

Editorial Page of the Canadian Labor Press

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OFFICIAL ORGAN ALLIED TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL OF OTTAWA. ENDORSED BY Hamilton District Trades and Labor Council, Hamilton Building Trades Council, Kitchener Twin City Trades and Labor Council, Independent Labor Party of Ottawa.

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER. OLD AGE PENSIONS.

PRESENTATION of the Departmental Committee's majority report on old age pensions in the British House of Commons, has not raised the same storm of protest or denunciation as the initial adoption of the first scheme by the Mother of Parliaments.

With the five shillings allowance to those qualified the cost to the British Government in the fiscal year 1916-17 was around the £12,000,000 mark and with the suggested changes the estimate calls for an expenditure of £41,000,000.

How glibly the subject of Old Age Pensions is discussed at this period of time, but harking back some thirty years ago that pioneer of the movement, M. Atkinson, surely knew what it meant to have stones placed in his path.

By many of those who knew him least he was considered as a misfit in his profession, lacking clients, but the real truth was that his adherence to the propaganda of pensions for the aged allowed of no time for the practise of law, and those who would seek his aid in a legal way realized they were looked upon as interlopers save and except they were prepared to listen to his very soul-mate.

It is readily realized how this pioneer was a model of sincerity when it is known that this world's goods and the old lawyer were strangers, with a frugal life as a necessity.

Perhaps delay in legislation of this kind may mean for this dominion even more advanced protection, and the workers have not effaced from their memory the report of the Mathers' Royal Commission which recommended immediate enquiry by expert boards into the following subjects, with a view to early legislation: State insurance against unemployment, sickness, invalidity and old age.

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There is in evidence among a certain section of workers an ill-defined plan to place the Winnipeg strike leaders in an embarrassing position if the course suggested by them of all charges being withdrawn was successful.

It is not only in a personal sense that withdrawal of the charges would not be to the best interests, as whilst the arrested men necessarily stand in a pronounced position, the rank and file placed them in the position of directors of their affairs with a responsibility attached thereto.

These men were arrested rightly or wrongly, the onus of proving the charges is on the prosecution, a fair trial with no favors should rather be the policy to pursue, and it can be safely assumed that this course of vindication is the only one that will be generally accepted by the rank and file of Winnipeg as well as elsewhere.

Magna Charta, dating from A.D. 1215, guarantees fundamental rights and privileges and it would be an abuse of these rights if a fair trial was not held for these men, and if innocent, allow the words "not guilty" to be pronounced that no odium shall rest upon them for the unfortunate Winnipeg happenings, with their ally of bloodshed.

SPEEDING THE PLOW. "SPEED the plow" was at all times a favorite expression and one which could be assured of unity in thought, wherever expressed or echoed.

WE are apt to be getting dangerously near a regrettable discord, as the plow is seeking new fields to cultivate. The last land to become promising and as a fact is past experiment, is the political "field."

Across the Atlantic.

What Our Brothers in the Motherland Are Doing.

LABOR HALL FOR LONDON. Considerable progress has been made in connection with the proposal to build a Labor Hall in the centre of London as a war memorial in accordance with the resolution passed at the London Conference.

Arthur Henderson, M.P., is chairman, and C. W. Boverman, M.P., hon. secretary of the Labor trustees, who have the matter in hand, while a scheme has not been prepared by the Co-operative Union, Limited, whose proposal is for the erection of a big hotel and restaurant, with a hall for the Labor offices, the building to be placed in the West End shopping area.

There has been a drawing together of the two movements, and a joint scheme may be before long launched. Already tentative plans have been prepared and many proposals have been made. The scheme is to erect an imposing building to include a public hall, with a seating capacity for 2,500 people, a small hall, a residential block, a club-rooms and co-operative stores and offices.

The trade union movement has decided to raise £20,000 as its contribution, and the co-operative movement is willing to subscribe a similar sum or more.

OLD AGE PENSIONS RECOMMENDED BY COMMITTEE. An old age pension of ten shillings a week to be paid to every citizen reaching the age of 70, irrespective of his means, is recommended by the Departmental Committee, in a majority report presented to the British House of Commons recently.

THE EDITOR DECORATED. On Thursday of last week the editor of the Canadian Labor Press, Lieut. (A-Capt.) J. A. F. Haydon, M.C., was decorated by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales with the Military Cross, won in the fighting in the summer of 1918.

RAILWAYMEN UNION'S OFFICIAL IS CHOSEN. The National Union of Railwaymen has elected to the secretaryship of J. H. Thomas to £1,000 a year, and to give him the duties of the supreme administrative official of the organization.

MONTREAL POLICE UNION HEAD RESIGNS. Capt. Albert Carle, president of the Montreal Police Union, has resigned. Capt. Carle was one of the promoters of the union, and came into the limelight at the time of the strike of the Montreal policemen some time ago.

LAST OF DEPENDENTS HOMEWARD BOUND. Eight ships will, between them, carry 3,000 Canadian dependents this month, which will about complete this class of traveller.

REGINA VETERANS WANT MEMBER TO RESIGN SEAT. Dr. W. D. Cowan, M.P. for Regina, is being asked to resign his seat in the Dominion Parliament.

By Special Correspondent. Parliament is over. The members have scattered to their constituencies to explain to their constituents their position on various issues to the embattled farmers, the angry soldiers and the rising Labor party.

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Here's To Woman.

Once Our Superior, Now Our Equal—Calm.



workers to be something besides mere drudges and slaves. "And you know what has been best of all to me—my two evenings a week at evening school. Even you do not know how many of us had wished for such a chance—and what it has meant to us. When you have to leave school at fourteen and never had a chance at anything since then, never any chance to get acquainted with the literature of this or any other time, never to hear of history, more of your country, nor of music—that is what life used to mean to all of us—and now, a glimpse of these things as well as the opportunity to acquire them."

Weekly Workers. 1. An eight-hour day. 2. A six-day week. 3. A minimum wage of \$12 a week if living in, payable weekly. 4. A minimum wage of \$15 a week if living out, payable weekly. 5. Fifty cents an hour for overtime.

Day Workers. 1. Eight-hour day. 2. Three dollars a day and time and a half for any time over the eight-hour schedule. 3. A hot meal in the middle of the day.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE. This letter came to the officers of the Philadelphia Women's Trade Union League and it is worthy of consideration by those who do not know just exactly what the work of the league is.

Service Button Workers. 30,000 CANADIANS IN GRATUITY VOTE. Thirty thousand Canadians who served in the Imperial Forces will participate in the vote for the equalization of the war gratuity, which exists between the Imperial and Canadian Governments.

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Present-Day Tendencies in the Labor Movement.

The nationalization of natural resources, public ownership of public utilities, more equitable distribution of wealth, and a purer democracy are the tendencies of the Labor movement today, as outlined by Mr. John Cameron, of the Independent Labor party, the speaker at the People's Forum on Sunday evening.

Mr. Cameron, always prominent in the Labor movement of the Capital, and who was brought into prominence in the recent Provincial elections by the substantial support he received from the voters of Ottawa West, gave most concise and extremely interesting address upon the "Present Day Tendencies in the Labor Movement."

Dear Sister: When you asked me to help in this drive of yours, I went home and thought that it would perhaps encourage you if you knew just what the work of the league means to me.

You know how the organ came from the league and talked to us as though it was for her benefit instead of ours for us to organize—and finally we got our courage up and let her and let us in our own way. You know what things are like now—an eight-hour day, Saturday half-holiday, a shop that is clean—where everyone is well treated—and best of all, more money toward meeting our needs.

You, at least, will not think me a great materialist, as I am not. I want more money, will you? You know that without it we cannot even think of the things that make us humans. It is only since we had our increase that I have not been able to do any sewing and washing—since then I've been able to come on your legislative committee.

As soon as peace is complete, therefore, prohibition will be "off," and there will likely be a next interlude of greater or less duration, which will give everyone a chance to fill their cellars, if they so desire. It is worth the trouble to do so, as the various provinces take action on the new legislation. Exporters in Montreal and elsewhere are looking in a very bleak trade during that time.

The session was devoted almost entirely to Government legislation. Only one private bill of importance received consideration, and to the credit of Mr. Samuel Jacobs, member of Jacques Cartier division, Montreal, it passed. It is proposed to refer an existing clause in regard to by-elections. In the past by-elections could be called at the pleasure of the Government, and if a seat was doubtful or the tide was running against the administration it could be held open indefinitely.

By the bill introduced by Mr. Jacobs, and which received the approval of Parliament, a by-election must be held within six months after a seat becomes vacant. In the future also a member cannot run for two seats at the same time, a frequent political dodge to hold doubtful seats by strong candidates. For instance, Laurier in 1911 ran in both Ottawa and Quebec East, and Bolden in 1908 was a candidate in both Halifax and Carleton.

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ST. JOHN BOILERMAKERS ORGANIZATION. J. Alfred Bourget, general organizer of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, addressed a large number of the St. John boilermakers and helpers at the special

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LABOR'S FUNCTION.



New Members.

THERE are certain undesirable characters who are continually trying to wedge their evil way into some good movement, Union, Organization, Lodge or Association. They are wreckers. The Tested and True Trades Union movement has long been menaced by these irresponsible and irrepressible influences, whose words and acts tend to discredit the real, genuine Trades Unionist. Real Trades Unionists, however, repudiate these disturbing characters, and show them up whenever Opportunity offers. It would seem that some of these cast-off characters are attempting to cloak their operations under the broad Standard of Labor in Canada. Judging from the violent manifestations of Agitators in the West, it would seem as if those old characters had "joined up" to have One Big Outburst with the One Big Union. In order that the Public and all real workers may know and avoid these "sham Laborites"---here are the characters to look out for:

Ty-Upp, Dick-Tator, General Disorder, Ann-Archy, Miss-Understanding, Hy-Sterics, Ad. G. Tator, Tommy Rot, and Reddy Flagg.