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## La Commission du Chômage, la suite, c'était un rêve

S'il faut en croire Dame Rumeur, la guerre serait déclarée entre un groupe d'échevins et la Commission du chômage; les membres de celle-ci auraient eu l'audace grande de remercier de leurs services des protégés de ceux-là. Il paraîtrait qu'il y avait environ cinq cents employés au service de cette commission, tandis qu'environ la moitié serait un nombre plus que suffisant pour accomplir la besogne qu'il y aurait à faire.

Si tel est le cas, au lieu de tomber sur le dos des commissaires, il nous semble que les échevins devraient être les tout premiers à les féliciter de leur sens administratif et de leur esprit d'économie.

Au fond de toute cette affaire, il y a toujours la même vieille question de patronage, il faut coûte que coûte placer les tireurs de ficelles qui comptent le jour des élections; c'est là la plaie de notre administration municipale et la conséquence directe de notre mode électoral. Si au lieu d'être élus dans trente-cinq petits quartiers — pour la plupart — nous avions un conseil de ville d'une dizaine de membres au plus élus par toute la ville, combien de ces petites querelles disparaîtraient d'elles-mêmes et combien les représentants du peuple seraient d'autant plus à leur aise pour s'occuper des intérêts généraux de la ville au lieu d'être dominés par de mesquines et vulgaires questions de clocher.

Nous l'avons dit et répété maintes et maintes fois, nous ne pourrions jamais le dire assez souvent, notre système municipal ne convient pas à une ville de l'importance de Montréal, il est démodé et quelle que soit la valeur morale de nos échevins ils ne peuvent administrer les affaires de la ville tel qu'elles devraient l'être et surtout dans les circonstances difficiles que nous traversons, tant qu'ils seront élus par une petite poignée d'électeurs et qu'un comité de cinq membres aura tous les pouvoirs en dépit du fait que ses membres ne représenteront eux aussi qu'un quartier plus ou moins grand, ce sera la même chose.

Le "brain trust" est disparu, la première commission du chômage est disparue et maintenant on cherche à faire disparaître la nouvelle commission du chômage pour la remplacer par quoi? Par une autre, et après?

Ce qu'il faut, c'est un changement radical, c'est l'abolition du conseil de ville sous sa forme actuelle et son remplacement par un corps administratif composé de quelques membres mais élus "at large".

\* \* \*

C'est singulier comme il y a encore beaucoup de capitaines d'industrie et d'hommes d'affaires qui ne veulent pas se rendre à l'évidence: pour eux, il faudrait maintenir la semaine de travail à 55 et 60 heures et continuer à payer des salaires hors de proportion avec le coût de la vie. Ils ne réalisent pas qu'il y a des milliers et des milliers de chômeurs — tant femmes qu'hommes — et encore d'autres et d'autres milliers qui ne travaillent qu'à temps court et que les uns comme les autres vivent en tout ou en partie de la charité publique ou privée; que la ville, pas plus que les gouvernements provincial et fédéral, ne peuvent continuer à s'endetter pour payer des secours directs à toute cette multitude de chômeurs; que c'est, ou la banqueroute à brève échéance pour tous, ou la fin des secours directs; qu'en supprimant ceux-ci on court le risque d'une révolution avec tout ce qui s'en suit.

Le problème est difficile à résoudre, en dépit du fait que chacun a sa petite marotte; nous avons la nôtre également, la voici: Il faut coûte que coûte diminuer les heures de travail afin de donner de l'ouvrage au plus grand nombre possible et augmenter le pouvoir d'achat des masses populaires. Notre suggestion est-elle impossible d'accomplissement? Nous ne le croyons pas. Si le gouvernement provincial décrétait d'un coup sec que personne ne pourrait travailler plus de quarante-huit heures par semaine, il y aurait des pleurs et des grincements de dents au début, mais, après trois mois de la mise en vigueur de cette loi, les choses reprendraient leur cours normal et ce serait chose accomplie avec comme résultat que des milliers de chômeurs seraient retournés au travail, ce qui allégerait d'autant le fardeau de notre caisse des secours directs; et, de chômeurs qu'ils étaient, ces ouvriers redeviendraient des consommateurs, ce qui activerait le commerce et, partant, créerait de l'emploi pour d'autres qui ne seraient pas encore en position. Puis admettons que tous les salariés de la ville de Montréal recevraient une augmentation d'un dollar par semaine chacun, cela ferait un quart de million par semaine, soit plus d'un million de dollars par mois, qui seraient mis en circulation. Ce qu'on en achète de la marchandise pour un million de dollars par mois! Les rayons de nos magasins se videraient, les proprios toucheraient leurs loyers, les commandes afflueraient de nouveau chez nos manufacturiers, les roues du commerce et de l'industrie se mettraient à tourner de plus belle et avant longtemps ceux qui en veulent à la commission du chômage pourraient satisfaire leur petite rancune sans faire de mal à personne, on n'en aurait plus besoin, elle s'en irait d'elle-même, puisque le nombre de nos chômeurs aurait diminué dans de si notables proportions que la charité privée pourrait en prendre soin jusqu'au moment où une assurance-chômage aurait eu le temps de fonctionner normalement et empêcherait à l'avenir de mener la métropole du Canada à la banqueroute à force de payer des secours directs et à faire un tas de paresseux et de tire-au-flanc de braves ouvriers qui ne demandent qu'à gagner leur pain quotidien à la sueur de leur front, au lieu de celle du voisin.

\* \* \*

Aie, aie, pousse-moi donc pas comme ça...

Mais tu dors, et tu rêves tout haut...

Ah, pardon, c'est vrai, je rêvais, mais c'était quand même un beau rêve et qui pourrait fort bien se réaliser, si on le voulait, mais le voudra-t-on?

Là-dessus, bonsoir, la suite au prochain numéro.

SOCIUS.

L'industrie est au service de l'humanité et non l'humanité au service de l'industrie. Du moins, c'est ce qui devrait exister; mais, de nos jours, on constate qu'une partie du genre humain croit tout le contraire et pense qu'elle doit être libre d'exploiter l'industrie, sans égard aux travailleurs, à leurs besoins, pourvu qu'ils en tirent des profits substantiels. Voilà la cause de la crise.

LES GRANDS CRIMINELS.

## La paix armée

Les "marchands de mort subite" sont plus que jamais à l'ordre du jour, grâce à l'enquête sénatoriale américaine où des témoignages sensationnels sont donnés et reproduits en partie par la presse des deux continents, pour la plus grande joie des uns et à la plus complète indignation des autres.

On se doutait bien un peu des honteux tripotages qui s'élaboraient dans les soi-disant hautes sphères politiques et financières, sous ces abris somptueux et irrespectables où l'on tramait, et où l'on trame encore, avec un cynisme inouï, le suicide de la démocratie par l'apoplexie des armements. On savait aussi, depuis quelque temps déjà, que ces criminels profiteurs de la paix armée traitaient par-dessus les frontières et soudoyaient, avec plus ou moins de succès, de hauts fonctionnaires anglais, américains, français, allemands et autres. On savait également qu'aux conseils d'administration de toutes les grosses firmes munitionnaires du monde "civilisé" se retrouvaient, comme par hasard, les mêmes gens, les mêmes appétits, la même insouciance de la vie... des autres, un désir unique les unissant tous comme du ciment armé: battre monnaie en vendant le maximum d'armes et de munitions aux divers gouvernements encore "dévoués" à leurs ordres; entretenir dans tous les pays, par le moyen d'une presse servile à souhait, le sentiment de "l'honneur national", le souci d'une "indispensable sécurité", la "gloire du drapeau" et un "patriotisme" multicolore et sanguinaire, restes d'une civilisation anémiée qui ne veut point oublier ni la "bienfaisante" odeur du sang humain, ni les apothéoses bénies des assassinats collectifs d'hier sur l'autel du dieu des combats.

En somme, l'enquête américaine n'apporte pas grand chose de nouveau quant au fond de cette brûlante et explosive question de la fourniture du matériel de guerre. Mais elle découvre des précisions inattendues quant à la forme ou plutôt aux formes sous lesquelles politiciens et diplomates de tous poils émargeaient — et émargent peut-être encore — aux budgets occultes et substantiels des Vickers, des Krupp, des Schneider, des Skoda, des Bethlehem Steel et d'un tas d'autres rastaquouères politico-financiers portant fièrement sur leur poitrine diamantée une lourde et encombrante consigne de fer-blanterie officielle, récompense on ne peut plus méritée pour "services exceptionnels" rendus en tel ou tel pays, selon le cas.

Les noms cités à ladite enquête et les faits mentionnés ont soulevé des "protestations indignées" sinon des incidents diplomatiques aux quatre coins de l'univers. C'est que les vautours sont furieux de se voir découvrir et ils feignent de s'indigner contre "d'infâmes calomnies"! C'est que le bât les blesse et ils veulent gagner du temps, payer d'audace et jouer le tout pour le tout avant d'être définitivement condamnés par la vindicte populaire ayant enfin éclairé sa lanterne à la lumière de documents officiels et irréfutables.

Et encore ne veut-on pas tout rendre public à Washington. On donne des prétextes ridicules pour taire certaines choses, mais les probabilités sont que la corruption est tellement généralisée qu'on n'ose tout publier dans la crainte, peut-être fondée, de discréditer à jamais le régime démocratique actuel à l'ombre duquel les plus grands criminels que nous connaissons peuvent ainsi jouir, outre d'une parfaite impunité, d'une considération proportionnelle aux sommes dont ils "veulent bien" disposer pour que se prostituent avec grâce nos "dévoués serviteurs du peuple" dont la bonne réputation n'est plus à faire!

Nous avons, ici même, il y a belle lurette, recommandé le monopole d'Etat de la fabrication et de la vente de toute arme à feu ainsi que de ses accessoires, de tout instrument de destruction. C'est le seul remède — encore n'est-il que provisoire — aux débauches politiques de la paix armée, à la prostitution éhontée des gouvernants et au cynisme cent fois criminel des affairistes munitionnaires. Nous avons, en ce temps-là, passé pour des utopistes dangereux. Aujourd'hui, dans ces milieux si ironiquement appelés "bien pensants", on en discute sérieusement la nécessité et l'éventualité prochaine.

Quand il n'y aura plus bénéfice à fabriquer de la "mort subite", sous la couverture de produits chimiques, nul doute qu'on aura fait un bon premier pas, sinon dans la voie du désarmement intégral des nations, tout au moins dans celle d'une paix plus durable et rendue moins aléatoire par la disparition graduelle des profiteurs de la paix armée.

POL. BERRE.

## Debout, les ouvriers!

Ouvriers, allez-vous consentir à perdre la liberté pour laquelle nos pères surent lutter avec tant de courage et mourir avec une admirable cranerie?

Le système communiste, voilà le pire ennemi de votre liberté individuelle, de votre droit d'acquiescer et de posséder et du bonheur qui résulte de ses labeurs et de la satisfaction du devoir accompli.

Permettez-vous plus longtemps que des propagandistes communistes pervertissent vos garçons pour en faire des renégats et les pires ennemis de l'ordre dans la famille et la société? Ils vous trompent, les habileurs communistes quand ils vous invitent à les suivre et à entrer dans ce prétendu "paradis terrestre" qu'est le communisme.

Le communisme, le nazisme et le fascisme, mais c'est le pire des enfers et il n'y a là que pleurs amers, grincements de dents affreux, esclavage à nul autre pareil.

Unissez vos efforts pour que cesse cette propagande troublante et dangereuse du communisme dans les ateliers, les tavernes, les parcs publics, aux coins des rues, les salles de pool et de billard et autres endroits connus ou cachés où on entraîne nos jeunes gens, nos écoliers même. Agir ainsi, mais la logique vous le demande; c'est votre devoir social qui vous le commande; c'est votre patriotisme qui vous en fait un impérieux devoir.

Sous tous les régimes dictatoriaux, qu'ils soient prolétariens ou bourgeois, les droits des ouvriers sont sacrifiés, l'organisation ouvrière est bannie, et les travailleurs sont soumis aux pires vilénies, à l'esclavage, à la misère.

Si vous voulez améliorer votre sort, combattez pour garder vos organisations ouvrières, et débarrassez-vous des utopies communistes, fascistes, nazistes.



ACTUALITES.

## Les défaitsistes de la renaissance économique au Canada

Nos mercantis, chez qui le souci des bénéfiques à encaisser prime toute autre considération, viennent de se faire consciencieusement "passer à tabac" par l'hon. C.-J. Arcand. Notre sympathique ministre du Travail reproche à certains d'entre eux, notamment à des tenanciers de grands magasins, d'éluder sans vergogne la loi du salaire minimum des femmes. Pour ce faire, ces patriotes exploitent de la main-d'oeuvre féminine renvoient tout bonnement celles de leurs employées qui, de par leur ancienneté, en étaient arrivées à toucher un salaire supérieur à celui d'aujourd'hui prévu par la Commission. Celles-ci sont alors ou rengagées peu après à un moindre salaire ou remplacées par d'autres auxquelles les patrons inconsciemment ne pouvaient pas "reprocher" de gagner préalablement "trop cher" ou encore par de nouvelles recrues auxquelles la loi, insuffisante en soi dans sa teneur actuelle, permet d'allouer un salaire dérisoire aux débuts.

Il fallait s'attendre à cette contre-offensive des mercantis, atteints dans les oeuvres vives de leur lubricité commerciale. Et malgré que M. Arcand ait fait à ces messieurs l'honneur et la courtoisie de se montrer étonné de leur attitude à l'égard de "l'ordre 18" de la Commission, il s'est cru dispensé, après constatation du délit, de se ganser de blanc pour leur envoyer dire que "ce n'est pas en payant des salaires de famine que les patrons peuvent accroître le pouvoir d'achat des consommateurs". Et il a ajouté, ce dont il y a lieu de le féliciter hautement: "Je n'entends pas proférer des menaces, mais il est facile de prévoir que si les employeurs ou quelques-uns d'entre eux prennent les moyens d'étudier la loi, un temps pourrait venir où des mesures plus énergiques deviendraient nécessaires pour que les ouvriers des deux sexes soient assurés d'un salaire leur permettant de vivre décemment".

Cette attitude est ce qu'on peut appeler un beau geste, mais que va-t-il donner?

Les négociants incriminés ne sont pas dans les affaires pour des prunes. C'est uniquement pour prélever un profit qu'ils détaillent du drap, des pastilles miraculeuses et un tas de pacotilles, sans compter ces écoulements périodiques qu'ils annoncent au rayon des dames et qui font que nos bonnes ménagères se bousculent avec enthousiasme pour jouir de faveurs mercantiles plus apparentes que réelles.

Le commerce sans bénéfiques est un anachronisme épouvantable et monstrueux aux yeux de nos marchands de "beans en can" ou de robes échancrées aux deux extrémités, qu'ils soient de secte catholique, israélite ou protestante, bouddhiste ou mahométane. C'est là une tradition éminemment logique et respectable, paraît-il, et c'est pour le moins commettre un sacrilège que de vouloir imposer aux mercantis tout autre souci que celui de battre impunément monnaie par tous les moyens, honnêtes et autres, surtout autres. Leur demander, par exemple, de rétribuer suffisamment leur personnel féminin est pour le moins indécent.

Mais le courageux collègue de l'hon. M. Taschereau n'est pas encore revenu sur ses déclarations de l'autre jour, en quoi il a raison. Et si nos grands mercantis poussent l'outrecuidance jusqu'à se croire au-dessus de la loi et du simple bon sens humain, qu'ils s'attendent aux rigueurs ministérielles dans un avenir prochain et que nous appelons de tous nos voeux.

Ils ne l'auront pas volé.

Les patrons qui se soustraient à l'impérieux devoir social du "salaire suffisant" se font, sans peut-être s'en rendre assez compte, les pourvoyeurs de nos "maisons closes", là où, sans autre apprentissage que l'effet du découragement provoqué par la gêne, les privations et la misère, des malheureuses vendent ce que la nature leur commande de donner.

Georges Delpègue.

### L'ASSURANCE-CHOMAGE

Les ouvriers ont dû lire avec le plus vif intérêt la nouvelle venant d'Ottawa, au sujet de l'assurance-chômage. Cette question occupe depuis si longtemps les ouvriers organisés qui ne cessent de la réclamer aux pouvoirs.

Pour le bénéfice de nos lecteurs, qui n'ont pas lu cette nouvelle, et pour référence future, nous publions le texte de la dépêche en question:

"Un projet de loi d'assurance contre le chômage sera présenté à la prochaine session fédérale, selon une déclaration de Sir George Perley, premier ministre intérimaire.

On étudiera d'abord ce projet cet automne à la conférence interprovinciale. On y recueillera les opinions des représentants des diverses provinces canadiennes.

On ne connaît pas encore exactement les grands lignes du projet, mais on laisse entendre qu'il exigera une contribution de la part de l'employeur et de l'Etat.

L'obstacle le plus sérieux à l'assurance-chômage est d'ordre financier. Appliquée dans tous les pays, cette mesure coûterait environ \$82,000,000 par an. On a déterminé ce chiffre en calculant que 13 pour cent des salariés du Canada sont toujours sans travail à n'importe quel temps. On estime à 2,350,000 le nombre des salariés du Canada, exception faite des agriculteurs et des fonctionnaires. Là-dessus, 315,000 sont susceptibles de réclamer une assurance contre le chômage en tout temps. L'assurance qui leur assurerait \$5 par semaine coûterait \$1,575,000, soit \$82,000,000 par année, montant que paieraient les salariés assurés, leurs employeurs et l'Etat.

On saura, à la conférence interprovinciale, si les provinces veulent prêter leur concours au pouvoir central pour supprimer les difficultés que suscite l'Acte de l'Amérique britannique du Nord à la solu-

tion de certains problèmes sociaux et économiques qui se posent actuellement.

Les provinces auront à décider si elles doivent abandonner au gouvernement fédéral leur droit de légiférer en matière sociale, afin de permettre à celui-ci d'établir l'assurance-chômage, et de régler dans tout le pays d'une façon adéquate, sinon uniforme, les heures de travail et les minima de salaires."

### LA SITUATION DE L'EMPLOI AU PAYS

D'après les offres transmises aux bureaux de placement de la province de Québec au cours de mai, les occasions d'emploi ont été près de 25 pour cent moins nombreuses que celles du mois précédent, mais elles accusaient un gain de plus de 7 pour cent par rapport au mois correspondant de l'an dernier. Il y eut un déclin de plus de 22 pour cent dans le nombre des placements, en comparaison avec mai, mais l'on notait un gain de près de 6 pour cent, par rapport à ceux de juin 1933. Sous la dernière comparaison, l'augmentation la plus prononcée eut lieu dans le groupe des services, mais des gains furent enregistrés également dans l'exploitation forestière et l'agriculture. Les seuls déclinés d'importance eurent lieu dans le groupe de la construction et de l'entretien et celui des industries manufacturières. Les divisions industrielles dans lesquelles la plupart des placements furent effectués sont: industries manufacturières, 49; exploitation forestière, 117; agriculture, 75; construction et entretien, 353; commerce, 105; et services, 1,825, dont 1,492 de domestiques. Au cours du mois, 758 hommes et 1,241 femmes ont été placées à demeure.

Aide-toi, le Ciel t'aidera. Ouvriers, joignez l'union de votre métier et elle vous aidera à améliorer votre sort.

## LABOR DIRECTORY

**MONTREAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.**—Meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at Monument National, 1182 St. Lawrence Boulevard. President, G. R. Brunet, 7 Craig Street East; Corresponding Secretary, Jos. Pelletier, 7 Craig Street East.

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**UNION TYPOGRAPHIQUE JACQUES-CARTIER No 145.** — Assemblée le 1er samedi du mois, à la salle de l'Union du Commerce, 1079, rue Berri. Président, J. E. Garlépy, 6628, Ave. Delorimier; Téléphone: CRécent 7557; secrétaire-trésorier, Henri Richard, 3477, rue Cartier; Téléphone: AMherst 7034.

**UNION DES RELIEURS, Local 91.** — Assemblée tous les 1er et 3e mercredis de chaque mois, à la salle de l'Union, No 7, rue Craig Est à 8 heures du soir. Président: J.-A. Julien; secrétaire-financier et agent d'affaires, Jos. Pelletier, 7, rue Craig Est, téléphone: LAncester 2726.

**TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION No. 176.** — Meets first Saturday of each month at Union Rooms, 408 St. James St. W. William Skanes, President, 5030 Waverly Street; James Phillip, Secretary-Treasurer, Room 12, 408 St. James Street West. Business hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Telephone: MARquette 7489.

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**WOOD, WIRE & METAL LATHERS, Local 315 of Montreal.** — Meetings every 2nd Wednesday at 1182 St. Lawrence Blvd. (Monument National), room 15. Frank Moran, Financial-Secretary, 3698 Jeanne Mance Street. Telephone: HARbour 4407.

**FRATERNITE DES WAGONNIERS DE CHEMINS DE FER D'AMERIQUE, LOGE SAINTE-MARIE No 234.** — Assemblées régulières les 1er et 3e vendredis de chaque mois, dans la salle de l'Assistance Publique, rue LaSalle Est. Président, L.-A. Beaudry, 1828, rue Désery; vice-président, H. Massé.

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# La situation du chômage est plus mauvaise en Grande-Bretagne

Lors de la dernière assemblée du Conseil des Métiers et du Travail, tenue jeudi soir dernier, à l'hôtel Mont-Royal, sous la présidence de G. R. Brunet, président, assisté du vice-président J. E. Gariépy, cet important corps ouvrier avait la bonne fortune de pouvoir entendre un magnifique discours de la part de M. Marshbank, délégué fraternel du Congrès ouvrier britannique à la convention du Congrès des Métiers et du Travail qui fut tenue la semaine dernière à Toronto.

Dans ses remarques d'introduction, le confrère Marshbank assura les délégués que c'était pour lui un grand plaisir que de pouvoir venir devant cet auditoire et de présenter les vœux de ses confrères ouvriers anglais. Il référé à la Grande-Bretagne comme un pays renfermé dans une île et qui pourrait être entièrement submergée dans un des grands lacs de ce continent d'Amérique. Il y a dans ce pays de 45 à 46 millions de personnes qui sont forcées de par les circonstances à travailler pour gagner leur vie et celle de leurs familles.

"Depuis la fin des hostilités de cette grande guerre mondiale, cette guerre qui devait être la fin des guerres et l'établissement définitif de la démocratie de par le monde, les choses n'ont guère changé, car tous les sacrifices accomplis au cours de ces terribles années de conflit n'ont servi que les plans de ceux qui avaient travaillé au déclenchement de cette catastrophe mondiale.

"La période d'après-guerre a été considérablement pire pour le peuple de Grande-Bretagne. Notre pays s'est rendu compte après les hostilités que ses exportations avaient été entreprises par nombre d'autres pays, selon leurs besoins, et ceci dans toutes les branches de l'industrie: la construction de navires, le génie, l'industrie textile, les instruments agricoles, etc. Dans le Lincolnshire, par exemple, le peuple est forcé de chômer par suite de l'attitude prise par le gouvernement en traitant avec la Russie soviétique. Les opérateurs de coton ne tra-

vailent, depuis les neuf dernières années, que quelques mois par année, alors qu'il y a encore près de 100,000 ouvriers qui n'ont pas obtenu de travail depuis ce temps. Il y a en plus de cela le problème insoluble de placement au travail de près de 200,000 garçons et filles qui quittent l'école chaque année et qui grossissent les rangs des chômeurs. La seule solution qui puisse apparaître comme remède à cette situation est l'immigration de ce surplus dans les plaines fertiles du Canada et de l'Australie. Mais le mouvement trade-unioniste anglais est opposé à ce que le gouvernement déverse ses sans-travail dans d'autres pays où le chômage est si aigu. Il y a actuellement 2 1/4 millions de personnes sans travail en Grande-Bretagne qui sont dûment enregistrés. Il y a 5,000,000 d'âmes de sans-travail ou dépendants, et des 45,000,000 de travailleurs, il y en a 12,000,000 qui viennent sous l'assurance chômage, pendant que des centaines de mille ne travaillent qu'à temps partiel.

"La situation en Grande-Bretagne est très sérieuse, et quoiqu'il y ait beaucoup de rapports en circulation que la Grande-Bretagne est sur le chemin de retour à la normale et que la prospérité revient graduellement, il n'en est pas moins vrai que ceux qui circulent de tels rapports ne connaissent nullement la vraie situation, car il y a en certains districts 60% de la population qui n'a pas travaillé pour les dernières quatorze années.

"La seule solution à l'amélioration des conditions est une réduction des heures de travail sans réduction dans les taux de salaires; il nous faut reconnaître que nous vivons dans un âge de science et de machinisme, mais la race humaine ne doit pas être l'esclave de la machine."

M. Marshbank est d'opinion que la privation ne devrait pas exister dans un pays qui produit en abondance. Il mentionna que l'an dernier, dans certains pays, on a préféré brûler quantité de produits plutôt que de s'en servir pour nourrir les populations affamées. Il fit également allusion que la Grande-Bretagne était allée

à Genève pour s'opposer à la semaine de 40 heures de travail.

"Le mouvement ouvrier anglais célèbre cette année le centenaire des martyrs de Tolpuddle qui furent déportés au Canada pour avoir opposé une réduction de salaire chez les agriculteurs. Ceci se passait il y a cent ans et aujourd'hui les employeurs s'opposent encore à ce que les ouvriers s'organisent. La méthode des employeurs de nos jours consiste à obliger les ouvriers à se former en unions de compagnie qui fonctionnent en autant que les ouvriers demeurent dociles et esclaves; leur seconde méthode consiste à inculquer aux travailleurs un esprit nationaliste à outrance, qu'ils doivent être patriotes et que leurs affaires ne concernent que leur pays."

Comme preuve de la nécessité du mouvement trade-unioniste international, il fit l'exposé de la situation des ouvriers belges travaillant dans les mines et l'industrie textile qui se sauvèrent d'une grève qui aurait pu être fatale grâce au support apporté par les ouvriers anglais.

"Jugeant de l'attitude des pays d'Europe, conclut-il, nous sommes à l'approche d'une autre guerre, car nous devons nous rappeler que ce qui fait la force d'un pays n'est pas tant son pouvoir économique, mais la satisfaction de son peuple. Seule l'organisation peut résoudre le problème des temps présents et écarter la détresse qui règne de par l'univers."

M. Marshbank croit énormément au mouvement coopératif, et d'après lui, c'est ce dont les pays ont besoin, car nous devons lutter pour rendre la vie plus gaie et moins lourde aux générations qui viendront après nous.

Le président G. R. Brunet remercia le confrère Marshbank pour ses informations importantes et ses conseils qui seront, sans aucun doute, d'une grande assistance pour notre mouvement. Il souhaita un bon voyage à M. Marshbank ainsi qu'à son épouse.

Un étudiant des High Schools actuellement en grève expliqua la position dans laquelle les étudiants protestants se trouvent actuellement. Il fut résolu de porter cette question devant l'exécutif pour étude et rapport à la prochaine assemblée.

Après quelques affaires de routine, l'assemblée s'ajourna.

## L'EMPLOI DANS LA PROVINCE

Les rapports transmis au ministre national du Travail par les bureaux du Service national de placement du Canada indiquent pour juin 1934 un plus fort volume d'activité que dans le mois précédent ou le mois correspondant de 1933, la statistique dans chaque cas étant basée sur la moyenne des placements journaliers effectués. Dans chacun des trois mois considérés le gain indiqué est dû à une plus grande activité dans le groupe de la construction et de l'entretien, nombre de travailleurs ayant été absorbés dans les travaux de voirie entrepris en conformité du régime national de lutte contre le chômage. Un total de 45,529 offres d'emploi furent notifiées aux bureaux de placement en juin 1934, tandis que 67,506 demandes de travail étaient reçues et 43,621 placements effectués, tant à demeure qu'en extra.

## SALAIRE MINIMUM

Rubin Levy, 5602, avenue du Parc, a subi son procès devant le juge Gustave Marin, sous l'accusation d'avoir, dans la semaine du 26 avril au 3 mai, enfreint une ordonnance de la Commission du salaire minimum des femmes. Le juge a pris la cause en délibéré jusqu'au 4 octobre.

Me Charlemagne Rodier, avocat de la Commission, a démontré qu'au moins dix des trente employées de l'accusé, n'avaient pas reçu le salaire fixé par la loi au cours de cette semaine de la fin d'avril.

## AVIS

ROSEMOUNT BROTHERHOOD AND WOMEN'S OWN LIMITED donne par les présentes avis qu'en conformité avec la Loi des Compagnies de Québec elle demandera au Lieutenant-Gouverneur en Conseil de la Province de Québec, en vertu de l'article 25 de la dite Loi, d'accepter l'abandon de la charte de la compagnie, d'en ordonner l'annulation et de fixer une date à compter de laquelle la compagnie sera dissoute.

Daté à Montréal, le 18 septembre 1934.

HOWARD S. ROSS,  
Procureur de la requérante.

# UN PEU DE DIPLOMATIE... par DOW



## Churches Uphold Union Principles

Expressing concern over the existing tension between labor and management in industry, the executive committee of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America issued from its New York offices late in June a statement on "The Present State of Industrial Relations," strongly urging that the rights of labor be fully recognized. The principle of collective bargaining, the statement says, has been affirmed repeatedly by religious bodies in the name of justice and fair dealing. The statement of the council deplors the tendency among employers to hinder industrial workers in the exercise of free choice with reference to their representatives in collective bargaining and the widespread refusal of employers to deal with the representatives of organized labor. The demand of labor to be represented by persons in its own employ rather than in the pay of employers is declared to be just as reasonable as the insistence of employers upon securing the ablest possible persons to represent their own interests. The full statement follows:

"The increasing tension between labor and management in some of the great industries of the nation creates a serious menace to civic order and social progress. We have previously expressed our hearty endorsement of the policy of the federal government, embodied in the National Industrial Recovery Act, affirming the right of employees, as well as employers, to bargain collectively through persons freely chosen by themselves to represent their interests. This principle has long been advocated by leading church and civic bodies and has been amply demonstrated in major industries as practicable and desirable. This is not class legislation, but a guarantee of rights without which labor can not hope to maintain its standards against strongly organized aggregations of capital when there is conflict of interests. Industry is in a much healthier state when workers and employers are alike organized with prescribed rights and accepted responsibilities. Among the responsibilities thus incurred by labor is the free admission to its membership of competent workers without distinctions of nationality or race.

"Serious conflict has arisen over the refusal of strong employing groups to recognize trade unions and their determination to limit negotiations with labor to dealings with their own employees. The reasons for labor's insistence upon a broad basis of organization and upon representation of the workers by persons chosen and paid by themselves are too plain for argument. They are precisely the same reasons that impel employers to organize and to secure the ablest representatives of their own interests, chosen and paid by themselves. We appeal for fair play in accord with the plain intent of an act of congress and with a principle for which the churches have long contended. When labor is denied the right of free choice of representatives and when employers refuse to deal with representatives so chosen, the spirit and purpose of justice and democracy are thwarted.

"We make this appeal, however, not merely in the interest of what is known as collective bargaining, but in the interest of democratic social progress, which requires that the many functional groups of various types in modern society shall have scope for the development of standards and methods of action for which they may be properly held responsible. That abuses of power have occurred on the part of labor as on the part of other groups may be freely admitted, but these can not be pleaded as excusing a denial of justice. We are convinced that full recognition of social rights is the best assurance of responsible and wholesome social action. It is for such recognition that we urgently appeal." — *The Typographical Journal*.

## Cleaning Up London

### A Four Months' Record.

By HERBERT MORRISON, Leader, Labour Group on the L.C.C.

On July 24, the London County Council adjourned for the summer recess. By then, the effective period during which Labour had held power was four months—after allowing for the early weeks taken up with getting the new Council going.

The story of that four months is one of constructive work, probably unequalled in the history of national or local government. Labour has not acted blindly upon abstract principles; it has taken decisions only after weighing the facts; yet over the enormous field of Council activity changes have been made with decision and speed, while hard work and vitality have marked the new administration.

Here is a brief summary of Labour's glorious first four months.

#### Every Slum Must Go.

The Housing and Public Health Committee is waging a vigorous battle for slum clearance, to continue until every London slum has gone. This cannot be done in three years and in 1937 London will be asked to renew its mandate to Labour.

Within three years, however, the Committee means to make actual plans for 100,000 slum dwellers; within four or five years South London's unhealthy areas should be cleared;

in about seven years it is expected that all the existing slums in the County will be cleared (excepting, possibly, part of the Bethnal Green, Shoreditch and Stepney areas, where intensive problems exist).

Almost every week the Council has approved additional areas for clearance; every effort is being made to remove causes of delays and to speed up the machine; the medical and other staff dealing with slum clearance has been expanded.

Poynders Road site, Clapham, which the Tories meant to sell, has been retained, and dwellings are to be built there.

The notorious "B" type tenement, with one bathroom for three families, has been killed. Mottingham and Chigwell Cottage estates, held up by the old Council, are now being developed, and St. Helier estate is being completed.

On July 24, the Council decided to reduce

rents, mainly of rehoused slum dwellers, by amounts ranging from 6d. to 3s. 6d. a week, at a cost of £44,000 a year.

The Labour Party in London need fear no comparison of Labour's housing attack with the results of its predecessors.

#### No Imperialism in The Schools.

The Education Committee has restored school prizes in full; it has instituted camp holidays for all suitable children in residential schools and more of them are to have pocket money. Educational visits are to be arranged for residential school children and those in children's homes. The provision for ordinary school journeys has been increased by £1,000.

The Council convened a conference of Greater London local education authorities to urge upon the Government an increase in the school-leaving age.

Empire Day has been transferred into Commonwealth Day with a peace bias and Armistice Day, similarly, will be known as Armistice and Peace Day.

#### More Milk For Children.

Organization of school meals is to be improved and a special organiser appointed. In co-operation with the Milk Board, milk will be made available for as many children as possible.

School-leavers joining evening institutions for next session will not pay registration fees—other reductions would have been made but for the disagreement of the Board of Education. Three hundred more special places have been allowed in secondary schools.

To save the Foundling site for the children, a grant of £50,000 (with annual maintenance grant of £2,000) has been made.

Important educational developments for the current year have been approved, including the rebuilding of obsolete school buildings, smaller infants' classes, improved staffing for new senior schools and the laying-out of new playing fields.

#### Hospitals and Medical Services.

The work of modernising and re-equipping L.C.C. hospitals requiring such attention is going on; this is a task that must be spread over a number of years, but already the Council has made numerous

decisions for improvement and re-development. An additional medical officer has been appointed for the supervision of this work.

The Council has abolished the contributions towards the residential treatment of tuberculosis at a cost of about £10,000 a year.

At certain hospitals increases in nursing and medical staffs have been authorised. The old Council recognised that such steps were necessary but refrained from taking them for "economy" reasons.

#### Coal Allowance for Old People.

The whole relief policy of the Council has been overhauled. The scale has been improved in many ways and the means test in transitional payments and out-door relief has been eased.

A coal allowance is being made to old people throughout the year. Married men, save in exceptional cases, are no longer being sent to residential training centres, while at the non-residential centres weekly hours of attendance have been reduced from thirty-two to twenty, so that the men are free in the mornings for seeking work.

Moreover, new cases of able-bodied men are, in general, excused attendance for thirteen weeks, or a total of 16 weeks in any year from the first grant of relief.

Men at residential training centres are to get their allowances in cash instead of tokens.

Labour is determined not to allow Public Assistance to become a mere "dishing out" of public money; at the same time, it claims that humanity in Public Assistance has replaced the old Tory policy of harshness and deterrence.

Justifiable policy changes have made necessary a supplemental Public Assistance estimate of £350,000 this year.

To increase control by the people's elected representatives, to secure public accountability, and to remove every possible service from Poor Law associations, a special Sub-Committee is examining the Council's administrative scheme under the Local Government Act, 1929.

#### Cleaning Up London.

Within three months, the Labour majority came to a decision on Waterloo Bridge and put it into operation; former Councils had vacillated on this question for ten years. The action of the Tory House of Commons in refusing to sanction the capital expenditure meant that the Council has to find the money out of revenue, but this will be arranged in a way that will be no great burden upon London, although the Transport Minister has refused a 60 per cent grant.

Waterloo Bridge is now being demolished and plans for the new bridge will shortly be approved.

Legislation is to be promoted for the compulsory purchase of lands lying on the south bank of the river between Waterloo and Westminster Bridges, so that eventually this dreary stretch may be cleaned up and a river terrace and open space laid out. Parliamentary powers are also to be sought so that the Council may purchase land for the general improvement and development of London, although not required for an immediate statutory purpose.

Evidence has been given in favour of a Thames Passenger Motor Boat Service, run by the London Passenger Transport Board.

#### More Open Spaces.

The Council is acquiring two hundred acres of Shooters Hill as an open space for South East London at a cost of £72,500; part of the land will be used as playing fields for school children. The ban on Sunday league or cup games in L.C.C. parks and open spaces has been withdrawn on a non-party vote.

The Council has decided to institute town planning for the whole of London. This will be one of the largest town planning schemes in the world. The work will involve administrative costs of about £23,000 a year for a period.

#### Other Matters.

Inquiry is proceeding into whether powers should be sought to extend polling hours in local elections, and to establish a London Municipal Bank. A protest resolution against the repeal by Parliament of the Land Value Tax has been adopted. The reactionary Special Committee on Local Expenditure (child of the Ray Economy Committee) has been abolished.

Substantial capital expenditure has been incurred to improve the sewage effluent into the Thames at Woolwich and Barking, and the Council has approved the building of new Fire Brigade Headquarters.

#### Finance.

The Finance Committee has been vigilant in its control of the Council's finances, while entering into the spirit of implementing Labour Party policy. It made provision in the Money Bill for increased capital expenditure, particularly for housing, and has made, with some success, a bold attempt to popularise the house-purchasing facilities offered to individuals by the Council.

#### A Great Story.

Such is the great story of four months of Labour rule on the world's greatest municipality. And even so, it is by no means complete. The London County Council Labour Party is proud of it. The Labour Party in London is proud of it. The Labour Movement throughout the country can be proud of it.

And what is even more important, public opinion in London is proud of it!

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# The Aryan Fallacy and Nordic Myth

Discrimination Because of Race or Faith a Crime Against Society and the Individual. — The International Trade Union Movement Promotes Racial and Religious Concord.

By BERNARD ROSE.

The present German dictatorship, anxious to promote the development of a pure race, notwithstanding that the present Chancellor is in appearance a typical Slav, and cannot by any means claim the right to be classed as a Nordic, has resurrected the Aryan myth, in order to discredit those who cannot claim descent from the so-called Aryan race. Marriages between those of Aryan and non-Aryan origin, are not permitted. Thousands who, for generations, have been loyal Germans, are denied the right of exercising their professions or holding positions, because an ancestor was of a faith or race that does not fall within the category of Aryan kinship.

The myth of an Aryan race was exposed many years ago. Its purpose, one can quite understand, is in order to appeal to the foolish national or race pride of those who, because of the color of their hair or eyes, can boast of being Nordic. How absurd this claim is, was pointed out in an editorial that appeared in the columns of the *Labor World* some weeks ago, quoting, as it did at the time, from Thorstein Veblen.

Eminent anthropologists, who can speak with far greater authority and knowledge than the Hitler gang, and particularly the Minister of Propaganda, were at first amused, and subsequently indignant, when told that so-called intelligent persons believe in the existence of a modern race that can trace its descent back to so-called Aryan sources.

At the opening session, on July 31st of this year, of the first International Congress of Anthropology and Ethnology, Professor Sir Elliot Smith denounced the recrudescence of the "Aryan Fallacy," in very strong language. He said: "It was a matter of increasing surprise, that the facts of anthropology should be so flagrantly misused at the present time by applying the word 'Aryan' as equivalent to non-Jewish. If their discussions in congress did nothing more it would be a definite gain if they could impress upon politicians some respect for anthropological truth and the generally admitted knowledge of the facts of race and culture."

He continued: "Civilization.... was the work of members of the Mediterranean race of Sergi. There was no adequate reason for regarding this as in any sense due to any innate qualities of initiative or skill on the part of the members of this race, but rather to the historical circumstances which impelled the people on the banks of the Nile to embark on those pursuits which led inevitably to the building up of civilization."

Civilization is not only the work of the Mediterranean race of Sergi, but all who endowed with special qualities by nature, and proud of the land of their birth or adoption, gave of their very best to build up their country. This is exemplified in the case of million of Americans, who in the majority of instances, born of humble and honest parents, taking advantage of the opportunity which the United States gave them, contributed to the welfare of their country and won personal renown. The same applies to our own country, and every Dominion within the British Empire. Furthermore, we must not forget that great and glorious nations whose citizens first settled this great Dominion, and which, at all times throughout its magnificent history, has been hospitable to talent, regardless of the birth or faith of its possessor.

Professor Smith went on to further say: "It is a matter of some importance, to emphasize this fact at a time when distinctive qualities of mind and character are being attributed to the Nordic race and the so-called Aryan people."

We have been told that a nation can be changed by the measures taken to mould the character of its citizens. Character is the result of a sound physical heredity and the institutions that permit the development of those qualities that make for personal and national greatness. No doubt when the protagonists of the "Aryan Fallacy" read that: "The so-called primitive Aryan culture was derived from Babylon and was in fact due to Semitic influences, much in the same way as the renaissance of learning in Europe in the Middle Ages was the result of the intermediation of the Jews between Spain and the Greek world in the Eastern Mediterranean," they will be not only angry, but confounded, in view of this declaration coming from one who is regarded as one of the foremost anthropologists and ethnologists.

Professor Smith in the course of his address made reference to the trenchant exposure of the "Aryan Fallacy" by Professor Thomas H. Huxley in 1890. Speaking of Huxley's exposure of the "Aryan Fallacy," he states: "It becomes an increasing matter of surprise that the facts of anthropology should be so flagrantly misused at the present time by applying the word 'Aryan' as equivalent to 'non-Jewish'."

"The chief duty of this section, however, is to put the facts of anthropology into their proper biological setting. In this task, however, we in this section are surely within our rights in criticizing fallacies that come into such flagrant conflict with the general recognized teaching of anthropological science."

Those who are interested in the peace of the world, as well as that between the different nationalities inhabiting the lands in which they dwell, will feel very much indebted to Professor Elliot Smith, for the information which his very instructive address contained.

All right-minded men and women must at all times without fear of the consequences, not only denounce, but organize to further the forming of associations or movements the purpose of which is to sow hatred, awaken prejudice, and make appeals to passion on the score of race or faith. No country, no matter how great it be in wealth and ability, can afford to lose the contribution of those who, because of special qualities, or training, can contribute to its welfare in this respect. Broad-minded men whatever be their occupation, profession, or exalted position, owe a debt of gratitude to the International Trade Unions, which have done so much to bring about the meeting of men and women of different races and faiths, animated by the sole purpose of co-operating toward the achievement of the splendid ideals of economic and social justice.

We must not let petty minded men and women, fanatics and schemers who trade upon ignorance and prejudice, influence the millions susceptible to the pernicious propaganda carried on by those who seek to profit because of the ill will and hate arising from discrimination because of race, faith, or even class.

I have, on many occasions, in the columns of the *Labor World* and other organs of public opinion, as well as on the platform, denounced Fascism and Communism rooted as they are in prejudices and hate that do not make for

national or international peace. I have always upheld as best suited to the needs of the people of this great Dominion, and those in other countries, the ideal of democracy. Democracy can in every way meet our needs and views, and experience has demonstrated that it gives an opportunity to men of ability, regardless of faith or race, of achieving the eminence and success for which they are qualified.

I think that it is well to give a few brief quotations from Professor Huxley, who discussed the "Aryan Question And Prehistoric Man" in 1890. This essay is contained in his "Man's Place in Nature," and, as stated by Professor Elliot Smith, dealt a death blow to the claims of those who were interested in furthering the "Aryan Fallacy."

Professor Huxley was, in his time, regarded as a naturalist of distinction and did very much to disseminate the views that we know now under the name of Darwinism. He was not only a profound student of natural history, but a man of brilliant attainments in many fields. Seldom were his conclusions or authority questioned. He says: "Any biologist who studies the history of the Aryan question, and, taking the philosophical facts on trust, regards it exclusively from the point of view of anthropology, will observe that, very early, the purely biological conception of 'race' illegitimately mixed itself up with the ideas derived from pure philology. It is quite proper to speak of Aryan 'people,' because, as we have seen, the existence of the language implies that of a people who speak it; it might be equally permissible to call Latin people all those who speak Romance languages, at the present day, is none the less absurd because it is common; so, it is quite possible that it may be equally wrong to call the people who spoke the primitive Aryan dialects and inhabited the primitive home, the Aryan race."

He continues: "'Aryan' is properly a term of classification used in philology. 'Race' is the name of a sub-division of one of those groups of living things which are called 'species.'"

As will be seen by the extract given, the Aryan fanatics mixed their philology and biology. An expatriated Englishman who became a very devout German, the late Houston Chamberlain, did his best to revive the Nordic myth.

Professor Huxley goes on to say: "It follows that community of language is no proof of unity of race, is not even presumptive evidence of racial identity." He continues: "Philology, therefore, while it may have a perfect right to postulate the existence of a primitive Aryan 'people,' has no business to substitute 'race' for 'people.' The speakers of primitive Aryan may have been a mixture of two or more races, just as are the speakers of English and of French, at the present time."

He deals very effectively with the confusion into which a number of interested parties were led because of their belief in a distinct Aryan race along biological lines, by stating that: "The assumption that, as there must have been a primitive Aryan people, in the philological sense, so that people must have constituted a race in the biological sense, is pretty generally made in modern discussions of the Aryan problem. But whether the men of the primitive Aryan race were blonds or brunets, whether they had long or round heads, were tall or were short, are hotly debated questions, into the discussion of which considerations quite foreign to science are sometimes imported."

He also points out how the races have mixed, by telling us that: "As a general rule, in France, Belgium, Switzerland, and South Germany, the increase in the proportion of broad skulls is accompanied by the appearance of a larger and larger proportion of men of brunet complexion and of a lower stature."

Anyone who has resided in Germany knows that its people differ in complexion, skull formation, and color, as do those in other lands. Any school boy who has not the slightest knowledge of biology, anthropology, ethnology, or the sciences kindred to these, could understand that because of the wars which raged for thousands of years in European lands, that the races would become so inextricably mixed, that tracing descent back to a primitive pure race biologically would be impossible, and that we must therefore take men and women as we find them.

So much for the Aryan fallacy, the Nordic myth, and the facts upon which the Hitler gang based their campaign to prejudice, injure, and exterminate those who, in their view, do not possess the purity of biological descent in which so many alleged Germans take foolish pride!

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# A Living Wage

## The Fallacy of Reducing Wages and Personnel.

By BERNARD ROSE.

In a communication recently received from a professional friend in New York, referring to the conditions in the United States, he concluded his letter by saying: "Not until the employers become conscious of the fact that the employee must have a living wage, and this thought has been expressed by our President on any number of occasions, will conditions improve."

My friend has given little if any time to the study of economics. His clientele is almost entirely made up of employers; nevertheless, he has reached the view that most thinking men have, who are not unduly biased or antagonistic to labor unions, that one of the first steps towards not only an immediate recovery, but one that will be permanent, by preventing a recurrence of depressions, is wholly conditional upon the worker getting a living wage.

Even the employer, who strongly opposes unions, must appreciate the fact that only in the degree that the purchasing power of the masses is stimulated and maintained, is it possible for industry to continuously function and trade be prosperous. So many unfortunately, who belong to the employing class, delude themselves into the belief that, if wages are reduced to the bare minimum necessities for actual existence, conditions will improve. They entirely forget that every period of prosperity in their own country was marked by not only a fair degree of employment, but the payment of a reasonable wage to the employee. When conditions change even in the slightest degree and there is a contraction of purchasing power, instead of the employers meeting together with representatives of the Government, and discussing ways and means of stopping the actual or threatened contraction of buying power on the part of the consuming public, they make the conditions worse by reducing wages and discharging employees, or putting them on half time. Their remedy is thus worse than the disease. Yet, in spite of the utter fallacy of this view and action, it is difficult to get them to understand that the welfare of industry and commerce is entirely dependent upon those who constitute the bulk of the population of the country — those who work for wages or salaries, being employed and paid fair compensation.

President Roosevelt understood the situation, hence the NIRA, and the provision it makes for codes and the payment of a minimum wage. The minimum wage is certainly not a living wage where it does prevail because of a code being in effect. It is much less than the wage necessary to permit the worker and his family purchasing what they require in the way of wholesome food, decent living surroundings, clothing, and the other little comforts that make existence tolerable.

Unless the employers realize their responsibilities and collectively do their utmost to stimulate buying power, through the payment of higher wages, notwithstanding the good intentions of the President and his able advisers, conditions will not improve in the degree that will eliminate the fear of a still more threatening situation developing.

Employers must understand that the workers, possessing as they do the right to choose their rulers and the form of government to which they are subject, and whose laws they obey, will not tolerate a situation which, in the midst of a great plenty, deprives them of the necessities of life, and accentuates the contrast, so startling even in normal times, between the social condition of those in possession of means or receiving good salaries and the unfortunate victims of unemployment and low wages.

I believe that one way to make the employers alive to the necessity of paying higher wages, in other words, distributing a larger share of the product amongst those who create it, is for organized labor throughout the United States to demand from the people's representatives in the several state legislatures and those who are members of Congress, a pledge to do all in their power to have enacted any future legislation that may be necessary, in order to achieve the laudable and necessary object of the workers getting a higher wage. If a campaign of this kind began, the employers would appreciate the necessity for something being done in this direction without delay. If, notwithstanding any representations that are made by members of the Legislatures of the different states of the Union and Congress, employers still refuse to share their profits with the workers and make provision for slack periods, Congress and the several legislatures, either separately, or acting in conjunction, will be forced to enact legislation, whereby a system of industrial democracy will become a fact, rather than a possibility. An industrial democracy will be one that will legally enable the workers in any industry and large commercial establishments, to own part of the assets of the industry or establishment, and through representatives elected by a majority of the workers in the industry or establishment, who will periodically report to the majority, participate in the management of the industry or the commercial establishment.

This participation will carry with it the right to suggest or fix the wages and salaries to be paid to the different classes of employees, the reserve to be set aside for slack periods, and the share of the profits if any, which shall be paid to the workers quarterly, semi-annually, or annually, as the case may be.

The workers in the United States and the Dominion are a long suffering race. They have shown a fortitude, that is admirable. They have not been influenced by the propaganda carried on to enroll them in the ranks of the movements or organizations, that seek to undermine society and destroy democracy, as it is understood and appreciated in countries with a representative form of Government and universal adult suffrage.

Millions of workers have suffered the pangs of hunger. They and their families have lost their all. They very grimly held on in the ever present hope of better things to come and re-employment. They have made far greater sacrifices than employers or those who are not included in the category of workers. They constitute the nation's principal source of wealth, since it is because of their labor, that Government can be carried on and those who administer it, paid the salaries or indemnities to which they are entitled. One would therefore think that the workers are deserving of first consideration not only by Governments, but enlightened employers.

History is a warning to the reactionary employer, of what is likely to happen if he persists in refusing to deal with his employees as co-workers in his establishment, rather than mere wage earners. As co-workers, they should receive a fair wage and as much consideration, if not more, than the executives who, whether business is good or bad, continue receiving their salaries.

In speaking as he does, the gentleman from whose letter I have quoted,

NEWS FROM OTTAWA.

# Money Power in Canada

Contributed by the Bureau of Social Research, Ottawa.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF FARM INCOMES

Grave as is the calamity which falls upon the country and the individual when the wage-earner, through no fault of his own, is deprived of all means of livelihood, it is of less importance in its far-reaching effects than that which occurs when farmers, through low prices for their products, droughts and other adverse conditions, are either unable to earn sufficient income to cover expenses or are actually forced to give up their farms and join the ranks of the unemployed.

The average wage-earner is either a tenant or a house-owner. His income is expended on rent, clothing, fuel, food, etc., for his family and even if he is unemployed, money must be found somewhere to keep him and his family alive, though with a considerably lowered standard of living. Therefore the national purchasing power is only reduced by a portion of the total amount he formerly received as wages. Neither does the country suffer any diminution of wealth production on account of being deprived of the services of a number of wage-earners, for the machines will see to it that plenty of goods are produced despite the reduction of the labor forces.

### Importance of Farmers.

On the other hand, when a farmer is unable to earn sufficient to cover expenses, and is thus deprived of adequate purchasing power to buy machinery, cattle, feed, etc., or is obliged to leave the farm, each individual case is a dead loss to the national economy. Farmers, as a class, are the most important element in the national life, both as producers and consumers, yet they suffer more from the unbalanced price situation than any other class in the community. Owing to the nature of their work, they are obliged to purchase a far greater variety of goods than the wage-earner, and the inability to continue to make these purchases is disastrous, not only to themselves, but to the country as a whole. The effect of such a calamity on the national economy needs to be examined very thoroughly, for a farmer whose crops have completely failed suffers a total loss of purchasing power, and is unable to give any support to business except as he spends his relief payment and consumes food and clothing supplied by the government and local authorities.

### Droughts are Welcomed?

Our present economic system is so insane and illogical that it is quite consistent for experts on market conditions to say, "Harvests are smaller everywhere, especially in Central and South-Eastern Europe. The Northern Hemisphere crops are 11% less than last year, and Southern Hemisphere prospects suggest a world total of 750,000,000 bushels less than two years ago. These changes will put the wheat situation on a SOUNDER BASIS than for many years, and relieve most markets of the surpluses which have been PLAGUING them. The IMPROVEMENT is not only in this country, but in the world position."

This is an exact quotation from a well-known American trade paper, and is intended to be a serious statement of actual facts. The capitals are ours.

shows an understanding of the situation. He is one of the millions of Americans who are proud of their citizenship, and believe that no country can compare with the United States. In fact his pride was such, that he served his country during the Great War as a member of the Expeditionary Force. He came back, renewed the practice of his profession, and seeks nothing more than an opportunity, as do the workers, of earning a livelihood by his own efforts.

The Roosevelt experiment of Government intervening in industry, must not fail! There is too much at stake! Although what the President has accomplished to date may not have come up to the expectations of all who expected to profit by the policies he inaugurated, it is an indication of his thought and intention to promote the economic and social welfare of the great majority of his fellow citizens, who look to him for guidance.

Yes! a living wage for all engaged in any lawful occupation, sufficient in amount to allow the purchase of all that the worker requires, and even a slight surplus for unexpected contingencies, must be the motto of not only the workers, but the Government, and the executive director of industry sufficiently courageous to take a decided stand in favor of a living wage being paid to workers and who is also alive to the fact of what is likely to happen, in the event of the workers being driven to desperation because of prolonged unemployment, or when employed, receiving a wage wholly inadequate to their needs.

## Production vs. Destruction.

According to the Lords of Finance, this is the soundest common-sense; yet, for that very reason, nothing could show more clearly the unsoundness and criminality of our present methods. From time immemorial the tragic cry of the human race has been "Give us this day our daily bread!" Scientists and others who have spent their lives improving wheat strains have been hailed as national heroes. Millions of dollars have been spent on Experimental Farms so that the nations may have enough to eat, and after the harvest, prayers of thanksgiving arise annually from myriads of churches offering praise to a bountiful Creator for ensuring the existence of the human race for yet another year!

And now, because a defective distributing system does not permit of the purchase of millions of bushels at a price which will render a sufficient profit to the bond-holders, we are supposed to congratulate ourselves because disastrous droughts and the ruin of thousands of farmers have brought about an IMPROVEMENT in the wheat situation!

### Enough Is Too Much!

The so-called "surpluses" of wheat and other commodities are not the result of the inability of the nation to consume them, but they have accumulated solely because prices and trade relationships have been broken down, the exchange of goods has been checked, and purchasing power almost destroyed. Added to an artificial calamity, brought about by the inefficiency of the system of distribution, we have now been provided with a great natural calamity which is welcomed by those responsible for the operation of the system, as forming a happy solution of some of their difficulties. On the principle that two negatives make a positive, perhaps they really believe that two calamities make a blessing!

Doubtless, those few farmers who are fortunate enough to have stocks of wheat on hand, will welcome the rise in prices which the world-wide drought has brought about, at the cost of untold hardship and distress to thousands of their less favored brethren. It is an unfortunate fact that someone nearly always profits by the distress of others, but fact it is, and no blame can be attached to anyone but those who profit through deliberate exploitation of the sufferers.

### Abolish This Antiquated System.

If one of our troubles is due to the unbalanced price situation, whereby the farmers are not receiving a fair share of the price which the ultimate consumer pays for his food, surely the cure is not to be found in reducing the food supply. Certainly no one can deny that it would be far more reasonable to create sufficient purchasing power to absorb all the food which the farmers can produce, rather than to cut down production within the narrow limits provided by the present financial system. It is becoming increasingly evident that the antiquated financial system under which we are suffering today is incapable of effecting the transfer of agricultural and industrial production from the producers to the consumers, and our only hope is in adopting a reasonable and sane monetary system which will enable everyone to secure a sufficiency of the comforts and luxuries which science has enabled us to produce in such profusion.

## Unemployment Situation Worse in Great Britain

The Montreal Trades and Labor Council had the good fortune to have as guest, at its meeting held last Thursday night, at the Mount Royal Hotel, Mr. John Marshbank, delegate from the British Trades Union Congress to the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, who addressed the meeting. The gathering was presided by Chairman G. R. Brunet, assisted by vice-chairman J. E. Garipey.

Mr. Marshbank assured the delegates it was an honor for him of meeting this Montreal Trades and Labor Council body which afforded him the occasion to talk on the Trades-Union Movement in Great Britain. He referred to Great Britain as an island country and said it was so small, it could be submerged in one of the Great Lakes of America. There are in that country from 45 to 46 millions of people who are compelled by force of circumstances to labor to earn their daily bread and that of their families.

"Since the termination of hostilities following the great war which was supposed to be the war to end war and be the means of establishing democracy, things have not been better, for it was only for serving the plans of those who worked out this world catastrophe.

"The post war period for the people in Great Britain has been considerably worse. It found out that at the end of the hostilities their exportations had been taken care by various other countries, according to their needs and this is in every branch of industry: ship, engineering, textile, farm implements, etc. In Lincolnshire, for instance, the people were compelled to remain idle through the attitude taken by the government in treating with Soviet Russia. Cotton operators have been for the last nine years working but few months per year, while there are still 100,000 who have been entirely without work. Above that, there are 200,000 boys and girls who are leaving school each year and who cannot find employment. The only solution which appears as a remedy is that the surplus be immigrated to the plains of Canada and Australia. But British Trades Labor Movement is against the government dumping its unemployed in other countries where unemployment is also acute. At the present time 2 1/4 million people unemployed in Great Britain are officially docketed. Unemployed or dependent upon livelihood are 5,000,000 souls. Out of 45,000,000, 12,000,000 are dealt with through unemployment insurance, while hundreds of thousands are only working part time.

"The situation in Great Britain is serious and while there are widely circulated reports that Great Britain has turned the economic corner and is now on the upgrade toward returning prosperity are wrong and anyone who suggests conditions in Great Britain are satisfactory can have no real knowledge of the situation there, for in some districts there has been 60% of the population that have not worked for the last 14 years.

"To ameliorate conditions, the only solution is a reduction in the hours of work without an accompanying reduction in the rate of wages; there is no doubt that we are living in an age of science and machinery, but the human race should not slave to machinery".

Mr. Marshbank is of the firm belief that there should be no starvation amongst plenty in a country where there is production in abundance. He mentioned that last year, in some countries, destructions of food were made rather than using it to feed the starving people. He also mentioned that Great Britain went to Geneva to fight the introduction of the 40-hour week.

"We are celebrating this year, said Mr. Marshbank, the centennial of the Tolpuddle martyrs who were tried and transported from Great Britain because they had the courage to oppose the reduc-

tion of the wages of agricultural workers. This is 100 years ago and we find today that employers are still denying their workers the right to organize. The employers' method is to divide the employees. The first method they use it to form their employees into company unions which function so long as the workers remain docile; their second method is to inculcate the workers a spirit of nationalism, that they should be patriotic, that their business is only concerned with their own country".

As an illustration of the need of international organizations he related the situation of the Belgian workers in mines and textile who averted a strike only through the support of the British workers.

"The attitude of the countries in Europe, he said, is the outlet of another war soon, for we must remember that the strength of a country is not so much its trade balance, its investments, but a contended people. Organization is the only basis to solve the problem of the present times and the only solution to the distress which exists all over the world."

Mr. Marshbank is a sincere believer in cooperative movement where people can consume their production, and this is, to his estimation what every country need, for we must strive to make life happier and lighter for those who will be called to follow us.

President Brunet addressed the speaker the thanks of the Council and congratulated Mr. Marshbank for the valuable informations and advices that he had given the delegates and that no doubt same would bear their fruits.

The delegates wished Mr. Marshbank and his wife a speedy return home.

One student appeared before the Council and explained the whole situation pertaining to the students' strike in Protestant High Schools. This question, on motion, was referred to the Executive for study and report.

After the reading of communications and the transaction of minor questions, the meeting was adjourned.

### FROM OUR READERS

Editor,

*The Federated Railwayman.*

Noting your heading "What Is a Dollar?" brings to my mind the question, "What Should A Dollar Be?" As I see the problem, it is one of what is the equitable basis on which one sane adult human can properly get another such person to serve her or him.

If each sane adult got other such persons to serve her or him on the basis of his or her serving each such other person equally long in return, to the duration that other served her or him; then there would be a true balance. The duration of service on each side of the transaction would be the same. That would fit with each sane adult being directly self-governing — completely free from the rule of any other person.

To fit such a practice the dollar would have to represent nothing except a definite duration of the service (work) of sane adults. If the dollar was always issuable by the debtor to the creditor for one hour of the service of sane adults, then it would be the sort of dollar that it ought to be.

At present the dollar (as do all other monetary units) represents something else than a definite duration of human work, thus its use involves some persons being forced to serve others without the others being required to serve those same in return. That is the key to the inadequate wages of workers; and to the excessive prices which consumers must pay for

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Grain loading in the western division decreased by 822 cars from the previous week while ore increased by 75 cars and miscellaneous freight by 134 cars.

Total loadings in the eastern division amounted to 29,494 cars, a decrease from the previous week of 816 cars. Grain decreased by 257 cars, merchandise by 179 cars and miscellaneous freight by 156 cars. Other commodities showed only slight changes.



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