



DES SERVITEURS MAL PAYES

Les employés des services de voirie, égouts et aqueduc sont obligés de vivre avec \$2.50 par jour. — Il faut que la ville augmente leurs salaires. — A quand l'interpellation ?

Le renchérissement continu de la vie a obligé les travailleurs dans les différents corps de métier de réclamer que les employeurs une augmentation de salaire. Dans plus d'un cas, les patrons ont été au devant du désir de leurs employés et ont de leur propre initiative augmenté les gages qui n'étaient plus proportionnés aux besoins.

Les statistiques officielles ont clairement démontré dans quelle énorme proportion tous les articles d'absolue nécessité ont augmenté. Nul ne peut donc nier à l'heure qu'il est qu'il en coûte beaucoup plus pour vivre maintenant qu'il en coûtait il y a deux ans et même l'an dernier.

Qui a le plus souffert de cet état de choses si ce n'est l'ouvrier, le gagne-petit. En effet, les prix sont uniformes pour tous et le riche ne paye pas plus cher pour un livre de beurre ou un sac de pommes de terre que le pauvre; il faut qu'ils mangent tous les deux à leur faim. Le premier s'aperçoit à peine de cette augmentation, vu le montant de ses revenus.

Qu'est-ce que cinquante sous de plus par jour sur la nourriture, pour un homme qui dépense journalièrement \$25 ou \$30. Tandis que l'ouvrier, qui doit prélever un montant additionnel égal sur son maigre revenu de \$2.50 par jour, par exemple, doit nécessairement se priver, c'est-à-dire ne pas manger à sa faim, ou ne pas se couvrir suffisamment lui et ses enfants, ou ne jamais jouir de petites distractions, pourtant peu coûteuses, qui lui feraient trouver la vie moins amère.

Dans le budget d'un riche, la nourriture ne compte que pour une bien petite part, tandis que dans celui d'un ouvrier, c'est pour ainsi dire tout.

Nous entendons dire de tous côtés: les ouvriers gagnent énormément d'argent; ils peuvent se payer toutes les fantaisies qui leur plaisent. Certes, il faut reconnaître que certains métiers, dans la fabrication des munitions par exemple, rétribuent assez bien leurs hommes; mais tous ne sont pas occupés à faire des munitions.

Prenons, si vous le voulez bien, les employés de la voirie municipale. Voici des hommes qui sont au service de la ville depuis des années, qui sont habitués à ce genre de travail et qui ne désirent guère changer de patrons, sachant surtout que la guerre ne durera pas éternellement. Croyez-vous que ces hommes-là gagnent assez pour se payer des fantaisies? Croit-on que de nos jours on peut heurter son pain avec \$2.50 par jour? C'est impossible, surtout si la famille est nombreuse.

Un salaire insuffisant est non seulement mauvais pour celui qui le reçoit, mais aussi pour tous les autres membres de la société. Si l'ouvrier est mal payé, il ne va pas au magasin et si le magasin fait moins d'affaires, c'est le manufacturier qui en souffre à son tour. Il me semble que cela est assez logique. C'est donc une erreur de la part du patron de ne pas vouloir payer des salaires raisonnables à ses employés, c'est autant de moins qui tombera dans sa poche.

Mais revenons-en aux employés municipaux, dont il est spécialement question. Les cantonniers et autres manoeuvres du département de la voirie, des égouts ou de l'aqueduc font plus de travail que l'on ne pense. Ils doivent être à la disposition de leurs chefs jour et nuit, par n'importe quel temps et à n'importe quel endroit. Ils reçoivent la ridicule pitance de Deux dollars et Cinquante Centimes par jour. Adviennent seulement quelques jours de maladie et les voilà endettés pour toute l'année. Il faut absolument améliorer leur sort.

Combien d'échevins, de commissaires, pour ne pas citer le maire lui-même, qui dans le cours de leur campagne électorale, juraient de protéger les pauvres travailleurs. Quand vient le moment où ils pourraient tenir leur promesse, ils jettent les millions aux quatre vents sans réserver quelques piastres pour ceux qu'ils devaient si bien protéger.

Je suis réellement étonné qu'aucune proposition n'ait encore été faite, ni au Bureau des Commissaires, ni au Conseil de Ville, pour augmenter le salaire de ces employés. Est-ce parce qu'ils n'ont pas demandé avec assez d'insistance, parce qu'ils n'ont pas fait de bruit, ni de menaces. C'est justement pour cela que l'on devrait avoir plus de sollicitude pour eux.

J'ose espérer que dès la prochaine séance du Conseil une interpellation sera faite à ce sujet et que l'on rendra justice à ceux à qui justice est due.

Jean Lacroix.

Nous célébrons LUNDI, LE 12 MARS

NOTRE

49me

Anniversaire

PAR UNE

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Dupuis Frères

LE MAGASIN DU PEUPLE 447-449 EST, RUE SAINTE-CATHERINE MONTREAL

L'EMANCIPATION DE LA FEMME

Pourquoi refuse-t-on le droit de vote aux Canadiennes de la Province de Québec? Serons-nous toujours en arrière des provinces soeurs?—On n'est jamais si bien servi que par soi-même.

Le féminisme, sous l'action du feu comme un fruit par les rayons du soleil brûlant de l'été a mûri soudainement. La femme en ces derniers temps s'est accrue en dignité, en liberté et ses droits qu'elle réclamait à peine, on les lui offre. Ce n'est d'ailleurs qu'après une germination plus ou moins cachée qu'un mouvement d'opinion arrive à la pleine conscience de ses forces. Il ne faut donc pas s'étonner si le Manitoba et l'Ontario nous ont précédés dans la solution de ce problème important, le vote des femmes. Nos compagnes des provinces soeurs étaient plus préparées que nous le sommes à recevoir la liberté, par leur éducation et la tendance de leur esprit.

Chez les Canadiennes-françaises, le féminisme git dans leur esprit dans un état latent, obscur, flou, comme une sorte de bouée flottante où l'on distingue à peine la forme de l'idéal. Elles ont une sorte de frayeur, c'est pour elles le fruit défendu, elles voudraient bien y mordre, mais elles n'osent y toucher. A part quelques femmes qui, de temps à autre, vont en députation auprès de M. Gouin pour faire entendre des plaintes très douces, que notre premier ministre écoute d'un air dolent, aucune revendication sérieuse n'a troublé la quiétude de nos gouvernants qui ne le sait ne prennent jamais l'initiative des mouvements, mais cèdent plutôt à la pression qu'un exerce plus ou moins fortement sur eux. Ceux qu'on met au pouvoir pour être les remorqueurs des masses et les conduire au but marqué par leur destin sont au contraire remorqués par elles. Nous les appelons gouvernants. Ils le sont comme la boussole qui subit l'attraction de l'aimant. Si donc nous voulons qu'ils avancent, il faut nous-mêmes pousser à la roue.

Nous n'aurons l'instruction obligatoire si nous contrainsons nos ministères, à nous l'accorder. Aux Etats-Unis, on fait comme Mahomet, sachant que les montagnes ne viendraient pas vers eux, ils sont allés vers les montagnes. Ils ont imposé l'obligation scolaire et l'école laïque, ils ont bâti des bibliothèques, des musées et exercé une pression sur le peuple pour lui faire adopter les institutions nécessaires à son évolution. Si vous vous attendez

que nos gouvernants viennent au devant de nos besoins et se fassent les pilotes de notre barque, vous vous trompez. C'est nous qui devons prendre le gouvernail en mains, qu'on se le tienne pour dit. Est-ce notre gouvernement, notre municipalité, qui nous ont doté d'une bibliothèque? On le croirait d'après les apparences, mais on serait dupes de l'illusion. Il a fallu dix ans de polémiques dans les journaux pour créer un mouvement populaire qui a forcé la construction du palais des livres. M. Frédéric Villeneuve a été l'instigateur de ce mouvement. Il s'est employé à faire signer des listes qu'on envoyait aux commissaires. Il organisait des députations qui allaient parlementer à l'hôtel de ville. Il forçait les électeurs à exiger que la construction de la bibliothèque fût en première ligne sur le programme des candidats. C'est quand nos administrateurs municipaux se sont cru la main forcée qu'ils se sont exécutés. Ce sera toujours ainsi. Il faut être les artisans de notre évolution et surtout ne pas se mettre en tête que nos mandataires sont envoyés à Québec et à Ottawa pour soigner nos intérêts, à moins que nous ne les y contraindions. Si nous voulons qu'une mesure progressive passe en Chambre, rendons-nous sur place, circonvenons les députés, tâchons de réussir à les persuader, non pas qu'il y va de l'intérêt public, mais des leurs et que c'est l'expression de la volonté des électeurs. Ne pensez pas qu'on va vous laisser tomber des ortolans tout rôtis dans le bec. Si les femmes ne réclament pas le droit de vote, on ne le leur offrira pas et nous continuerons à traîner à la queue des autres provinces.

On ne trouve pas étrange que dans un pays où le premier venu est électeur des institutions, des mères de famille ne le soient pas. Admettant toutes les incapacités masculines sommes-nous excusables d'exclure toutes les capacités féminines? "Comment, disait une femme propriétaire d'une ferme, c'est moi qui paie l'impôt et ce sont mes employés qui votent!" Un adversaire du suffrage des femmes disait: "La femme est exemptée du service militaire, son exclusion des droits politiques est la raison de cette exclusion." Je ne crois pas qu'il soit nécessaire d'enrégimenter les femmes pour qu'elles

aient un mot à dire dans le gouvernement de leur pays. Est-ce que l'impôt du sang n'est pas compensé du côté des femmes par les lourdes charges de la maternité Bonaparte disait un jour à Condorcet: "Je n'aime pas que les femmes s'occupent de politique."

—Vous avez raison, général, mais dans un pays où on leur coupe la tête, il est naturel qu'elles aient envie de savoir pourquoi."

Il serait d'actualité d'ajouter: Dans un pays où l'on prend les enfants aux mères pour les envoyer se faire tuer à l'étranger, les femmes ont bien le droit de savoir pourquoi.

"Si nous ne faisons pas la guerre, nous faisons des enfants. Je crois que notre rôle est le plus beau!" devraient se dire les femmes.

Il y a encore beaucoup de préjugés chez nous contre le vote des femmes. On se figure que le fait de déposer un petit papier dans l'urne électorale va les masculiniser, leur faire perdre leur grâce et leur charme. Ces arriérés ne pensent pas qu'elles trent leurs doigts dans le même bémol où ils vont puiser l'eau lustrale, sans qu'il y ait eu de catastrophe à enregistrer. Il y a le péril de la corruption électorale qui semble plus effrayant qu'il n'est en réalité. Je ne crois pas qu'elles y soient plus accessibles que les hommes. Peut-être ne voudront-elles pas être un député laid ou difforme, partant du principe "mens sana in corpore sano", elles n'ont peut-être pas tort. Mais leur entrée dans l'électorat aura peut-être pour effet d'adoucir les moeurs des électeurs, d'assainir des comités et de diminuer les dépenses de tabac et de whisky remplacés par les boîtes de chocolat, les fleurs et les billets de théâtre. Mais ne les mettons pas sur un plan d'infériorité vis-à-vis leurs soeurs du Dominion, exigeons la reconnaissance de nos droits. Ici l'on n'est jamais bien servi comme par soi-même. Si le travail des femmes exige le même salaire que celui des hommes, les mêmes fonctions comportent les mêmes droits. Comment ces derniers les contesteraient-ils depuis qu'ils travaillent dans les ateliers côte à côte, qu'ils partagent les mêmes fatigues et les mêmes anxiétés, n'espèrent-ils pas à plus de solidarité, à plus de fraternité que jamais? Julien Saint-Michel.

UN TRIOMPHE A TROIS-RIVIERES

Des centaines d'ouvriers sont venus entendre parler des avantages de l'union. — La campagne d'organisation est commencée.

Trois-Rivières, le 7 mars.—S'il faut en juger par l'enthousiasme avec lequel les organisateurs ouvriers ont été reçus à la grande assemblée tenue dans la salle de l'Hôtel de Ville, dimanche dernier, on peut dès maintenant assurer que les ouvriers de Trois-Rivières ne mettront pas de temps à se grouper en unions et par ce fait améliorer leur sort.

L'assemblée fut en effet un véritable triomphe pour la cause du travail organisé. L'immense salle municipale pouvait à peine contenir les centaines de travailleurs qui étaient venus entendre les représentants ouvriers de la métropole leur expliquer les avantages de l'union et de la coopération.

La campagne d'organisation est maintenant commencée et nous serons en mesure d'en annoncer bientôt les heureux résultats. Avant longtemps tous les ouvriers de la cité trifluvienne seront syndiqués.

Le camarade Boddart, membre du Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Montréal et représentant du "Monde Ouvrier", fut le premier orateur. Il expliqua l'utilité du journal purement ouvrier et l'importance de sa publicité pour l'obtention de meilleures salaires et meilleures conditions de travail. Il signala l'oeuvre accomplie par "Le Monde Ouvrier" depuis sa fondation et les résultats obtenus en différentes circonstances par des unions,

grâce à l'aide que le journal leur avait donnée.

L'honorable M. Jacques Bureau, ancien solliciteur-général dans le gouvernement Laurier, reçut une véritable ovation lorsqu'il se leva pour adresser la parole. Il engagea fortement les ouvriers à se grouper, à se réunir souvent afin de s'instruire et se renseigner sur le changement des conditions sociales et les meilleurs moyens pour sauvegarder leurs intérêts.

M. Martel, organisateur des Charpentiers et Menuisiers, cita les avantages de l'organisation ouvrière, l'importance pour tout travailleur de faire partie de l'union afin d'obtenir le maximum de salaire aux meilleures conditions de travail possibles. Il fit la comparaison de ceux qui ne sont pas organisés avec les unionistes, signalant la différence qui existait dans la manière de vivre des deux. Il fit appel aux ouvriers qui étaient présents pour qu'ils viennent grossir les rangs de la grande armée des unionistes. Il fut vivement applaudi.

Puis, ce fut M. Pelletier, de l'Union des Peintres, qui s'adressa plus spécialement aux hommes de son métier leur conseillant de ne pas retarder plus longtemps pour se syndiquer.

Enfin, M. Arcand, qui était l'organisateur de cette belle assemblée, fit un exposé très précis de l'organisation générale des corps de métiers, signalant les progrès immenses faits depuis quelques années et les bénéfices qu'en avaient retirés les ouvriers syndiqués. M. Arcand parla aussi de l'importante question du coût de la vie et des moyens qui sont à la disposition des ouvriers pour contrebalancer cette augmentation exagérée des prix des vivres.

Entre chaque discours, l'auditoire eut le plaisir d'entendre de très beaux morceaux de musique joués à la perfection par le corps de musique de cette ville. Cette assemblée n'est que le prélude

de la campagne d'organisation à outrance qui va se poursuivre à Trois-Rivières jusqu'à ce que les différents corps de métiers soient définitivement et complètement organisés.

LES OUVRIERS BOULANGERS

Ils tiendront une assemblée aux quartiers généraux de la construction.

Aujourd'hui, samedi, les ouvriers boulangers tiendront une grande assemblée aux quartiers généraux de la construction, 417, rue Ontario Est, à laquelle plusieurs avantages de l'organisation leur seront exposés.

Samedi dernier, les boulangers ont eu une réunion très enthousiaste. M. Chs. Godin présidait, et les principaux orateurs furent MM. Jos. Ainey, commissaire de la Cité et M. E. Alarie, président du comité d'organisation du Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Montréal. Tous deux parlèrent des bienfaits de l'union et de l'importance qu'il y a pour les ouvriers de tous les métiers de se grouper pour améliorer leur sort. M. Alarie, qui est membre de l'Union des Cigariers, recommanda fortement à ses auditeurs d'encourager les produits portant l'étiquette bleue de cette union.

ASSEMBLEE DU PARTI OUVRIER

Il y aura une assemblée spéciale du Comité Central du Parti Ouvrier, dimanche, le 11 mars, à 10 heures et demie du matin, au Temple du Travail, pour discuter la question du tramway, ainsi que celle du renchérissement de la vie.

LE COUP DE MASSUE

M. l'Abbé Thellier de Poncheville, prédicateur à Notre-Dame, est loin de partager les idées sectaires de nos prohibitionnistes. — Le "bon vin de France" a des qualités. — Plus royaliste que le roi.

Quelle tête ont dû faire nos bons apôtres de la prohibition qui assistaient à la conférence de M. l'Abbé Thellier de Poncheville, à la Bibliothèque de Saint-Sulpice, l'autre jour, quand le prêtre soldat vanta les propriétés de "ce bon vin de France", le "pinard" comme l'appellent les "poilus" du front.

Ils ne peuvent toujours pas dire que M. de Poncheville est payé pour venir faire ici de la propagande en faveur du commerce de l'alcool. Ils ne peuvent pas nier, non plus, que M. de Poncheville connaît la nature humaine comme pas un d'entre eux, a étudié dans tous les pays du monde les conditions sociales, et comme prêtre, sait mieux qu'eux l'effet du vice et de la vertu.

Voici donc un homme universellement respecté, éminemment érudit, ayant eu cent fois l'occasion, dans l'exercice de son ministère, de peser le pour et le contre de ce prétendu fléau dont on veut en ce pays nous faire un épouvantail, qui vient dire tout bonnement que le vin régénère, stimule l'ardeur et la vaillance et qu'il a été un puissant facteur dans les succès de nos armées sur le sol de France.

Quelle belle leçon donnée à ces prétendus saints hommes qui voient le mal partout, qui veulent tout prohiber, tout renverser, tout améliorer. M. de Poncheville leur a donné le coup de massue, et déjà ils chambranlent.

Voilà ce qui arrive quand on veut être plus royaliste que le roi. Je ne m'imagine pas qu'aucun de ces messieurs veuille donner des leçons de vertu et de courage à M. de Poncheville, qui est l'image même du devoir dans toute sa plénitude.

Un bon verre de ce "bon vin de France", ou, si vous voulez, de "brun" ou de "blonde", vous remettront le coeur à la bonne place, messieurs des prohibitionnistes. Essayez-en, vous m'en donnerez des nouvelles. Il n'y a rien de tel pour donner du courage à ceux qui ont peur.

Le Rouget.

LA GREVE DES TEINTURIERS

Les raisons pour lesquelles la grève a été déclarée. — Des salaires de famine. — Les patrons refusent de rencontrer les représentants de l'union pour discuter les nouvelles conditions de travail.

Depuis samedi dernier, les repasseurs et teinturiers de fourrures sont en grève. Environ trois cent cinquante employés ont quitté les cinq manufactures qui font ce genre de travail et quinze ouvriers seulement sont restés à l'ouvrage. C'est assez dire que la décision prise est unanime. Tout le monde le comprendra, quand on saura comment elle a été provoquée et quelle part de responsabilité les patrons ont encourue dans la circonstance.

Cette grève est une nouvelle preuve de la mauvaise volonté de certaines maisons de commerce qui s'acharnent dans leur obstination à ne pas vouloir reconnaître aux ouvriers le droit de se grouper en syndicats et leur accorder des salaires et des conditions de travail raisonnables.

Tous les ans, les ouvriers des différents métiers soumettent à leurs patrons les conditions nouvelles auxquelles ils entendent travailler et des négociations s'en suivent entre les deux parties pour établir un contrat. C'est ce que firent les membres de l'Union 68 des teinturiers et repasseurs de fourrures. Comme d'habitude, les patrons fixèrent une date pour discuter ces conditions avec les représentants de l'union. Ce devrait être neuf jours après, le 24 février. A la date fixée et sans raison valable, les négociations furent remises par les patrons à la date du 3 mars. Les ouvriers déclarèrent que ce serait la dernière limite.

Le 3 mars, à l'heure même où la réunion devait avoir lieu entre les membres de l'union et les patrons, ceux-ci déclarèrent qu'ils refusaient de se rencontrer et de négocier. Il ne restait pas autre chose à faire pour les ouvriers que de déclarer la grève et c'est ce qu'ils firent sur-le-champ.

Le public pourrait peut-être croire que les revendications des ouvriers n'étaient pas fondées. Qu'on en juge, lorsque l'on saura qu'à l'époque où nous vivons, avec les prix exorbitants que nous avons à payer pour les vivres, les ouvriers en fourrures ne sont payés que de \$8 à \$15 par semaine pour soi-

xante heures d'ouvrage. C'est une vraie honte, et il n'y a pas un homme sincère qui pourra prétendre que des pères de famille peuvent vivre en ces temps-ci avec des salaires aussi bas que ceux-là.

Les ouvriers demandent une augmentation raisonnable de salaire et des heures plus courtes. De plus, ils exigent que les manufacturiers reconnaissent leur union.

Les grévistes sont tout disposés à rencontrer les manufacturiers pour discuter avec eux les questions en litige. Ils sont animés de la meilleure volonté et sont prêts à négocier avec leurs patrons. Ils l'ont toujours été, ce sont les patrons qui les ont impitoyablement renvoyés.

On espère que les manufacturiers vont revenir bientôt à de meilleurs sentiments et consentir à entrer en négociations. Leur industrie est complètement arrêtée et les grévistes ne céderont pas tant qu'on les traitera aussi cavalièrement.

UN HAUT FONCTIONNAIRE EST SUSPENDU DE SES FONCTIONS

M. Gerald-H. Brown, assistant sous-ministre du travail a été suspendu de ses fonctions. Il occupait cette position depuis 1910, et recevait un traitement de \$3,500 par année. M. Brown est un ancien journaliste.

UNE COOPERATIVE A LAUZON

Les ouvriers de cette localité veulent combattre les exploitateurs qui les oppriment.

Etant donné la hausse continuelle des prix des vivres, les ouvriers de Lauzon ont décidé de prendre une bouche coopérative. Une grande assemblée a été tenue mardi dernier, à laquelle on a jeté les bases de la nouvelle organisation.

A la prochaine réunion on fera l'élection des officiers et les opérations commenceront aussitôt.

LES TISSUS LAVABLES

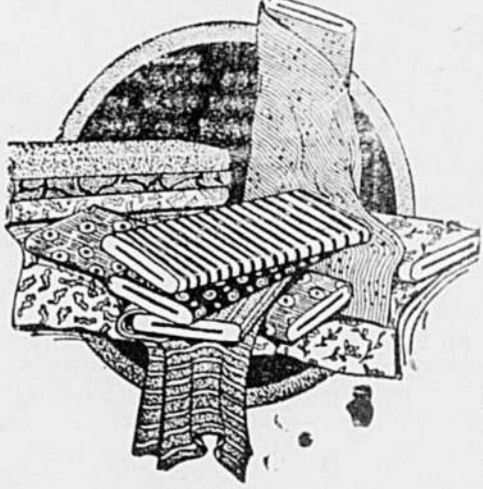
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PRINTEMPS

ET DE

L'ÉTÉ

Le prix de la laine étant excessivement élevé, le choix des personnes économes se portera en grande partie, cette année, sur les tissus en coton.



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(au premier)

Goodwin's LIMITED

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Ceux qui n'annoncent pas dans votre journal ne désirent pas votre clientèle. Ne les forcez pas à l'accepter.

The Labor  
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Le Monde  
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Merchants who do not advertise in your paper do not want your trade. Do not force it on them.

### A CRYING INJUSTICE

While the workmen are requested to save and starve, munition firms are making millions of profit. — Why sacrifice ourselves when others refuse to do so? — A public scandal.

We have heard a lot about individual sacrifice and individual thrift since the war began nearly three years ago. Repeated appeals have been made to the people for a closer cooperation in the prosecution of this terrible war. The Government has established a National Service, we have been taxed for patriotic funds, strikes and picketing are being declared illegal, the poor are requested to eat less to compensate the lack of production, recruiting sergeants are fishing for soldiers throughout the country. As a matter of fact, thousands of Canadians have enlisted, many of whom have succumbed in the mighty fight; thousands more, including women, are making munitions and war supplies, working day and night for small salaries.

Does this mean we attained the object we aimed at? No. All Canadians are not doing their duty. Suffering and sacrifice is the lot of a certain class of the community, and luxury doubled by exorbitant profits is the privilege of another class.

The workmen are requested to save, the munition makers are content with piling up dividends.

Once in a while, we notice, under a very small heading in the local papers that such and such concern has declared a dividend, representing so much profit on the capital invested. Very few people read the financial page of our large dailies. But, if we gave out the full list of the munition factories with the amount of profits they made in proportion of the capital invested, exclusive of watered stock, there would be a revolution in Canada.

It is very well to say that we are at war and that we must bear patiently the burdens imposed upon us; but every man in the Dominion must bear part of these burdens, every one must give his share of sacrifice. The rich must be a patriot in the same way as the poor is requested to be. Before we give up buying new clothes and good food, we want these munition makers to hand over their excessive profits to the State.

Why should the majority of the population be deprived of the necessary, when a few men are making millions out of the war? Yes, millions, we do not exaggerate, and we can give figures showing how these millions are made.

Since we are called upon to make sacrifices, why should these munition firms require a bigger profit on their industry than they were getting before starting the making of munitions. It ought to be the very opposite and they, who already possess large fortunes, could easily do without this extra revenue which we shall have to pay in taxes after the war.

This munition business is nothing less than a scandal, and there can never be any proper organization and national service as long as a few privileged magnates of finance will be allowed to profit by the state of war while others are caused to starve.

If the law did not require every concern to advertise in the newspapers the payment of dividends we would probably be made to believe that they are losing money. But these advertisements do not tell all the truth. We can tell it, for we do not fear anybody.

It is time the workers of Canada would wake up and tell the Government that they are ready to make all the sacrifices possible with the condition that their employers act likewise. If the munition factories are making money out of the war, their workers shall share in these profits, or else, let them hand over this "blood money", as one of our public men called it, to the country which needs it badly.

### TO INCREASE PRODUCTION IS PROBLEM TO SOLVE

Why not start a movement to increase yield of farms already in operation? — The cultivation of city land. — What shall we do for returned soldiers? — Immigration after the War.

The movement recently started with a view to increasing the production of foodstuffs and thereby reducing the cost of living is progressing favorably, and the public spirited men who initiated it certainly deserve much credit for the work they have already accomplished.

It seems almost incredible that in a country like ours, disposing of millions of acres of good arable land, we should be compelled in the cities to cultivate the building lots and public parks in order to secure the necessary supply of foodstuffs for local consumption. The fact that the rural districts are unable to supply the wants of the cities denotes an extraordinary state of things, which is well worth investigating, as it must affect the prosperity of the whole country.

There is something wrong somewhere. Canada has a small population in proportion of its immense area; the soil is good, the people well intended, then what is the cause of this lack of production we are complaining about.

A very appropriate remark was made by one of the gentlemen who attended the meeting of the Montreal Cultivation Committee on Tuesday evening.

He said: "If the same work was done and the same care taken to instruct and help the farmers to increase their production as we are taking at present to make this scheme of cultivation of vacant lots a success, the cost of living would soon be reduced." This gentleman, who is the head of one of the most important firms of Montreal, struck the right note. It is regrettable however that he did not see fit to make these remarks aloud and give an opportunity to the press reporters to disclose his identity.

When one thinks of what a group of men, justly alarmed by the continuous rise in the prices of foodstuffs and animated by the desire to alleviate the suffering of the poorer class, have succeeded in forming an organization such as the Montreal Cultivation Committee, composed of the most prominent citizens in all walks of life, to create an entirely new sentiment amongst the population of this city, one cannot but regret that all these energies were not

devoted sooner to the improving of conditions on the farms of this province, those surrounding the metropolis more especially. There is nothing to create there, but much to improve. To improve what already exists is much easier, of course, than to implant something completely new.

Raising vegetables may appear to some as being an easy task, but it is far from being so. It requires much work and arduous work, to which we, citizens, are not accustomed. Agriculture is an art and requires an apprenticeship before any appreciable results may be obtained. There are other difficulties to cope with in the cultivation of city land; however, it is to be hoped that with the good will of the promoters and the people of Montreal, we shall be able to overcome them for the benefit of the community.

At the same time that this movement is carried on, I would like very much that a similar one be inaugurated with a view to increasing the production of our farms. It would require less work and would have greater effects.

Let the Governments be generous towards the returned soldiers who are desirous to settle on the land. It will pay to hand over to these men a certain area of good arable land with all that is required to make a start. Nearly all of them have not a cent ahead, but they are willing to work and anxious to make good. Why would we not give them an opportunity to show what they are able to do? It is very well to give the land, as it was done in the past, but this is not sufficient. These men have no money to buy implements and stock and wait a year before getting any returns. Why not

organize an association entrusted with the distribution amongst bona fide settlers of grants to be made by the Federal and Provincial Governments? These loans to the settlers would be made under the form of food, implements, stock, seed, etc., and cash if required.

I understand something along these lines is being considered at the present time by the Canadian Pacific Railway with the aid of the National Service

Commission. No definite plan has yet been adopted, but an announcement will be made shortly to that effect. It is the best investment that the railways and the State can make. I do not mean that there will be no failures in the lot. There very likely will be some, but these will be largely compensated by the success of the majority. It will open new districts, and relieve the cities which otherwise would be in a very awkward position when the war is over, with thousands seeking employment.

As regards the flow of immigration so often spoken of, I do not believe in it, for the governments of the allied nations will do all in their power to keep their labor at home and the men shall prefer to remain on the soil they will have fought so hard to defend, rather than emigrate to foreign countries which cannot offer to them much better advantages than they would surely get in their own. There will be a lot of work to do in countries like Belgium, France, Serbia, and even Russia when the war is over, and able men will be scarce. These countries have been particularly affected by the war, thousands of private and public buildings have been destroyed, the roads shall have to be all made anew. Their governments shall not allow the people to desert their native land before it is at least partially restored.

Though I do not believe in a large immigration into Canada after the war, still I am of the opinion that it is good for us to take necessary precautions in order to be ready in case there would be a large influx of foreigners. But first of all let us think of our own people. What shall we do for them? This is the problem which is important for us to solve.

First of all we must take means of some kind to increase the yield of our farms. This would be the work of the Provincial Legislatures. Then we may draw plans for the creation of new farms either based on the cooperative system or in the ordinary way. We may also undertake both together, but there is an absolute necessity of improving the farms already in operation and which do not supply the wants of the population.

### THE HIGH COST OF LIVING



The Wealthy War Profiteer.—I'll give you this basket of food if you can fetch it.

Le profiteur de guerre.—Je te donnerai ce panier plein de vivres, si tu peux l'atteindre.

The Non Union Worker.—This scaffolding won't do, I guess I'll have to join the union, if I don't want to starve.

L'ouvrier non syndiqué.—Cet échafaudage ne fera pas l'affaire. Je ferai mieux de faire partie de l'union, si je ne veux pas crever de faim.

### THE 'SUN' ANSWERS A QUESTION

During the last 8 years 10,000 illicit distilleries were seized. — What would it be if prohibition were edicted?

It is notorious that in spite of all the efforts of the internal revenue preventive service, large quantities of whisky and other intoxicating liquors are illicitly produced and sold, not only by the "moonshiners" of remote country districts, but also in the towns and cities. More than 10,000 illicit distilleries were seized during the last eight years, and it is conceded that this is only a small percentage of the illicit stills actually operated. What happens under prohibition is simply that instead of drinking lawfully produced liquors, from which the Government derives a revenue, the people who desire stimulants drink alcoholic compounds illicitly distilled and brewed. This is clearly shown by the police records of certain prohibition States, where the arrests for drunkenness are in proportion to population greater than in States permitting the sale of intoxicating liquors. It is often asked by prohibitionists: Why do the liquor interests oppose prohibitory laws if these laws do not decrease the consumption of alcoholic beverages? The answer is that these laws do decrease the sale of such beverages produced under the supervision of the United States Government, on which the honest brewer or distiller pays taxes, but increase the sale of illicit products, and thereby deprive the Government of revenue, while furnishing impure and dangerous compounds to the consumer.—New York "Sun".

#### WAR PROFITS RUN HIGH

At the annual meeting of shareholders of the Dominion Foundries, Hamilton, a report was presented showing net profits after depreciation and war taxes of \$927,000, equal to 92.7 per cent. on the common stock. "Liquid assets" in the neighborhood of a million dollars was also reported. The output for the present year will double that of 1916, so it was intimated.

#### A WORLD FEDERATION OF LABOR

It is announced by a New York paper that it is the intention of President Gompers to visit the Hawaiian Islands, Japan, China and the Philippines some time this year, and upon his return from the Orient he may make an official visit to Mexico and some of the Latin-American republics to advocate a world federation of labor.

#### PROTEST AGAINST THE ABOLITION OF HEAD TAX

The Vancouver Trades and Labor Council has protested to the Dominion Council as regards the plan for \$1.10 per day, while alien enemies working in the smelter they protest are receiving \$4.00 to \$5.00. Alien enemies are also working in the Britannia Mines, and an effort is being made to abolish the head tax of \$500 on Chinese coming into Canada in order to import, unrestricted coolie labor into the western provinces to compete with white labor.

#### ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN WORKERS

An aggressive campaign for the organization of women under the banner of trades unionism is being carried on by the National Women's Trades Union League. The headquarters of this organization is in Chicago, and the movement has the endorsement of the American Federation of Labor, the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada having also approved of its work. The objects of the league are as follows: Organization of all women workers, equal pay for equal work, an eight-hour day, a living wage and full citizenship for women. The league is working in co-operation with the British Women's Trade Union League, which operates in Great Britain from its London office.

#### THREE VICIOUS PROPOSALS

St. Paul, Minn., March 6. — The workers of this state are confronted by three vicious measures, now pending in the Minnesota legislature. Representative Knutson wants a "can't-strike" law similar to the Colorado statute, which is opposed by workers of that state.

Senator Peterson would give sheriffs authority to throw into jail as a leviant any person who refuses to leave his jurisdiction on 24 hours' notice.

Senator Duxbury believes an anti-picketing law would solve all industrial unrest. To strengthen his scheme this lawmaker would also prohibit the publication, "whether in form of cards, stickers, dodgers, banners, transparencies," of any reference to an unfair employer.

#### NEW OFFICERS OF UNITED MINE WORKERS

The report on the ballot for officers of the United Mine Workers returns J. P. White of Des Moines as president; E. J. Hays of Indianapolis as vice-president, and W. Green of Coshocton, O., as secretary-treasurer. These officers with J. H. Walker, R. McDonald, John Mitchell, F. Farrington and J. Moore will be the delegates to the American Federation.

The executive board has decided to inaugurate a vigorous organization campaign in non-union coal fields and has appointed a permanent organization committee. In its first announcement this committee makes the following statement: "We have learned by bitter experience that to break the barriers of organized opposition and establish the principle of collective bargaining in regions where heretofore the law of the coal company alone has reigned supreme, is no light task, and we must have the support of every loyal member of our union in order that the full measure of success may be attained in the forthcoming campaign."

#### GOMPERS CABLES TO JAPAN

Washington, March 9. — For the purpose of establishing fraternal relations between workers of this hemisphere and the far east, President Gompers cabled this message to President Suzuki of the Laborers' Friendly Society of Japan: "The most important immediate duty of our labor movements is to use every influence in our power upon the governments of Japan and the United States to maintain the best possible relations between our respective countries and endeavor amicably to solve vexatious problems."

President Suzuki replied as follows: "Co-operate for labor and humanity."

Mr. Suzuki came to the United States in 1915 on a fraternal mission, and last year he again visited this country and attended the conventions of the California State Federation of Labor and the American Federation of Labor.

#### THE VALUE OF HUMAN LIFE

Barackville, W. Va., March 6. — A human life is worth \$10. So holds the law, which has imposed a fine of \$100 on the assistant foreman of a mine here who had been found responsible for the death of 10 miners in a mine explosion on October 19 of last year. The verdict has just been handed down.

Through probing disclosed that the accident claimed such heavy toll because the workers had been permitted to enter a gaseous mine that had not been inspected on that morning, as required.

#### WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN THE UNION

Because it tends to raise wages. This is proved by all sorts of evidence. Because it prevents a reduction in wages; reductions rarely come to well-organized labor.

Because it aids in getting shorter hours. Ask the union men who are working eight hours, or less; they can prove it.

Because it places labor where it must be respected. Power wins respect from employers as from all men.

Because it gives the workman self-reliance.

Because it develops fraternity. Craftsmen are all too jealous of and suspicious of one another even at best.

Because it is a good investment. No other investment gives back so large a return for expenditure of time and money.

Because it makes thinkers. Men need to rub intellects together in matters of common concern.

Because it enlarges acquaintance. The world is too restricted for wage-earners.

Because it teaches co-operation. When laborers co-operate they will own the earth.

Because it makes the job a better one. The bully foreman can't bully the union card.

#### HIGHER WAGES FOR STREET RAILWAY MEN

The members of the Street Railway Employees' Union in Peterborough are looking forward to a raise in wages and purpose to open negotiations with the local power and utility commission, under which it is operated. Owing to the high cost of living the representatives of the union will ask for a new scale graded up to 27½¢ an hour.

#### NELSON MACHINISTS ASK FOR 8 HOUR DAY

The machinists at the Nelson Iron Works, Nelson, B.C., have framed up an agreement, which they have presented to the management, asking for an eight-hour day with the same rate of pay as they formerly received for nine hours. The employees are all members of the I. A. M. and it is expected the request will be complied with.

#### TO REPEAL COLORADO'S 'CAN'T STRIKE' LAW

Denver, March 5. — Bills have been introduced in the Senate and House to repeal Colorado's "Can't Strike" law, which makes it illegal for workers in any industry to suspend work for 30 days.

This law is opposed by the State Federation of Labor and the various railroad brotherhoods, working through a joint legislative committee.

#### TO STANDARDIZE PRICES OF FOODSTUFFS

Toronto Trades and Labor Council request Dominion Government to study question.

At the last meeting of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council was unanimously decided that the Dominion Government should seriously consider a policy of standardizing the prices of all foodstuffs and necessities of life. The Toronto City Council will be urged to endeavor, as far as possible, to have the measure carried out in the interests of the people. During the debate nearly every delegate present took occasion to declare that the cost of living from the viewpoint of the average worker was soaring so high that the believed if the Government did not act, it would be necessary for the people to take drastic measures. The general opinion was that certain interests were taking advantage of the war conditions to pile up profits for themselves.

#### CARPENTERS OF VANCOUVER WANT INCREASE

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, in Vancouver, B.C., has circularized all the local building contractors informing them that on May 1st the organization proposes to enforce a minimum wage of \$4.00 per day instead of the present rate of \$3.60 per day. The question of the Saturday half-holiday has been satisfactorily settled, and a number of the employers have signified their willingness to pay the \$4 minimum as asked for.

#### PENSIONS FOR PRESSMEN

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., March 7. — Officers of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' union report that the old-age pension plan has been adopted by nearly a two-to-one referendum vote.

The plan increases dues 25 cents a month. It is estimated that this increase will accumulate a fund of \$500,000 in five years and at the end of that period, from the interest derived from the investment of the money, together with the continued receipts from the tax upon the membership, a pension of \$5 a week shall be paid incapacitated members who have been in continuous good standing for 20 years or more.

#### SECURED INCREASES FOR MOULDERS

John Barnett, fourth vice-president of the Iron Moulders' Union of North America, who has been in Sydney, N. S., secured an increase in wages for the moulders of that place of 50 cents per day. From there he went to Sackville, N.S., and secured 15 per cent. for peace workers, and 50 cents a day for the day workers.

#### LICENSING OF BARBER SHOPS.

The journeymen barbers and many of their employers are urging the Ontario Legislature to pass and act providing for the licensing and regulation of barber shops. The chief desire of the union is that no journeyman would be allowed to work who was afflicted with a contagious disease of any kind. It would also make for the better sanitation of all barbering establishments.

#### PROMINENT LABOR MAN ENLISTED.

President Hawkins, of the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council has enlisted for active service. He was a delegate of the Typographical Union 604 and had been in touch with the affairs of the Council since 1914, and has always been active in the interests of organized labor. He is married and has a family of four children.

The new president of the Edmonton Trades and Labor Council is J. Finlay, the representative of the Machinists' Union.

#### EIGHT HOUR DAY FOR WOMEN WORKERS

Products of factories employing women more than eight hours a day or six days a week are barred from admission to interstate commerce under the provisions of the bill introduced by Representative Keating, democrat, of Colorado.

"The measure proposes to set a new standard for working women employed in manufacture — an eight hour day and a six day week. The District of Columbia, Arizona, California, Colorado and Washington already have women's eight hour regulations. Many other States prohibit the employment of women in manufacture for more than nine, ten or eleven hours a day. Six States have no legislation.

"This bill standardizes the limitation of hours for women throughout the country in place of the present unequal protection. The Supreme Court has already held unconstitutional an eight law for women."

#### LOW WAGES IN PHILADELPHIA

Philadelphia, March 9. — There are 2,927 men and women working for the city at less than \$1,000 a year, says a local newspaper. Their average yearly wage is \$662. According to a survey made by the municipal court, a family of modern size cannot live in this city above the starvation line at less than \$888.

#### WINNIPEG STRIKERS STILL SOLID

The packing house strike in Winnipeg is still on and proving effective, in spite of the fact that the abattoirs are putting forth desperate efforts to secure help. The foreign strikers are keeping solid to a man in spite of special inducements held out to them to throw over the union. It looks as though the packers had another guess coming this time. Things are turning out different than they did two or three years ago.

#### BIG LABOR CONFERENCE ON MARCH 21

Spokesmen representing more than three million American wage-earners have been called to meet in conference March 21, to determine and announce the part labor shall claim in the formulation of policies of preparedness and defence in the crisis confronting the nation.

The call was issued by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, under authority of the Federation's executive council. It went to presidents of one hundred and ten national and international unions affiliated with the Federation, department presidents and four great railroad employees' brotherhoods.

#### LABOR PARTY HAS OVER 500 MEMBERS

The general organization committee of the Labor Party recently formed at Toronto held a very enthusiastic meeting last Saturday. It was announced that the membership now exceeds 500.

#### CITY FIREMEN ORGANIZE

Galveston, Tex., March 8. — Galveston's fire fighters have organized and affiliated to the American Federation of Labor. This organization, it is stated, is the first of its kind in the south.

Dubuque, Iowa, March 3. — Municipal firemen have organized and are chartered by the American Federation of Labor as City Firemen's union No. 15,431.

#### W. D. MAHON AS VICE-PRESIDENT

William D. Mahon of the Street and Electric Railway Employes has been appointed by the Council of the A. F. of L. to fill the vacancy caused through the death of D. A. Hays, vice president of the Federation.

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING?**

Take the number of years you have been earning and divide it into what you have accumulated. Estimate the years to come on the same basis and see how well you will be able to take care of your needs when you arrive at the non-producing period.

Is it showing satisfactory? If not, why not employ a systematic plan of saving as worked out by this bank. You will rout "hit or miss" and haphazard plans and will realize what you must save in order to reach your goal. Our service and system are at your disposal.

WE ALSO LOAN MONEY TO RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE

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**Corner St. James and McGill Streets**  
**THE BANK OF TORONTO**  
H. B. HENWOOD, Manager.

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Another  
Good SHIRT  
Opportunity



Here is a most exceptional lot of shirts in the newest Spring patterns full and well fashioned and made of extra fine percales. It has been our good fortune to be able to get these shirts at the price we did and your good fortune — providing you buy early to-morrow morning — to get them at our special price. All sizes, 14 to 17, with stiff cuffs, a variety of designs. Regular price \$1.25.

Our price at the time the doors open on SATURDAY

79c  
EACH

Flannelette Night Shirts, made extra large and roomy. Roll soft collar. Value \$1.00. 79c

Youths' stiff cuff shirts, coat style, made to sell for \$1.00, neat stripes. Sizes 12 to 14. This is a rare sale now. 59c

Socks, Oxford or gray pure wool. A wonderful wearing sock, and not sold in Montreal under 25c or 35c a pair. All sizes. A pair. 19c

Almy's — Ground Floor — Mail orders filled.

ALMY'S  
MONTREAL'S LARGEST STORE

NO STANDARD RATES FOR MECHANICS

So says J. W. Flavelle, of the Imperial Munitions Board to Labor representative.

At the last meeting of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, organizer John H. Kennedy, of the International Sheet Metal Workers' Union, reported that, in company with a representative of the Carpenters' Brotherhood, he had a conference in Ottawa with J. W. Flavelle, of the Imperial Munitions Board, on the question of a standard rate of wages for all mechanics employed in the manufacturing of munitions, and they had received the reply that the Board was not prepared to treat all employes on an equal basis.

SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT FOR WINNIPEG GARMENT WORKERS

There will be no strike of the Garment Workers in Winnipeg. As a result of the labors of R. Norman, of Chicago, representing the organization of Union Made Garment Manufacturers, and W. F. Bush, Toronto, acting for the International and local unions of Garment Workers, agreements have been arrived at and signed defining the details of the schedules of prices which will be paid in that district to the operators. Both parties stated they were satisfied with the outcome of the negotiation.

STRIKE LASTS BUT A FEW HOURS

After numerous requests to the City Council of Regina for an increase of wages, the power house employes of that City decided to take some definite action and on Friday last, they walked out.

The strike, however, was of short duration, and before night came, the strikers were notified that they would be granted an increase of 10 per cent. to that date back to January 1st, 1917.

MINARD'S  
"KING OF PAIN"  
LINIMENT

The old reliable remedy for rheumatism, neuralgia, sore throat and sprains.

Best Liniment Made

Ms. A. E. LAUNDY, EDMONTON, writes: "I fell from a building and received what the doctor called a very bad sprained ankle, and told me I must not walk on it for three weeks. I got MINARD'S LINIMENT and in six days I was out to work again. I think it the best liniment made."

Minard's Liniment always gives satisfaction. For any ache or pain. It gives instant relief.

Minard's Liniment Co., Limited  
Yarmouth, N.S.

A VICTORY FOR AUSTRALIAN MINERS

They secure an advance of 15 to 20 per cent. and new method of payment much more satisfactory.

Australian miners, after a five weeks' strike recently secured the enforcing of the eight-hour, bank to bank system — for which they have been fighting for nearly 30 years. Every time they put up a fight for this concession in past years they were defeated, owing to the fact that they were sectionally organized and were really fighting among themselves. It is significant that the first real test of strength they put forth under united unionism should be associated with such a sterling victory.

The enforcement of the eight-hour bank-to-bank rule was a great victory in itself, but the other day saw the remainder of their claims settled — the rate of pay. In this they receive a substantial victory also; no less than 15 to 20 per cent. increase in wages all round. This is, of course, a matter to be explained, as the increase in wages carries with it a new system of payment.

Under the old system of payment for coal in Australia, the miner was paid a standard hewing rate, with a supposed 8 cents increase for every 21 cents increase in the selling price of coal per ton. It was considered the fairest system of payment, and it was hard to see how the miner could be robbed of his just payment. And yet he was systematically robbed all along the line by the owners. When the price of coal was fixed at the pit mouth, the miner knew just how much he was entitled to and he saw that he got it. But it was not long before the mine owners evolved the brilliant idea of becoming owner, shipper and seller all in one. In other words they controlled the coal from the time it left the seam until it was sold to the consumers in the cities.

The reason for this was plain. So long as the price of coal was fixed at the mouth of the pit, the miner could watch his share of the increase. But when the owner, under the new system, wanted a couple of shillings extra for his coal, and did not want to pay the miner his share of the 45 cents (that is, 16 cents) he put the extra charge on the freight, out of which the miner got nothing. And when he inflated freights to the highest point, he could add another half-dollar to his coal price by way of "handling" charges, out of which the miner also got nothing. For the purpose of payment to the men, he still declared the selling price of coal at the old rate at the mine mouth—the increases were for freight and handling only, so he argued to the men.

This was the great argument the miners used at the coal tribunal, which sat to hear their case, and so strong was their case that it brought about a new system of payment. The wage scale was fixed at the old rate, with an added fifteen, and, in some cases, twenty per cent.; the new scale to prevail for three years. And, whether the price of coal rises or falls, the miners are on this standard wage all the time. Under the old system, when the price of coal fell owing to competition, the rates paid to the men fell in proportion, but under the new rate of wages this cannot be, since the men are paid a standard wage, whether the price of coal rises or falls. How magnificent the miners' victory is, time alone will tell, but the miners themselves admit they have secured a great victory.

BRITISH LABOR PARTY GROWS

London, Feb. 18. — The membership of the British Labor Party increased from 375,000 in 1900, to 2,200,000 at the present time.—Toronto World.

WHAT INSURANCE COMPANIES ARE GETTING

The good people of Wyoming have also learned something about the graft cleaned up by insurance companies. The first year and a half of the Wyoming compensation law shows a surplus of over \$300,000. The expense of enforcing the law was 1.44 per cent., against 45 per cent. cost to private companies. No wonder the Wall Street crooks are wallowing in wealth and look upon the rest of the country as their easy mutton. — (The Ailor.)

EARLY CLOSING IN PRINCE RUPERT

The Prince Rupert Trades and Labor Council is taking an active part in pressing for the passage of an early closing bylaw for the retail stores in the city.

The Prince Rupert early closing bylaw provides for the closing of shops at 6:30 p.m., except on Saturdays. Ald. Casey, the labor representative on the council, is not in favor of a measure covering all places of business, as he believes there are some lines of trade which should remain open after the stated hour. A number of the retail merchants are putting in a protest against the measure.

THE CLIQUE

What is the clique? It is a body of men  
Who attend every meeting, not just now and then;  
Who don't miss a meeting unless they are sick—  
These are the men that the grouch calls "the clique."  
Who don't make a farce of that sacred word "brother,"  
Who believe in the motto, "Help one another,"  
Who never resort to a dishonest trick—  
These are the men that some call "the clique."  
The men who are seldom behind in their dues,  
And who from the meetings do not carry news,  
Who attend to their duties and visit the sick—  
These are the men the crank calls "the clique."  
We all should be proud of members like these;  
They can call them "the clique" or whatever they please!  
They never attempt any duties to dodge—  
These are "the clique" that run most every lodge.  
But there are some people who always find fault,  
And most of these kind are not worth their salt:  
They like to start trouble, but seldom will stick—  
They like to put all of the work on "the clique."

UNITED STATES GOV'T CAR

Great interest is being taken in Montreal just now in the demonstration car now in the city on track one at Bonaventure depot under the direction of representatives of the United States Government. Clever young men take pleasure in showing the special attractions of land for sale in the timber and prospective oil lands of South Eastern Oklahoma. These lands are for investment and it is not at all necessary to have residence on the land in order to buy it. The idea is to give a chance to purchasers to pay yearly instalments and a certain number of dollars per acre. Oil is one of the chief attractions as the great State of Oklahoma is bubbling over with liquid wealth. Thousands have made fortunes in this territory and all workers would do well to call at the car and see the illustrations and specimens of products from coal and grain to pea nuts and cherries. The car is a most interesting sight and the attendants are alive with capacity and entertainment. The car is very handy, just at the very corner of Windsor street and St. James, in the G.T.R. station yard. The outside gate is open and everyone is welcome.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

A very interesting booklet by Professor Stephen Leacock.

The National Service Board of Canada is distributing a very interesting booklet on "National Organization for War", by Professor Stephen Leacock. The writer sums up the work that has been accomplished so far by the Allies, and Canada especially, and what remains to be done yet for a speedy and definite conclusion of this terrible war. Though he shows no pessimism the emphatically states that: "We only deceive ourselves if we hide the fact that the fate of the war—and with it all that is best in the world—hangs in the balance."

"What are we to do?" such is the question put by Professor Leacock.

"Our soldiers in the field have done, and are doing, all that heroism can inspire and all that endurance can fulfill. Are we doing our share at home? We go about our tranquil lives scarcely disturbed. Here and there, the swift dart of death, that strikes "somewhere in France," reaches, with its double point, somewhere in Canada, a mother's heart. We pause a moment in our sympathy, and pass on. To and fro we go about our business. We pay our easy taxes, and subscribe to our so-called patriotic loan, so issued that the hungriest money-lender in New York is glad to clamor for a share of it. We eat, drink, and are merry, or, at least, not sad, professing a new philosophy of life as our sympathies grow dull to the pain and suffering that we do not share."

A mere complete organization, a better cooperation and the practising of thrift are some of the suggestions made by Professor Leacock.

"What we do must be done from below, using, as best we can, the only driving force that the know—the will of the individual. We must find a means that will begin to twist and distort our national industry out of its present shape till it begins to take on the form of national organization for war."

"To do this we must exchange war prosperity for war adversity, self-imposed and in deadly earnest.

"The key to the situation, as far as we can unlock it, lies in individual thrift and individual sacrifice. Let there be no more luxuries, no wasted work, no drones to keep, out of the national production.

"Every man, to-day, who consumes any articles or employs any service not absolutely necessary, aims a blow at his country.

"Every cent of the money that can be gathered up by national thrift should be absorbed by national taxes and national loans. Our present taxes are, for war-time, ridiculously low as far as all people of comfortable, or even of decent, means are concerned. And they are made with one eye on the supposed benefit to industry. We need a blast of taxation—real taxation, income tax and all, that should strike us like a wave of German gas. As things are, we should go down before it. Armed with the new gas helmet of national thrift we could breathe it easily enough and laugh behind our goggles.

"Over above the taxes we need a succession of Government patriotic loans, not money-lenders' loans at market and super-market rates, but patriotic loans in the real sense, at a low rate of interest, let us say four per cent., and issued in bonds of twenty-five dollars, with a dollar a year as interest.

"Meantime we at home are doing nothing, or next to it, for the war. While we go about our business as usual, men are breathing out their lives for us, somewhere in France.

"What shall we do?"

FOR ILLEGAL USE OF LABEL

The "Tom Wilson" firm of Jackson, Mich., was fined \$50.00 and costs for the illegal use of the Journeymen Tailors' Union label. The manager, Henry Dandera, paid the fine sooner than board at the state's expense for sixty days. The union label was issued to Chatham (Ont., Can.) some years ago.

INCREASE FOR VANCOUVER POLICE

Chief of Police MacLennan has asked for an all-round increase of ten per cent. in the wages of the Vancouver police force, the request being based on the increased cost of living. The police commission did not hold out very great hopes of the increase being granted, but the subject will be considered when the estimates are taken up.

WILL REACH 300,000 MARK

In the current month's issue, the Carpenter, the official organ of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners refers to the splendid prospects the New Year seems to have in store for the big union and urges the members to redouble their organizing activity and push forward in the coming months so that the year's end will see the Brotherhood well across the three hundred thousand mark in membership.

OUR DEMOCRATIC CANADA

A comment upon the recent elevation of Canadians to peerage.

People are beginning to wonder if the reason why the powers that be at Ottawa have so little time to devote to the welfare of the State is caused by the fact that it takes all their spare moments to look after the special interests of a privileged class and to secure titles of nobility and emoluments for its party friends.

They are, moreover, wondering if there is an insidious attempt afoot to plant a new world nobility or aristocracy on the democratic soil of Canada, and if its only a question of time when the crop of sir knights, etc., etc., etc., will become so numerous that the common people will eventually be expected to move off of the sidewalks.

It may be true that the present Government has not measured up to much since it became entrenched at Ottawa, but it certainly can set the pace in landing titles for its supporters, who, in many cases, are in close touch with the big corporations who have grabbed up the natural resources of the country and run the big railroads that ignore the rights of the public.

However, if an insidious attempt is being engineered to plant a sham nobility on Canadian soil, it is predoomed to failure. This commonwealth was made by the sacrifices and hard work of the common people, who are thinking things out and propose to run this country in the near future.

It is to be noted, and thank God for it, no titles are being handed out to the workers, the so-called common people, or to the soldiers who are facing death in the trenches. The only nobility that will fit in with the institutions of this country is the nobility of work and service for the common good of all.

Canada can easily do without titles and glitter, but it cannot do without the labors of its commoners, whose energy and toil have built the nation and whose good common sense will see that this Dominion, for all time to come, shall be a land of opportunity, where the laborer shall be recognized as worthy of his hire, and they alone who do honest service in the cause of humanity or the State shall have an equal status and privilege before the law.

CHAUFFEURS WANT MORE PAY.

The chauffeurs employed by the city of Toronto have applied to the Board of Control for an increase in their salaries. They are now receiving \$16.50 per week, or \$2.75 per day, and ask that this be increased to \$3.25 per day.

THE SIX MAIN REASONS

What are the principal reasons for the high cost of living? A group of men and women prominent in civic work in New York are directing an interesting exhibit to shed light on the elusive question so far as living in New York itself is concerned. Six main reasons are emphasized: (1) Land monopoly, both rural and urban. (2) High charges for transit, gas and electricity. (3) Over capitalization of railroads, and the inclusion of increases in the value of land owned by the railroads for the purpose of rate making. (4) Speculation in farm products. (5) High prices for coal, kerosene and wood. (6) High taxes.

Show Your Practical Sympathy with Slave-Raided Belgium  
If ever Belgium needed sympathy—OUR sympathy—she needs it now! To the ravages of fire, sword and a savage, brutish soldiery, Germany has added deliberate, cold-blooded slave-raiding.  
Over 100,000 Belgian workmen have already been snatched from their homes and taken into slavery in unknown places. The mothers, wives and children who beg for their release are driven back by the Huns in utter despair. Neutral protests have failed to change Germany's inhuman purpose, nor can the Allies free Belgian manhood until the Teutons are crushed.  
But we can save the women and children through the neutral Belgian Relief Commission, which is feeding three million of them. We can express our indignation, and our sympathy with our Ally's wrongs, in a practical way, by giving more liberally than ever to the Belgian Relief Fund.  
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