

Saskatchewan Labor's Realm

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THE SASKATCHEWAN LABOR'S REALM

Weekly Labor and Social Reform Newspaper. Justice, Truth, Fraternity. "Labor Omnia Vincit."

HUGH PEAT EDITOR.

Canadian Labor Party and the Asiatic Immigration Question

Spirited Debate on the Restriction of Oriental Immigration--Plea for Justice and Christian Charity

The subject at the last regular meeting of the Regina branch of the Canadian Labor Party was evidently one in which the working men of the city were deeply interested, if the attendance at that meeting is any criterion to go by.

The Asiatic question is one which has engaged the attention of all classes of society for some time past, and the resolution introduced by Mr. Hugh Peat gave rise to considerable discussion, and remarkably divergent opinions were expressed by many who although apparently convinced of the urgent necessity for restriction of some kind, were still dubious as to the outcome and justifiability of pronounced restrictive measures being adopted.

The resolution was as follows:

Resolved that we are in favor of restricting the flood of Oriental immigration to this country within such bounds that it can never become a menace to our political power or to our economic or social life.

In speaking to the resolution Mr. Peat emphasised two points particularly in substantiation of the position he maintained, namely, economic and political.

He argued that unless some barrier was raised to prohibit wholesale immigration the Oriental races would soon fill Canada in countless thousands, and that as a natural consequence the white races would be forced back to make room for the invaders, because a nation like the Japanese or Chinese, whose standard of living is so low and whose margin of subsistence is narrow would easily be able to force out of the country a nation whose standard of living is high. Employers of labor favored Oriental immigration on account of its cheapness, and it might be contended that employees were opposed to that immigration solely on the narrow and selfish principle that it would become a menace to them as a class, by forcing a reduction of wages on them through successful competition. This stand of the workers he admitted, but condoned the selfish imputation, if such it could be called, on the ground that high wages were necessary in order to enable the workers to keep in line with the advancement of civilization, and in accord with the natural evolutionary upward trend of the human race.

On the other hand the only persons who advocated and desired the unhampered influx of Oriental laborers were the employers and the directors of large combines who were actuated by a still narrower and still more selfish motive, inasmuch as they wanted Oriental immigrants solely on account of their cheapness, and were only concerned with the inflating of their banking accounts, regardless of the baneful effects of such a policy on our national life.

Asiatics can live, as everyone well knew, more cheaply than white men can be expected to live. They can, therefore, underbid white men in the matter of wages and profits, and this was and could be the only reason which employers could advance in support of their policy of unrestricted Asiatic immigration.

Continuing, the speaker maintained that unrestricted Oriental immigration was a political menace to the country because the Dominion would be by the pursuit of such a policy, se-

cure a population that is incapable and also unwilling to perform the duties of citizenship, and as a natural consequence would be responsible for promoting a scheme whereby the political standard of the Dominion would be lowered. The Asiatics are not permanent settlers and are bound by more than patriotic ties to the fatherland and are therefore unequivocally averse to becoming citizens of an alien country. It is also well known that they are but a poor source of revenue to the country as they do not spend the money they make here, but send it out to the homeland. In this way millions of dollars are sent out of the country each year, which would be spent here if the land was peopled with settlers like those from eastern Europe who not only come to stay but are proud to merge their nationality in that of our great country, and to become known as true and loyal Canadians.

Moreover, mutual restriction of immigration cannot be regarded as foreign to Japanese ideas at the present time, because foreigners are excluded from laboring in the more important centres of Japan, and the Anglo-Japanese treaty to which Canada adhered at her own wish last year, provides for reciprocity in shipping and trading privileges, but makes no mention of manual labor.

In conclusion the speaker pleaded for restriction of Asiatic immigration as a safeguard to the protection of our own white citizens. Asiatics were removed from us by centuries of superstition and stagnation, and it would be an unpardonable injustice to compel our own children of the Dominion to sink to the level of a morally inferior race, whose social standard and whose religious ideals were so diametrically opposed to our own, and with whom a daily contact for the struggle for bread would mean the setting back of the hands of time and the shrouding in crape of our lofty ideals of western civilisation.

The Negative

In opposing the resolution Mr. T. Walshe Turner said: "In dealing with so important a problem as the Asiatic problem, it seems to me that not merely the economic and social, but also the religious side should be carefully analysed. Now it is not my intention to go into the question very deeply, but I am going to make an appeal to your sense of justice—that sense of justice which is supposed to be so strongly developed in the British race, let me take first of all the religious side. In our modern up-to-date Christianity the moral aspect of any problem is either completely ignored or given very little consideration. Christianity seems to be developing into a creed of talking platitudes, going to church and looking respectable and a people realise that there is any further obligation attached to it they are careful enough to ease their conscience when the keeping of this obligation seems, in any way, to interfere with their material interests.

Now the Christian ideal is that of a universal brotherhood and 'one for ones fellow man, without distinction of race or creed or color, and what ever other differences in doctrine there may be among members of the Christian church, we all seem to interpret the command of the master,

"do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you," in the same way. There is no evading this command therefore, and I contend that any act of ours in trying to exclude the Asiatic races from Canada will brand us as a nation of hypocrites unworthy of this great heritage, and will do more to retard the progress of Christianity and morality than any other act of ours could possibly do, and we have done much al-

(Continued on page 2.)

MOOSE JAW TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL

Officers Elected for Ensuing Year—Council Determines to Boost the "Realm" and Help to Make it a Truly Provincial Labor Paper.

A meeting of the above Council was held on Tuesday, Jan. 20 when several new credentials were presented and much important business done. A splendid move in the right direction was made when the council adopted the recommendation of the Hall Committee to take over the machinists' hall.

A resolution pledging support to any worthy attempt to inaugurate a daily labor paper was brought forward, and after some discussion was laid on the table, the Council feeling its duty to be to concentrate their efforts to boost the Realm before supporting any daily.

Several attempts have been made to bring the formation of a branch of the Canadian Labor party to a head, and this question was again discussed with some warmth, but in the end the matter was again postponed.

The statistician reported, during the last six months the machinists and boilermakers had been successful in securing a shorter workday of nine hours with ten hours pay; the carmen had been granted the shorter workday but no increase.

The organization committee reported a branch of the Musicians Union having been formed, and the committee were endeavoring to form a branch of the teamsters union in the near future.

The election of officers was on the order of business for this meeting and resulted as follows:

President—Fred Gray.
Vice Pres.—W. Flynn.
Sec. Treas.—W. Keay.
Warden—F. Bertwistle.

The various committees will be elected on Feb. 4th.

Bravo, Moose Jaw! It is indeed a pleasure to the management of the Realm to learn that our sister council is beginning to evince a livelier interest in the existence of our Provincial Labor Paper.

In spite of opposition, hard knocks and disparaging remarks The Realm is still in the field, boosting everything that comes its way for the advancement of union principles, and for the uplift of wage earners generally.

We want to extend the scope of The Realm to the utmost limit. It is the only labor paper in the middle west, and if it does not come up to the standard of the workers, to whose interests it is devoted, the blame lies at the door of the workers themselves. Boost The Realm! Increase its circulation and the management on its side will see to it that every effort is put forward to make it one of the best and brightest labor papers in the Dominion.

Without outside help The Realm has fought its fight for a foothold. It is welcomed by every wage earner in the city of Regina, and the time is not far distant when it will become a welcome feature in the life of working men in every part of the province.—Editor.

Annual Meeting of the Regina Trades & Labor Council

President Reviews the Work of Past Year in an Eloquent Address—Unanimously Elected for Another Term

The annual meeting of the Trades and Labor Council of Regina was held in Trades Hall last Saturday evening. The importance of the occasion brought the delegates from the local unions out in grand style, with the result that the largest attendance was recorded since the inauguration of the council.

Very little change took place in the election of officers, the retiring president, Thos. M. Molloy being again enthusiastically elected president for the ensuing year.

Another office was created, namely that of recording secretary, T. Walshe Turner being elected to discharge the duties connected with the recording of the deliberations of the Council. This step was taken with a view to relieve the corresponding secretary of his increasing duties, who will now handle the correspondence and attend to the financial business of the council.

President Thos. Molloy, after the routine business had been transacted read his annual address, as follows: The delegates Regina Trades and Labor Council.

Fellow Workers, "The year 1907 which has just closed was a memorable one in the history of trades unionism inasmuch as it has witnessed the birth of several local unions, and the inauguration of our Trades and Labor Council.

Less than a year ago our Trades Council was formed with a membership of five affiliated unions, i.e. Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners; Bricklayers and Masons; Painters and Decorators; Plumbers and Steamfitters and the Typographical Union. Some of you will no doubt remember that meeting and the little incidents connected with it. I might just mention here that it was held in the dining room of a private house kindly lent by our esteemed friend and indefatigable brother worker, Mr. W. E. Cocks, and the most sanguine of that small but earnest body of men who sat there never anticipated, and could hardly be expected to hope that that was the inception of one of the strongest and most active councils of the middle west. Out of that little meeting has grown the present Trades and Labor Council of the city of Regina, a trades Council having ten unions affiliated, and having for its meeting place one of the most commodious and centrally located halls in the city; a trades council that has in less than a year passed from the stage of childhood into its trying period of adolescence right on to this time when it has acquired the fulness of stature of manhood, nobly asserting itself for the uplifting and betterment of the toilers of our capital city.

"Such is the progress we have made during the past eleven months, and it is a criterion and happy harbinger of what can be accomplished in the future.

"Besides the doubling of the number of unions affiliated, the next two matters of importance taking place during the year were first, the grand Labor Day celebration, the first of its kind ever held in this province, the success of which redounds to the credit of those who had the affair in hand, and, secondly, to the fact that Regina was for the first time in her history, represented at the Dominion Trades Congress, where she had three delegates present. These with many other features have marked an evolutionary year in this city in so far as the toiling masses are concerned.

"But gentlemen, let me remind you that all this has not been accomplished without work. It is work

however, which we enjoy, a work which draws out all that is best within us, inasmuch as it brings us into closer contact with our fellow workers for whose welfare and social progress we are greatly concerned and to the advancement of whose aspirations and ideals we are pledged.

"I beg to thank the executive officers and the various committees who so willingly and untiringly devoted their time and attention to the cause they represent, often at great loss of time and money to themselves. I feel in duty bound to make especial mention here of our indefatigable secretary, Mr. Hugh Peat, to whose efforts alone a large share of our success is due. And I thank you one and all gentlemen for the honor you conferred on me when you elected me your president, and am content if I have redeemed the trust placed in me for I can truly say I did my best.

"Many pages could be written concerning the past year's work, but it is sufficient for me to say that it has been a grand success both financially and in point of increased organizations, and I look forward with confidence to the time when Regina will have a labor temple erected within its limits which will be a credit and honor to the city and to the workers who will build it.

"I close as I began by saying that there is no end to our opportunities. Our beloved council is, and ever will be as great as we choose to make it. The delegates are in character and ability equal to any tasks, and I look forward confidently and prayerfully to years of such accomplishment as will make the year just passed worthy, chiefly because in it was the beginning of far better things to come."

The council then proceeded with the election of officers which resulted as follows:

President—Thos. M. Molloy.
Vice Pres.—J. D. Simson.
Fin. Sec.—Hugh Peat.
Rec. Sec.—T. Walshe Turner.
Statistician—W. E. Cocks.
Warden—A. S. Wells.
Legislative committee—Simson, Simmons, Turner, Wells and Cocks.
Organisation Committee—Powell, Skanlon, Whitely, Calderwood, Morrison.
Labor Committee—Turner, Carmichael, Cook, Whitely, Swan.
Hall Committee—Wells, Turner, Simmons, Calderwood, Todd.

WAGES IN JAPAN

Wages in Japan do not err on the side of generosity. A schedule presented to the Royal Commission, which advised the Ottawa government not to encourage Japanese immigration, gives the following figures:

	Cents a day
Blacksmiths	24
Carpenters	24½
Laborers	17
Plasterers	25
Roofers	24
Saddlers	23
Printers	17½
Stone Cutters	27½

While labor is remunerated at this rate, what wonder is there that the Japanese should look to this side of the Pacific as the place in which to do well? At the same time is there any room for surprise at the opposition of white labor in the west to the coming of the Jap?

It is interesting to note that a printer is worth half a cent more a day than the laborer anyway.

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Canadian Labor Party And the Asiatics

(Continued from page 1.)

ready to convince them that we are not really sincere in the creed we profess, and let me quote you some remarks concerning the moral law by John Bright—he said that "the moral law was not written for men alone in their individual character, but it was written as well for nations," and for nations as great as this of which we are citizens and he said: "if nations reject or deride this law there is a penalty that must inevitably follow." It may not come in our lifetime, but rely upon it, it will come. We have the great unchangeable and eternal principles of the moral law to guide us and only so far as we walk by that guidance can we be permanently a great nation, or our people a happy people.

"Now it is argued that the Asiatics are socially inferior to the white races, but I should like to know in what way? It is true that they differ in color in creed and in customs, but what real differences are these? Color after all is only skin deep. We all owe allegiance to the same common Father of all men, even if we have our own ideas as to how we should pay him homage, and as for manners and customs—well, I feel sure if we make a fair comparison between eastern manners and customs, we will find that in many respects the Oriental is our superior, take their innate courtesy and charm of manner for instance, that is a something that might well be imitated by the white races with advantage to themselves, then, the fraternal instinct is very highly developed in the Asiatic races, it may be argued by some that this is only in evidence amongst themselves, but I ask you how you expect them to make even a pretence of affection for us, when we insist not merely in ostracising them, but in treating them like so many dogs. I feel that if in the past we had held out the hand of a brother to the Asiatic and shown him by precept and example that the creed we professed pointed out to us the proper rule of life that the differences between the two races would not be so marked as it is today, and we would not have the bitter racial hatred that exists and the misery that is the result of it. Instead of this our policy has been one of continual aggression, intermingled with the most shameful hypocrisy frequently under the cloak of religion. We have gone to the Asiatic with the whiskey bottle in one hand, and the bible in the other. When one or other, or the combined influence of the two have not succeeded in convincing him of the superiority of our civilisation we have followed these up with a few maxim guns, in many cases taking possession of his country and insisted on ruling him whether he liked it or not, and can any of you point me out a country where the white man has ruled a colored race successfully, or has done anything to improve the condition of that race morally or otherwise. I think not, instead of this he has daubed on a thin layer of prosperity, appropriated all the rich plums he could lay his hands on, and instead of benefitting has contaminated and demoralised the natives to such an extent that they have lost all confidence in either himself, his creed, or his much vaunted civilisation, and

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now because he dares to come amongst us and assert his undoubted right to take up his position as a peaceful well contented citizen, we are all displaying a feeling of petty jealousy at the success he has attained, a feeling that in my opinion is unworthy of any nation calling itself great. Plucky little Japan is one of the colored nations that held out against the white race and in the matter of progress as we understand it she has put all the white races to shame, yet considering the short period in which she has been using modern or western methods either in commerce, warfare or legislation she has easily established a record that yet remains to be beaten by any white race, yet previous to the China-Japan war she was practically the laughing stock of other countries. In fact one of the most successful of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic operas "The Mikado" was a travesty of life in Japan, and I was very pleased to hear that the censor of plays in England has banned this play as it was grossly insulting to the Japanese nation. She has lately beaten one of the greatest of white nations and gained the respect of it and all others, even that power which we as British subjects look upon as the greatest has not disdained an alliance and that too on terms of equality, in fact a clause in the agreement gives Japan the right to supervise the training and equipment of the army so that it may be kept up to the standard she considers right. Yet the Japanese seem to be coming in for the hardest knocks out west, does it not strike you as strange, brother workers, that the very race that has already proved itself fit to take its place in the vanguard of progress and civilisation, should be the one against which practically all this bitterness is directed. These same Japanese who only a few years ago were lauded up to the sky when they beat the Russians—these same Russians whom you allow to come in on your eastern sea-board, and who are certainly not the most law-abiding citizens in Canada.

"I am prepared to admit that some reform is necessary in our immigration policy, but let me ask you to approach the question with calmness

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and reason and not as the bull approaches the red flag. But above all let me appeal to your sense of justice and fair play in dealing with the immigrant either from the east or the west, and remember those lines from the pen of the English poet, Kipling:

There is neither east nor west,
Border nor breed nor birth,
When two strong men come face to face,
Though they came from the ends
of the earth."

Considerable discussion followed Mr. Turner's able defence amongst which was an eloquent oration in support of the resolution by Mr. Jas. D. Simson, which was as follows:

"While supporters of the Asiatic immigration question have put forth very worthy, and what appears to them very weighty arguments as to why the immigration should continue I do not think that they have proved the right of the Asiatic to enter any country in great numbers unrestricted. The exclusion of this branch of the human race theoretically implies a denial of the rights of the brotherhood of man, but practically it is only putting into effect the principle of self-preservation, for if the countless hordes of Asiatics were allowed to pour unchecked through the gates of every country where would we be?

"Do you know that the population of Asia is greater than that of the rest of the world? Do you know that out of a world population of fifteen hundred millions, Asia has a population of 865 millions? Do you know that out of a world's population of 1500 million, the heathen number 1146 million, and the Christian only 354 million? Just ponder over these figures for a few minutes and you will see one of the greatest dangers unrestricted immigration of Asiatics is paving the way for.

"Here are a few points on which opponents of the Asiatic immigration base their arguments:

"That they arrive in the country more numerous than any other kind of immigrant.

"That the Asiatics far outnumber the rest of the world, and are so numerous as to form a great danger to civilised countries.

"That they are indisposed to be governed by white man's laws.

"That they are dissimilar in habits and occupations to the English speaking races.

"That they evade the payment of taxes justly due and payable to the authorities.

"That they indulge in and are governed by pestilential habits.

"That they are useless in the case of national emergency.

"That the laws governing white men are found to be inapplicable to Asiatics.

"That they do not come as permanent settlers.

"That they work for small wages thereby lowering the value of the white man's labor.

"That instead of spending the money they earn in the country where it was earned, they hoard it until they have enough to go home with, thereby taking good money out of the country.

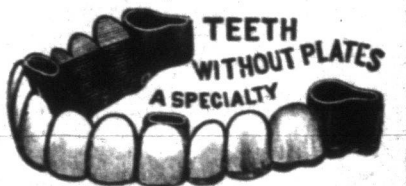
"And in spite of this asserted utility, the Asiatic has become an intolerable offence to the laboring men of America, Australia and several other places where the English speaking race are in the majority. He is ac-

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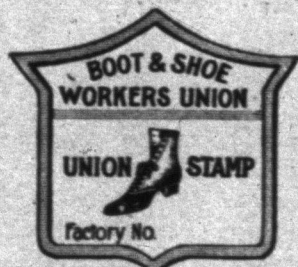
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cused of gambling, opium smoking and immorality. But the worst offence is his working for low wages, and lowering the market value of labor. Today the question has assumed serious proportions in the British Empire. The Filipinos are subjects of Great Britain, and the Japanese are allies of Great Britain and altogether it is a difficult problem. But I am in favor of keeping them out whether we offend Japan or not, and I think it is time that the working men had a voice in the councils of the empire. Their knowledge and advice on the subject would be, I think of some assistance. We have long been working with this object in view, and I am convinced that we are gradually getting closer to the attainment of our ideal. When, however, I see in the papers that a lawyer has been nominated for this constituency, and a millionaire brewer for some other constituency, and only in a few places are working men nominated, and in still less are they elected, I am tempted to ask, How long is this to continue? How long before every working man has a vote? How long before we are able to secure universal suffrage for men and women alike? How long before representation in parliament will be equally proportioned between the different classes of society?

Coming back to the subject under discussion, I think that it is clear to all that cheap labor is the object and encouragement of Asiatic immigration, and with the capitalistic class holding the balance of power in both of the great political parties, it is hard to see how any equitable solution can be arrived at until we are enabled to take our part in the government of the country by the election to parliament of working men to represent working men."

Mr. Geo. S. Houston rose to support the resolution, and whilst doing so paid a well deserved tribute to Mr. Turner for the masterly defence put up, and for the excellent Christian spirit he exhibited in seeking the removal of any restriction on Oriental races.

On the motion being put to the meeting, the resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Jas. Simson, was carried by an almost unanimous vote.

MINERS OF THE WEST

Senator Watson's Open Shop Not Open Heart Policy—No Union for Him—Worthy Senator.

The District Ledger, the official organ of District No. 18, of the United Mine Workers, says: Vice President Galvin was ordered off the property of the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Coal Company, at Rennie, Sask., last week. Senator Watson, managing director of the company told Galvin he would allow no union at his mine, nor would he allow any union official on the premises. He proposed to hire who he pleased, and pay what wages he liked and sell his coal at what prices he wished, and anyone that did not like his way of doing business could go to

That the company had invested \$150,000 in the mine and would run its business as they wished regardless of anyone. Vice President Galvin informed Senator Watson that his men were organized into the U. M. W. of A. and if he would not adjust their grievances a board of investigation under the Lemieux Act would be applied for and failing to obtain justice by that method, he Senator Watson would be up against a fight that would make his \$150,000 look like 10 cents.

About 85 men are employed at the mine which is a new one.

Vice President Galvin reports great progress in the direction of organization in Souris. Conditions in and around the mines are bad, 10 to 12 hours being the shift worked, the highest day wages \$2. About eight hundred men are employed in the Souris coal fields.

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THE HUMAN SIDE OF THE LABOR QUESTION

(By Rev. Chas. Stelzle.)

We have assumed that a thousand of us, each worth—according to the courts of law—\$5,000, making a total value of \$5,000,000, have placed our "capital" along side of the "capital" of a factory owner, who has put up another \$5,000,000, thus making a plant worth \$10,000,000. Without entering into a controversy as to whether the present economic system is right or wrong, let us face present day conditions.

Assuming that our interests are common, what do we, as partners in this ten million dollar enterprise, owe each other?

On one side our "captain of industry" must give us a sufficient rate of interest in the form of wages or in some other convenient and satisfactory form, as will at least give us a fair and comfortable living. This rate of interest must be higher proportionately, than that which he himself receives from the amount which he invested, first, because we, as human beings valued at \$5,000 each, are actually worth more than \$5,000 put into brick and iron, in which his capital is invested, and, second, because he will never return the principal as it is represented in the \$5,000 workingman, as he would be compelled to do, if he were to borrow that amount in the open market. Just what the proportion of interest shall be must be determined both by the ability and the energy each of us—workmen and directors—puts into our particular end of the job. This implies that some of us, even among the workmen, will receive a higher rate of interests, or wages, than others.

Furthermore, we have a right to insist that our workers' conditions shall be such as to permit us to live in a manner which is fitting as normal men. This principle must determine the number of hours which we work, and sanitary conditions in the shop. The director must protect us from every influence which might lower the standard of living to which we are justly entitled, whether that influence be in the nature of other workmen who are antagonistic to these interests by reason of indifference or depraved tastes and inclinations, or whether that influence be due to any other cause which might make us less human and less progressive.

On the other hand it should be understood that the thousand of us are ready to say that every talent which we possess shall be put into our common business. Not only must we keep out every negative influence, but it should be incumbent upon us to contribute every possible virtue which shall make our common job what it should be.

This implies that every man will make the most of himself, physically, mentally, morally. For no man can give out to others and for others, that which he, himself, does not possess.

Meeting of the Canadian Labor Party Sunday. Be there.

TO THE KNOCKER

If you're going to be a knocker,
Why not join the "Knocker Club"?
Get a badge, put on a button,
Be a spiklet in the hub.
Get a hammer, do your knocking.
Do your knocking like a man!
Don't be snarling, use your hammer,
Hit a rap whenever you can!
Knock your neighbor, knock his business,
Knock your friend, and knock him well,
Knock his future, knock his present,
Try to knock him down to hell!
Be a cheap skate, be a piker,
Be a sinker by the clock,
But forget not that your neighbor
In this world was just to knock!
—San Francisco Organized Labor.

TRADES AND LABOR CONGRESS OF CANADA

A Few Reasons compiled by Vice-Pres. Simpson why Unions should Affiliate with Congress.

James Simpson, vice president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has compiled a list of twenty reasons why Trade Unions should affiliate with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada. Below is published the first five of these reasons, as follows:

1. Because national boundary lines make it impossible for the American Federation of Labor to secure legislation for wage earners in Canada.
2. Because the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is the recognised legislative mouthpiece for the international trades unions of Canada.
3. Because the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has secured more beneficial legislation for the wage earners of Canada than any other agency.
4. Because the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has obstructed and prevented the enactment of more legislation detrimental to the best interests of Canadian workmen than any other agency.
5. Because the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada has been the means of killing legislation that would have prevented United States citizens from visiting Canada in an advisory capacity or representatives of International Trade Unions.

Only those who have watched the slow and steady struggle of the Congress in the legislative halls of the Dominion can thoroughly appreciate the truth and weight of these first five reasons, every one of which is a strong and incisive argument, not only why trade unions should affiliate with the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, but why every man who works for wages should join the union representing his craft. The stronger you make your local union, the more powerful a unit it becomes in the Congress, and consequently the Congress becomes stronger in its uphill fight for the benefit of the workers of this Dominion.

However, all union men, whether veterans or novices cannot help but realise the fact that the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada is the only legislative body in the Dominion that carries any prestige in our federal and local Houses.

SOURIS COAL CO.

Workmen's Organization Threatened—Company Proposed to Employ Whom They Will and Pay What They Will.

There is a strained state of affairs down at Taylorton between the miners and the owners of the Taylor mines. A miners' union has been formed, embracing nearly all the miners employed by the Hudson's Bay, and the Souris Coal Co. The former company has no objections to the workmen forming a union and are said to have recognized it. On the other hand, the Taylors have dismissed all men of whom they know to have joined the union. An effort was made to keep the matter quiet, but the Observer is pleased to give publicity to the state of affairs mentioned for the benefit of the workmen. Considerable indignation is felt at the action of the Souris Coal Co. in trying to choke off the employees from banding together for mutual benefit.—Estevan Observer.

Indianapolis, Jan. 22.—The nineteenth annual convention of the United Mine Workers was called to order at ten o'clock this morning by President Mitchell, who received an ovation from twelve hundred assembled miners and was visibly affected. After a short opening address, the convention took up the consideration of regular business. The report of the committee on credentials will be followed by reports of the president, secretary-treasurer and vice-president.

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