

# THE TOILER

Official Organ of the Toronto District Labor Council. Published Weekly in the Interests of the Working Masses.

TORONTO, JULY 22, 1904

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## INDUSTRIAL EUROPE SEEN THROUGH AMERICAN EYES

The Revolutionary and Socialistic Tendencies of the Trade Union Movement in France

Copyright, 1904, by Julius Grenell.  
Paris, France, July 16. After having entered the lower St. Charles Hotel, the headquarters of the trade union movement in France, as well as of Paris, I found in a quiet public-scholar meeting in the Hotel de la Ville, the most eloquent speaker in France; he was a packed meeting of anarchists get wild after the calm and dispassionate language of Louis Michel, finally carrying me off the stage on their shoulders. I begin to have some slight idea of the aims and aspirations of the proletariat of this great republic. And yet I know but little. Here is a very brilliant of parties and cliques denouncing each other. Divided and weak, the workers fail to make the social and industrial progress to which their energy entitles them.

The French are a hard-working people. What little I have seen would incline me to the opinion that as many women as men are employed in the industrial activities of the nation. Marriage does not end the wife's factory, field or store life. She still expects to be a wage-earner in some way, and to do what she can in filling the family purse. In the fields women seem more numerous than men; in the restaurants they predominate four to one; in the ranks of the street-vendors, the selling from carts of garden and other stuff, and the disposal of literature from street stands, they are certainly on an equality in numbers with the male sex; and in all the factories where demultiplication is necessary it is the women who are the wealth producers.

Perhaps this is one of the reasons why wages are low in France, and the employing workers are few, and the employing class, in consequence, relies that the sum total paid in wages is just sufficient to prevent the necessities of life according to the low French standard.

Long Hours, Low Production  
France is not such an industrial centre as England. Her 30,000,000 million inhabitants turn in much greater proportion to agriculture, as a means of living than the inhabitants of Great Britain. She has within her vast borders such varieties of soil and climate as to make her practically incapable of other nations, and her tariff walls accentuate this condition, though not to her financial advantage. Therefore the people feed themselves as well as supply the other necessities for existence demanded in a civilized community.

And yet, while the day's work is longer in France than in England, I do not think the year's labor will show as great a credit to the account of each worker. If the Englishman works slower than the American, then the Frenchman works slower than the Englishman. He may make more motion, but he does not produce so great a product. The French workman lacks that steady application seen in those who produce the most with the least exertion. His energy is not applied so persistently, and he fails in the final result. Of course, not cannot observe very much in a month, but I have watched those employed both indoors and outdoors, and I am satisfied that the long hours of the French citizen are a serious handicap to his industrial supremacy. Were he to drop a couple of hours from his day's labor, and keep steadily, pegging away, both himself and the employer would profit by the change.

What the general public is  
"What do you mean by the term 'the general strike'?" I asked.  
"By that we mean that we should stop all production as long as necessary to destroy all values in exchange," he answered. "In fact, everything would be continued. Then the workers would take possession of all the means of production, including land, mines, machines, institutions—everything that contributes to the production of labor."  
"This idea was first proposed in France at the Bordeaux congress in 1888, and it has been reaffirmed many times since. The working class, restricted in the full flower of its most noble aspirations, fulfills the only sentiment of independence. This class is the only source from which there is any hope of social betterment."  
"This complete cessation of work would be a sudden and violent change in economic conditions. It is not a change of the very base on which is erected the present civilization. In partial

30 cents admission, chosen by the echo every radical utterance of every radical speaker. Suffice it to say he advocated the separation of church and state—not the burning question in France—old age pensions for workmen, and peace with all nations.

And, too, it would be of interest to some to know how intensely interested was the anarchist audience that listened to Louis Michel's account of her striking drama while lying on a sick-bed from which it was thought she would not arise. It was, to the audience, like a voice from the dead, and it exhilarated French trait, I was told—a superstitious awe of anything relating to a future life. Louise Michel is not a fire-eater in manner or method. She sedate, gentlemanly, and her tone is well modulated. A host of women in broad skirts, a convict imprisoned for her political opinions, she says that it is for France at least, commands respect, admiration, homage.

It was the last sentence to Louise Michel's peroration that brought the most applause. "We are willing to die for when others suffer," she said with intense earnestness, "but we also demand the right to enjoy with others the good things we ourselves produce in such glorious abundance."  
"Long live anarchy!" yelled an enthusiast. The response was inconsequential.

I might say that on the following day I met her in the Luxembourg gallery admiring—or otherwise—the impressionist paintings in the room set apart for their exhibition. To know three things is to get the true flavor of the French temperament, and explain many things otherwise not easily understood.

When Robespierre resigned  
Tired with righting one afternoon I wandered into the garden of the Palais-Royal, near the Louvre, and rested on a time-worn seat. The garden is completely covered by the palace, being reached by covered stairways. It is sunny and beautiful, with its flower beds, its fountain and trees. Children were playing on the shaded walks or calling loudly in the fountain's basin, and seated in groups were women with their family sewing or knitting. This latter occupation brought to mind the fact that it was in this very garden that Robespierre was wont to harangue his followers, and that here the leaders of the revolution met much as they do today, but they then, and not only gossiped but they plotted, and taking their knitting with them, they went each appointed to see the guillotine do its bloody work.

The garden is still here, and even some of the old seats, but those who decided what seats should or should not fall, for the glory of France and the uplifting of labor, have long been veiled into dust, and it is very doubtful if much of the blood as liberally spilled a hundred years ago was for the best interests of the common people.

The French revolution was a great and natural climax to a wicked and oppressive social industrial regime, yet the revolution was after all ineffective, simply because the people were not wise enough to inaugurate better social and industrial systems than the ones they were attempting to overthrow.

In my next letter I shall describe how the average French citizen lives, following his food and drink, his work and amusements, his home life and his wages.  
DON'T LAUGH  
Don't laugh at others' failures—  
And never the other fellow's misdeeds.  
Don't think up the "why" but  
To take every little while,  
Don't be eager thus to lend them.  
For some day it may come true  
That the "how-how" you give others  
May be handed back to you.

Don't be ready with the giggle,  
Do not smile the broad and long.  
Do not think you are the "wilder" strong.  
Even though you be too strong  
There's a saying of the best to laugh  
That makes men off-foot plus.  
And some other fellow misdeeds  
The heartless laugh to you.

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Even though you be too strong  
There's a saying of the best to laugh  
That makes men off-foot plus.  
And some other fellow misdeeds  
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## Contributed

### HOME TRAINING

A small boy eight years of age was having lunch with his aunt, and as he was very fond of fancy biscuits, his aunt put a liberal supply on the table near to him, and when nearly finished she noticed some of the biscuits had been eaten, as she said, "Well, you are some biscuits, Jack!"  
"Well," said "did the lark have the cream that on it?" and as the most anxious track whether it had or not, Master Jack said, "I don't know, but I'll tell you." "You mean to say that you and mamma never buy non-union goods, so we are all going to get good union men when we grow up?" His aunt told him she didn't think he was waiting till he grew up, for she considered him quite young to be thinking of such things, but he refused to eat anything he is very fond of simply because it is non-union goods, he must have had a good training along that line, and if in any union home the children were trained the same way, what a difference it would make, for in a few years these children will be men and women with a voice in public affairs, and when the non-union manufacturer finds his goods being on the shelf and the union goods selling, he will soon find that it will pay him to have a union shop and pay union wages.

### CO-OPERATION IN JAPAN

The business in Japanese cities have co-operated and had large events built, one or nearly every street in every city where they raise their dignities and support and have them cooked for a very cheap price. They say it is very much cheaper than cooking at home, and keeps the house very much cooler as well. Can't imagine what a lesson from the Japanese workers.

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For the Toilers.  
"It is not possible for the toilers to secure the products of the labor of the toilers for the toilers? By applying the principles of democracy in governing and controlling industrial institutions started by and for themselves.

Industrial or Social.  
"The first great question for the toilers of Canada is whether an industrial reform is necessary or a social revolution. One thing must be quite clear, that is spite of the many efforts put forth by capitalists in Canada, social reform has not succeeded. It looks as if the toilers in Canada had very little use for socialist ideas, and what?

Because the toilers are looking for a practical solution of the labor problem. This being the case, it would be wise for us to try and find out if the labor problems are social or industrial, and what their practical results are.

Labor Problems.  
The first great problem before the toilers today is to become thoroughly organized, and this has been said and will continue to be a very difficult thing to accomplish, but after they are organized, then the real problem will be: "What can their accomplishment be organization?"

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Malcolm McBain  
Civil and Military Tailor  
Bay and Richmond Sts. TORONTO  
Two Methods.  
At the present time we compete to produce and compete in the distribution of the products of labor.  
Which Shall it Be?  
The majority today are servants of our industrial institutions instead of our industrial institutions being our servants.  
Toilers.  
Toilers today work hard, but if they are to reap the full benefit of their toil they must mix brains with their work.

There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune.  
Such a time may arrive for you an expectedly, but it may require "just a little ready money." Prepare to meet it now by opening a Savings Account at the King and Bathurst St. Branch of the Bank of Toronto. It has special facilities for private accounts and Union funds. Start to Save Now to provide for the opportunity when it occurs, by opening an account with Mr. Cuthbertson, manager of the Bank of Toronto King and Bathurst Street Branch.

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