



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 CANADIAN WORKMAN NEEDS PROTECTION

Of the people who are leaving Canada to make homes for themselves in the United States the remark is sometimes made that if they had not a leaning towards the latter country they would not go there. We are sure that that remark does injustice to the great majority of the men and women who are comprehended in this exodus. Of most of them this is the native country, the country of their heart's fond devotion. They leave it not willingly, but because they lack confidence in it or are hopeless as to its future, but because they are deprived of any opportunity to make their living here. To bring up a family there must be a bread winner, a man or woman who is employed in the service of production. When the breadwinner is put off the pay list, what is he to do? Is he to beg, or steal, or starve? How many good men have been frantic by the desperate pass to which unemployment has brought them! The poor fellow who has tramped all day long, sometimes on an empty stomach, and returns to his waiting family at night without a penny to provide for them, and without a word to cheer them, is one who indeed has need of the sympathy of his fellow-citizens, most of whom are themselves making ends meet, but have little means to spare for others. With no work in sight, with the landlord pressing him for the payment of rent, and with black care ever present with him, can even the most patriotic of Canadians be blamed if he goes to the United States and tries his luck there? In that country, in the industries and whose home market are protected by a tariff, he soon finds employment, and in a short time is able to send money to his family to follow him across the line. Of such a man, thus dogged by want out of his own country, thus attracted by wages to the country beside us, it is surely unjust to say that he is a weak-kneed Canadian.

The critics who blame his neighbors because they did not come to his help and charitably provide for his family are also besides the mark. It is not charity he wants, nor would charity avail in the place of work. Work and wages there must be if the majority of our people are to live. Moreover, not many people can make material contributions to the maintenance of families other than their own. No, it is upon the Dominion Government that the responsibility for keeping industrious Canadians in work lies heavily. That Government has failed to protect Canadian producers in their home markets. It has rather made it its business to put that home market largely at the service of producers in other countries, most of which countries have a protective tariff. Take the case of Canada's woollen industry. That industry has been modernized in the last ten years by a great expenditure of capital. It has trained thousands of men and women in its service with its corps of highly skilled hands and its up-to-date machinery, and it is able to turn out a class of goods that in the matter of quality will compare not unfavorably with the best of its kind that is produced elsewhere. But it has no chance in its own home market. The present Government has hit it hard by two changes in the tariff and by its liberality in the matter of valuing for customs imports from countries with a depreciated currency. In the last calendar year there were imported into this country woollen and knitted goods to the value of \$41,497,295. Is it to be wondered at that several of our woollen mills are closed down, that other are working with reduced forces, and that many skilled hands connected with the industry have been driven out of Canada to find work in the United States?

RADICAL APPEAL FOR McLACHLAN'S RELEASE

In connection with the many numerous demands being made upon Ottawa for the release of James McLachlan, The Sydney Record sums up the situation in a recent editorial under the caption of "Courts and Sentences" the editorial follows: Trial by demand has not yet been substituted for trial by a court of justice in Canada. It would be a disastrous day for Canada if the substitution were made. Ever since the arrest of James B. McLachlan last summer demands have come from various organizations in Canada. The demands have come from various organizations but the source of inspiration has been the same in most or all cases...radical forces with the same main purposes Mr. McLachlan cherished and approving the same methods he approved. The demand is now upon Ottawa to grant Mr. McLachlan release from the prison to which he was very recently taken after affirmation, on his appeal to the full Bench of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court, of his conviction for seditious crime. The situation is one which calls for some plain comment. Mr. McLachlan committed a grave crime against the State, against the peace and good government of the State, against constitutional authority. A court of justice acting under the law decreed by the State that is, by organized society found him guilty and imposed penalty after he had been ably and vigorously defended. Nor is there room for doubt that the finding of the court had the approval of the vast majority of the people.

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It would be almost to make mock of the courts and announce the seditious action or other lawlessness may be resorted to with impunity, were a prisoner to be set free unpunished under such circumstances simply because demand for his release had been made by organizations in sympathy with his opinions. The law-abiding people, the believers in constitutional government and action, are entitled to some consideration in this country, and to some protection.

There is much more to this matter than question as to the lot of one particular offender. There is the question whether law-breaking is to be made to appear a trivial thing and thereby encouraged, and the very important question whether courts of the land are to be weakened in authority and standing with consequent endangering of the citizen's rights to impartial justice. So, too, with release of some prisoners under the parole systems. But the vital over-ruling of a court of justice by immediate remission of the sentence it found proper under the law and the facts in a case of such gravity as one of seditious offending would be a most astonishing course, and to take it would be to create an exceedingly dangerous precedent.

As far as the introduction in two local assemblies of resolutions supporting demands for Mr. McLachlan's release are unwittingly, the men sponsoring them have been doing the will of the radical faction of whom Mr. McLachlan was the leader in Cape Breton and which brought so much stress and trouble upon Cape Breton. In its original form the resolution brought before the County Council contained improper and inexcusable reflections upon the administration of justice. That, in itself, should be sufficient to warn councillors desirous of being on the right side to have nothing to do with the resolution. It may be possible to win some temporary favor in some quarters by supporting radical effort on behalf of a seditious leader, but Warden LeVatte gave his colleagues in the Council the wiser lead when he took positive and firm ground against the resolution.

Unemployment and Governments

(Toronto Mail and Empire)
Few men realize that a state of unemployment is a state of disease or ill health for which condition (in Canada at least) each unemployed man is 99 per cent responsible. The unemployed man quite naturally asks for relief and evidently thinks that if his stomach is filled by the effort of someone besides himself that state of unemployment will vanish. The unemployed man looks to governments to give him relief either in the form of work or food.

The Government's answer to the appeal of the unemployed was the establishing of unemployment offices in every section of Canada. The Government thus mobilized work— all available work—and today the Government holds out its sign "work on farms."

The unemployed man says in reply to this, "The wages are low. I am inexperienced. I am not fitted for farm work."

Nevertheless, the backbone, the nation's wealth production, is the farm. All production must have a basis in soil, the lakes, the forest. Shall we not as a sensible nation say to the unemployed in no uncertain terms, that our forefathers tilled the soil with meagre equipment; their hands bled from picking stones; their backs ached from pulling out stumps. Yet they stuck it out, and today we are reaping the wealth they did not remain to reap. Profits are slow coming from mother earth, but they are sure and lasting.

The Government asks the unemployed to "wait for their profits" to make their backs strong by labor, to harden their hands by constant toil; to gain for themselves a place on the land where their honest labor always has its sure returns. What can the unemployed man of 1907-08, 1914-15, 1921-22, who stooped to accept relief in the form of food, say today? He is worse off than ever, and no amount of relief can ever improve him, but the desire for relief settles down like a plague in our city. The desire for relief is soon followed by the demand for relief, and the foolish, slipshod methods of granting it only encourages the demand for it only makes the plague settle down all the more firmly, until today in Toronto a million and a half dollars spent has created a condition which must be faced as a seriously by the unemployed as by the Governments.

At the head of the Labor Department for Ontario stands a man

equipped to handle plagues. He will see that diagnosis is his first step, not diagnosis of the crowd, but diagnosis to the individual. He is asked to give a solution by a crowd of men suffering from this plague, unemployment. He will do well if he explains that there can be no crowd solution but that there is decidedly an individual solution. Each man has resources peculiar to himself. He may have a family and he may not. He may be strong and he may be weak. He may have two hands, and he may have only one. But it has been definitely and finally demonstrated that the scourge unemployment cannot be handled "en masse."

The Government's duty then is to know individually each unemployed man, and apply the remedy for his particular difficulty, just the same way that a physician would apply medical treatment. One thousand sick people in a hospital cannot be treated en masse. No more can 500 unemployed men.

The Government's machinery rounds up the jobs, and yet men will not fall in line and accept. It naturally follows then that the Government needs the machinery to diagnose each individual case of unemployment. Distasteful as this might be to the individual, it is the only sure remedy. The results of this individual diagnosis would make the Government's action sure and solid. Doubtless the results would show many unemployed to be unemployable from defects both physical and mental. These facts would be a guide to the Government in remedying individual defects and thereby removing the cause of unemployment.

The man who makes the demand to approach the Government have done a service in that they have shown the extent of the plague. Their demands for relief as a solution are an indication that they are agitators, not peace-makers. The whole problem when laid bare in all its ugliness shows that condition of affairs which is bound to follow whenever waters pertaining to the public good are left to be foisted about among a multitude of irresponsible agencies equipped with good and kind people to "carry on." What would the death rate be today if the practice of medicine was not safeguarded and in the hands of men and women carefully equipped? What would the advancement of medical science be if it were not for the man who toil ceaselessly in the laboratory?

Let the head of the Department of Labor for the Province of Ontario apply the same thoroughness to the task of curing unemployment that he and his fellows have to curing

diabetes, and this scourge, unemployment and all its weak, foolish, schemes of relief will vanish. To ask for relief in Canada is suicidal.

A.P.P. USE TEAR BOMBS N FIGHT WITH COAL MINERS

Strikers Tried to Prevent Strike-Breakers Entering Camp.— Crowd Cleared up Use of Bombs.

Edmonton, Jan. 14.— Tear gas bombs were used by members of the Alberta provincial police during a fracas with striking miners at the Coal Valley mine, Mile 48, Coal Spur branch, which has been closed down since early in December.

According to a telegram received from Sub-Inspector Harrison, of the Edmonton division, who is in charge of the force of 20 men assembled in the strike area for the maintenance of law and order, the trouble arose when strikers assembled in a crowd and endeavored to prevent men sent from Edmonton to reopen the mines, from disembarking from the train which carried them to the mine from the main line at Edson.

The working outfit consisted of 44 men gathered up in Edmonton, who were shipped out Sunday evening in a special sleeping car attached to the regular transcontinental train. This car was shipped at Edson and brought down to Mile 48 on the usual train which serves the Coal Spur branch line.

Details of the fracas are lacking in the telegram received by Commissioner Bryan, but the telegram adds that the crowd was cleared by the use of tear gas bombs, and that the strikers have wired for a number of additional men from Mountain Park to help them.

HUGE SUM PAID IN ALBERTA FOR COMPENSATION

Edmonton.— Disbursements last year under the compensation laws were the heaviest since the formation in August of 1918, according to figures issued by the board. During the year there was paid out in compensation the sum of \$323,360.22, and there was paid into the pension fund in addition a total of \$363,351.66. This latter sum is to meet call for pensions to the widows and families of men who met death in the industries that come under the Compensation Act.

During the twelve months 9,160 accidents were reported, of which 53 were fatal. They came from all parts of the province, the largest percentage being in mine work. The total revenue for the year as allocated to the payment of accident claims and as set aside to the pension fund was \$660, 825.36. This means that over \$25,000 more was paid out than was collected. There is, however, a surplus in hand to meet deficiencies of this kind, and this amounts to some \$200,000.

In the year 1922 there was paid out for accidents \$275,639 and there was set aside for the pension fund \$278,759. The pension payments per month now amount to about \$8,000 and are constantly increasing, as they will for some years to come.

Public Hearings of Compensation Probe

Royal Commission Will Visit Leading Centres
Public hearings of the Royal Commission of the Workmen's Compensation Act will open on February 5 in Quebec. Meetings in Montreal will follow at the Court House on February 12, 13, and 14. The Commission will then proceed to Hull, opening its hearings on February 15, afterwards going on to Sherbrooke and commencing a session there on February 26. Public sessions, for which dates have yet to be fixed, will also be held at Shawinigan Falls, Chicoutimi, and if necessary at Ste. Hyacinthe. The itinerary will be extended if deemed desirable, as it is the intention of the Commission to make as complete an investigation as possible.

The Canadian Manufacturer's Association will present their case in accordance with the findings of the special committee at the various centres where public hearings are to be held. The Commission appointed comprises, Ernest Roy, Quebec, chairman; J. A. Bothwell, of the Brompton Pulp and Paper Co.; E. G. Broseau, president of the Builders' Exchange, Quebec; Gustave Franco, representing the Trades and Labor Council of Montreal, Pierre Beaulne, representing the National Catholic Union, and Alfred Crowe, as secretary.

A Few Thoughts on Human Nature

A teacher who was both learned and witty once said that whenever he heard people begin a sentence with "All history teaches that," he knew they were going to say something absurd. To his wise satire upon shallow students of events can be added a pendant. It is that whenever people talk about this or that being "contrary to human nature," the chances are a hundred to one they are, either deliberately or ignorantly, saying something untrue.

A certain Sir Henry Cowan, who used to call himself a Liberal Free Trader, and who has now decided to call himself a Conservative Tariff Reformer, had a letter in the "Times" of yesterday. What he calls himself is of no interest to us—or, so far as we can see, to anybody. We know what he is—one of the hard-faced men who look as if they did very well out of the war—we know, therefore, what his political attitude is likely to be.

The letter, however, contained a point of interest, Sir Henry Cowan, having sat for 16 years in the House of Commons, has heard all about Socialism, and, with a superb gesture of Podsnapery, he wipes it off the slate. For serious people there are only two parties, those between which there is no real difference, those who both aim at keeping things as they are.

The policy of the Socialist Party has the fatal defect of ignoring the fundamental facts of human nature and its panaceas therefore, lie out side the range of practical politics, and offer no effective remedies for our pressing needs.

Now, Sir Henry Cowan is not of any importance, but this common parrot-phrase which he uses is of some importance because it has found lodgement in a great many common parrot minds. It is therefore, worth a moment's examination.

The first remark to be made about it is this; human nature exists or has ever existed. Human nature is changing all the time. Once men expressed dislike or disapproval of one another with clubs or pointed arrows or large flints. Once they settled their disputes by firing pistols at one another or poking at one another with rapiers. Once they burned those who did not share their theological opinions.

These they called manifestations of human nature. To-day we reprobate and even punish such actions; they are in accord with human nature no longer. Perhaps Sir Henry Cowan would reply to this: "I am talking about human nature as it is now." We hope he would make this answer, we should then fairly corner him.

He and his like maintain that the nature of man to-day is acquisitive, that the only strong motive is greed, that the desire for superfluity is the sole spur to effort.

Has it never occurred to them that while those who possess large amounts of superfluous wealth are few, those who possess nothing are many? And did the possibility of the many never present itself to their minds as a natural, almost inevitable consequence of human nature. That, we need hardly say, is not our view of Socialism. We hold that it is bound to come because human nature is becoming more sensitive to ideas of justice and comradeship. But on Sir Henry Cowan's own showing, what he imagines to be Socialism is strictly in accordance with what he imagines to be the fundamental facts of human nature. Q. E. D.

LUMBER CAMPS CALL FOR MEN

Statement Made 700 Needed in Blairmore, Alberta, and Crow's Nest District.

Calgary.—For the asking work awaits 700 to 800 men today in the lumbering camps in the Blairmore and Crow's Nest Pige districts as a result of the serious situation resulting from the labor troubles which have been fomented there by representatives of the Industrial Workers of the World.

I. W. Poole, of Nelson, secretary of the Mountain Lumber Manufacturers' Association, is authority for this statement, the whole matter of the labor troubles in the Crow's Nest district forming one of the principal points of discussion at the annual convention of that association in the Palliser Hotel here yesterday morning.

As the result of the agitation by what Mr. Poole terms "professionals at this sort of work," the men have been practically forced to abandon work in the territory, but at the present time there is ample police protection and workmen need not fear going into the district ready to

go to work at once, he says. A serious situation exists there at the present time as the weather is practically ideal for lumbering and with a reduced output due to no workmen and a high cost of operation, it may result in higher lumber prices in the Spring, explains Mr. Poole.

The association is continuing its convention today. The bond markets during the month have been engaged in assimilating the unusual volume of securities released early in November, chief among which were the Dominion Government Loan and the \$40,000,000 Province of Ontario issue. The market has pursued a fairly even course in the circumstances, without any marked trend in either direction.



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