

Ontario's Essay To Better Conditions

BRANTFORD TRADES COUNCIL SEEK MORATORIUM

Brantford Trades and Labor Council are sending out the following circular which is self-explanatory. The Brantford Trades and Labor Council submit herewith a resolution for your consideration, having in view the fact that the present industrial depression, akin to that at the beginning of the war, should be met by similar measures, in order that purchasers of houses will not be forced to lose their homes through inability to make payments thereon when due, which is the case in many instances. We would therefore urge you to take steps to have the Government bring in, and have passed legislation to meet this pressing condition. The resolution follows: "Whereas, in view of the present employment situation many persons who during the war, owing to the scarcity of housing accommodation, were compelled to purchase houses on the installment plan and are now unable and will not be in a position during the continuance of the present situation to keep up payment of installments of their houses and are and will be constantly forced to forfeit the house and payments thereon, and whereas others in the same position have had to mortgage their homes, to avoid losing them; Therefore, this council urges upon the Provincial Government the necessity of having legislation enacted similar in purport to the Act passed in 1917 by the Legislature entitled 'The Mortgagees and Purchasers' Relief Act, and that such moratorium be in force for a period of twelve months."

BROCKVILLE TO HAVE ELECTRICAL WORK

Brockville labor is soon to have an opportunity to add its growing chain of organized workers. As the first contract for work upon the construction of the plant of the Eugene F. Phillips Electrical Works Ltd. in the west end has now been let and work will proceed immediately, according to a statement by J. Amos Johnson, industrial commissioner. The contract is in connection with the construction of the pumping station intake pipe and other work preliminary to the building of the main plant and has been let to Messrs. J. A. Grant and Co., Montreal, who intend to start work at once. The pumping station will be located at the bank of the river while the intake pipe will extend for a distance of 300 feet into the stream. In addition discharge mains must be built to extend from the pumping station to the mill. The pumping station is to be of concrete and brick construction. Tenders are now being called for the erection of the factory building planned by J. R. Baxter and Co., of Montreal, to be built in the east end industrial area adjoining the plant of Machinery and Foundries, Ltd. The construction of the building which it is expected to cost in the neighborhood of forty thousand dollars, will serve to relieve the unemployment situation here during the winter, as it is planned to commence work upon it as soon as the contract is let and material is on hand.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW VENTURE TO AROUSE BUSINESS

PLACING PROMINENTLY THE SERIOUS CONDITIONS

A campaign against hard times and unemployment is being instituted in the province of Ontario, where it is estimated there are 30,000 persons out of work, the campaign being of an economic, educational character. This was decided upon by the Provincial Government upon the recommendation of the provincial advisory committee on unemployment, which has been investigating the situation. There are 10,104 men and women registered at the Government's 27 offices throughout Ontario as out of work and it is estimated that three times this number are not employed. The educational campaign will be waged in newspaper advertising and public addresses; and James H. H. Ballantyne, Deputy Minister of Labor, will direct it. The first of nine, twice-a-week advertisements in the newspapers appeared. These advertisements appeal in the name of the Ontario Government to the manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers to sell goods on hand at replacement prices; to the builders to reduce their prices; to the general public to go ahead with building; to the banks to allow all reasonable credits and to decrease rates; to the farmers to maintain production and make needed improvements and betterments; and to labor to accept reduction in wages commensurate with decreases in cost of living. It is intended to launch a follow-up campaign with a view to persuading clubs of trade, chambers of commerce, Rotary, Kiwanis and Lion Clubs and the U.F.O. to join. The advertisement which opens the campaign will cost between \$15,000 and \$20,000, it is estimated. Among those who will give addresses will be Premier E. C. Drury, and members of his Cabinet. The idea underlying the campaign is that if selling costs are reduced and the consumers are persuaded that they are not being charged unreasonable prices, the buying strike will be broken. Increased purchases will mean increased production, which, in turn, will gradually absorb the masses of men at present out of work.

HOW HIGH FINANCE JUGGLES ITS DEBT

Washington. — The \$500,000,000 railroad refunding bill, now pending in congress, illustrates how high finance can postpone payment of a debt while it uses the debt to collect money owed it. The refunding scheme is the result of government control of railroads, when the government agreed to pay a rental for the properties, and the roads agreed to pay for improvements that the government would make during the period of its control. The refunding bill, now pending, can be best described by this simple illustration: Suppose the government asked a railroad to loan it one freight car, and it was agreed that the government would pay a rental of \$5 a month, and the railroad would pay for improvements the government made on the car while under its control. The government operates the car 18 months and spends \$90 for improvements. For these improvements the railroad gives the government a piece of paper called "equipment trust certificate." This paper is really a mortgage on the car. When the government returns the car to its owner it is found that the government owes the railroad \$90 for rental and the railroad owes the government an equal amount for improvements. Instead of both parties agreeing to cancel the debt, the railroad insists that the government sell the equipment trust certificate, or mortgage, and with the \$90 thus secured pay the railroad its \$90 rental charge. This method favors the plan and has led congress to pass a law to this effect. Under this system the railroad has its car, has been paid \$90 rental, and has secured improvements to the value of \$90, while it has secured postponement of its debt for a term of years.

STATES BIG IMMIGRATION MAY BE EXPECTED

A movement of settlers from the British Isles to Canada limited only by Canada's ability to absorb them is predicted by Dr. W. J. Black, Deputy Minister of the Department of Immigration and Colonization, who has just returned from six weeks spent in the British Isles and Europe in connection with immigration matters. Mr. Black's investigations covered, besides principal points in Great Britain, such centres as Antwerp, Brussels, The Hague and Warsaw. "The British people recognize that their own 'population' over-population," said Mr. Black upon his arrival here. "The amount of population in the British Isles is freely estimated at from 10 to 15 million and the question of finding for these people a means of livelihood and independence in other countries, preferably within the British Empire, is one which is engaging the best British attention. Canada can be assured of heavy and effective co-operation in any policy which will help to meet this situation and at the same time ensure to the incoming settler possibilities of bettering his condition. Much of the same condition prevails in the crowded countries of northern Europe. The Dutch Government, for example, is so interested in the possibilities of farm settlement in Canada that it has itself, through the Dutch Settlers' Union, issued a pamphlet giving information about agricultural opportunities in the Dominion. This pamphlet has an unexpected thing for a foreign government to do and indicates the high regard in which Canada is held in that country. Mr. Black took occasion to have a number of interviews with authorities of the Polish Government looking toward prevention of a stream of immigrants of a type unfamiliar with farm life which cannot at present be accepted in Canada and would be taken to control such a movement at its source. If this is accomplished one of the greatest difficulties faced by the Canadian Department of Immigration and Colonization during recent months will be removed."

JAPAN EMPLOYERS TO FORM WORK COUNCILS

The Industrial Association of Osaka, Osaka, Kyoto, and the most important Employers' Federation of that town, decided at its meeting on July 23 to recommend the system of Work Councils "in order to put an end to the propaganda of the workers in western Japan." This motive for their accommodating spirit is apparent in the Draft Scheme defining the powers of the Work Councils and the manner of their composition. This draft, which appeared in the "Industrial Association" in a splendid example of how Work Councils should not be if they are not from the outset defined in their character as an independent organization of the common economic interests of the workers (both manual workers and salaried employees). Draft. The Councils shall form a consultative body to assist the management but their members shall have the right to initiate proposals. The following are the principal questions which the council shall be called upon to deal with, subject to special conditions governing the activity of the councils in the various factories: (1) Increase in wages; (2) hours of labor; (3) all other questions suggested by the management. The work council shall be organized in the following manner: (1) Each factory shall have one council; sub-councils may be formed in factories of the more important factories; (2) one half of the members of the council shall be appointed by the management, the other half by the workers; (3) each member of the council shall hold office for one year; the members shall be re-elected at the expiry of the year of office; (4) the number of the workers' members shall be in proportion to the total number of workers employed in each shop; (5) all workers of both sexes who are above twenty years of age and have been employed for more than one year in the same factory are entitled to vote; special regulations can be made in factories employing a large number of workers under twenty years of age; (6) the elec-

RESIST REDUCTIONS

Remarkable unity prevails among the workers, nearly 100, who are on strike at the h. and cap factory of Messrs. Fraser, Leman Street, London, E., against a threatened decrease in their piece rates of 1 1/2 or 2 1/2 a dozen on nearly all work. This strike was expressed by Mr. Michaelson, organizer of the Hat and Cap section of the United Clothing Workers' Union, according to whom the present rates in many cases are hardly valid in living wages. Already the recent reductions in the Trade Board rates are pressing hardly on the workers.

ILLEGAL FOR MINE WORKERS BUA LEGAL FOR COAL OWNERS

Charleston, W. Va. — Federal Judge Anderson has declared that the miners' check off is illegal and would stop coal owners and mine workers from agreeing that the former will hold union dues and pay same to the union's representatives. But Judge Anderson ignores the check off maintained by coal owners in Logan county, whereby they hold workers in serfdom. The owners' check off is shown in a pamphlet issued from this city by the Logan county mine owners, in which they state that the average monthly deduction, per miner, for store advance, for doctor's bills, \$1.25; for rent, \$1.00; for coal, \$1.05; for doctor's bills, \$1.25; for hospital charges, 40 cents; for black-smiting tools, 35 cents; for electric light, 60 cents; for miscellaneous, \$2.50. The deduction between the union miners' off check and the Logan county coal owners' check off is that the former is voluntary while the latter must be accepted by workers before they can secure employment. Judge Anderson outlaws the voluntary act and ignores the system that is based on coercion.

CONTRACT BREAKERS ENJOINED BY COURT

New York, Justice Guy, of the supreme court, has enjoined the cloak manufacturers' association from breaking its contract with the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Association. The union made application to the court for the order. An agreement between the parties does not expire until next June. Recently the employers announced through their association that they would establish a new contract and the long work week. Nearly 60,000 employees suspended work. Justice Guy declared that the manufacturers must stand restrained from acting collectively to violate a contract, though individual members are free to act for themselves. The life of the injunction extends until the expiration of the contract. Under the court order an individual employer may break his contract, but the association of employers is restrained from taking such action. "This court fight is a new phenomenon and will be watched with the greatest interest by the entire labor movement," says Justice, official organ of the union. "This is the first time in history that a great labor union takes advantage of a law which employers have utilized until now against unions."

STATES RAILROADS OUT FOR NEW SCHEDULE

More than 750,000 workers will find reductions in their Christmas stockings if the proposed schedules are approved. An announcement on behalf of the conference at today's meeting said the proposed cuts were in line with action of western railroads and that the revised wage figures would bring the pay of railroad workers approximately to the level of non-transportation workers. The program would cut the pay of train service employees at least to the scale in force prior to May 1, 1920. Shop workers, who now receive 37 cents an hour would be scaled down considerably below the 67 1/2 cent figure that had been predicted. Maintenance of way workers now getting from 37 to 49 cents an hour would be cut to 25 to 40 cents.

KENORA HIGHWAY COMMENCED

To help relieve unemployment in Ontario, initial work in the construction of Ontario's end of the highway between Kenora and Winnipeg was started today at Keewatin, Peter Heenan, M.L.A. for Kenora, stated at Kenora. A stretch of 30 miles will be built from Keewatin to Mile Post 24, at the boundary. Sixty miles of road between Vermilion and Winnipeg has already been built. The principle behind the construction of this highway, Mr. Heenan said, was to open the country for settlement and provide direct road communication with Winnipeg for summer traffic.

LURING UNEMPLOYED

Sacramento, Cal.—Organized labor is increased at the attempts to flood this city with unemployed. The Master Builders' association is publishing advertisements in the daily newspapers, "luring the world to Sacramento because of an unprecedented building boom." Trade unions have exhausted their vocabulary in denouncing this contemptible effort to increase distress among the unemployed.

ENFORCE ACT

At Stratford-on-Avon, G. W. Eversard, managing director of Messrs. Messrs. Fraser, Leman Street, London, E., was summoned at the instance of the Education Committee of the Warwickshire County Council on charges of not allowing his boys in the employ of the firm to attend the local day continuation school eight hours a week, as prescribed by the Education Act, 1918. The offence was that no useful purpose would be served by his attendance, as the boy was being trained in his business and it was stated that scores of people set the Act at defiance. The case was regarded as an important one, as it was a thorough justice and school governor, and he held very strong views on the matter. The magistrates imposed a nominal fine of 2s. apportioned between the three charges, and refused an application for costs.

ARBITRATION AWARDS FOR TYPOS

Wage issues in several cities have been decided by the International Typographical Union and the American Newspaper Publishers' Association. The board decided that Vancouver, B.C. rates will remain the same as before. Rates for Indianapolis operators will be decreased \$2.50 a week for both day and night work. The new scale for day work will be \$42.50 and \$46.50 for night work. The decisions of the board become effective December 19. Scales for Portland, Maine, will be increased 5 1/2 a week for day work and 3 1/2 a week for night work. The reduction of the assessment from ten to seven per cent is also a piece of important news showing clearly that the officials are now convinced that the strike situation is going in the right direction, and that the worst of the journey has been satisfactorily covered.

ONTARIO COMPENSATION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Total benefits of \$7,780,145 were awarded by the Ontario Workmen's Compensation Board in the year ended Dec. 31, 1920, according to the sixth annual report of the board. The total in 1919 was \$4,192,839. The increase last year was largely by reason of the increased benefits provided for under the amendments made to the act in 1920, especially the increase in death pensions for accidents happening in previous years, which amounted to \$2,239,249. "It is gratifying to be able to state that all retroactive increases in benefits have been provided for," Samuel Price, chairman of the board, states in the report. "The year 1921 starts without any burden for prior accidents." Attention is directed to the fact that the rates of compensation in Ontario are still low, compared with those in the United States, though the latter pay smaller benefits. Total compensations awarded during the year were \$7,046,439, compared with \$3,800,561 in 1919. There were 34,851 decisions reported, as against 44,407 in the previous year. The fatal accidents in 1920 numbered 452, an increase of 23 over those of 1919. The board's total assets are given as \$11,822,479, and total liabilities \$11,103,669, leaving a surplus of \$718,810.

OPPOSE INSURANCE

The proposed insurance plan of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers is opposed by large corporations. Officers of the brotherhood take this position as a matter of course. They show that any effort of workers to help themselves is in conflict with paternal and welfare plans that bind the worker to his job and create within him a dependent spirit.

POLITE PICKETING WANTED BY FEDERAL SUPREME COURT

Only polite picketing will hereafter be recognized by the United States supreme court, which suggests one picket at each factory gate—a hint that will hardly be overlooked by injunction judges. Where a worker on strike persists in telling his story of injustice to a strikebreaker, this is "likely to savor of intimidation" and can be enjoined, says the court, because "we are a social people," and picketing, when carried to the point of "importance," is unjustifiable. This parlor procedure for wage workers who daily risk their lives in the whirlpool of industry was announced by Chief Justice Taft of the famous Granite City (Ill.) boycott case, which has been before the supreme court for nearly five years. The case was based on an injunction issued by Federal Judge Humphrey (Illinois district) who held that there is no such thing as peaceful picketing and that the Tri-City central trades council, composed of unions in Granite City, Madison and Venice, is an unlawful combination. In sustaining the injunction, with modifications, Chief Justice Taft took occasion to discuss the general question of picketing and to reaffirm his well-known views on the power of injunction judges. The court held, in effect, that picketing is lawful when under the direction of an equity court, and that every case must be decided on its own merits. He suggested that one picket to each factory entrance is sufficient, and that all other strikers can be enjoined from congregating at the plant or in the neighboring streets by which access is to be had to the plant. Justice Taft said that section 20 of the Clayton act, which gives workers the right to picket in a peaceful manner, is "merely declaratory of what was the best practice (of courts) always." Judge Humphrey's injunction was issued on complaint of the American steel foundries, a New Jersey corporation, doing business in Granite City. In November, 1913, the plant closed down and reopened the following April with wage reductions of from 2 to 9 cents an hour. A committee from the central body asked the company to arbitrate the wage cuts, but this was refused and the men struck. The injunction followed. The court of appeals reversed Judge Humphrey and the company carried the case to the supreme court.

EXPENSES INCREASE

The Morning Post and the Yorkshire Post have each been submitting an analysis of trades union balance sheets, showing that the expense of the unions have increased in the past few years. A large proportion of which increase has gone to meet the cost of political propaganda. The National Union of Railways spent over £100,000 on management expenses, but only £57,000 on benefits. Leading unions so far have had to report directly to those state-ments, although they point out that in the early years of the war very little was done to increase the military readiness of the union officials to meet the increased cost of living and travelling expenses. They also point out that the machinery of government has been used to the extent that London to a much greater extent than formerly. The Spectator, however, says: "The unemployed are encouraged to blame the government, but it is not desirable that they should also ask what has happened to the large financial resources of their unions." Would not the money have been better spent in benefits to those in want instead of for political ends, none of which has been reached?"

SEERS CHANGE

"Home rule for London" was the subject of a serious discussion at the annual conference of the London Labor party. Secretary Morrison moved a resolution advocating a London and home counties parliament with local autonomy, rather than a new enlargement of the county council area, as recommended by the commission which is investigating the administration of the London Metropolitan district. London was sprawled out without plan or system, said Mr. Morrison, and unless control was exercised the time would come when Southend, Brighton, and Hitchen would be linked up with the metropolis. The resolution was carried. The party also decided to ask that members be allowed to give evidence and express their views before the commission appointed to enquire into the government of London.

GIVEN NOTICE

The editor and associate editor of a Communist journal published for Oxford students, have been ordered by the authorities of Oxford University to withdraw from that noted place of learning.

MECHANISTS OPPOSED

A meeting of unemployed members of the A.E.U. at Sheffield advised the rejection of the proposed agreement on overtime. The resolution adopted expressed regret at the contents of the terms of the officials, who, from the security of their eight years' dug-out, are recommending the members to accept the employers' proposals, thereby giving away the vital principles of Trade Unionism which only have been obtained after untold sacrifice. "We therefore urge our members to turn down by a unanimous vote the most insidious and dangerous attack that has been made on our rights as trade unionists." Delegate of the National Union of General Workers to the Aircraft and Engineering Industries Committee (London District) have also passed a resolution hostile to the proposed agreement.

WILL RETIRE

Right Hon. George N. Barrow, noted Privy Councillor, minister without portfolio, and Laborite M.P. for Glasgow, Glasgow, intends to retire from Parliament shortly, hence his appearance in the House of Commons to second the address in reply to the speech from the throne was of special interest. Mr. Barrow says his contemplated retirement is due entirely to personal reasons. He says he wants a rest after his long period of public activity.

DIRECT TRADING

Excitement has been caused among Sheffield grocers and provision merchants by the announcement that class education along the lines of the

ADULT EDUCATION

To further the wishes of those who believe in independent working class education along the lines of the

PHONE OVER TROLLEY WIRE

Schenectady, N. Y.—Telephoning from a moving street car over trolley wires was given a practical test in this city by engineers and radio experts. The demonstration, it is said, marks an advance in electric train operation. It is intended to develop better means of communication between the locomotive and caboose on long trains and between train and sub-stations or waiting rooms on electric railroads.

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM OVERSEAS

United States, though the latter pay smaller benefits. Total compensations awarded during the year were \$7,046,439, compared with \$3,800,561 in 1919. There were 34,851 decisions reported, as against 44,407 in the previous year. The fatal accidents in 1920 numbered 452, an increase of 23 over those of 1919. The board's total assets are given as \$11,822,479, and total liabilities \$11,103,669, leaving a surplus of \$718,810.

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A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

BEWARE OF FALSE COLORS

Everybody knows the old story about the wolf in sheep's clothing.

What about the newer brand of deception—the destroyer who comes masquerading as a liberal, a progressive? Gentlemen of the jury, he is a bad actor.

Is he with us today?

He never misses a chance.

He is trying to smash the international conference on limitation of armament.

How does he do this mean thing?

He uses various tricks. He tells you how reactionary everyone else except himself seems to be. And you are expected to infer that what every one else proposes is hopeless.

Then he tells you stories intended to incite national distrusts and suspicions. He tells you about the nationalism and militarism of France. He harps on that long and dimly.

He goes down the line in that fashion. He wants to get everyone disgusted with everything but himself.

He looks for every chance to play the bolshevik game. He takes a fling frequently at the trade union movements.

He never misses a chance—all in the name of liberalism.

Look out for them. They are on the job. Don't let real progress be destroyed by those who pretend progress while they plot destruction.

OPEN SHOP WAVE RECEDING

The general labor movement is in agreement with the Electric Worker when it states that the wave of the open shop has been broken on the groynes and breakwaters of the organized labor movement and is receding now at a rapid rate with all its fury removed. In the review by the Electrical Workers the situation is clearly analyzed when it says that the movement to destroy labor organizations and place the workers under industrial bondage is declining far more rapidly than the most optimistic expected. The pirate ship "American Plan" is fast breaking up on the shoals of stupidity, having been run aground by its navigators, the Chambers of Commerce, Manufacturers' Associations and Big Bankers, who proved very poor helmsmen, on account of their lack of knowledge of human nature.

It was quite natural that the cruise of the "American Plan" would be short and unprofitable inasmuch as it started to sail pacific waters and touch at peaceful ports to discharge its cargo of hatred, war and misery. The business men of moderate means who invested in the venture are now taking dividends in the form of loss of trade and all too frequently, bankruptcy.

An invoice of the results of the open shop movement shows it produced economic loss to the Nation so great that it precludes calculation. It might well be said that insofar as business is concerned December 31st is at hand, the entire year having been dissipated in a useless, foolish attempt to crush Labor, reduce wages and destroy living standards. Labor has and will continue to resist every unreasonable attempt to reduce wages and destroy American living standards. No one will profit more by the resistance that Labor is making than the business men and merchants who joined with big interests in the movement, as all thoughtful persons are agreed that when the purchasing power of the mass of people is destroyed, business likewise is included in the ruins.

The present industrial situation does not represent the last chapter in the book. Let those who would destroy Labor remember that Labor crushed today will rise tomorrow. The resumption of business activities will be the dawn of Labor's tomorrow and the moment conditions improve and business resumes a normal trend (it cannot be suppressed forever) Labor embittered by the attempts to enslave it will be more militant than ever, fully determined to recover by force, if need be, what was taken away by force, and we can look for strikes tomorrow where lockouts exist today. Rather unpleasant to contemplate, yet facts, and facts that we hope will be sufficient to convince employers and employees that there is no question of industrial relationship but what can be adjusted by the application of rational common-sense methods.

FOOD COSTS STAND

There was practically no change in the retail cost of food in 13 principal cities of the country from October 15 to November 15, according to the United States bureau of labor statistics.

There was a decrease in six of those cities and an increase in five and no change in two cities. These cities decreased: Washington, 3 per cent; Atlanta, Peoria and Springfield, 2 per cent; Little Rock, 1 per cent; Manchester, one-tenth of 1 per cent.

The following cities reported increases: Rochester, 1.25 per cent; Philadelphia, three-tenths of 1 per cent; Baltimore, Louisville and New York, two-tenths of 1 per cent; Denver and Norfolk reported no change during the month.

THEATER OWNER ESCAPES

New Haven, Conn.—It has been discovered that the owner of the Rialto

theater in this city, in which eight persons lost their lives, and many others were injured, is protected against accidents of this character. Before the owner leased the theater he compelled the operating company to insure him for \$10,000 against the loss of one life and \$25,000 for the loss of more than one life.

The owner of the building is head of the state builders' exchange which opposes organized labor.

BLIND COOPER JOINS UNION

Officers of the Coopers' International union have received a membership application from Charles Groth, of Rochester, Pa.

The cooper who secured the application writes: "Will say that Charles Groth is one of the best mechanics I ever ran into. The man is stone blind, but he can make one of the best looking barrels that you ever laid eyes on, and also, when it comes to making tools he is there with the goods."

REJUVENATION, by Meg Villars

Mrs. Brahn-Smiff stared at her reflection in a tall Empire mirror that swung between bronze columns in her excessively golden and green Empire bedroom. The mirror shuddered at the insult, and also possibly because a lumbering motor-lorry passing through the placid square viciously shook the house.

Mrs. Brahn-Smiff shuddered too; but her sludder had nothing to do with the motor-lorry. What good was it that Mr. Brahn-Smiff had made millions during the war and showered all the treasures of the earth, including emeralds to go with the gold and green Empire bedroom, upon her, if she looked like this!

"This" was a short, dumpy and rotund figure, surmounted by a triple arrangement of chins, above which pursed a damp mouth that was once no doubt of the rose-bud type, a button-nose that may have been "charmingly upturned" in its youth, and brown, bovine eyes that must certainly have been described as "souful" at the time when her hair, instead of being a greasy mouse-colour, was blond cendre and fluffy.

Mrs. Brahn-Smiff examined her reflection with a cruelly merciless gaze—full face; with a hand mirror, *de profile*! She stepped back and took in the coarse ankles that bulged over the dainty shoes dangerously propped on perilous heels. She noted the obvious armature of her stays, the ridges—visible beneath the clinging crepe de Chine of her super-costly and absurdly embroidered frock—where they began and ended; the swollen veins of her fat little hands; the deep creases where her chins sagged, almost smothering her magnificent pearl necklace in their folds. She shuddered again, and turning away, walked across the vast bedroom to the telephone.

As she put out a hand to unhook the receiver, a small sandy man bustled, with precise little steps, into the room.

"Ulo, Maria!" he said.

"Ulo, John!" she answered.

"Just off, ol' girl," he said.

"Will you be ome to supper, I mean?" she asked.

Mr. Brahn-Smiff replied that he thought not.

Unwisely, Mrs. Brahn-Smiff pointed out that he had not been "ome to a meal" for several days, and angrily Mr. Brahn-Smiff called on Gawd to inquire whether a man mightn't ave a bit uv fun after years of moiling and toiling to feed an ungrateful female.

For one exciting and deeply-

breathed moment one wondered, whether the Empire bric-a-brac would serve as missiles, when suddenly Mrs. Brahn-Smiff relaxed and spoke meekly.

"John," she said, "I've been thinking of going down to Jane's for a few weeks. I'm feelin' a bit tired and run down. A sight o' the country 'ud do me good."

"That's right, ol' girl... take care y'self... I'd come, too, if it wasn't for—board meetin's and—things."

They kissed each other with comfortable heartiness that smacked loudly. Outside the door John grinned—a little shamefacedly perhaps—and went downstairs rubbing his hands.

In the bedroom Mrs. Brahn-Smiff was talking at the telephone.

"Doctor," she said, "I'll double the fee and all expenses if y'all do it in six weeks." "Gurr... click... gurr," said the telephone, mysteriously.

"That's right!" said Mrs. Brahn-Smiff, "I'll be comin' tomorrow."

Mr. Brahn-Smiff precise little steps were less precise than usual as, seven weeks later, he walked down the broad steps of his imposing club. A year ago he would have said "my club" very much as a young mother says "my baby," with the proud conviction of having achieved the unachievable. Now the two words had come to stand for certain acute periods of discomfort. "My club" was a place where one somehow felt terrifically small and insignificant, where every man's gaze was an inimical stare, and where the very page-boys seemed to have a greater part in the "sorry scheme of things entire" than himself.

This evening had been particularly trying. The dinner had been composed of awkward dishes that had proved his undoing. The Bortsch soup, for instance, over which he had made a fool of himself by loudly deriding the servant who set the accompanying cream at his elbow; the coquille St. Jacques that had clattered out of his plate and fallen to the floor; the spaghetti that had so vilely splashed his shirtfront; the chicken-bone that, in a moment of forgetfulness, he had gnawed.

Someone had sniggered... and for that snigger Mr. Brahn-

COFT, filtered water used exclusively in all departments.



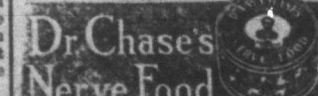
Healthy, Happy Boys and Girls

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For children who are thin, pale, anaemic, under weight, nervous, restless, sleepless, Dr. Chase's Nerve Food is of the greatest benefit imaginable.

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TRIDENT enclosed gear train construction does not decrease the efficiency of the Trident Breakable Bottom. The protective compound, having a lower freezing point than water, still further reduces the likelihood of damage to the gear train. Exhaustive tests under service conditions have proved these statements.

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Smiff hated all mankind as he walked down his club steps. Also... his boots hurt him. Tight patent-leather is not conducive to comfort on a warm June evening.

Why wasn't he in shirt-sleeved and slippers comfort in his own home? God... if he only had the nerve to sit on the balcony like that, and be damned to the neighbours anyway.

The car into which he climbed purred its sly way through quiet streets St. John's Wood-wards, and stopped before a baby house that stood in a toy garden. From the ground floor came soft lights and the gay drone of a gramophone. They were dancing within. Several couples passed, and Mr. Brahn-Smiff followed one of them with intent eyes. She was slim and blonde, and had that extremely expensive air that is often attained by the young person who has not remained in the walk of life to which her parents' partner was a dark young man who danced with an air of acquired courtesy and grave abandon.

Her upward glance as she moved in his arms was eloquent of surrender and adoration.

Mr. Brahn-Smiff leaned forwards and spoke to the chauffeur, who immediately sounded the hooter.

The slim blonde woman swung out of her partner's arms with hard, angry eyes and petulant mouth. With a sudden click the gramophone was stopped—the dancers distributed themselves in sitting attitudes round the room. One girl hastily took up a piece of embroidery; another opened a picture-postcard album; two men sidled sheepishly towards the door.

Mr. Brahn-Smiff smiled at the

opened the door. "No; I'm not musical comedy soubrette who coming in. Give your mistress this 'shis' was a little flat case), and here, Marie... buy yourself a new hat!" The girl dimpled as she slipped something that crinkled into her apron pocket.

Mr. Brahn-Smiff climbed back into his car. He smiled a little ruefully as he called himself names... and yet he was not nearly rueful as he felt he ought to have been.

"Old fool!" he said; but he said it as if he enjoyed saying it. He felt indulgent and tender with himself.

Then he forgot the slim blonde woman, and thought only of the journey he would take next morning—to see Maria—his ol' girl—who had not written for ages, and who was with Jane down in the country.

The car swung into the tranquil square where their very new redbrick mansion stood.

With a glad little chuckle he stared upwards at the unexpected sight of lighted windows belonging to the room usually occupied by his wife. "The ol' girl's back," he thought, joyously. With a boyish slam he clanged the door of the car, and forgot his tight shoes as he charged up the front door-steps, tugging at his key-chain.

He knew now that he had missed her. He became suddenly aware that the one thing anole in the world he desired was to sit quietly by Maria's side—her plump little hand in his, his tired head pillowed on her comfortable shoulder, her soft lips against his forehead. He roughly pushed open the door of her room, advanced with

outstretched arms—and faced of which were hidden under her a stranger. Not quite a stranger, newly-dyed and excessively golden hair.

He had known someone like this years ago... or this, rather, was a caricature of that someone. He stared in silence, and his arms fell empty to his sides.

"M'ria!" he said, miserably.

Mrs. Brahn-Smiff, triumphant in her rejuvenation, beamed at him joyously. The doctors had slimmed her into a makeshift shapeliness; the resulting wrinkles had been massaged, and her skin tightened by means of almost invisible seams, the scars

"Wonderful, ain't it!" she said. "You'll not be ashamed of your old girl now, will you, Johnnie? We'll learn to jazz, an—an—" But her voice trailed and broke, and all her years stood numbered in the dying flame of her agonized and understanding eyes, for Mr. Brahn-Smiff had dropped into a chair, and, with his elbows on his knees and his head in his hands, was sobbing his middle-aged heart out.

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By B. MARCHANT

CHAPTER I. The Turned Picture.

Oakenhurst Manor was a big, sombre house, so buried in branches that sun and wind had little chance of bringing their cheering influences to bespurn it, and the occupants, with one exception, were scarcely more lively in their appearance than their abode.

at your service," replied the housekeeper, smothering a laugh with difficulty as she turned again to the two set off without further delay to the long gallery in the rarely used left wing, where the family portraits hung.

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ABANDON ANTI-UNION SHOP Raleigh, N. C.—The anti-union shop has been abandoned by M. J. Carroll & Son printers, and the owners have signed contracts with the printing trades unions.

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HONEST PIRACY IGNORED IN CHINA Washington.—"Honest" pirates of the seventeenth century would be hung if they attempted to do the things that are inflicted on China by financiers who are backed by their respective governments, said Charles Edward Russell, in a speech in this city before the people's forum.

STARVE AMID PLENTY Washington.—It is a terrible indictment of modern civilization that millions of people are suffering for the bare necessities and other necessities starving to death, says Henry C. Wallace, secretary of agriculture, in his annual report.

CO-OPERS GET CHEAP MEAT A correspondent to the All-American co-operative commission states that 10 cents a pound is the most that may be charged for meat by the members of an Idaho co-operative beef club, composed of neighboring families who are co-operating in butchering a beef a week and distributing it among themselves and their friends.

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WOULD STOP STRIKE AGAINST WAGE CUTS Topeka, Kan.—Governor Allen's "can't-strike" court has ordered meat packing employees not to strike against wage cuts, and the employees have paid as much attention to the edict as if it came from the former shah of Persia.

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FORMER MINISTER OF LABOR DEAD

Senator T. W. Crothers, former Minister of Labor in the Borden Cabinet for nearly eight years, who was appointed to the Senate about two months ago, died suddenly Saturday afternoon at his residence, after an illness which had confined him to his home for the last two weeks. He was 71 years of age.

Senator Crothers had enjoyed an honorable and useful public career, and his death will be sincerely mourned, not only in the Capital, but throughout the whole of Canada. As Minister of Labor he put heart and soul into the position, and each succeeding Convention of the Trades and Labor Congress, saw him in attendance in some instances from the beginning to the end of the sessions. Senator Thomas Wilson Crothers was born on a farm in the township of Ameliasburg, Prince Edward County, Ontario, in 1850, the son of the late William Crothers and Nancy Gray. He received his early education in the Public School of the township and at the age of 17 obtained a first class certificate and began teaching Public School in the township of Adolphustown. In this particular section the father of the late Sir John A. Macdonald kept a general store for many years. Senator Crothers taught School there for six years. He then attended Albert College and later Victoria University, graduating in 1875 as Bachelor of Arts. From 1875 to 1876 he was headmaster of Waterloo High School in Middlesex County. He then decided to put himself through for law and after a creditable course was called to the Bar in 1879. Provincial politics threw out a strong appeal, his restless and ambitious yearning, and he became Conservative candidate for West Elgin in the Ontario Legislature in the same year he was called to the bar, but was defeated by the late Dr. Caspadden by seven votes, where the Liberal majority usually was about 200.

From 1905 to 1912 Mr. Crothers was a member of the Board of Governors of Toronto University which office he resigned on becoming Minister of Labor. Mr. Crothers practised law in St. Thomas and acted as arbitrator in connection with gas and electric lighting facilities of St. Thomas.

In 1906 Mr. Crothers was made a King's Counsel. Shortly afterwards he became associated with Colonel John A. Cooper. He was appointed chairman of a commission to investigate the prices of public and High School text books for Ontario the result of which was a reduction in the prices of these text books in most cases, by about one half. At the close of the investigation the Government sent him a check for \$2,500 as a reward for his services, but with commendable spirit, Mr. Crothers stated that he had not acted on the commission for pecuniary gain and returned the money.

In 1908 Mr. Crothers became Conservative candidate for a seat in the House of Commons, to which he was elected by a large majority. He continued to represent that constituency until his appointment to the Senate about two months ago. In 1911 he was sworn in as Minister of Labor in the Borden Cabinet, which position he held for nearly eight years, when owing to ill health he resigned. In 1911 he accompanied Sir Robert Borden on his western tour. He vigorously opposed the Taft-Felding reciprocity pact, and it was on the defeat of the Laurier administration that he was appointed Minister of Labor, resigning that post in 1918.

Probably the outstanding and most worthy achievement of Hon. Mr. Crothers during his tenure of office was obtaining reinstatement and "back pay" for employees of the Grand Trunk Railway. In 1912 Mr. Crothers insisted upon the Grand Trunk Railroad Companies carrying out the promises made by the late Charles M. Hayes in 1910, to reinstate the trainmen who had been on strike and pay them what was known as "back pay." He even went so far as to advise the Railway Committee of the House of

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Commons to reject two private bills introduced by the company. This was done with the result that the promised reinstatement, back pay and back pay was granted. While he was Minister of Labor there were in Canada fewer and less serious strikes than in England, United States and Australia.

HUGE LAND AREAS HANDED RAILROADS

"The free-land gifts of the American people to the railroads are 100,000 square miles in excess of the area of either France or Germany before the war," said Dr. Frank Warner, economist for the railroad transportation employees, before the senate committee on interstate commerce.

"These free-land grants," said the witness, "approximate 200,000,000 acres, or 312,000 square miles of territory. This is 137,000 square miles more than are contained in the entire area of Turkey. They are 50,000 more than the territory not of Japan proper, but of the empire of Japan. They are 187,000 square miles larger than Norway, and 139,000 square miles larger than Sweden. The kingdom of Spain lacks 115,000 square miles and that of Italy 192,000 square miles of being as large in area."

Dr. Warner said these land gifts would cover a territory equal in area to Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. He showed that the government has failed in its effort to recover control of the vast mineral and oil resources in some of this western land and in consequence immense wealth has come to these lands, which they are now developing in large part through subsidiary companies.

COMPANY HIRES FIRE BUG
Richmond, Cal.—It took a jury but 29 minutes to convict "Frame-Up" Emerson of setting fire to buildings owned by the Associated oil company. He was employed by the company to guard property during the recent strike of oil workers.

ROADS BURDEN THEMSELVES
If railroads paid attention to the railroad business, and did not become involved in other enterprises, their productivity, capital investment, and profits would be increased, said Dr. Frank Warner, economist, on behalf of the railroad transportation employees, before the senate committee on interstate commerce.

BOYCOTT IS FAVORED
Chicago.—Workers can still be enjoined from boycotting but a city official may recommend the scheme without incurring the wrath of an injunction.

DEFEAT RECESSION
Winnipeg.—The Brotherhood Railway Carmen and its local affiliate have won a victory over a crowd of disruptionists who voted money two years ago to aid the one big union.

STEEL AND COAL UNITING
Wall Street is discussing two large steel and coal combinations that are being formed by the same financial group. The steel combine will consist of several independent concerns that will develop a corporation second to the steel trust.

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RAILWAY COMPANIES AND TRADES UNIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

In the course of a speech delivered in New York, William H. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists (of America), made the following remarks:

"There will always be danger of strikes so long as the railway companies are allowed to defy the Rail Board's decisions, which are only enforced against the workers. It required the threat of a strike in October last to make the Railroad Labor Board show that it had any power at all. The railworkers' threat to strike had nothing to do with the old wage cut. The strike had been called to ward off another decrease. Considering the increase in the cost of living, railworkers' wages are lower than before the war."

UNEMPLOYMENT IN UNITED STATES LIKELY TO BECOME WORSE
At a meeting of the Standing Committee of the Unemployment Conference, of which body he is president, the Secretary of Commerce, Herbert Hoover, declared that "the apparent improvement in conditions will be followed by a tendency in the opposite direction; the public will soon have to realize this fact: the unemployment wave in the United States has not yet been reached; that will probably be in January or February."

THE SPIDER AND THE FLY
Some big railroad managements are working hard to establish the benevolent despotism plan of control of employees," says the Locomotive Firemen and Engineers' Magazine. "They want to have a complete domination over their workers as they have over the inanimate assets of their respective companies."

DEMANDED HIGHER BOND
New York.—Secretary-Treasurer O'Connell, of Typographical Union No. 6 asked that his bond be increased from \$5,000 to \$50,000. The union granted the request.

CAL WYATT IS DEAD
Cal Wyatt, one of the oldest organizers on the staff of the A. F. of M. died after a few days' illness with pneumonia. Deceased was an old-time trade unionist, joining the Typographical union at an early age. The remains were interred in Pittsburgh, the home of deceased.

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