

Editorial Page of The Canadian Labor Press

J. A. P. RAYDON, M.C., Editor. A. B. BLACKBURN, Circulation Mgr.

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PRACTICAL BEST SUITED.

THROUGH the resignation from the Ontario Provincial Government of the Deputy Minister of Labor, Dr. W. A. Riddell, a vacancy now exists, and the Hon. W. Rollo is receiving lots of advice as to the qualifications the office calls for, more especially from sources who neither supported the minister nor colleagues of either section of the coalition party now controlling the legislative destiny of the province.

From the several sources of advice having no common interest in the advancement of the Labor-Farmer forces in the political field, there is a fearsome evidence in undercurrent tone that this position may not be filled by one whom college walls have not enclosed and science masters given instruction thereto, failure of such recognition being predicted to lead to an unsatisfactory appointment.

Work undertaken and directed from the viewpoint of general good can find a suitable supervisor from the ranks of organized labor, the college trained mind having no monopoly on the school of thought which enlarges vision to see other than from the section of society in which it is placed.

Gates closed to executive ability and control other than the college graduate is unthinkable and rules progress at one sweep out of court. The minister himself received the major portion of his training at Broom Factory, and his strong evidence of practicability reflects credit on the economic classes of the International Trade Union movement, a secondary training well fitting him for the responsible position he holds.

NOW THE TRIO.

"WELCOME to the ranks of directly represented workers in the legislative channels." This was an unwritten yet correctly interpreted message extended to Nova Scotia trade unionists, after the successful results of the recent elections had been made known.

The Labor and Farmer candidates received assistance from other provinces in direct platform. Organizer Varley, of the A.F. of L., being right in the fight, and trace of this source being effective is strongly in evidence, with the organized International Trade Union movement the undisputed proof on which the Labor campaign was fought and won.

Looking at the fingerpost there can be no mistake in reading same, that to have elections in any of the provinces means the success of candidates carrying the banner of the workers' party. The same message has similar interpretation to Federal elections, whenever they may be called. There is but one danger to this

ATTACKS ONTARIO GOVERNMENT AND UPHOLDS PRESIDENT MOORE.

The Provincial Hydro-Electric Commission is the creature of the Ontario Legislature. Its drastic regulations affecting the rights of Labor officials should be carefully reviewed by the Cabinet of the Farmer-Labor Government, and if the ethics of capitalism are being applied to a great Government undertaking the most effective remedy should be applied. The U. P. O. Labor Government is committed to the development of natural resources of the province for the benefit of the people, and it can be of tremendous service at this time in seeing that the development of power at Chippawa is carried on in the interests of the people as a whole.

In the above language the Industrial Banner, in a long article, concludes a summary of the very unsatisfactory conditions now prevailing on the development work at the Chippawa Canal. It will be remembered that some few weeks ago the workers resumed work, under protest, owing to their being compelled to toil in some cases on a ten-hour day basis, while many of the existing conditions and privileges were withdrawn by the Hydro-Electric Commission.

When Premier Drury appointed a "dual commission" to investigate the Hydro-Radial proposals, President Tom Moore, of the Trades and Labor Congress, while addressing the Ottawa Trades and Labor Council, stated quite frankly Labor's objection thereto, a summary of which appeared in these columns at the time.

In the dying days of the last session of the Ontario Legislature the workers on the development work of the Chippawa Canal threatened a general strike. Some of the Labor members of the Ontario Legislature visited the scene of operations and pleaded with the workers to remain at work and they would use their good offices to have a commission appointed to investigate the dispute. The men agreed to the proposal and remained on duty.

The members returned to Toronto and attempted to have a commission appointed. Premier Drury would not appoint one, stating that the Government had full confidence in the Hydro-Electric Commission. This, however, did not meet with the general approval of the Labor Group and under pressure Premier Drury appointed a committee from the Legislature to investigate the dispute. The committee had no powers, and, as we have previously stated, would have had less had it not been for Mayor McBride, one of the Labor members of the committee. However, the committee did investigate the dispute and two reports were laid before the Premier. The majority report, among other things, recommended the basic eight-hour day and that the trades unions be given full recognition. This report was pigeonholed and nothing has ever been heard of it since it was presented. Premier Drury took a complete somersault on the question of Hydro-Radials, and he set up a "dual commission" to investigate the whole matter before the Government would guarantee the bonds. Apparently it makes some difference whose ox is being gored.

Organized Labor, through the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada—that body which speaks with authority for the great producing masses of this Dominion—has insisted that the personnel of the present Provincial Hydro-Electric Commission be enlarged to five members, and that Labor be given a place thereon. When Labor's demands were presented to the Ontario Government on Feb. 23, 1926, John Fleet, general organizer of the American Federation of Labor, stated Labor's demands in the respect before the Government and in doing so advanced good and sufficient reason why Labor should have a voice on the Hydro-Electric Commission. On the one hand a strike is threatened among the co-operative employees unless an agreement is reached with the directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society at a

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

OUR WEEKLY BRITISH LETTER.

LONDON, Eng., (Saturday).—In the British Labor world a quiet spell is expected while the leaders of the Miners' Federation, headed by Robert Smillie, are meeting their international "brethren of the pick" at the conference in Geneva, and at the same time the Independent Labor Party, including J. H. Thomas and J. Ramsay MacDonald, are attending the second international in the same city. The Independent Labor Party has received a bombshell in its midst in the shape of a reply from the executive committee of the Third International in England to the effect that Communism must of necessity be evolved through revolution and bloodshed, and that, to the effect of Communism in England, the workers should prepare, not for an easy parliamentary victory, but for a victory by heavy civil war. This is reported to be the substance of the questions addressed by the Independent Labor party conference, inquiring as to the programme and conditions of affiliation with the Moscow International.

Rest Strike Likely.

Harry Gosling, president of the Transport Workers' Federation, is of the opinion that there is real danger of a rest strike. The National Union of Former Service Men is reported to be organizing such a strike as a means of bringing down prices, and co-operation of the trade unions is being invited. The date of the strike is to be announced on August 27.

The idea of the proposed strike is that the landlords will be powerless to set against thousands of tenants, and will be compelled to bring pressure to bear on Parliament to reduce the cost of living, the proposal being to confine the strike until prices fall 20 per cent.

On the return of the miners' leaders from Geneva, a national conference of miners will take place on August 12 in London to decide the course of action in regard to the miners' demands for a reduction in the price of coal and an increase of wages. A crisis on this account is anticipated by the middle of September. It was evident from the action taken at the Leamington conference that a strike ballot would be taken, but, without doubt, efforts will be made to reopen negotiations and the fight will probably be concentrated on the increased wages demand and the claim for cheaper transport.

Co-operative Societies' Protest. On the one hand a strike is threatened among the co-operative employees unless an agreement is reached with the directors of the Co-operative Wholesale Society at a

conference next Wednesday, and on the other hand, the Middle Classes Union is demanding that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should impose a tax on co-operative societies on the same lines as that which is now borne by limited liability companies in order to insure an equitable distribution of the burden of taxation on all classes of the community.

Far these societies, which are really trading companies, have escaped tax, and it is now conceded that such of the profits of the co-operative societies as are not distributed in dividends, but are carried to the reserve, shall be subject to taxation, which, in a small degree, would be the effect of the new Middle Classes Union.

Six unions of cable workers are taking a ballot on the question of ceasing work to enforce a claim for advance in wages of 15s. per week for all workers aged 18 and over. The Cablemakers' Association, following meetings of the industrial council, made what is described as a final offer of a further wage advance of 5s. per week. The ballot expects state that the offer, in the opinion of the affiliated societies, is wholly unsatisfactory and the ballot is returnable by August 8.

Many branches of the engineering and shipbuilding unions are dissatisfied with the refusal of the Industrial Court to award the further increase of wages demanded, and a national conference of all the unions in the federation of engineering and shipbuilding is being called for Friday next in London to consider the situation. One of the proposals made is to abandon arbitration and to enter into negotiations between the employers and the unions.

The Industrial Court has also decided the claims of the National Union of Railwaymen for an increase for the men employed in the railway companies' electrical power and substations. The court has accepted the contention of the railway companies that the London district rates be confirmed and be extended to similar grades in the provinces, less 10 per cent. except in Glasgow, Liverpool and Manchester, where the rates would be 5 per cent. less than in London. The Industrial Court also turned down the claim of the London County Council Tramway employees for an increase of 10s. per hour, stating that the claim of the men is not established.

Union Threats Repudiated. Councillor Tom Kirk, secretary of the West Hants branch of the National Union of Railwaymen, has spoken very frankly about the question of direct action of British Labor to enforce a withdrawal of troops from Ireland by the Government, calling the agitation in favor of direct action a piece of bluff directed by the most unscrupulous of men, they are supposed to represent. "A political strike is not the aim of the great moment. The extremists might be able to call a strike, but the men will not come out. I look forward to the day when the Government and the Irish extremists through the Irish Labor party, have received a severe jolt; the Irish delegates have definitely repudiated the idea of any negotiations with the Government, and, inferentially, have declined to recognize or take part in any approach of the British Labor union might make to the Cabinet. The question will probably be resubmitted to the next annual Trades Union Congress at Portsmouth on September 14.

"UPLIFTERS" MUST PAY. A jury has awarded damages in the sum of \$2,500 to William McCue against the Russell Sage foundation. The young man's picture was printed in a book published by the foundation with the legend "The toughest kid in hell's kitchen." McCue proved that he was never arrested or charged with delinquency in any form, and when his picture was taken he was told it was for boys' scout purposes. In refusing a new trial for the defendant Justice Ford paid his respects to "uplifters" and reformers in general. "There is not a scintilla of evidence that this boy was tough; it is a wicked libel," said the court. "That is the great trouble with these movements. They think that where there is poverty there must be criminality. As a matter of fact, in those humble little homes in the very section pictured in this book will be found more Christian piety, more devotion to real duty, more of the sterling qualities of humanity than will be found in the mansions along Fifth avenue. These people from their great height of self-conscious righteousness and superior excellence peer down on a discussion of the humble beliefs as though they were so many cobblestones in the street, without any regard at all for their feelings or their rights in the community. "No man can or does believe exactly as his grandfather believed," said the court. "Reasoning is getting some knowledge from other knowledge." —Jevons.

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Here's To Woman. Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal.—Can. Women to sit on juries in Britain. Women jurors were empanelled in England for the first time last week, when six women formed a part of the jury in the Bristol quarter sessions. The women sat throughout the day and heard six cases tried, but at the close of the proceedings two of the women, mothers, asked to be excused from further service, owing to the claim upon them by their children. The judge granted their request and two other women immediately volunteered and were selected.

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BRITISH WOMEN'S WORKING HOURS. The British Parliament has recently had before it a bill seeking to give statutory effect to the decisions of the League of Nations industrial conference at Washington. On the second reading of the bill, an amazing clause which has been designated "the clause" and a betrayal of the Washington conference, received the strongest opposition, so that at the close of the evening's debate, Major Baird, Undersecretary for the Home Office, gave the impression that that night's discussion had marked the last of the proposal. The clause in question read: "Notwithstanding anything contained in the Factory and Workshop Act, 1917, it shall, subject to any conditions prescribed by the Secretary of State, be lawful at any time between 6 in the morning and 10 in the evening on any weekday, other than Saturday, to employ women and young persons in shifts, averaging for each shift not more than eight hours per day."

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