

# CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

A National, Sane Labor Paper

True Confidence and Understanding Between Employer and Employee Absolutely Necessary to Industrial Peace.

VOL. VII. \$1.00 Per Year. National and Rational OTTAWA, ONT., SATURDAY, AUGUST 15th, 1925. Live News and Views Single Copies 5c. No. 59.

## FREE TRADE and ANNEXATION

By Trade Unionist

A study of Free Trade theory as applied to the Dominion of Canada inevitably leads one to the conclusion that if Free Trade is all that its advocates claim for it, then it would be most desirable that Canada become a part of the United States of America. I can fancy that I hear Free Traders say such a statement "is silly, absurd and untrue," yet nevertheless the logic of Free Trade undoubtedly leads to annexation.

If, by lowering the tariff walls on United States products means cheaper goods to the Canadian consumer as claimed by Free Traders, then it would also be desirable that Canadian railway freight rates should be lowered because the cost of transportation is a factor in the price of commodities; in other words, everything possible should be done, if Free Trade is sound, to see that the various factors that enter into the prices of goods should be reduced as much as possible. Commonsense shows us that such a course is impossible and consequently in spite of all Free Trade theories we have to fix our railway rates and various other costs that enter into production independent of what the United States does in that direction because of the needs of our own country; yet if Free Trade was sound, as its advocates claim it to be, our railway rates should be uniform with those of American railways and the only conceivable way in which that could be accomplished satisfactorily is by the Dominion becoming a part of the United States of America.

Our Railway situation is very far from being what Canadians desire it to be, but if Free Trade is thoroughly established, our railway systems will be completely wrecked.

Free Trade in products, logically means Free Trade in labor with no barriers against the evils of cheap and sweated workmanship. Public sentiment, however, sets its face against such an evil with the result that the Free Traders illogically try to reconcile high standards for Canadian Labor with low prices for Canadian goods. The economic faddists who advocate Free Trade must accept the logical consequences of the theory and be prepared to argue for annexation to the U. S., for if Free Trade means cheaper goods, then common railways between both countries means cheaper goods. If Free Trade means cheaper goods, then no immigration barriers and cheap Labor means cheaper goods. If Free Trade means cheaper goods, then lower living standards and frame houses instead of brick houses means cheaper goods and all these things can only be accomplished by welding the two peoples together in one body under common laws and THAT IS ANNEXATION.

Police Rout Pickets

Drumheller, Alta.—The police used a tear bomb in order to disperse a crowd of men and women which had congregated in front of the Newcastle village hall on the street running through the village. The usual pickets were standing and lying along the railroad embankment near the crossing leading to the A. B. C. mine about 7.50 a.m., when the police were seen approaching from the A. B. C. mine. There were about fourteen of them. The pickets then left the embankment and walked across the road, halting along the houses on the north side of the street. The police marched up to them and batted a little to the west of them. Inspector Nicholson stepped forward and told the crowd to disperse to their homes and occupations. Nobody moved, the inspector then told the crowd that the A. B. C. mine was not working that morning and asked them again to go. Then he broke the tear bomb. The fumes of the bomb, carried by the wind from the west, drove into the crowd, which ran shouting "shut your eyes."

The police then kept the crowd moving along the north side of the road, the picket becoming a perambulating one. The authorities evidently are working on the assumption that the new miners organization is not a lawful one and has not the right to picket.

Plant Runs Overtime

Brantford.—At the Massey Harris plant is has now been found necessary to run the machine and blacksmith shops overtime. The number of hands at present employed is 706, the largest staff for many months.

Pig Iron Production

Montreal.—Production of pig iron in Canada for first four months of year was 181,805 against 285,000 tons during the corresponding period last year. Index number of employment on March 1, 87.0, compared with 99.7 in March last year.

### Eight Hour Laws are for Provinces

Ottawa.—The enactment of an eight-hour day law lies generally within the competence of the Provincial Legislatures. But the authority vested in the Legislatures does not enable them to enact an eight-hour-day law in relation to servants of the Dominion Government or for parts of Canada not within the boundaries of the Province. This, in substance, is the finding of the Supreme Court of Canada on whether the Dominion Parliament has jurisdiction to pass an eight-hour day law.

As Justice Department Ruled The question came up on a reference from the Dominion Government.

At the first International Labor Conference held under the League of Nations, Canada assented to an eight-hour-day convention in regard to industrial undertakings. The Justice Department ruled, however, that jurisdiction in the enactment of eight-hour-day legislation lay with the Provincial Legislatures, and the convention was referred to the Provincial Governments. There was further discussion of the question of jurisdiction in Parliament, and the Dominion Government then referred it to the Supreme Court following a recommendation of Parliamentary committee.

The Dominion's Obligation Regarding the obligation of the Dominion, the ruling adds: "The obligation is simply in the nature of an undertaking to bring the recommendation or draft convention before the authority or authorities within whose competence the matter lies, for the enactment of legislation or other action. The Parliament of Canada has exclusive legislative authority in those parts of Canada not within the boundaries of any Province and also upon the subjects dealt within the draft convention, and in relation to the servants of the Dominion Government."

BULLETIN NO. 3

### What Organized Labor Thinks of TARIFF PROTECTION

#### TOM MOORE

President of Dominion Trades Congress

"Labor accepts the policy of Tariff Protection as a necessary corollary of the protection of their own means of earning a living."



Rt. Hon. JOHN WHEATLEY, M.P. Minister of Health in the first British Labor Government

"Free Trade stands for industrial competition, not only among persons but among nations. It views the individual like the nation, as free units, whose best interests are served by competition. This leads and can only lead to anti-social ends—to man against man—nation against nation."



The miners of Nova Scotia want a tariff against United States coal, to protect their own market.

The shipbuilding trades want a 20% duty against foreign-built ships in order to maintain their wages at a Canadian level.

The printing trades urge tariff protection against imported printed matter so that millions of dollars of printing and advertising now done outside of Canada will be done in the Dominion.

Pattern makers demand the fullest application of tariff duties to protect their trade.

Boot and Shoe workmen of Canada denounce the present tendency to lower tariff rates on both boots and shoes made outside Canada which is ruining their industry.

**CANADIAN WORKERS!**  
An adequate Tariff will protect you and  
**HELP ORGANIZED LABOR**

#### New Paper Mill for Manitoba

Winnipeg, Man.—A 200-ton paper mill, which will cost \$4,500,000, and give employment to 500 men annually, and to 1,200 for seven months of the year during the lumbering season, will be constructed at Fort Alexander, Manitoba, by the Spanish Pulp and Paper Company, in conjunction with the J. D. McArthur interests, of Winnipeg. It was announced here recently.

#### Protest Against Firemen Painting

Hamilton.—A deputation from the Painters' Union and the Trades and Labor Council recently protested to the Fire Committee of the City Council against firemen painting a fire hall when there were many unemployed. Chief James explained that it was a small painting job, but the committee decided to call for tenders.

#### Big Average Income

According to a statement by the Bankers' Trust Co., of New York, Canada is the only country where the income per capita is actually higher now than before the war. During the last ten years, according to this Company's figures, the per capita income in the case of Great Britain has fallen from \$236 to \$212, in the case of the U. S. from \$251 to \$231, while in the case of Canada, it has risen from \$250 to \$261.

### Abnormal Tax on Cigarettes and Tobacco Should be Reduced

THE TAX ON CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO FALLS HEAVILY ON THE WORKINGMAN, WE THEREFORE ASK YOU TO CO-OPERATE IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

IMPRESS UPON YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT THE FACT THAT WORKERS IN GENERAL, DEMAND A REDUCTION OF THE CIGARETTE AND TOBACCO TAX, THUS EQUALIZING THE PURCHASE PRICE OF CANADIAN CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO, WITH THE PRICE OF CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO IN THE UNITED STATES.

THIS WILL EFFECTIVELY STOP THE GIGANTIC SMUGGLING OPERATIONS OF CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO ACROSS THE BORDER. IT WILL ELIMINATE THIS UNFAIR COMPETITION, AND ENABLE OUR MANUFACTURERS TO SELL THEIR PRODUCT TO THE CANADIAN WORKINGMAN AT A GREATLY REDUCED PRICE, AND NATURALLY AFFORD MORE EMPLOYMENT TO CANADIAN LABOR.

WORKINGMEN! TAKE THIS MATTER UP IMMEDIATELY WITH THE MEMBER FROM YOUR DISTRICT.

Demand a Reduction of This Abnormal Tax!

#### Investigate Child Labor

A commission appointed by the administration at Shanghai, China, to investigate the conditions of child labor, recently reported that there are 4,500 boys and 18,000 girls under 12 years of age in the 275 factories investigated in Shanghai. Of the remainder 44,000 are men and boys above 12 years of age, and 106,000 are women and girls above 12 years of age. The children are accepted in the factories when they are six years of age. In 38 of the largest cotton industries 7,500 children under 12 and 61,000 women are employed. In the silk industry nearly 50 per cent of the children employed are under 12 years of age. The conditions of work are very severe. The factory hands, including women and children, work over twelve hours a day. Women and children do night work as well as the men.

Ottawa, Ont.—Estimates for the Department of Railways and Canals, covering improvements to the Champlain, Soulanges and other canals, to the extent of \$600,000 were passed in the House of Commons with little discussion.

#### Paper Mill Strike Still Unsettled

Fort William, Ont.—About 70 men will find work when the slusher at the Fort William paper mill will be put into service again. This work will be kept up until winter sets in, it is expected, without any let-up. The papermakers' strike, however, still is in progress and, as far as can be learned, without any decisive movement being made toward a settlement of the differences between the men concerned and the company.

#### New Merger

Montreal.—Nothing can shake the confidence of the street that the proposed merger of Asbestos companies has reached a point where nothing can prevent its consummation. The stocks naturally went off on news of a hitch having occurred in the negotiations, but they snapped back readily enough when frightened and hasty speculators had ceased selling. Present indications are that the consummation of the merger will be announced very soon or that negotiations will be started from another angle. From the source of some of the buying today, however, it seems rather likely that the present negotiations will carry.

A little higher in price, but—  
what a wonderful difference  
a few cents make

**PLAYER'S**  
NAVY CUT  
CIGARETTES

**King George's Navy**

That's real QUALITY tobacco

**CHEWING TOBACCO**

Smell that! See how moist and tough it is! That's what I call real chewing and no mistake about it! 25 cts.—the new low price for TWO plugs! Some buy! The finest in quality and value!

for 25c

Rockley Tobacco Co.