

Editorial Page of the Canadian Labor Press

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER.

MONOTONY.

It is monotony that makes men restless. But there is never any monotony in a speech by Tom Moore. Tom Moore goes deeply into the problems of Labor, and every time he speaks there is a something new for thinkers to discuss.

The old-fashioned blacksmith under the proverbial "spreading chestnut tree" worked long hours, but he enjoyed a great variety of employment and he had the satisfaction of finishing the job, taking it through every step of the process.

The modern blacksmith today is a union-metal worker who performs the same operation over and over again—perhaps making only one tedious part of the job to be finished by other workers.

The problem is not an easy one. Re-construction calls for even greater production. The world is short of nearly everything we can produce. Some manufacturers claim that new and improved machinery may take up the strain.

LABOR'S NEW POSITION.

LABOR has assumed a new position in the life of our country—our Empire—and in the world as a whole. Although we hear mainly about the problem of wages and hours, yet the real problem is the new position of the workers in our social as well as industrial life.

This is an index to the new status of Labor. Labor departs from its old place of dependency upon the whim of the employer, and now takes a firm stand, based upon justice.

The human element in labor asserts itself. Departing from its commercial aspect as a commodity, labor is linked with the worker, the needs of his family, the right to enjoy comforts, to take part in the affairs of living, and to share in the enjoyment of social progress.

Canada's big men are turning their thoughts to devise means to remove the hardships of the jobless workers. Idleness is no longer regarded as a matter of choice. Rather it is believed to be a social wrong.

The old law of supply and demand as the basis of fixing the standard of living for the worker is not accepted as the proper measure of determining wages, or, in other words, regulating the education, the amusement, the course of life of the worker, his wife and children.

Labor must have steady employment at wages that will at least ward off the constant cares of want, of suffering for his family, in a land of plenty and in a nation that common war sacrifices have made much nearer the great goal of Brotherhood.

LIBERTY DAY.

THE member of the House of Commons from South Renfrew suggests that the anniversary of Armistice Day be celebrated on November 11th each year. The Halifax Chronicle adds an excellent suggestion that the same day be celebrated each year among the Allied nations as "Liberty Day."



The Berlin Conference of 1878, its Causes and Effects, was the subject of a most able address given to the members of the Independent Labor Party at its meeting on Sunday afternoon by Mr. J. S. Ewart, K.C.

AS LABOR VIEWS PARLIAMENT.

The need of Labor representation in the House of Commons was emphasized by the debate on daylight saving. The question was discussed by fifty speakers and only one of the fifty speakers had a word to say for the effect on labor.

The House of Commons committee on the bill to return \$5,000 which was voted him as an allowance to attend the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in London as Chief Justice of Canada.

In connection with the Daylight Savings Bill the Government adopted a plan which might be well followed in other cases where a year is put into the principle at stake.

THE REPORT CRISP.

After a grand review of German troops at Potsdam the Kaiser called for to the officer commanding the Prussian Guard in a voice loud enough to be heard by the distinguished guests who were grouped in front of the palace.

A NON-UNION CLOCK.

Pat Rafferty: "O! won't have a clock like this in me house. Give me back me tree dollars and here's yer old clock."

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Union Members—Mail This Today.

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EAST AND WEST DIVISIONAL POINTS.

Parliamentary correspondence of the Toronto Star views the East and West situation in the following terms: Practically unrelieved neglect of labor problems continues to mark the present session of Parliament.

Churches Are Active. This neglect by Parliament is thrown into more unenviable prominence by the interest in labor problems and social conditions being taken by the churches.

Difficulties in the Way. "What is the solution?" asked the Star. "The answer is, genuine collaboration by all classes in the community, East and West, who do want to see reform."

President Moore on Industrial Relationship. Industrial efficiency from the laborer's standpoint and industrial relations from the employer's standpoint, formed the topics of two exceptionally interesting addresses by Mr. Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress, and Mr. J. F. M. Stewart, formerly secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

Ontario Furniture Workers Covered by Award. A change in working conditions and wages in furniture factories throughout Canada is forecasted by the report of the Conciliation Board which held sittings at Toronto, Stratford, Kitchener, Hanover and Montreal in an effort to get such information about the furniture trade as would enable the Conciliation Board to make a settlement with the furniture manufacturers and their employees.

Steel Briggs Seeds. All prices include postage. BEANS, Golden Eye, early, very productive, splendid yields. \$1.10. CRISP, Crimson Globe, handsome Best in cultivation. \$1.25. CELERY, New Easy Blanching, dwarf, compact, very early. \$1.00. CAULIFLOWER, Steel, Briggs' Earliest Snowball, Forms large, solid, compact heads. \$1.00. CUCUMBER, S.B.'s Perfection, dark glossy green color; very tender, and brittle. \$1.00. LITTLE, Tender Gem, Light green curled and crested. Forms large size under heads. \$1.00. ONION, Grand Rapids, Large good yielding, self water. \$1.00. RADISH, Crimson Globe, A fine bright red variety, very early. \$1.00. NEW TOMATO, John Bar, earliest market variety; heavy yielding. \$1.00. ESCAROLETTA, Fire Flame, beautiful plant, very early. \$1.00. NASTURTIUM, Hybrid of Madam Currier, best selection of tall growing color. \$1.00. POPPY, New Edradin, The substance of the petals is as delicate as China silk, all colors. \$1.00. SWEET PEA, Steel, Briggs' Spearer, named colors; gorgeous. \$1.00. ZINNIA, Super Double, Specimens from \$1.00 to \$2.00.

Shorter working hours and more human treatment of employees, in the opinion of Tom Moore, would greatly increase the productivity of the worker and help to bridge over the ever-increasing gap between Labor and Capital.

Where Difference Lies. "So much for the general attitude of the nature," said Mr. Moore. "What about this split between industrial versus craft unionism? Why is the movement for one big union, more active here in the West than in the East?"

The training of a man to do just one thing in the production and manufacture of the various commodities was, in his opinion, a very false step.

Mr. Moore contended that the employer treated the average worker solely as a machine, and while he agreed that it might temporarily increase the production of a plant, it did so at the expense of the next generation, so much did it take out of the worker.

Mr. Moore said that the working-days should be so arranged that they will not deaden the mind, and give plenty of time for relaxation. The labor force realizes the necessity of complete relaxation between the working days and the short-day system should be immediately introduced in industries where it is most needed.

Mr. Moore made reference to Henry Ford's experiment of six working hours and facilities that were afforded the employees to relax and enjoy themselves after the business day.

The miners were most entitled to the short day from the point of view of Mr. Moore's statements. He contended that they did not get ample time to associate with the rest of the people and that their occupation had a tendency to allow brooding. He pointed out that the majority of recent disturbances in the labor world had originated in mining localities.

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LOUIS POST FORESEES PROSPERITY

OPTIMISTIC OUTLOOK OF THE UNITED STATES ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of Labor in the United States, looks through the turbulent and trying period of reconstruction, in which we are now struggling, and sees golden sunlight just ahead.

When this trying period is tided over an era of prosperity will follow that will exceed any America has ever had.

The second reason is economic, and is based on the fact that all the soldiers who are coming back into industry were taken out of the ranks in the first place. Why shouldn't there be places for every one of them when they return?

The demands for labor, if it does not become greater than the supply before the war, will at least absorb all the supply. Unless our demand for production has permanently declined, there will be a demand for more labor than we ever had before.

Unquestionably the labor surplus is slowly increasing. I have to have a small-house and garden and not be "warehouse" under a roof so that he would be ready for any emergency. His work is of the opinion that if the question of shorter hours and proper housing were taken up by the proper authorities a great deal of the surplus in the labor ranks would be eliminated.

In reference to the unemployment situation in Toronto today, Mr. Moore stated that there were thousands of people walking the streets who were willing to work now as they were in 1914 and 1915; when they were told it was a crime not to work.

That one of the greatest drawbacks to efficiency was waste, not only in material, but in human life, was one of the points in Mr. Moore's address. He stated that many lives had been lost in the construction of ventilation, and lack of safety devices on machinery.

The rationalization of transportation, waterpower and natural resources, in the opinion of Mr. Moore, would greatly assist in helping the present labor conditions.

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