

CANADIAN LABOR PRESS

A National, Sane Labor Paper

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

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Woodworking Trade Has a Big Future Before It

Training at Technical Institute Gives Opportunity to Become Conversant With All Phases of This Work Training Beneficial to Mechanics.

By E. Evans.

Let us consider, for a moment, what is expected of a boy who comes, as a pupil, to the woodshop of the Hamilton Technical Institute. He is first given a blueprint or drawing, representing some object which is to be constructed. He is required to read it, and by the aid of his knowledge of mechanical drawing, to visualize the actual object for which the drawing stands. Then, from his knowledge of the characteristics of timber, he is asked to choose the most suitable kind of wood, and to estimate, from the drawing, the number and size of the various pieces required for the job.

Next comes the analysis of the job into a series of operations, and the arrangement of the order in which they are to be carried out. Also the choice of the most suitable method, when more than one way of working presents itself. Then the carrying out of each operation in a workmanlike manner, using tools and machines accurately and according to correct mechanical principles and standard shop practice. Finally the assembling of the parts into the completed object, represented by the drawing from which the work was begun.

As the pupil advances in the course he is called upon to supply details in design, construction, or methods of working, until, at its completion, he is capable of carrying a job through, without aid.

In the Hamilton Technical Institute four courses in woodwork are offered. First, an elementary course for the pupils of the preparatory classes. This course resembles somewhat the manual training course of our public schools, but stresses, particularly, proper methods of using, sharpening and caring for wood-working tools and correct shop practice in performing simple operations, rather than in attempting to develop initiative and invention. After successfully completing the course in elementary woodworking, the pupil may choose a course in either carpentry, cabinet work or pattern-making.

Complete Course.

The carpentry course covers complete instruction in house building, from the making of a cellar window frame, and the laying of ground floor joists to the placing of ridge boards, and the fitting of locks and hinges.

The course in patternmaking is worked from a series of blueprints, beginning with the simplest, kind of one-piece pattern and working up to complicated, built-up, split and cored patterns. Part of the equip-

ment of this shop consists of four patternmakers' lathes, many intricate pulleys, molding sand, snap blocks and molding tools.

A General Knowledge.

The course of cabinetmaking consists of the working up of various kinds of hard woods, and the design and construction of cabinets and furniture in general. Combined with this is the setting up, operation and care of woodworking machinery. A battery of 18 new lathes has just been hooked up, which will add considerably to the future interest in this course. The equipment, besides the lathes, consists of a planer, jointer, hand saw and table saw, together with a tool grinder and saw-filing machine. There are also over 80 woodworking benches, each equipped with a complete set of tools.

Individual Check.

A card system keeps track of each individual boy's work every day, checking him up on the quality and accuracy of his work after each operation.

The boy who completes a course in the technical institute has many advantages over the boy who is trained in a shop. The school is fitted for its work and its instructors are especially trained. A broad and basic aspect of the trade is presented, and the intellectual viewpoint is stressed at every possible angle.

Beneficial Training.

When the technically trained boy obtains a position he receives higher wages, wins promotion more quickly and is less liable to be laid off during slack seasons. He is better fitted to adapt himself to the rapid changes through which industry is progressing and has some educational foundation on which, if he is ambitious, he may build his future career.

Opportunities for employment are many and varied. A government bulletin names over 2,000 large firms in Ontario alone manufacturing wood products. To this can be added all those contractors engaged in construction work and thousands of small shops, employing a few men; and all industries complain of the lack of brain and intelligent young men, who are capable of advancing to positions of trust and responsibility.

Scarcity of Workmen

There has been for some time a great shortage of men in all types of construction work.

How much better for everybody for workmen to be trained in our schools, in what is, in the final reckoning, the most economical way for the public as a whole, as well as the most efficient and thorough way for both the helper and his employer.

As a majority of the local branch decided to change union affiliation, it was felt that the money of the branch belonged to them, while the Toronto officials dispute this.

"Jerry" O'Brien Will Provide Men

Sufficient labor to build the viaduct will be furnished to Mayor Hiltz within a week, is the promise of "Jerry" O'Brien of the Employment Association of Canada. When it became known that the Minister of Railways would introduce a bill to provide the Canadian National Railways with funds for its share of the project, O'Brien and his colleagues of the association commenced the collection of names of men who needed work and would accept it on the viaduct. In a short while they had collected three hundred. O'Brien informed Mayor Hiltz recently that he would be able to give the Mayor the names of 5,000 within the next few days who are willing to work on the viaduct, and are waiting for it.

Inverness Miners in Distress

Inverness, N.S.—On June 6th the Inverness mine was closed. Coal mining was the only industry in the town. Upon this one industry 3,500 people depended for a living. With the closing of the mine, the only source from which the people could derive a livelihood was cut off. For some time previous to the closing of the mine, on June 6th, work had been very irregular, so that the workmen were in no condition to undergo a protracted period of idleness.

The miners are now on their fifth week of enforced idleness, and the situation at Inverness has become alarmingly serious. Many families are entirely destitute and depend entirely upon private charity to keep them from starving.

The farmers from the surrounding countryside have been for some time past contributing what they can of farm produce to help the most needy cases. But this is far from sufficient to meet the situation; and even this cannot long continue. If outside relief is not forthcoming, there are likely to be deaths from starvation in Inverness.

One family was discovered in which there were five young children; this family had been for three days subsisting on one meal a day—and that "meal" consisted of a little cod-fish contributed by some charitable fisherman. It is pitiable to visit some of the miners' homes and listen to the little children crying for a drink of milk, while a worn and worried mother tries to pacify them and substitute water for the milk which she cannot afford to buy.

Trade Union Movement in Latvia

The Baltic state of Latvia, which, like its neighbors Estonia and Lithuania, owes its independent existence to the war and the Treaty of Versailles, is predominantly agricultural.

Before the war it had indeed developed a comparatively flourishing industry, but this was brought to a standstill at the very beginning of the war as a result of the requisitions of the Russian Army. What remained of it has since been almost totally destroyed, partly during the war itself, and partly in consequence of the devastating effects of successive occupations by the Russian Communists, and by the white army of Bermont, and of the temporary domination of the Communists of Latvia itself. Before the war there were 150,000 industrial workers in the provinces which now form the state of Latvia; now there are only 34,000, out of a total population of 2,100,000.

Before the war Riga, which is now the capital of the little state, had several factories employing over 6,000 workers; one indeed gave work to as many as 12,000. To-day there are only a few factories which employ more than 100. The once flourishing metal industry has now almost entirely disappeared; the chemical industry has also suffered a very serious decline. In former days Lettish industry found its chief market in the interior of Russia and this market it has now lost. The chief articles of export at present are timber and flax.

Seventy-eight per cent. of the population of Latvia is Lettish. The foreign population, which chiefly consists of Germans, Russians and Jews, mostly reside in the large towns. The people are mainly Protestant, but the Church has little influence, which is in sharp contrast with Catholic Lithuania, where, as in Poland, the clerics exercise great power. Latvia contains scarcely any illiterates, and the same may be said of Estonia, where the cultural and economic conditions are very similar to those of Latvia. In Lithuania, as in Poland, some 50 per cent. of the population are unable to read and write.

Socialist policy aims at the establishment of a Federated States of the Baltic, consisting of Latvia, with a little over two millions, Lithuania with two million five hundred thousand, and Estonia with two million six hundred thousand inhabitants. These efforts have hitherto met with no great success, but a military convention has already been concluded between Latvia and Estonia, and a customs and commercial agreement between these states is now under consideration. Although the peoples of Latvia and Lithuania are of the same race and speak the same language, the relations between them are not so close

Plumbers' Strike

Union Official Says Trouble Will Be Settled Shortly

Hamilton, Ont.—That the plumbers' strike would be settled within a few more days, was a statement made by an official of the Plumbers' Union. Already between twenty and thirty shops have signed up and agreed to give the men the wages demanded, and by the end of this week the remaining bosses, it is expected will also sign up. About forty of the plumbers who went on-strike are back at work again. Several of the men, believing that the strike might last for a long time, left the city, it is stated, and have found work in other places.

May Exempt Hydro Men From Agreem't

Winnipeg, Man.—Exemption of the hydro's linemen from the city's working agreement, which forbids their affiliation with outside unions, will be discussed by the civic legislation and wage committee.

An application on behalf of the hydro linemen has been made to Hon. James Murdock, minister of labor, to have a board of conciliation appointed to consider this move.

The minister recently wrote the city, stating that the cabinet was not prepared to take any action until it knew the city's position and whether or not it would be prepared to name a member for the board.

The Organization of French Capital

Billiet, the French Stigme

In pre-war days it was only the Americans who enjoyed the privilege of uniting economic, financial and political power in a single person. In the United States there have long been oil-kings, steel-kings, and coal-kings. But now the Old World has learnt the lesson of the New, and some of the greatest countries of Europe are following very closely in the footsteps of their American predecessor. In Germany, Stinnes' name is in all mouths. In the case of France, the talk is more of a syndicate, the notorious "Comite des Forges." But in this case too, the real driving power is concentrated in the hands of a single person. The Stigme of France is named Billiet. Billiet is the president of the "Union des Interests Economiques" (U. I. E.) the great Federation of Economic Interests of France.

We find the name of Billiet figuring very prominently in all the plots and intrigues of "high finance," and it is significant that Billiet was the first person who was received by Millerand in the Elysee after the fall of Poincare. Poincare himself is Billiet's obedient servant, and all that he does is in accordance with the will of this "power behind the throne." Billiet is the leader of the great election campaign of the National Block. For this purpose the sum of 300 million francs was raised by voluntary contribution and placed at his disposal by the industrialists, the big banks, the insurance companies, and the speculators. He has already organized the publication and distribution of thousands of placards and millions of leaflets, by means of which he strives to incite the peasants against the workers, and to throw dust in the eyes of the population of the rural districts, persuading them that urban workers have a splendid time. He it was who issued the notorious placard, to be seen on every wall, representing a worker with a knife between his teeth, a placard which is well calculated to strike fear to the hearts of the middle classes. Of recent times Billiet has begun to make use of the cinema. He is offering propaganda films free of charge throughout the whole country. A letter sent with one of these fell by chance into the hands of one of our comrades. In this letter Billiet writes:—"We have issued two propaganda films. One, 'The Threat,' is a romantic comedy, illustrating the dangers of the capital levy; the other 'Line Engaged,' is an amusing farce,

showing up the inefficiency of the telephone monopoly."

It is now a matter of common knowledge that Billiet has so great an influence over Poincare that he has even persuaded him to hand over to a friend of his own the State monopoly in matches. Billiet himself already controls the sugar industry, oil, the mines etc., etc. But as there are not nearly enough for him, he is now manoeuvring to put an end to the state tobacco monopoly, although during the period of the state management (from 1913 onwards) the profits have risen from 436,000,000 to 1,300,000,000 francs. He would also like to annex the telegraphs and telephones, the railways and arsenals, and a few other industries. It was to please him that Poincare broke his promise to bring in a bill for workers' insurance during the present parliamentary session.

Only a short time ago it seemed as if the power of Billiet and the U. I. E. were practically unlimited. At the last congress of the U. I. E., every effort was made to convert into warm supporters the members of the Federation which represent the retail tradespeople and the middle-class consumers. But since that time so many of the profiteering intrigues of the big capitalists have been brought to light that many of the tradespeople and consumers are now by no means so favourably disposed to Billiet and the U. I. E. as they were. Quite recently some 52,000 of the tradespeople of Western and Eastern France made for the first time a decided pronouncement against the Federation.

One of these adversaries, himself formerly a member of the Federation, made the following blunt statement in a letter to the official organ of the U. I. E.:—"It is not the retail traders who pay for the sensational placards of the U. I. E., but the banks, insurance companies, trusts, cartels, etc. These people are eager to bring the retail people finally under the yoke of the Money International." The U. I. E. makes scapegoats of the retail people, using them to hide the fact that it is really the producers who are charging exorbitant prices for their goods."

This cooling-off of the tradespeople and middle-class consumers is of great importance in view of the approaching elections, for it may prove to be a decisive factor in a general move to the Left, such as seems to be foreshadowed by the formation of Poincare's new cabinet.

Not Asked to Join Union, He Claims

Declares Ficketing of Theatres Started by International Officers

Hamilton, Ont.—Claiming that he had not been asked to join the local Theatrical Workers' Union, and that the insinuation that the "Red Mill" was employing non-union help, was hardly justified, as he was receiving the union scale and was at perfect liberty to join if he desired, the operator at the theatre resents an article published in connection with the fight at present taking place.

"I was not wanted in the union after coming back from overseas and studying operating in a vocational training class," said the operator. "The admission fee was raised from \$25 to \$50 when I made application. Furthermore, I was informed, there were no sick or accident benefits. I have a family of eight to feed, and think that amount would be better spent on insurance of some kind."

"This agitation is being conducted by international officers from New York. Why did they allow me to work for eight months with a pianist who belonged to the union? And why were not the local officers men enough to come and ask for me to join the union if they wanted me in it?"

J. Roberts President Hamilton T. & L. C.

Hamilton, Ont.—Officers of the local Trades and Labor Council were elected recently as follows:

President, J. Roberts; Vice-President, George Kerslake; Corresponding Secretary, Bert Purrey; Recording Secretary, Arthur Blackwell; Financial Secretary, William Jarman; Sergeant-at-Arms, William J. Burr; Auditors, Messrs. W. Buck, A. Manfredi, W. J. Allan and W. Allan; Trustees, H. Little, G. Sharp and H. L. Asselstine; Executive Council, Messrs. R. Riley, H. S. Mitchell, J. Wharrie, A. Boyd, G. Kerslake, B. B. Hampson, Ald. S. Lawrence, B. Purrey, A. Blythe, A. Blackwell and Ald. C. I. Aitchison. The Organization Committee is composed of R. Riley, F. Kristoff, W. Guck, J. Turner, J. Pryke and Harry Roberts.

The chief objection to the plain people is that some of them are so darned plain.

Take Court Action Over Funds of Union

Disputes Change in Carpenters' Labor Affiliation

Ottawa, Ont.—The decision of the majority of the Ottawa members of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners to leave the British labor organization and affiliate with the International United Brotherhood of Carpenters, is the cause of an action being started in the Supreme Court of Ontario.

The writ has been issued by Lieutenant-Col. L. P. Sherwood, acting for the executive of the British organization, which has Canadian headquarters in Toronto. It is against the former officers of the Ottawa branch, Messrs. D. Rankin, C. A. Nichols, George Woodruff and A. J. Page. An accounting of all monies and property is asked and also the return of such money and property to the Canadian executive.

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Editorial Page of 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.

Canada and the New Emigration Law

Canada stands to benefit materially by the new United States Immigration Quota Law, which came into effect at midnight on June 30th. It will be of advantage to the Dominion in two ways, first, by the very considerable reduction of all quotas, and second, by the provision that restricts immigration from Canada by barring out all but Canadian-born or Canadian citizens resident in the Dominion for ten years or more, as compared with the present regulation that practically puts a one-year resident in Canada on a par with a bona fide Canadian citizen.

A study of the new Quota Law indicates that while the year just ending permitted an immigration into the United States of 803, under the new law the year's total will work out at 161,990, or less than one-half the previous figure. It is further apparent that all countries except France, which never reached its full quota, will have exhausted their quotas for the year, certainly before it is half over, and that the remaining prospective emigrants will require, as an alternative, to consider the prospects and possibilities of Canada, contiguous to the United States as the country most suited to their requirements.

Under the new law, requiring a ten years' residence in Canada, this country will cease to be the stopping-off place for Britishers and Europeans destined to the United States as their permanent place of residence, which will doubtless cause more United States steamship companies to divert their liners to Canadian ports.

Eight-Hour Day Use Growing in Canada

A preliminary report has been issued by the Federal department of labor showing the prevalence of the 8-hour day or 48-hour week in Canada. The report is based on organizations with fifteen or more employees and covers ninety per cent. of employees, except those in agriculture, fishing, etc. At the end of October last, 54.22 per cent. of all were on the 8-hour day or 48-hour week. A similar inquiry in June, 1918, revealed that approximately 50 per cent. were on the 8-hour day at that time.

The following are the percentages of employees in certain industries working 48 hours per week: Logging, 19.23; mining, 62.61; manufacturing, including printing, publishing and the production of electric current, 33.81; construction, 21.04; transportation, 91.50; communication, 21.04; trade, 62.45; services, including municipal employees, hotel and restaurant, laundries, hospitals, etc., 56.48.

Workmen's Compensation

The benefits awarded under the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Act during the half year ending June 30 amounted to \$3,092,998, as compared with \$2,956,547 during the corresponding half of the year 1923. The compensation for the half year amounted to \$2,667,959 and the medical aid to \$425,039.

The number of accidents for the past half year was 28,204, of which 171 were fatal, as against 27,745 for the corresponding half of 1923, of which 169 were fatal.

The daily average of benefits for the half year was \$19,827, and the average number of cheques issued daily was 609.

During the month of June 4,465 accidents were reported, of which 22 were fatal. The benefits for June amounted to \$481,793.

Going Around the Circle

An Ottawa newspaper announced the other day that stone-masons in that city have agreed with builders for a wage rate of \$1.10 per hour for the current season. The men were asking \$1.25 per hour. They compromised on the other figure, which is ten cents greater than last year's rate. Bricklayers, the newspaper says, are also asking for \$1.25. Agreement with them was not made at the time of the above report.

On the same date the intimation appeared in the press that wheat would likely go up this year to \$1.25 per bushel. Possibly before Christmas it might be \$1.35. This is a report from the United States. The reason given is that a decline of crops in the United States and Canada is expected.

There are many people in Canada who talk a good deal about making this country a cheap place to live in. We are not fascinated by the argument of such people. When we look at the countries of the world in which living is cheap we are not favorably impressed. The more important problem, we think, is to level conditions as far as possible. If it comes to pass that wheat goes up in price we will bear a good deal less about "cheapness" from one quarter, to wit, the Western provinces.

We believe in the workman being paid substantial wages. But he must expect the cost of living to respond to the level of such wages. The more he is paid the higher the cost of living is bound to go. He cannot have increased wages and reduced cost of living. The man who pays the wages must get the money from some one; and that one must get it from some other person. The burden of keeping up the level of wages inevitably becomes a charge on everyone; and the wage earner cannot escape his share of the burden.

The builder who pays \$1.10 an hour to his stone-masons and brick-layers, and proportionate wages to other mechanics, is compell-

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ed to charge those rates against the person for whom he is building. That person, if he is a merchant or a professional man, is compelled to add the increased cost to his bills against customers and clients. The man who is getting the \$1.10 may be among the first who have thus to respond. If not the first he will certainly be gripped at a later stage.

Labor and Politics

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, has made it clear that organized labor as a body is not behind the movement launched at Cleveland for the nomination of La Follette as candidate of a third party for the presidency. Mr. Gompers takes the view that the American Federation of Labor is a labor, not a political organization, and can achieve greater results in politics by devotion to principles rather than to parties. Therefore he warns against association with any third party. The effect of third party movements, he says, is to weaken the progressive cause, because it is the progressive vote that is divided, not the conservative.

This helps to an understanding why the forces of conservatism are so strong politically. Their tendency is to stay united; the natural tendency of the progressives is to split. It sounds like a paradox, that the spirit of progress tends to impose a check on itself; but it is to be remembered that the real strength of a progressive movement is not always indicated by its voting power.

Canadian Fur Workers' Conference

While Montrealers were sweltering in the heat, delegates representing Canadian locals of the International Fur Workers' Union were meeting in annual conference in the Windsor, to discuss questions affecting its production of next winter's warm-giving clothing.

Conditions of the fur industry in Canada were reviewed and plans for future activities were made. It was announced that the international union intends starting a general organization campaign. The union at present has about 15,000 members, of whom about 1,500 are in Canada, according to Morris Kaufman, general president.

One of the questions discussed was a new agreement with Toronto firms. The present agreement expires on August 15, but no change in the wage scale will be demanded, although amendments to the working conditions probably will be requested, it was said. The Montreal agreement does not expire until next January.

Newest Postmen in Line for Jobs

Those Who "Made Good" Will Be Absorbed Into Permanent Staff

Instructions which have been sent out by the Post Office Department in regard to the reorganization of the postal services in places affected by the recent strike were explained at the department as meaning that all men taken on during the strike who make good and display the necessary fitness will be kept on and absorbed into the permanent service and those who fail to measure up will be let go.

All half-time men who went on strike will be dispensed with. There has been no decision as yet concerning the strikers who have returned to work, but they are engaged meanwhile as helpers and paid at that rate, regardless of their previous rank. Eventually they probably will get back their old positions, save those to be retired under the Calder Act, of whom the number is considerable. In appointments to these permanent positions it is stated that those taken on during the strike and proving satisfactory will have every consideration.

Must Employ Township Labor

Small Numbers of York Township Men Employed on Sewer Work

Many complaints have been received at the various ratepayers' meetings on the small number of township men employed on the sewer work recently started in York Township, but according to the contractors, this will be rectified when a reasonable portion of the various trunks and laterals are started.

To Investigate Fatal Mine Explosion

New Glasgow, N.S.—J. E. McLurg, Vice-president of the British Empire Steel Corporation, visited the Allan Shaft here where four miners were killed and seven injured, but no explosion as to the cause of the explosion was given out. The affected area was walled off and danger if fire in the mine is believed to have been eliminated.

Ontario Scents a Farmers' Strike

Agriculturists Are Producing Only Enough for Their Own Needs

Toronto, Ont.—According to W. O. Galloway, director of the statistics and publications branch of the provincial department of agriculture, many official reports have been received by the department which would indicate that there is a movement resembling a farmers' strike among farmers in Ontario. Reports from numerous counties, it is said, suggest that agriculturists are producing only enough for their own needs, and are deliberately depreciating the values of their farms by neglecting improvements.

The situation is attributed by Thos. McGillicuddy, of the same branch, to the fact that "produce sells so cheaply farmers quit producing for market purposes." Statistics are given which show a decrease for the year 1923 in production of fall and spring wheat, oats and rye.

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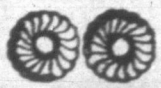
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OUR HOME PAGE



HOUSEHOLD NOTES

EARLY CABBAGE SALAD.

Chop a small crisp head of cabbage with one onion. Fry until brown a slice of salt pork cut into cubes, using as much fat as is needed for the dressing. Season with salt and pepper and pour the hot fat and pork cubes over the salad. In the frying pan heat enough vinegar to the boiling point to season the salad and pour that boiling hot over the salad. Mix well, keep warm and serve while still warm.

CHEESE DISH.

This is very substantial, good and easy to prepare, only requiring about ten minutes. Grate into a lined saucepan one-half pound cheese, over the cheese sprinkle one-fourth teaspoonful each of ground mustard, salt and bicarbonate of soda, one teaspoonful flour, a dash of red pepper and then add one-half pint of milk; mix well, place over a slow fire to melt; allow it to cook, stirring all the time, until like nice thick cream. Place slices of thin brown toast on a warm plate, pour the cooked cheese over it and serve hot. The flour keeps the cheese from curdling or becoming stringy.

YOU-AND-I SPONGE CAKE.

Beat the yoke of two eggs till light. Add one-half cupful of sifted sugar and one-eighth teaspoonful of cream of tartar dissolved in one teaspoonful of cold water. Beat again till very light. Add the grated rind of one-fourth of a lemon or orange. Then add alternately one-half cupful of sifted flour and stiffly-beaten egg-whites. Bake in a lightly greased and floured pan for forty minutes or in pattypan.

THE EDICINE BOTTLE.

Always pour medicines from the side of the bottle opposite to that on which the directions are printed. Then there will be no difficulty in reading the label in case of renewal.

TO REMOVE GRASS STAINS.

When children get grass stains on white linen trousers or dresses, if the garments are put into kerosene and washed until the stain is removed, they may then be laundered and will come out white and clean.

HOME HINTS

Sandpaper the soles of baby's new shoes before they are worn and save the child a nasty fall.

When putting away stores for the summer, apply kerosene with a cloth and it will prevent rusting.

Do not allow the sun to beat upon your mirror. It will become dull. Heat causes a chemical disintegration of the quicksilver.

Perspiration stains may be removed from white clothes by dampening the garment with lemon-juice and salt before it is put into soap and water.

Nickel trimmings on the gas stove will look much brighter if washed with warm water in which two table-spoonfuls of kerosene have been stirred.

When whipping cream, if you add about seven drops of lemon-juice to a pint of cream, it will beat up firm in about half the time otherwise required.

By using wax crayons, while the jars are hot you can label your fruit. It will not rub off when cold but can be washed off with hot water when you wish.

To clean polished floors, sprinkle thickly with fine cornmeal. Use clean mop and scrub meal vigorously over floor. Then sweep off and the floors will look like new.

Asparagus should always be cooked without a cover on the utensil which hold it. This also applies to green peas the reason being that the color is well preserved in this way.

For savory sandwich fillings—in an emergency—try mashing together oil sardines and hard-boiled eggs. Use beet-juice to reduce the mixture to a consistency or spreading and add pink color.

The blackest mildew stains can be removed from white goods by boiling in water to which two table-spoonfuls of peroxide have been added for each quart of water. It will remove almost any other stain as well.



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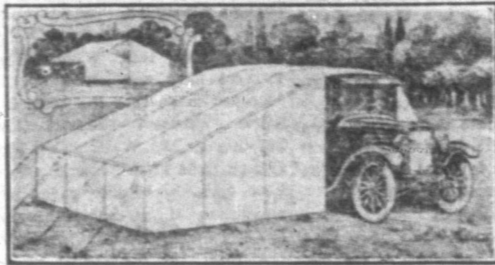
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"The Twilight of the Gods"

One of the most striking books published during the war was "The Biology of War," written by a German philosopher, Dr. G. F. Nicolai. The book attracted great attention, both at the time of its publication and since, for the author combines great scientific knowledge with an outstanding capacity for tracing the broader outlines and tendencies of the events with which he deals. The following quotation is taken from a chapter entitled, "The Extinction of the Gigantic": "When we speak of the dying out of the gigantic, we are referring to one of the most important principles of natural selection, a principle which may be clearly deduced from the very earliest records of geology. Our discoveries of bones show us that animals grow and grow for thousands of years, and then, when they are very large, and apparently all-powerful, they suddenly die out. This is a well-established fact. Hence there is some consolation for us in the steady growth of war. When something has to die a natural death, it must first have grown very very large, it must have reached the maximum of growth possible to it. For instance, mice have not died out in Germany, but only the aurochs, the bison, the bear and the wolf. In Nature, it is only the gigantic which dies. But everything that is big will and must die, because in its obedience to the inescapable law of growth, it grows beyond the measure of the possible. This is the inner meaning of the words "twilight of the gods," which are so comprehensible to the scientist and yet so mysterious. The god of war, too, will be hurled down from the highest pinnacle of his power. I think everyone who is an impartial observer of the present war will see much that will foreshadow to him the approaching end of war. . . . Already the battlefield is abandoned by the general, and even by the soldier. The one sits at the telephone in a private house, the other keeps a sharp lookout in the trenches. Not one of us can fall to be struck by the fact that the battle-field is already becoming something of a secondary consideration. This foreshadowing has been confirmed by the latest discoveries in "scientific" war materials. These all seem to point to the possibility that in the next war the battle-field may be quite unimportant, the outcome of a

war being decided behind the front by gas attacks on large towns. Already there is a current saying that "the only safe place in the next war will be the trenches." There has recently been another move in this direction: A story is now travelling round the world of the "deadly ray" discovered by Grindell Mathews, an English scientist. It is said that this ray can bring the engines of aircraft to a standstill, explode munitions depots and kill men or put them out of action, all from a great distance off. It can either be directed against a special point, or applied over a large area—which, of course greatly enhances its fatal power. No doubt science will at once apply itself to the task of discovering some means of self-defence, and equally certain it will be successful. But war will be made more expensive than ever, and so difficult that Nicolai's prophecy may be realized sooner than is expected. War will then die of its own bigness or, in other words, of the horror of its possibilities. This ancient barbarous method of settling disputes will then cease to be of any use, because its apparatus, like that of some ingenious, but too-complicated machine, will not work when it comes to be practically applied, and will entail too many risks. Still more, the present developments of scientific research point to the emergence of a factor which will perhaps contribute more than any other to the general acceptance of the principle of the peaceful settlement of disputes: War will certainly cease, when those who desire it and work for it are brought up against the ever-increasing probability that in future there will be no more victories, simply because everyone and everything (including the war-makers themselves) will have gone down in a common destruction. Such discoveries as this of the "deadly ray" are bringing that moment nearer.

Montreal, Que.—The Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees have opened a Montreal office here for the central region. The headquarters of the C.R.R.E. is at Ottawa. Other railway organizations which have offices in Montreal are Division 1, railway employees department, American Federation of Labor and the Railway Car-men of America.

Many People Suicide in Austria

Vienna.—Five hundred suicides in six weeks is the record of Vienna. The daily papers carry a regular column entitled, Die Lebensmüde (Tired of Life.) All classes are victims of the suicide epidemic, the poor because they cannot subsist, the wealthier because they have been caught in the speculation which seized Austria during the fluctuation of the French franc. People speculated recklessly, forgetting that American capitalism was interested in bolstering up French currency as it later did.

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Labor News From Coast to Coast

"OUR OVERSEAS COLUMN"

No Affiliation as Yet

The last congress of the Norwegian trade unions, held in 1923, decided to hold a referendum of the members on the subject of affiliation with the Red International of Labour Unions of Moscow. This referendum has now been held, and the majority proposal of the Executive Committee of the National Centre, not to affiliate with the R. I. L. U. but only to maintain friendly relations with it, has been adopted by 15,602 against 7,504 votes.

According to the resolution of the trade union congress this referendum should have been held before the 1st October, 1923. The delay was due to the fact that it was impossible to obtain from the R. I. L. U. information as to the number of affiliated national centres, the memberships, and the financial liabilities which would be entailed by affiliation with the R. I. L. U. etc. It was not until recently that the R. I. L. U. sent its reply to the Norwegian Executive's letter of August 23rd, 1923. It gave as the reason for the delay the unrest in Germany, which had absorbed the whole attention of the R. I. L. U. The number of members affiliated with the R. I. L. U. was given as 12 million. This 12 million however includes 3 millions from Italy, which has never been affiliated with the Red International, and 116,000 from Norway, the country which was at the moment making enquiries with a view to possible affiliation, although the Norwegian trade union centre numbers only 86,989 members. If these 12 million items may be taken as a sample of the rest, the information given by the Red International of Labour Unions cannot be said to be very reliable.

Financial Position of Swiss T. U. Centre

According to its annual financial report, it has been estimated that the balance sheet of the centre would in 1923 show a deficit of 16,000 francs. This however was not the case, as there was an increase in the receipts.

The total income amounted to Frs. 173,646 and the total expenditure to Frs. 174,622. The funds of the Centre amounted at the end of the year to Frs. 97,825 against 110,443 in 1922. The strike fund was only slightly increased in 1923. The total funds available for all purposes at the end of the year were about Frs. 176,000.

Belgian Labor Minister Makes Promises

Techoffen, the new Belgian Minister of Labour, has recently given an interview in which he has made the following statements concerning his future policy. The Government, he declared, will endeavour to get the Bill of Old Age and Miners' pensions passed before the dissolution of Parliament. It will also devote special attention to the question of workers' insurance, the amendment of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and the improvement of vocational education. It will insist upon the observance of the Eight-Hours-Day Act and will shortly appoint a commission of inquiry to conduct an impartial investigation into the results of the eight hours day, both as regards production and as regards the moral and economic effects of the shorter working hours upon the workers. Industry and Labor will be jointly represented on the Commission, which will also be able to co-opt members of parliament and experts. There is also to be an immediate re-examination of the decree on unemployment issued by the late government. This decree constitutes a threat to the trade unions, inasmuch as it deprives them of a voice in the allocation of trade union benefit.

Czechoslovakian T. U. Movement

A meeting was held recently of the executives of the Czechoslovak Federation of Trade Unions. This meeting devoted its attention chiefly to question of organization. It was stated that the Federation now numbers 350,000 members, and that the membership in many of the unions is steadily rising. Various proposals were made with regard to the state contribution to unemployment benefit, the principle of which was established by law in 1921, but which is only now about to take concrete shape. One of these proposals was to the effect that the State should contribute a sum equal to that grant-

ed by the organization, and that the State contribution should continue to benefit. As a bill regulating old age and disablement insurance will shortly come up for discussion in parliament, a proposal is to mate for the introduction of a uniform system of insurance for workers and civil servants alike. The Government was also requested to facilitate trade with Russia.

International Labor Office and 8-Hr. Day

The question of the eight-hour day came up for discussion at the recent meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, Margaret Donfield, the representative of the British Government, declared that the MacDonald Cabinet has allotted a day in the near future for the discussion by parliament of the draft of ratification.

Jouhaux and Oudegeest drew the attention of the Governing Body to the promises made by Mussolini to ratify the conventions, and also to the situation created in Polish Upper Silesia by the lengthening of working hours in Germany. The German-Polish Convention of 1921 stipulates that the labour legislation of both the German and Polish parts of Upper Silesia shall correspond with that in force in Germany. But Germany has now resolved to lengthen working hours. Oudegeest severely criticised the German Government declaring the present state of things to be untenable. At the end of the session a declaration was made on behalf of the Labour Group in favour of the international application of the eight hours day and the 48 hours week.

Poland Establishes Eight-Hour Day

A recent declaration of the prime minister of Poland on the subject of ours of labour is of considerable interest to all who are following the movement of opinion in various countries with regard to the eight-hour day.

Poland as had by law an eight-hour day and a forty-six hour week in industry for the last four years. A suggestion that these limits should be extended, in view of present economic conditions in Poland, was put forward in the name of employers at the first meeting of the new economic council held recently in Warsaw. The prime minister, so far from giving any support to the proposal, declare his strong belief that the maintenance of the eight-hour day was essential to industrial progress.

The determination of the Polish government to preserve the present law intact requires special interest, first from the present industrial and economic difficulties of the country, and secondly, from the proximity of Germany. Further, the declaration of the prime minister is the more notable by reason of the fact that Poland has not yet ratified the Washington convention on hours of labor, and is therefore under no legal obligation to maintain the existing law unaltered.

Hungarian Trade Unions Threatened

At the recent national conference of the Executive Committee of the Socialist Party of Hungary discussed the attitude of Social Democracy to the proposals for the reconstruction of the national finance of Hungary, and resolved that the parliamentary group must spare no effort to combat these.

A further subject of discussion at this meeting was a recent threat of Count Bethlen, to put an end "to the terrorism practised by the trade unions." The general belief is that this threat means that Bethlen will strike at the trade unions if the Social Democrats oppose the reconstruction proposals in parliament. It was resolved to ignore the threat and to leave nothing undone to prevent or hamper an attempt on the part of Bethlen to consolidate and extend the dictatorship.

The Trade Unions and Immigration

Samuel Compers, the president of the American Federation of Labour, and John Quinn, the president of the American Legion (the association of ex-service men) have united to oppose unlimited immigration. Both point to the great dangers which will result, in case immigration is not either checked altogether, or restricted as much as possible. Immigration stands for the lowering of the standard of living of the American worker.

The immigration bill has obtained a great majority in the congress. It reduces the percentage of immigrants, which is based on the census of the year 1910, from 3 to 2 per cent, thus decreasing the number of immigrants from 357,000 to 169,000 per year.

News From the Various Trades

SALARIED EMPLOYEES

Germany—The National Union of Salaried Employees will hold its second ordinary congress at Cassel soon. The membership and financial position of the union are both satisfactory. Within the last year or two, the time and energy of the trade unions have been almost entirely absorbed in settling wages, but, thanks to the stabilization of the mark, the unions are now free to concentrate their energies on other work. The June Congress will deal both with internal organization and with economic questions.

MINERS

Great Britain—A. J. Cook has been elected General Secretary of the British Miners' Federation in the place of Frank Hodges, who has had to resign this post in consequence of his election as a member of parliament.

SHOP ASSISTANTS

Great Britain—A delegation of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers submitted to the Home Secretary recently proposals for a new Shops Act. The union advocates a maximum 48-hours week for shop assistants. It was pointed out that the assistants in co-operative stores enjoy a 44-hour week, and sometimes even a shorter one.

LEATHER WORKERS

France—The National Federation of Leatherworkers held its ordinary congress at Paris recently. It now comprises 71 unions and its membership is steadily though slowly rising. In spite of the fact that Frs. 79,318 has been paid out as strike pay, the funds of the federation amounted to 50,076 Frs. In 32 localities the leatherworkers succeeded last year in securing improved working conditions without a strike. Of the 16 strikes, 10 were successful. The federation places in the forefront of its programme the maintenance of the eight hours day, and the principle of paid holidays.

LEATHER WORKERS

Sweden—The Swedish Boot, Shoe and Leather Workers' Union raised its membership in 1923 from 8,278 to 9,064. The number of branches has also increased from 53 to 56. Unemployment among the members is decreasing, although it cannot be said that the normal standard of employment has yet been attained.

Normal Conditions In Postal Service

Concession Caught Up With at Toronto—Many New Men Paid Off

Toronto, Ont.—About twenty per cent of the men who signed up to replace the postal workers during the strike have been paid off. The total number of strike-breakers taken on was 751, and up to last week approximately 150 of them had asked for their pay-checks. The regular posties got their pay-checks and compared to pre-strike pay, it was a slim check.

Postmaster Lemon reported that everything at the postal sub-stations had reached the normal stage and the mails were up-to-date. He also stated that normal conditions had been reached at terminal station "A," the postal headquarters. Due to three days of hard work by the postal staff the congestion of mail is reported to have been practically caught up with and the service again normal.

Wire Protest Over Decrease in Wages

Take Action in Co-operation With Other Western Organizations

Victoria, B.C.—It was decided at an executive meeting of the Victoria branch of the Dominion Postal Clerks' Association, in conference with the provincial president, D. McCulloch, to send a wire to Hon. Charles Stewart, acting Postmaster General, and Premier Mackenzie King and Hon. Arthur Meighen, protesting against the reduction in wages and stating that, although they had not gone on strike, they were supporting their Eastern associates.

The wire read as follows: "The fact that Western postal workers have not joined the strike does not mean that the West is satisfied. Greatest dissatisfaction is growing in the West. The Victoria branch feels that Eastern associates have been forced into strike by the vacillation of government regarding our just demands. I am instructed by the branch to insist that no postal employee be paid less remuneration this year than last year, and that all striking employees be reinstated. Efficiency of service seriously affected by attitude of government."

"J. WHITE, Secretary, "Victoria Branch D.P.C.A." This wire was sent in co-operation with all the other branches of Western Canada.

T. V. Powderly Dies

Terence V. Powderly, general master workman of the Knights of Labor, when that organization was at the heights of its power, died suddenly at his home in Washington, D.C.

He was born in Carbondale, Pa., in 1819. He was chosen chief of the K. of L. in 1879 and resigned as that organization was being supplanted by the newly-formed American Federation of Labor. In 1878, he was elected Mayor of Scranton and served 3 terms. In 1894, he was admitted to the bar.

Mr. Powderly was connected with the government since 1897. At the time of his death, he was chief of the division of information. He wrote several books on labor questions. The remains were interred in Washington.

The Trade Union Movement in Latvia

(Continued from page 1)

The centralization of the trade unions which were left in existence after the collapse of the Russian rule and the termination of the German occupation was effected at a conference held in 1920. From that date onwards a trade union congress had been held every year. At the Third Trade Union Congress, which was held in Riga, the capital, on the 9th and 10th of March, 1924, the following statement was made concerning the present situation of the trade unions: "13,000 workers (male and female) are organized in six national and fourteen local organizations. Of these, the Factory Workers' Union numbers 2,250 members; the Railwaymen's Union, 2,150; the Bookbinders' Union, 2,000; the Seafarers' Union, 1,000; the Post Office Employees' Union, 1,000; and the Stage Artists' Union 80. The

largest local organization is the Window Workers' Union, (chiefly consisting of dockers) which has 1,700 members.

The Agricultural Workers' Union, which is connected with the right wing of the Socialist Party, contains about two or three thousand members, but exact figures are not available. The Communist trade union say they have a membership of 4,500, but it seems very doubtful whether this figure is really reached. There are no clerical and no Fascist trade unions, but on the other hand there is a "yellow" movement.

The official organ of the Federation of Trade Unions is published every fortnight in the Lettish and Russian languages. In addition, the Bookbinders' Union issues a fortnightly and the Post Office Employees' Union a monthly magazine.

Thanks to the influence of the Socialist Party in the Government and the parliament, the trade unions have liberty of action. The Fascists give trouble from time to time.

There are no organizational relations between the trade unions and the Left Wing of the Socialist Party, although the are on friendly terms. As in all countries where the Labour Movement is not of long standing, comrades with especial capacity for propagandist and administrative work are compelled to hold office both in the party and in the trade union movement. Moreover, several trade union leaders belong to the parliamentary Labour Group.

Thanks to the strength of the political Labour Party, it has been found possible to make considerable progress in the domain of labour protection and insurance. The eight-hours-day is established by law. Nominally, young persons between the ages of 14 and 16 are only permitted to work 4 hours a day, and those between the ages of 16 and 18, 6 hours, but both these regulations are very frequently violated. Civil servants work 6 hours a day at present, but there is a movement on foot to extend their hours to 7. As to wages, they are, as in many other countries, lower than before the war, although the cost of living has risen.

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Dr	Cr	Dr	Cr
1917	50	1917	50
1918	10	1918	10
1919	20	1919	20
1920	30	1920	30
1921	40	1921	40
1922	50	1922	50
1923	60	1923	60
1924	70	1924	70
			579

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1918	10	1918	10
1919	20	1919	20
1920	30	1920	30
1921	40	1921	40
1922	50	1922	50
1923	60	1923	60
1924	70	1924	70
			579

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