scottish combine for the control of the output of yeast, and these negotiations were referred to at the Distillers' meeting in July. A favourable transaction for the Scotch company is believed to have been completed, and an early official communication is expected.

The share capital of the Distillers' Company is \$4,788,000.

Nine parts of righteousness consists in an intimate relationship between one's nose and the grindstone.

## The Modern Wizard



ELECTRICITY is the wonder worker of the present age. It lights our home—it cooks our food—it furnishes us heat—it runs our machinery—it hauls our cars and carriages—and it annihilates distance.

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## THE LAND OF BOOKS

When the toils of day are over and the cozy grate is lit,  
When inclement winds come teasing at the shutter's creaking hooks,  
I, who fain would be a rover, by the roaring fire-side sit,  
And, by pathways sacramental, travel through the Land of Books.

Thus the ever-weary present wraith-like fades to nothingness,  
As afar o'er smiling meadows in fair fancy do I go,  
While I mark the song birds sing, and I feel the soft caress  
Of the winds from inland waters, as they ever-murmuring blow.

So, perchance, by southern oceans, in some coral-reefed lagoons,  
I will dream beneath the palm-trees of a sweetheart far away;  
Or with midnight's low-tide-waters, in the glimmer of the moon,  
Drift upon some junk careening 'cross the silent China bay.

Venturing in olden Paris, with a ready, willing blade,  
Will I seek to carve my fortune in the courts of splendid men;  
And will dice with death and danger, with a daring undismayed,  
Till the turning of the pages brings me back to earth again.

Till the embers slowly dying warn the fleeting pass of time,  
And each bright reflection casted shrinks to naught amid the nocks,  
Then with soul content and happy to my couch I gladly climb,  
Having found a wealth of pleasure in the faithful Land of Books.  
REGINALD HARDY,  
Ottawa.

The beginning of a perfect evening's decision to let the supper dishes wait until morning.

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