

The Canadian Labor Party

Regina Branch send Resolutions to Mr. F. W. G. Haultain and Premier Scott

The Regina branch of the Canadian Labor party met on Monday evening last to discuss the political situation in the city. The meeting was called upon to discuss the advisability of nominating an Independent candidate for Regina city and to formulate generally the policy which will be adopted by the party in the present campaign.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted and a copy of the same was ordered to be sent to each of the leaders of the provincial house:

"The undersigned respectfully submit the following items for your consideration, and desire to know your attitude with regard to these matters.

"Whereas it is a fact easily discernible by those who wish to see that the conditions under which men are called upon to work in pursuit of their daily bread are such that human life is in deadly jeopardy on account of the lack of proper sanitary conveniences and on account of unprotected machinery,

"Be it hereby resolved that we pledge ourselves not to support any government which is opposed to the establishment of a Factory Act and a Workman's Compensation Act.

"And be it further resolved that we stand for Government Ownership of all Public Utilities, and for the appointment of a fair wage officer."

Signed on behalf of the Executive of the Regina Branch of the Canadian Labor Party.

Hugh Peat, Chairman.
Thos. M. Molloy, Vice-C.
Jas. D. Simson, Secy.
A. S. Wells.
J. Burland.
B. Simmons.

The question of an independent candidate was strongly recommended, it being the consensus of opinion that the time was ripe for a break from old party prejudices, and because of the large number of men in the city who had declared their allegiance to independent principles, and support to an independent candidate, if one was put forward. No definite action was taken, however, and the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday night in order to investigate the reports of financial assistance promised and necessary for the conduct of the campaign.

The following replies have been received from the leader of the government and the leader of the opposition to the resolutions adopted by the executive of the Labor Party:

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
Saskatchewan.

Regina, July 25, '08.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of yours of the 21st instant setting out the position of your branch on the question of the necessity of the establishment of a Factory Act and a Workmen's Compensation Act, further favoring government ownership of all public utilities, and also recommending the appointment at an early date of a Fair Wage officer for the province.

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Regarding some of these matters we have already had discussion, and you are aware that I heartily agree with your views. In fact, I may say the same in general respecting each one of your proposals, but, of course I could not with regard to the others specifically commit the government without consultation with my colleagues. I would say, however, that the suggestions you make are all in line with the principles to which I, as a Liberal, heartily subscribe.

Believe me,

Very sincerely yours

WALTER SCOTT.

Hugh Peat, Esq.,
Can. Labor Party,
Regina, Sask.

HAULTAIN & CROSS
Barristers, Solicitors,
Notaries Public.

F. W. G. Haultain, K.C., J. A. Cross

Regina, July 27, 1908.

Hugh Peat, Esq.,
Chairman, Regina Branch,
Can. Labor Party, Regina.

Dear Sir,—In reply to the letter of your Executive of the 21st instant I beg to say as follows:

(1) As regards the Workmen's Compensation Act, I am under the impression that Chap. 13 of the Ordinances of 1906 deals with the whole question of accidents to workmen in a more comprehensive way and attains the object aimed at by the Workmen's Compensation Acts in England, and the older provinces, much more completely and directly than is done by these acts.

The necessity for a Workman's Compensation Act arose principally on account of the doctrine of common employment, which was established by a judicial decision in England given as far back as the year 1837. The general rule of law is that an employer is liable for injury caused to anyone by the negligence of his employees in the course of their employment, or of his own negligence. The doctrine of common employment created an exception to this general rule by establishing a principle that where the party injured is not a stranger, but a fellow employee of the party causing the injury, and engaged in a common employment with him, the employer is not liable.

By the Ordinance of 1906, we did away with this doctrine by one stroke of the pen, and since that date all workmen injured by any negligence of his employer, or of any person employed by his employer, stands in exactly the same position as anybody else. This seems to me to be all that is aimed at by the various Workmen's Compensation Acts, and Employer's Liability Acts. There is one point, however, which is not covered, and that is there is no provision against contracting out, and I quite recognise the desirability of adding a provision to cover that point.

I might add that if on a more careful consideration of the question it can be shown that the short Ordinance I have mentioned does not cover all the ground covered by the latest legislation on the subject, I am quite prepared to bring our legislation up to date.

(2) We have no factory act at present for almost obvious reasons. In a very new country like this there are so few manufacturing establishments that there has been no very great necessity for this class of legislation, but it, as you point out, there are establishments which lack the necessary safeguards and sanitary arrangements, the time has come for placing some law on the statute books covering this ground.

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I shall be very glad to consult with your executive with a view to the preparation of a Factory Act.

(3) I am not sufficiently familiar with the duties and functions of a fair wage officer to express any definite opinion on the subject of such an appointment being made, and will be very glad to discuss the question with you.

(4) On the question of ownership of public utility, I cannot do more than call to your attention an extract from an address which I made to the electors of the province in 1905, and to another extract from the platform of the Provincial Rights party which was adopted by their convention held in Moose Jaw.

Yours faithfully,
F. W. G. HAULTAIN.

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SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

ANY even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, excepting 8 and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person who is the sole head of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

Application for entry must be made in person by the applicant at a Dominion Lands Agency or Sub-agency for the district in which the land is situated. Entry by proxy may, however, be made at an Agency on certain conditions by the father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister of an intending homesteader.

The homesteader is required to perform the homestead duties under one of the following plans:

(1) At least six months residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year for three years.

(2) A homesteader may, if he so desires, perform the required residence duties by living on farming land owned solely by him, not less than eighty (80) acres in extent, in the vicinity such homesteader may perform his own residence duties by living with the father (or mother).

(3) The term "vicinity" in the two preceding paragraphs is defined as meaning not more than nine miles in a direct line, exclusive of the width of road allowances crossed in the measurement.

(4) A homesteader intending to perform his residence duties in accordance with the above while living with parents or on farming land owned by himself must notify the Agent for the district of such intention.

Six months notice in writing must be given to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa, of intention to apply for patent.

Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.
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