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## Encore la St-Jean-Baptiste

Notre attitude sur cette question de décréter la Saint-Jean-Baptiste soit un jour férié — attitude qui n'est après tout que celle qui a été adoptée par le Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Montréal — nous a valu bien des horions, ces jours derniers; mais, en même temps, plusieurs nous ont exprimé leur entière communion d'idées avec ce que *Le Monde Ouvrier* a publié et leur endossement des raisons données pour expliquer — j'allais dire justifier — cette attitude.

On en a profité, en certains milieux, pour faire intervenir des questions personnelles, des différences de mentalité et d'aspirations entre un humble personne et ceux qui, par un caprice du sort, ont vu le jour sur les bords du Saint-Laurent et de ce fait s'arrogeant le droit d'interdire à tous les autres le droit non seulement d'exprimer leur opinion personnelle mais même de se faire l'interprète d'un groupe qui a tout autant droit de cité si non plus que les patriotes en mal de popularité.

C'est l'argument suprême des esprits étroits qui ne peuvent souffrir qu'on puisse différer d'opinion avec eux, surtout quand il s'agit de la corde patriotique. Jamais personne, que je sache, n'a nié à aucun des groupes qui forment notre population de célébrer avec toute la pompe et tout l'éclat qu'il désire une fête patronale, que ce groupe soit irlandais, italien, anglais, écossais ou français. L'objection ne commence que quand un de ces groupes entend faire célébrer à d'autres et ce, malgré eux, une de ces fêtes.

Ce n'est pas parce qu'une fête sera déclarée jour férié qu'elle sera célébrée avec plus de cœur et d'enthousiasme. Chaque groupe a le droit absolu de célébrer comme il l'entend toutes les fêtes du calendrier si cela lui plaît, mais il n'a pas le droit de contraindre les autres à le faire. Les raisons qui furent invoquées au Conseil des Métiers et du Travail pour s'opposer à la déclaration d'un autre jour férié étaient d'ordre purement économique, au strict point de vue des affaires; le côté populaire et sentimental fut complètement ignoré, comme il l'est presque toujours dans le Travail Organisé.

L'idée dominante est qu'il y a déjà trop de jours fériés, surtout durant la belle saison et qu'il vaudrait mieux appuyer tout mouvement qui tendrait à en réduire le nombre d'abord et à uniformiser les autres. N'est-ce pas contraire aux intérêts matériels de tous que de voir une partie de notre population chômer une certaine journée et de voir travailler l'autre, ou ce qui est pis, de contraindre d'autres à chômer quand ils voudraient travailler et vice versa? Mais allez donc chercher à faire admettre cela à ceux qui passent leur vie à chanter les gloires du passé mais qui en même temps ne perdent aucune occasion de vendre leur droit d'aînesse pour un plat de lentilles, quand cela fait leur petite affaire personnelle.

On répand dans le public que tout le monde est en faveur de ce mouvement; on cherche à intimider ceux qui diffèrent d'opinion en les traitant de mauvais patriotes; on prétend que même nos concitoyens d'origine et de langue anglaise n'y sont pas opposés — et pourquoi le seraient-ils, puisqu'ils ont bien l'intention de ne pas s'en occuper, pas plus qu'ils ne se dérangent pour tenir bureau ou boutique ouverte les autres jours de fête que nous observons; nous faisons d'ailleurs exactement la même chose les jours de fête qu'ils observent — alors pourquoi s'objecteraient-ils?

Nous maintenons qu'un nombre exagéré de jours fériés qui ne sont pas d'application générale est contraire à l'intérêt économique du groupe qui les observe; un point, c'est tout. Qu'on nous prouve que nous avons tort, nous nous inclinons de bonne grâce; mais déchaîner contre nous la corde patriotique et nous traiter de mauvais citoyens parce que nous refusons d'emboîter le pas, cela ne marche pas.

La Patrie publiait, ces jours derniers, une lettre de M. Nap. Garneau, de Drummondville, qui traite la question à un autre point de vue; nous en citons quelques extraits plus loin. Nous avons également reçu une lettre d'une personnalité bien en vue qui désire conserver l'anonymat de crainte de passer pour un mauvais patriote; nous la publions en entier et la donnons pour ce qu'elle vaut; mais nous ne concourons pleinement dans les vues exprimées par M. Garneau: il a touché la note juste; si nous voulons devenir une nation — et c'est notre plus ardent désir — ayons une fête nationale pour tous, un jour où nous ne nous contenterons pas seulement de regarder en arrière mais où nous regarderons vers l'avenir radieux qui attend un Canada libre et prospère.

GUS. FRANCO.

### EXTRAITS DE LA LETTRE DE M. GARNEAU

Aujourd'hui c'est une majorité qui dans un mouvement irréfutable, veut renouer à son droit d'aînesse au pays, abdicque sa nationalité, trompée par la piperie des mots.

Pourquoi ne la protéger pas contre elle-même? En effet, elle a oublié que le Canada fut ouvert à la civilisation par ses ancêtres qui y fondèrent les premiers foyers et famille et que déjà, aux jours lointains de la domination française, ces pionniers étaient appelés "Canadiens".

Si nous sommes Canadiens, les descendants directs des premiers Canadiens, l'exclusion de toute autre race, comment peut-on concevoir que nous ayons une fête nationale qui ne soit pas la fête du Canada, la fête nationale?

Nous sommes venus de la Confédération, nous sommes venus des races fondatrices et nous avons accédé que le 1er juillet soit proclamé le jour de la Patrie. Le 1er juillet logiquement doit être pour nous, plus que pour tout autre, puisque nous sommes les aînés, bien plus, les seuls Canadiens qui n'ont d'autre patrie que le Canada, la fête nationale.

Vouloir une autre fête nationale, c'est renouer à notre droit d'aînesse, renier la terre canadienne comme patrie, nous proclamer étrangers au même degré que les nouveaux venus qui n'ont pas encore adopté le Canada comme leur patrie et célébrer la fête nationale de la terre des ancêtres.

Ces derniers ont l'exense dans leur amour d'une autre patrie; mais nous, qui erions, à tout propos, que seuls nous n'avons pas d'autre patrie que le Canada, comment pouvons-nous aller nos paroles, notre histoire avec cette mentalité actuelle qui veut substituer un Saint-Jean-Baptiste à la fête nationale canadienne, nationale du 1er juillet?

Nous descendons une pente glissante; depuis cinquante ans, une certaine école nous a fait abandonner notre nom comme race "Canadiens" pour nous affabuler d'un nom hybride "Canadiens-français", lequel est un non-sens. On ne peut être Canadien et Français; la France et le Canada sont deux pays bien distincts; on ne peut être citoyens des deux.

Pourquoi avoir abandonné cette appellation de "Canadiens"? que nos ancêtres avaient glorifiée sur cent champs de bataille et partout où il avait fallu lutter pour vivre et grandir? Pourquoi ne pas avoir conservé notre nom, le nom des ancêtres, laissant aux autres le soin d'accueillir à leur titre de "Canadien" celui d'Anglais, Ecossais, Irlandais ou tout autre?

Nous aurions respecté, glorifié la mémoire des aînés; nous aurions ainsi consciencieusement ramené à nos compatriotes d'origine notre droit d'aînesse, les privilèges, la dignité qu'il comporte... Un premier abandon conduit à un second; d'abord notre nom, ensuite notre patrie.

Monsieur le Rédacteur du Monde Ouvrier.

Permettez-moi de soumettre aux lecteurs de votre honnête journal les quelques réflexions suivantes qui me sont inspirées par les discussions soulevées autour de notre fête nationale.

Chez nous, ce n'est pas le réveil du lion, mais le réveil du mouton. Il y a encore des patriotes de toutes les couleurs qui pleurent le bélier plaintif passé au blanc de cendre, parfumé à l'eau de Floride et qu'un enfant tenait en laisse avec une faveur bleue ou rose. Quand, au milieu d'un discours patriotique, l'orateur, peu rassuré sur son sort et se croyant sur le chemin de l'abattoir, se plaignait gentiment en tremblant, des larmes tremblaient au bord des cils des assistants. Il a fallu toute une campagne de presse pour faire comprendre aux gens le ridicule d'avoir converti notre fête nationale en avril gras. Des gens qui doivent avoir beaucoup à se faire pardonner font éruption de lyrisme et lancent comme des ballons gonflés d'air chaud des prosopopées mirobolantes à l'adresse des gloires de notre histoire. Ils espèrent sans doute être enveloppés dans la pouspée de ce feu de Bengale qu'ils allument à l'honneur de nos héros. Remarque ceci: Quand un homme voit sa popularité en baisse, il se met à chanter les héros de Trente-sept; il évoque les grandes ombres de Dollard des Ormeaux, ou des pères de la Confédération. Laissons donc passer, sans être dupes, cette crise aiguë de patriotisme qui fait désirer comme un fièvre chaude. Ne nous égarons pas des sautes brusques de ce thermomètre affolé et dont les brusques secousses nous font passer du torride au glacial, à quelques heures d'intervalle.

La Saint-Jean-Baptiste est-elle une fête religieuse ou une fête nationale? Si c'est une fête religieuse, comme elle en revêt les apparences, puisque les non-catholiques de conscience ou de fait en sont exclus, et que son patron est un saint dont une grande partie de notre population ignore l'existence, abandonnons au clergé et à l'Eglise l'initiative de cette célébration et ne l'imposons pas aux gentils, à ceux qui ne partagent pas nos croyances.

### SUPERIORITE LINGUISTIQUE

Un bulletin officiel fixe à 16 pour cent de la population canadienne le nombre de personnes qui sont capables de s'exprimer convenablement dans les deux langues.

On conviendrait que c'est fort peu pour un pays où les deux langues sont censées être officiellement reconnues et traitées au même niveau.

Nous ne croyons pas qu'il existe de statistiques spéciales capables de nous renseigner sur le nombre exact des personnes parlant rien que l'anglais ou rien que le français. Néanmoins il est hors de doute que la connaissance des deux langues est beaucoup plus répandue chez les Canadiens-français que chez nos compatriotes d'origine anglaise. Une simple comparaison entre les villes de Montréal et de Toronto, sur ce sujet, est très éloquente. A Montréal, la population est en majorité bilingue, tandis qu'à Toronto, elle est presque essentiellement unilingue. Cette énorme différence explique à la fois ce qu'éprouvent les provinces à venir à une parfaite entente cordiale.

Quand nos amis les Anglais font tant d'efforts pour apprendre la langue de Moïse que nous en faisons nous-mêmes pour nous familiariser avec la langue de Shakespeare, bien des obstacles à l'unité nationale seront éliminés.

Mais pouvons-nous espérer voir ce jour?

La Tribune.

### ON NE SAIT PLUS BIEN

Dans les siècles gris que nous traversons l'un ne trouve plus guère que des gens moroses et inquiets. Le train des affaires et la course aux plaisirs détergent sur l'homme la même saleté que le pain et les affaires se font avec frêle et sans plaisir, et le plaisir est assaisonné de fiel qui laisse la bouche amère. Le bon rire d'autrefois, le rire bienfaisant n'existe plus, on se terre qu'il n'y a plus de comique sur la terre mais parce que la farce humaine se rapproche tous les jours d'avantage de la tragédie. Pour avoir bien, pour rire comme jadis, il faut avoir le cœur et l'âme limpide comme l'eau de roche.—La Justice.

### LES FAUX SERMENTS

"La parole d'honneur de nos pères valait infiniment mieux que la plupart des serments que l'on prête aujourd'hui devant les tribunaux" a déclaré M. le juge Marchildon, de la Cour des magistrats du district des Trois-Rivières, en acquittant un individu accusé de parjure. Cela, hélas! est trop souvent vrai et il est déplorable de constater combien de gens oublient, de nos jours, que faire un serment, c'est prendre Dieu à témoin de la vérité qu'ils sont tenus de dire. Le faux témoin est l'une des plaies sociales de notre époque, et le propos du juge Marchildon mérite qu'on s'y arrête sérieusement.—La Presse.

### te et où vous siègez, se fasse entendre la voix de la raison et du patriotisme.

Je vous prie de me parler de la liberté de cette lettre en raison du motif qui l'a inspirée.

Votre serviteur,

NAP. GARNEAU.

Si c'est une fête nationale, pourquoi choisir un patron juif et juïdaïsant et qui n'a avec nous aucune affinité de moeurs et de caractère. Quand un saint est doué d'un héros ou d'une héroïne, comme c'est le cas pour saint Louis, sainte Jeanne d'Arc, saint Georges, à qui l'on n'a respectif droit de grands bienfaits, comme une sage législation, la libération de la patrie, la délivrance d'un dragon ou de reptiles meurtriers, on peut les placer sur les autels et porter leurs cendres triomphalement dans les processions.

Saint-Jean-Baptiste, précurseur de l'Christ, porte à son front la double auréole de la foi et du martyre, mais le symbolisme sanglant de sa décollation et de sa grande voix qui, en dépit de la dévotion, n'est que de la poudre à canon, ni l'encens et les roquets en dentelles avec les justaucorps en velours salés des bonniers et des portefaix déguisés en seigneurs de la cour de Louis XIII. Que la messe du matin ne se termine pas en "pow-wow" ou en débâche du verbe, si nous ne voulons que le sentiment patriotique perde son prestige et que le patriotisme sombre dans le ridicule.

Quand on veut la fin, on prend les moyens. Si nous désirons si fortement l'union des races, ne laissons pas passer l'occasion de donner un idéal commun aux deux races. La fête du Dominion, la Confédération, marque une ère de paix dans notre histoire, la première tentative de conciliation entre les deux races qui se partageait le Canada. S'il nous faut un patron laïque et que Papineau, pour des motifs invogues et invapouables, ne recueille pas le suffrage universel, qu'on prenne Maisonneuve, ce grand honnête homme, fondateur de Montréal, pacifiste avant la lettre, apte de la tempérance avant les sociétés à croix noire. Nous ne connaissons aucune secte, aucune race qui ne voudrait parler avec nous le jour de Maisonneuve. Au lieu d'être une fête de clochers, notre fête nationale rayonnerait sur le Canada entier. Tous les cœurs battraient au même diapason.

Merci, monsieur le rédacteur, de votre aimable hospitalité.

JEAN-BAPTISTE.

Le jour de notre fête nationale devrait être consacré exclusivement à la glorification des hommes du terroir; nous n'en avons qu'un dans l'année pour cela. Puisqu'il y avait déjà trop de fêtes religieuses et qu'on a cru devoir supprimer, pour des causes d'ordre public, la Fête-Dieu, celle des apôtres Pierre et

Paul, on est mal venu de vouloir instituer une fête d'obligation pour saint Jean-Baptiste. Il ne faut pas imiter le égarisme romain et forcer les fronts à s'incliner devant une statue ou un vocable qui n'incarne pour la majorité aucun idéal défini. Afin d'atteindre à l'unité nationale, qui existe aux Etats-Unis, les Canadiens ne doivent pas s'isoler dans leur coin et promener le mouton de village en village, et éternel tondu qui subit toutes les tyrannies sans autre moyen de protestation qu'un timide gémissement.

Ne souffrons pas qu'on substitue les masques de carnaval aux héros de notre histoire. Pour cela, que chaque fête conserve les caractéristiques qui lui sont propres. Ne mêlons pas la fumée de l'encens à celle de la poudre à canon, ni les robes et les roquets en dentelles avec les justaucorps en velours salés des bonniers et des portefaix déguisés en seigneurs de la cour de Louis XIII. Que la messe du matin ne se termine pas en "pow-wow" ou en débâche du verbe, si nous ne voulons que le sentiment patriotique perde son prestige et que le patriotisme sombre dans le ridicule.

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JEAN-BAPTISTE.

## L'habit ne fait pas le moine; il y contribue, cependant

Les inégalités sociales sont odieuses pour l'enfance surtout. Nés de la même manière les fils des hommes ont des droits égaux au bonheur. Qu'un homme ait un sort différent de celui de son voisin, cela peut s'expliquer par la différence du caractère et des aptitudes, sinon par le caprice du hasard, mais quand vous voyez assis sur un même banc en bois des garçons et des fillettes du même âge, leurs yeux uniformément limpides, leurs fronts également couronnés de boucles soyeuses, leur bouche épanouie sous le même sourire rayonnant, vous vous indignez en pensant que tous ces innocents n'ont pas un sort identique. Alors qu'un enfant de dix ans, qui n'est pas bête pour son âge, fréquente l'école depuis deux ans. Ce qu'il en a arraché à cause de moi, le pauvre bougre! L'autre fois, il arrive à la maison, rouge de colère, et jette son sac dans un coin.

"C'est encore La Loutre qui a eu la médaille, ça parle au père." J'ai pensé bien pourtant de l'avoir gagnée cette fois-ci," dit-il en pleurnichant.

Je suppose que tu n'as pas assez travaillé, que je lui réponds.

— Tu ne danses pas, La Loutre, a-t-il dit en se dressant sur moi, c'est l'affaire, parce que son père a des biens. Le bonhomme ne charré pas du fumier ni des vidanges pour la Corporation, lui. Le jour de la Sainte-Catherine, il a donné un sauc de tire aux gens de sa classe et son garçon a fourni cinq piastres quand on a fait la collecte pour acheter un présent au maître. Ça beau être défendu de faire des cadeaux au maître, on lui passe ça et laisse le pupitre en cachette et y se laisse faire. Quand j'arrive à l'école, les élèves se placent le nez. L'autre jour, ça Louis, en revenant des W.C., me dit: "Tu sais, je viens d'adresser une lettre à ton père, mais avant de la jeter à la boîte, j'ai fait enregistrer parce qu'elle était chargée!" Tu comprends si les gens ont ri de cette farce bête.

— Mais aussi pourquoi te laisses-tu magner, plains-tu au maître.

— Lui aussi a un air à me prendre sur la pelle pour me jeter dans le baril à vidange... Papa, j'en ai assez, si tu ne changes pas de métier, c'est fini, je ne retourne plus à l'école, pour faire rire de moi.

— Il n'y a pas de déshonneur à faire ce que je fais, si ce n'est pas propre, c'est honnête au moins, qu'est-ce que vous en pensez?

— Il faudrait mieux, dans votre intérêt, que ce soit honnête et propre, vous auriez la considération des gens de bien.

— Je vous remercie bien de me parler comme ça, mais il faut que je me trouve une autre job, je ne veux pas autre à l'avenir de mes enfants. Dites-moi, le garçon d'un vidangeur, quand même il pourrait manger un gros pain sur la tête des autres, qu'il aurait la vocation et ce qu'on appelle la grâce d'état, pourrait-il jamais faire un prêtre, un docteur ou un avocat?

— Il y a pourtant des consciences plus naïvement que des bonches d'égoûts, des âmes à réveiller pires que les culs-de-sac de l'Est. Il faut se mettre au-dessus du vulgaire préjugé.

— Dites ce que vous voudrez, je ne veux pas faire souffrir plus longtemps les miens de ce que vous appelez un préjugé, une injustice peut-être... mais qui fait de moi un être bon à prendre avec des pinnettes. Je vais aller demander à mon ébénier qu'il me trouve une place, quand même ce ne serait que pour faire marcher l'ascenseur. Ah! si Médéric était là, je n'aurais pas le bec dans l'eau seule longtemps; il n'aurait pas son pareil pour trouver des places à la ville... Une chéville, un tron...

— Je méditai toute la journée sur ce que j'avais dit mon vidangeur le matin. Bien que la Bible ait dit: "Quand les parents auront mangé des raisins verts, les en-

## Campagne d'organisation

Le Conseil des Métiers et du Travail va lancer une campagne de propagande pour tous les corps de métier. — Le remboursement aux déposants de la Home Bank est-il une simple tactique politique? — Les taux du gaz et de l'électricité font le sujet d'une discussion animée. — Les ouvriers organisés veulent contrôler leurs propres assurances. — Montréal deviendrait la ville des conventions.

Le Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Montréal va entreprendre une campagne de propagande et d'organisation afin de mettre les ouvriers en meilleur posture pour le renouvellement des contrats de travail annuels, surtout dans les métiers de la construction; telle fut la décision prise à l'assemblée de jeudi dernier, qui était présidée par le président J. T. Foster; tous les autres officiers étaient à leur poste.

Cette décision fut prise à la suite d'un rapport du comité exécutif recommandant une appropriation initiale de \$200 pour lancer cette campagne. Plusieurs délégués auraient voulu voir doubler cette appropriation, mais après explications données par le secrétaire, que l'Exécutif était prêt à recommander deux ou trois fois cette somme, suivant les circonstances et le travail qui s'accomplira par les intéressés.

Le Comité Exécutif soumit au Conseil plusieurs sujets de grande importance, entre autres une réitération de l'attitude adoptée précédemment sur le problème du chômage. Cette décision fut prise à la suite de la lettre du Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Brantford, Ont., demandant au Conseil d'endosser une résolution priant les autorités d'adopter une politique de nationalisation de toutes les ressources naturelles du pays, leur mise en opération et leur distribution comme le meilleur et le seul moyen de résoudre le problème du chômage.

Un autre sujet important fut celui soumis par l'Union Coopérative d'Assurance, de Washington, D.C., une société d'assurance établie et contrôlée par le Travail Organisé, dont le but est de permettre aux membres de s'assurer pour la vieillesse, de protéger leur famille, en leur garantissant une assurance-vie aux taux les plus bas, ainsi que de créer une organisation financière solide qui augmentera le pouvoir et le prestige du Travail Organisé de ce pays.

Sur recommandation du Comité Exécutif, le secrétaire fut chargé d'écrire à cette Association, lui demandant si, d'après sa charte, elle pouvait faire affaires dans la Province de Québec; dans l'affirmative, de s'aboucher avec elle pour y participer, et, dans la négative, d'étudier les voies et moyens de former une organisation dans le même genre, consacrant le principe de maintenir les intérêts des travailleurs entre leurs propres mains.

Le public de Montréal est-il satisfait de la manière dont il est traité par les compagnies d'utilité publique? S'il faut en croire les expressions d'opinions et les expériences relatées par les délégués, il ne l'est pas. Cette discussion fut amenée à la suite d'une lettre de l'assistant-greffier de la Ville demandant au Conseil de faire parvenir à un comité municipal spécial toute information obtenue soit au moyen d'une enquête ou autrement sur les taux d'éclairage à Montréal et ailleurs.

Plusieurs délégués se plaignirent surtout du sans-gêne avec lequel la lecture des compteurs se faisait et de la déférence possible des compteurs qui devraient être soumis à une inspection systématique et périodique non pas par un employé de la compagnie mais par un inspecteur du gouvernement ou de la Ville. Le secrétaire attira l'attention des délégués sur le fait que les compteurs n'auraient pas les dents agacées.

Non seulement les humains viennent du monde marqué de la tache originale, héritiers de maladies ancestrales, mais on leur garde rigueur de ce qu'ils n'ont pas même dans le sang. Longtemps, on fit la grimace sur le fils d'un hôtelier, d'un boncher, d'un gratteur de rues, et aujourd'hui, bien que les idées démocratiques aient marché, on méprise encore celui qui fait un métier nécessaire plus honorable sinon plus héroïque que celui de rond-de-cuir, que dis-je, on fait porter à sa famille le poids d'une honte imaginaire.

Il est certain que l'enfant qui a des bottines enlées et des culottes percées au fessier, fut-il des mieux doués, a beaucoup de mal à se faire pardonner sa pauvreté. Les mères devraient voir à sauver les apparences nécessaires à la tranquillité de leurs enfants. Un point d'aiguille à temps sauve une déchirure. Il y a des pauvres honteux, ceux qui cachent leur misère, ce sont les plus sages, car si la pauvreté n'est pas un vice, elle est pour le moins un grave inconvénient. Ayez l'air que vous voudrez, mais gardez-vous de vouloir inspirer la pitié, vous ne récolterez que du mépris. L'école est un monde en miniature. Les mêmes passions, les mêmes haines, les mêmes préjugés et sont en germe. Instinctivement, malgré les enseignements du Christ, qui a voulu diviniser la pauvreté, on subit l'influence du milieu; les gens s'adorent plus qu'un dieu, c'est le veau d'or. Que les parents fassent les sacrifices nécessaires pour que leurs enfants, à l'école, ne trahissent pas dans leur mise les privations endurées à la maison. Ne leur imposez pas la livrée de la misère qui les met en butte à la persécution, car cet âge est sans pitié...

Le délégué Pelletier, au nom du comité de la Fête du Travail, soumit un rapport des activités de ce comité et du travail accompli à date. Il fit un vibrant appel pour que tous coopèrent pour faire de la Fête du Travail de 1925 le plus grand succès jamais obtenu.

Il fut également décidé de demander des copies, en anglais et en français, du rapport de la Commission d'étude des accidents du travail, qui vient d'être publié.

Les délégués suivants ont été admis à siéger: MM. E. Blanchard, Jos. Tremblay, B. Dackworth, J. Gagné, Moisan, Galvin, P. Skisholm, D. Petelle, Art. Bourcier, Huet et L. Denis. Fraternité des Wagonniers de chemins de fer d'Amérique, logs 606; O. Didier et A. Van Houtte, Association Culinaire, local 440; Eugène Beaulieu, Fraternité des Wagonniers de chemins de fer d'Amérique, logs 343; Leo Murray, J. A. A. Huet, Leonardo, Colocico, E. Denis, A. E. Buckley, G. Silverwood, Union Fédérale des Employés du Port, No 16298.

Délégués du Conseil au Parti Ouvrier: M. E. Alarie, B. Drolet, H. Desjardins et Jos. Pelletier. Et le Conseil s'ajourna après une soirée bien...

JULIEN SAINT-MICHEL.



Le seul journal ouvrier  
bilingue de la province de  
Québec. La meilleure arme  
entre les mains des travail-  
leurs.

# The Labor World



# Le Monde Ouvrier

The only bilingual labor  
paper in the Province of  
Quebec. The most efficient  
medium laborers have ever  
had.

11th Year — No. 10

SAMEDI, 7 MARS 1925 — MONTREAL — SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1925

PRICE: 5 CENTS

## Trying to Stop Smoking

The fanatics of the United States are off again. Not content with their fallacious dream of prohibition they are taking tobacco next. During the big event in Washington, this week, namely the inauguration of the new President, coincident with it was a convention having for its object the launching of a nation-wide anti-tobacco campaign along the lines similar to the anti-saloon League which handed the awful farce of Volsteadism to the statute books, and transformed the nation into a band of crooks.

Let no one make light of this movement. There are already several States with anti-cigarette legislation in force, and this is just the thin edge of a dangerous wedge which like alleged prohibition will bring in its trail a legion of horrors worse than any heretofore known. It would seem as if the world was upside down and when one thinks of what was done in one nation-wide vote on prohibition, it is time to fear any such convention re tobacco.

Some of the speeches made at this convention bore the air of buccannering insolence and dignified roguery as like the impertinence of the prohibitionists on two peas. The cynical self estimation of these people is past belief when it is sifted to the thought that because they do not like smoking in any form, they wish to deprive others of it. If such a law were passed it would be unenforceable, but it would bring a lot of discomfort to many people and especially to the old smokers. Mark Twain once said in an essay on smoking: "Smoking does shorten life. Yes. It shortens those long, lonesome hours, into calm, quiet philosophy. Probably the greatest evil of smoking is to see a sign PLEASE DON'T SMOKE or to have a good cigar and a bad one, and give your friend the good one in mistake." So the great genius, who by the way was one of the heaviest smokers of his time, went to praise the weed, which during the war proved a God send to the wounded and a rich comfort in the fearful trenches. Tobacco is man's friend, and is like many other of God's gifts made to be used and not abused. Name any of the forces of nature and see what they mean when uncontrolled. Women, cards, racing, fire, water and what not. Looked at with a high degree of impartiality, the fanatics are wallowing in agonized error and should be watched.

## The Demand of the Boot and Shoe Manufacturers

(From a Consumer's Standpoint)

I have had placed before me a statement which came from the manufacturers of boots and shoes passed on through their employees, who have seemingly been frightened into participating in the campaign for the elimination of competition (from Great Britain in particular) which their masters and employers have lately been urging on the Government.

Despite the high cost of boots and shoes in the retail stores, we are told by these applicants that unless something is done to prevent the importation of British made shoes many of the factories will have to go out of business and unemployment is bound to ensue.

Much is made of the high cost and taxation which our industries have to pay on their material. Let us see — Hides are cheaper in their raw state here than any country in the world. For some years, since the war, fallen hides and seconds have not been worth the trouble to the farmers of taking them to the market. Yet the split hide products and the coarser kinds of the finished article are at just 150 per cent higher than in previous years. I mention this class because I am told that the material for the finer grades is mostly imported. Such being the case, the boot and shoe manufacturer should seek to know what is wrong and co-operate with the directors of other industries to remove the handicap rather than hurry to bring before the Government a plea for the prevention of competition. They proclaim their impotence to compete, and yet they wish to leave intact the very system which they admittedly declare is killing their industry.

There is no country heavier taxed than Great Britain, and yet she can place her goods in Canada at a profit over an admittedly protective tariff of 15 1/2%. If Britain can buy the hides in British Columbia (as stated in the manifesto), ship them to England and tan them there and make them up into boots and shoes, which they ship to Canada and drive the Canadian shoemaker out of his business, surely there is only one thing to say — the cost of working our own raw material is prohibitive. The trouble with all our manufacturers is due to the same cause — because of our system of protection and the classification of our citizens under the Customs Tariff Act, the cost of living and consequently the cost of production, has reached a point in Canada that permits her no longer to compete with the products of other nations. Until this is altered, the state of our protected industries is bound to go from bad to worse. Unemployment is bound to increase as wages are increased to meet the high cost of living. All industry will be increasingly cramped as the cost of utilizing our own raw material becomes more and more prohibitive. The crisis would have come to a climax before this, but for the fact that the whole burden of protection has been borne by agriculture — the only industry that has paid its way by finding the price for its products in the open markets of the world. Now agriculture has been cramped, and production made almost impossible from the same cause as stated above — the high cost of everything the farmer needs to use.

A feature of Canadian industry that does not exist in Britain is the watered stock with which our factories are loaded, and on which dividends have to be paid. This is always a feature of countries having tariff protection, because of the power it gives to certain individuals to control industry and capital. This in the end has to be borne by the consumer and ultimately is bound to prove a boomerang to the manufacturer.

Another feature is the high cost of building and rentals to our workers in the industrial centres, because of special or class privilege which protection gives to one part of the population to exploit the other.

Then again, there is the problem of taxation in our towns and cities, which in the end must be borne by someone, all enhanced by the high cost of living, which demands the salary that will meet it.

The manufacturers are now beginning to feel the crisis, but instead of seeking to lower the cost of living, they will seek to shift the burden again on to other shoulders by increased tariff protection. Labor has been cajoled or intimidated into fighting their employers' battle for higher protection, while at the same time it must be apparent to all who stop to think that the further they go away from the point where their labors cease to be productive on a competitive basis, the nearer they approach the crisis of unemployment.

It must be apparent to all that when an industry like the boot and shoe industry asks for protection, it is an admission that either the manufacturer craves undue profits, or else his finished product is not worth the wealth of material used, and labor expended, when ready for the market. If the finished products of an industry were worth less than the value of all the elements of wealth entering into their production (as the owners of these industries stoutly maintain), then their activities must involve the actual destruction of a vast volume of hard won wealth of the people. This is actually the case of Canada today with her protected industries. That we have been able to carry on as we have been for so long is entirely due to the fertility of the soil in the newly settled parts of the Dominion, and the industrious habits of our farmers.

According to the constantly repeated contention of our manufacturers themselves for additional protection, their finished products are worth from 10% to 20% less than all the elements of wealth used in their production. In addition to paying for the wealth destroyed, the farmers and other actual wealth producers are forced to pay the protected manufacturers, by way of tariff added prices, a good fat sum to repay the protected manufacturers for their time and trouble in destroying wealth. Surely there is no wonder our country is financially in the state it is. The only course open to the workers of this country — farmers and labor alike — is to endeavor to bring back to a "natural basis" the trade and commerce of the Dominion, when all labor expended and material used will have a market value in line with the world's prices.

JOHN EVANS.

(We welcome the outside opinion of Mr. Keens on a difficult subject, and while we cannot see eye to eye with him, it is a change of thought which benefits progress. Not only will we ourselves deal with the subject in another issue, but we invite other opinions from our readers, a department which we are striving to develop every week.—EDITOR.)

### WORKERS' LEGAL RIGHTS ARE FORCED FROM THEM

Organized Labor is asking the State Legislature of Ohio to outlaw the so-called "individual contract" anti-union employers force workers to sign before they are given employment. Under this contract a worker pledges not to join a trade union, or urge others to do so, or to in any other way encourage sentiment for higher wages and improved working conditions.

The unionists point to the immorality of such a contract, which ignores the basis of contractual relations — free will and absence of duress. When the wife and children of a worker demand food and shelter, the unionists say, the State should not legalize a contract that has been secured from that worker under such conditions.

Another point the unionists emphasize is that the worker is forced to surrender a legal right to join a trade union. Instead of being protected in that right, society, by its acquiescence of the "individual contract," in effect, approves the policy of the anti-union employer who takes advantage of the workers' necessity to compel him to waive a legal right.

This contract was first used against West Virginia miners. These workers have given the contract the contemptuous term "yellow dog."

## Reforms Fought for and Won by Labor Effective in Bettering Toilers' Lives

(By International Labor News Service)

New York, March 6.—Evidence is piling up that workers, especially those in this city whose stunts were once a stretch in the nostrils, are advancing fast to a higher and better standard of life. A recent report of the Association of the Improvement of the Condition of the Poor is particularly disconcerting to those who predicted increasing misery of the masses in the Machine Age.

Protective measures, fought for and established in the main by labor and the enlightened public are bringing nearer the "good life" yearned for since the days of Socrates, when workers were but slaves. Particularly effective in wiping out misery have been the workmen's compensation law and the restriction of immigration, this report of the parent charity organization shows. A greatly reduced death and disease rate and increasing ability of families to earn wages adequate for a better life are also big factors.

### Worst P-I-I Grows Less

The result is that the worst enemy of society—poverty—is declining. And not the least of the blows at unfair wages are those dealt by the growing labor movement of the city with over 700,000 organized workers in garment, building, printing and hundreds of other callings. Two great evils still exist in other parts of the United States it is pointed out in connection with the improvement of city life. These blots are the 1,000,000 child workers in backward States, fully 1,000,000 women engaged in the harsh toil of the farm and nearly as many more in heavy factory employment. The attack on these defects is being continued relentlessly to be wiped out before long by an awakened public.

### Accident Compensation

As the result of large social movements engendered by labor, the charity organization finds the need for emergency relief work is steadily declining.

The report says, in part:

"In 1914 the A. I. C. P. participated with other social organizations in a successful endeavor to secure compensation for deaths and injuries in industry. It did this because it believed that this was a proper charge upon industry and should not be left to the uncertainty of reference of such cases to public or private relief organizations. It also believed that the development of workmen's compensation would tend to stimulate the reduction of the total volume of accidents in industry."

"Ten years' results of the operation of the workmen's compensation act have amply justified the effort. Accidents are now compensated for with a certainty. Hospital and medical care are provided, insuring a maximum of possibility of early recovery and return to industry and a considerable group of families are relieved from the necessity of applying for relief to any organization."

"Furthermore, the experience of the past ten years has demonstrated that the volume of dependency created from this source was too great to be readily met as a relief problem by either public or private organizations. Evidence seems to indicate also that the operation of this law is tending to reduce the total volume of distress due to accidents in industry."

### Less Cheap Labor

Immigration is closely related to dependency, it is pointed out. Reduction of immigration if sustained over a period of years will have a very direct effect in reducing poverty, the report states, as follows:

"It has been obvious to social workers that the problem of dependency is very closely related to the problem of immigration. Significant with reference to this correlation is the fact that in 72 per cent of the families under care of the A. I. C. P. in 1914, the head of the family is foreign born. The largest nationality group among the foreign born cared for by the A. I. C. P. is Italian, which represent 34.9 per cent of the total foreign born dependent families. This reduction in the volume of immigration represented by the immigration law which went into effect July 1, 1914, will undoubtedly have, if sustained over a period of years, a very direct effect upon the total volume of dependency in New York City."

### Help for the Aged

"It has become increasingly clear that it is as economical for a community to care for many old age situations by allowing them to continue in their individual homes as it is to provide institutional relief for them. The tenacity with which elderly people cling to their little meager homes, being willing in many instances to attempt to live with starvation wages and under seemingly impossible conditions rather than to go to the dreaded almshouse or old age institution, can not be ignored. To assume the attitude that nothing constructive can be done for this group and that all of our constructive effort must be devoted to children is an increasingly untenable position."

Immigration regulation and workmen's compensation have been major planks of the legislative programme of the American Federation of Labor and the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

### THE MONTREAL CITY AND DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK

Notice is hereby given that a Dividend of two dollars and fifty cents per share has been declared on the Capital Stock, called and paid up, of this Bank and will be payable at its Head Office, in this City, on and after Wednesday, April first next, to shareholders of record, Saturday, March fourth next, at twelve o'clock noon.

By order of the Board,  
A. P. LESPERANCE,  
General Manager,  
Montreal, February 23rd, 1925.

## As the Worker sees his World

Summary and Digest of Important Events of the Week, Here and Abroad.

—Labor's bill seeking to restore to trade unions the right to contribute to the campaign funds of candidates for Parliament, was defeated on the division in the Federal House. This bill sought to remove from the Dominion Elections Act, the clause forbidding corporations or organizations from contributing to campaign funds. Mr. Irvine, M. P. who introduced the measure, contended that the clause in question discriminated against Labor. It has never prevented corporations from giving money for election purposes. All they had to do was to donate it through a wealthy individual. The supporters of labor included no such wealthy individuals; its campaign funds had to be collected a quarter or a half dollar at a time. "This clause was constantly being disregarded," he said, "and it was the sort of law the people enjoy avoiding."

—Local breweries cut their wholesale prices slightly this week. It evidently means no advantage to the consumer because it amounts to only 10 cents a dozen and 20 cents a dozen on quarts. It is said that the action was taken because of the Frontenac capsule campaign, the legality of which is being tested in the courts. It may be that the dealers may pass along some of the benefits and let it be hoped so, for it is dear as it is.

—Good news, though not authenticated as yet, comes that Alberta coal is to be carried at a lower rate namely, it has been reduced in price from \$12.70 to 7.50 to Ontario points. This has been denied by certain C. N. R. officials, yet the word of J. D. Grant a Drumheller, mine man, that it is true. It will be a blessing to workers generally, as the price of coal has been almost prohibitive all winter. It is said that when matter comes before the Railway Board, cost of all transportation will be gone into and some cuts made.

—Immigration, a subject vital to Labor everywhere, is still showing marked activity. Immigration in Canada, including returning from the United States, has averaged a little over fourteen thousand a month for the ten months of the fiscal year up to and including January, according to a statement just issued by the Department of Immigration and Colonization. The total is 141,969.

Regular immigration not including returning Canadians, amounted to 102,577, of which 49,363 were British 13,721 from the United States, and 39,493 from other countries.

—The big snow storms as March was ushered in proved great boon to workers generally. Hundreds of men and sleighs were employed all week and certainly the snow problem has been well handled in Montreal this season. The amazing swiftness with which the piles of snow and ice was cleared on the main streets deserves congratulation. On the other hand the slippery streets are a menace and a disgrace to the city.

—A noteworthy case of interest to workmen is one where Judge Archer, this week awarded G. Gosselin \$2,815.64 for compensation for injuries sustained when he was struck by a rock, while working for J. L. Arthur Tetrault, defendants. It was clearly proven that under the Workmen's Compensation Act, the wounded man was entitled to the damages. The Judge was very strong for the workman.

Judge Archer also gave judgment in another case where a worker named F. Dagnan working for Tetrault also, had his foot crushed by a car at a mine, and won \$750. It looks as if the workmen were getting fair play nowadays.

—The annual convention of Weekly newspaper Association, will be held this year in Winnipeg, next June. Invitations have been received from Premier Bracken of Manitoba, the Mayor of Winnipeg, and the President of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, and it is expected that between four and five hundred delegates will attend. The Directors met in Toronto this week and decided upon this action.

—An autoist is responsible for his passenger, whether the latter pays fare or not. This was decided by Justice Archer this week when Thos. Worthington was allowed damages to a considerable amount for having been seriously hurt by one George Wallace who drove his auto at such speed that it was dived and caused the injury. It is an eye opener to know that the driver or owner of a car is responsible, because this will stop careless driving quicker than anything else.

—A bill to put women on a political equality with men by granting them the vote at the age of 21, instead of the present age of 30, was defeated in the British House of Commons last week by a vote of 220 to 154. The measure was supported by the British Labor party.

Night in our own House of Commons and effort has been made by Mr. Shaw a progressive member, to put women on a par with men so that divorce might be made easier in Canada. He was not successful. Labor has never favored divorce being made so childish as it is in U. S. but has always felt that where two people are absolutely unhappily mated, divorce proceeding should be made less expensive and not so full of red tape.

—There have been wild cries in the House of Commons over the high salaries paid the members of Parliament, and it is a fact that a great many of the back woods members of the Federal House never could earn \$4,000 a year at any business, yet you I and the other tax

## West Canada Objects To Alien Tidal Wave Flooding the Country

The Canadian Pacific Railway is flooding the Canadian west coast with immigrants. Agents of this corporation are in European countries and are spreading their story of vast fields of uncultivated lands that await willing hands.

The immigrants are shipped on C.P.R. vessels and landed at all points along that system. Ten thousand men are scheduled to arrive from Sweden in the near future.

Large numbers of immigrants recently arrived in Vancouver, B.C., and remained in the immigration buildings until the C.P.R. found them work. That was one obligation which the railroad kept—even though it means small wages or working workers they had previously found work for.

"City hall politicians may wait about men coming from the prairies to winter in Vancouver, but they never whimper about trainloads brought in from Europe by the C.P.R.," says the Labor Statesman, owned "by the Vancouver central trade union."

"True, the resources of this country are vast, and plenty of land is available for cultivation," says the labor paper, "but the big drawback, the factor that is driving men off the land and making it almost impossible for those who stay on to live, is the cost of production."

"Machinery prices are sky high. Every article that the farmer needs in the production of food products costs an exorbitant price. His taxes mount higher, and recent surveys show that there is an ever increasing number leaving the farms."

"The fact of the matter is that there are a great many changes needed in our social system before this country can properly care for the thousands of immigrants that are headed this way by the C.P.R."—B. C. Federationist.

## New Out of Work Plan

The unemployment insurance fund, established by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union and employers in the cloak, suit and skirt industry of New York will pay benefits beginning June 1.

The fund is controlled by a board, representing both parties. To date contributions from workers and employers total more than \$600,000, and it is expected that the fund will be \$1,250,000 by July 1. The workers pay 1 per cent of their weekly wages to the fund and the employers contribute 2 per cent of their weekly payroll.

Unemployment benefits will be paid at the rate of \$10 a week, with a maximum of \$120 a year per worker, covering 12 weeks' unemployment, or a maximum of six weeks each season. Each worker must have been unemployed nine weeks in the spring and fall seasons before being eligible for benefits.

Seventeen weeks' work each season shall constitute full-time employment. Those employed for that length of time shall not be entitled to unemployment insurance. Thus, workers employed only 15 weeks a season will be entitled to two weeks' benefit.

To be eligible for these benefits a worker must have been a member of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' union for one year; must have been employed in the New York cloak and suit industry for one year and must have registered at the insurance fund's unemployment office when not employed.

Time lost by workers because of industrial disputes does not entitle them to unemployment benefits.

This joint venture by workers and employers is another indication of the possibilities of trade unionism. The theory underlying the unemployment plan has been urged by the garment workers. Last fall a commission appointed by Governor Smith to avert a general strike included unemployment insurance in its several recommendations.

The fair employer is the best friend labor can have. The Union Label helps him.

payers have to give up for these wasters. Labor is always in favor of a workman being worthy of his hire, but there is no economy in paying useless men high wages.

—President William Green of American Federation of Labor elected chairman of Pan-American Federation of Labor to succeed the late Samuel Gompers.

—Railroads carrying heaviest freight traffic in their history, reports say.

—Fifty-one coal miners killed in explosion in mine at Sullivan, Ind.

—Mill strikers in Shanghai, China, clash with police.

—Ten nations sign opium agreement, more shell of plan offered by United States.

—Human skeletons believed to be 50,000 years old found in cave in the Crimea.

—Soviet government approves plan of Locomotive Engineers in Philadelphia gets charter.

—Germany arming secretly for revenge on France, inter-allied military control commission charges.

—David Kirwood, Labor member of Parliament, threatened with kidnapping unless he ceases criticism of Prince of Wales.

—Strike of 25,000 New York City workers in white goods industry ends when employers grant wages increase and 44-hour week.

—Hoover figures said to show sugar interests used tariff to reduce wages and limit out put while profits increased.

—San Francisco draftsmen and technical engineers organize union and apply for charter from International Brotherhood of Technical Engineers.

## Alcoholism and Prohibition

The mounting death rate from alcoholism in the United States is appalling. A recent bulletin issued by the Consolidated Press Association of Washington, shows the figures of growth since 1920, and to Canada where in some parts prohibition still holds or what is called prohibition, it is alarming to say the least, because in a modified manner similar deplorable facts apply. The death rate from this cause which means when translated, bad liquor, bootleg stuff, etc., was larger in the year 1923, than in any period of the same length, since 1917. The death rate from alcoholism in 38 States, shows that of 3.2 persons out of every 100,000 of population. Of course war years could not be compared as so many young men were in the army where the means of obtaining liquor of any kind were limited. The figures for 1924 will not be available until another twelve months, but local records from hospitals in the larger cities of the country indicate that the 1924 record will top any other year. What is the striking point is that in the very wettest States that live under the supposed enforcement of Volsteadism, the death rate is the highest. The gains are reprehensible to say the least. They are discouraging to all thinking and intelligent people.

At any rate the story is a sad echo of an unenforceable law. Broken homes, crooked and deceiving citizens who never before broke a law, ruined youngsters of various ages, by the flask habit and so on, these are the forces for destruction lying in the trail of prohibition. The sins committed in the name of prohibition are so numerous that they cannot be recounted in one issue. Who would care to recount them anyway? It is one long blight on our civilization, and Canada is doing well to keep away from anything but temperance and control all along the lines. Quebec Province is having some little flutter over the desire for wines in the taverns and this happened to be supported by the Montreal Trades and Labor Council, bringing down a storm of attack from the Prohibition Federation for the Province. The great fear in Canada lies in the Federal authorities putting prohibition in their next election campaign. That was the way Volsteadism slipped by in the United States and the dry forces are doing their utmost to imitate our neighbors.

## Doings in Ottawa

By LLOYD ROBERTS

This is the first of a series of weekly letters from the Press Gallery of Parliament which will appear regularly while the House is in session. Mr. Roberts is a facile writer and is vitally interested in the cause of Labor. It is hoped that our readers will appreciate this extra service.—EDITOR.

I have just been listening to a discussion in the House of Commons on a "definite matter of urgent public importance," namely the "acute distress existing among the coal miners and steel workers of Nova Scotia." The effect was similar, although on a smaller scale, to that experienced on reading the report of the Inter-Church Federation on the condition of the steel workers of the United States Steel Corporation; that is, surprise that the great onward sweep of civilization has left behind such sink-pots of injustice. As the case for the miners unfolded—lack of employment and insufficient wages—resulting in low standards of living—if not actual starvation and nakedness—my mind would instinctively stray toward radio, League of Nations, Einstein's Theory, etc. What was all our boasted progress if we had not been able to put an end to such simple and primitive enemies as cold, hunger, and want? That is the man who actually puts his hand to the plough, to the hammer, to the stone—received the short end of the stick ten thousand years before Christ, according to hieroglyphics and papyrus, and he receives the short end now. Of course his condition has advanced, but measurably. A slip of a cog, a wink of sleep, a momentary relaxing of the guard and—cold, hunger, want. As the members talked on I realized that Labor had been caught napping somewhere, and was everlastingly paying the piper. "We are consulted only in regard to the wage cost, and our stand in regard to it is that it is already too low to give our men a decent standard of living. It is now proposed to lower it further... Many children cannot attend school owing to lack of food and clothing, and whole families face starvation at the present time." Thus spoke workmen of the Conciliation Board, grown hopeless of ever finding a basis for conciliation. "How can we conduct that fight in the face of the opposition of the press, the provincial and Dominion governments and the public at large, all of whom are forced to misjudge us by the false propaganda of the corporation?" The odds sound heavy indeed.

But are they? I glanced over the floor of the House and felt reassured. Was not Labor itself championing its own cause, and through one of the ablest fighters in public life? Beside him sat another brilliant and fearless speaker. To their right and behind them sat other men and one woman who, if not specifically committed to Labor yet could be depended upon to rally to the defence of practically every plank in the Labor platform. Glancing further afield I caught expressions of understanding and sympathy in unexpected places. In the Press Gallery was more than one freelance pencil, whose stories, unedited by party censors, would find small but eager audiences throughout this broad land. No, the coal miners and steel workers of Nova Scotia might be further removed from the Court of Justice than they are. Tardy justice will come to them—in so far as the present system of trade and economics permits.

And there is the real rub. Any corporation, through public pressure persistently applied, can be induced to toe the legal line, obey the existing laws governing capital and labor. But this does not bring in Utopia, or even a just distribution of the desirable things of this world. The brotherhood of man, in a more practical form than the world has ever practiced, alone can do this...

In the meantime what of the "acute distress" among these workers. As one

member questioned, "What is going to happen to the Canadian women and children who are there, to those people who have nothing whatever to do with this industrial strife but who must suffer because of it?" Blaming the tariff or the lack of it, competition of non-union miners, delinquencies of the British Empire Steel Corporation, is cold comfort to these. Can the government longer evade coming to the rescue with the only substance that talks under such circumstances? Of course it is an expensive and wasteful method of meeting social obligations, but we should have thought of that before. After all, a blow to our pocket-books might prove the most effective method of effecting a cure, just as it was to the burgomasters of Florida and the merchants of the Thirteen Colonies. We are inclined to was sentimental over cold, hunger, want; but increased taxation brings immediate action. "If a brother or sister be naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, 'Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body, what doth it profit?'"

### MAY WALK THREE ABEAST

Nine girl strikers, charged with "obstructing traffic by walking three abreast," were discharged by Magistrate Corrigan in Jefferson market court. The policeman told the court he ordered the girls not to walk three abreast in front of shops where a dress goods strike was in progress.

In releasing the accused, the magistrate said: "It is one of the rights of citizens to walk three abreast, if they want to."



## You can get your share

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# What the Senate Is Thinking

By J. S. WOODSWORTH, M.P.

A discussion of the reform of the Senate is bound to feature the proceedings of this year's Parliament. In the Speech from the Throne there is forecast a proposal to call a conference of the Federal and Provincial authorities with a view to considering what can be done. Then on the Order Paper there are several motions in the name of private members which involve either the reform of the Senate or amendments to the British North America Act with the purpose, among other things, of altering the character of the Senate.

Under these circumstances, it may be well that we should know what the Senators themselves think about the situation. I cannot do better than to quote some extracts from recent speeches in the Senate on the Speech from the Throne.

HON. MR. BEAUBIEN: "...They are attacking the Province of Quebec constitutionally. For the first time since Confederation we see a Government aiming a blow—because it is nothing else—at the fortress minority rights in the Dominion. Indeed, there is no doubt that the Senate was created by the Confederation past the trustee of the rights of minorities..."

"This is what Sir John Macdonald said on the 6th day of February, 1865, when the resolutions adopted by the Conference of Quebec were discussed before the Parliament of Canada:

"In order to protect local interests and to prevent sectional jealousies, it was found requisite that the three great divisions into which British North America is separated should be represented in the Upper House on the principle of equality. There are three great sections, having different interests, in this proposed Federation. We have western Canada, an agricultural country, far away from the sea, and having the largest population, with agricultural interests principally to guard. We have the Maritime Provinces, with other and separate interests, and especially with institutions and laws which are jealously guarded against her absorption by any larger, more numerous and stronger power. And we have also the Maritime Provinces having also each sectional interests of their own, having, owing to their position, classes and interests which we do not know in Western Canada. Accordingly, in the Upper House, the controlling and regulating, but not initiating branch, we have the sober second thought in legislation, which is provided in order that each of these great sections shall be represented equally by 24 members.... To the Upper House is to be confined the protection of sectional interests, and therefore it is that the three great divisions are there equally represented for the purpose of defending such interests against the combinations of majorities in the Assembly."

THE HON. GEORGE BROWN, in the same debate, said: "...In maintaining the sectional boundaries, and handing over the control of local matters to local bodies, we recognize to a certain extent the diversity of interests, and it was quite natural that a protection for these interests by equality in the Upper House should be demanded by the less numerous provinces..."

"Sir George Ross in his book states that from the time of Confederation to 1913, 5,871 Bills were sent to this House by the House of Commons. Of this number 1,246 of 21.5 per cent were amended, and 113 or 2 per cent were rejected. During the same period the Senate sent to the House of Commons 1,294 Bills, of which 396 or 31.4 per cent were amended and 113 or 8.1 per cent were rejected."

HON. MR. BEAUBIEN (continuing): "No, honourable gentlemen; we spring from the democracy just as much as those who sit in the other House..."

"This is a democratic institution created for the purpose of controlling legislation..."

"May I now refer briefly to the second period, from 1912 and 1913 to 1924. I hold in my hand a complete list of the Bills from the House of Commons, which were rejected by this House, and I desire to thank the clerk of this House for the work which he has done in that respect. Those Bills number 41 in all, their number being materially increased by the Railway Bills which were recently submitted to us..."

"Honourable gentlemen, it seems passing strange that for the first time since Confederation we are seriously menaced; for I consider it a serious menace, although I do not agree with them, I have too much respect for many of the Members of the Cabinet to think that this is anything but a serious threat. I regard it as a serious threat. Why does it come from a Government that practically holds its lease of life from the Province that most requires the protection of the Senate..."

"When sectional rights are menaced I am authorized to act only for my own Province—or, perhaps I should say, in view of the Constitution, for my division, since my Province, in order that sectional rights might be duly protected in every respect, has been carved into divisions and each division has been placed under the charge of one Senator. Therefore it seems to me that it is not only my right, but my duty, to speak for the Province of Quebec..."

"I have heard complaints from the West, from many of our citizens; and they are very respectable, many of them. Though not deep-rooted in this country, they will with time, become more and more attached to the land and to the traditions of our glorious past, like the great mass of the people of this country..."

"I need not do more, honourable gentlemen, than point out that the very same people who are now demanding the removal of the Senate are the people who are asking for legislation to fix the scale of wages, for the control of labor, contracts, unemployment, insurance, and old age pensions. Of course, I understand that people holding such views would desire the removal of the Senate. How could they ever expect to get this country to pass such legislation, which is now hampering a part of Europe, and Great Britain in particular, so long as this House remains in existence?"

"We are not far from a general election. It may appear to be skillful for the time being to say to the laboring classes—or that small portion of the West—or that small portion of the West which is complaining: 'We are going after the Senate now. Help us to come back to power, and then the House of Commons will be in supreme control. The House of Lords, that reactionary body that has dragged after us since the time of Confederation will exist no more...'"

"And this, honourable gentlemen, is what the Honourable Sir George Foster, who now adorns this Chamber, said in answer to Sir Wilfrid Laurier on the same subject:

"I do not think the ground is well taken, because the Constitution if once formed it must be like steel and iron, and never change... There may even be evils and weaknesses developed, but on the other hand, it sometimes is a question of preventing it from amending the Constitution and not better to endure evils, and to make head against the difficulties, rather than to tend towards frequent change, and thereby to gradual taking away from the sacredness and the inviolability of the Constitution and the compact, and making them mere matter of agreement, that is liable to be changed from the stress of party or political or financial or other exigencies..."

HON. L. O. DAVID: "I have always said, and will continue to say up to the last moment of my life, that any reform the effect of which would be to abolish the Senate or curtail its powers, and to prevent it from amending the Constitution, legislation passed by the House of Commons would be contrary to the spirit and good working of our Constitution, and to the intentions and declarations of its founders, to the mission which they wanted it to fulfil, and would be a violation of the pact or contract agreed to by the different Provinces when they consented to form themselves into a Confederation..."

"At all events, I repeat that our Senate has been established in virtue of a special contract which cannot be modified without its consent and that of each of the Provinces which have been parties to that contract. And that consent will not, I am sure, ever be obtained."

HON. MR. BLACK: "Cromwell had the reins of power only a few years when he said: 'Give me a House of Lords or I will give up control of the public life of Great Britain.' The result was that during Cromwell's regime the two Chambers were re-established. The same thing occurred in France, the mother country of the other branch of our Canadian Confederacy. At the time of the French Revolution everything was abolished. Then one Chamber was established, and that condition continued there until it was found to be as great a failure as it had been in Great Britain, with the result that they now have two Chambers, the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. The history of more advanced nations in modern times very clearly indicates the necessity of two Chambers, one acting as a balance wheel to the other."

From Boston it was learned yesterday that hockey games scheduled there between Montreal A. A. A. team and the Boston Athletic Association and Maple A. A. teams both members of the United States Amateur Hockey Association were cancelled when the manager of the Montreal Club sent word that Canadian hockey officials would not permit amateur teams from the Dominion to compete with those affiliated with the U. S. A. H. A.

The game had been arranged for Friday and Saturday nights on the understanding that United States and Canadian hockey heads had reached an agreement on the one year residence rule for Canadian players signed with clubs in this country. Manager T. H. Miller, of the Montreal team, intimated that the Canadian authorities would probably lift the ban soon. The Montreal team will meet college or other amateur teams on its visit there.

Nurmi the great runner, passed through Montreal over the week end, and went on to Toronto from here. He was welcomed by several members of the different local athletic associations, and much congratulated on his recent victories. He ran a new record for 1 and 1-8 miles in Brooklyn only Wednesday last making the distance in 4 minutes 55 and 4-5 seconds. The former record was 4 minutes 58 seconds.

A heavyweight "jug" contest is promised for St. Patrick's Day in St. Paul, Minn., between Max Conway and Tommy Gibbons. There is some strong to it re the rules of the Minnesota Boxing Commission, but some interest is being taken in it by lovers of the ring.

Speaking of boxing, Kearns manager for Jack Dempsey has made public a denial that any arrangement for a bout in Los Angeles this summer with Burke. The rumor arose he said out of a brief conversation he had with Lew Diamond a few weeks ago. No bout has been arranged.

Some mighty curling efforts are promised for next week if the weatherman will operate correctly. The Edinburgh trophy presented by T. Howard Stewart. It will be competed for by all clubs. The club whose teams have the best average wins and dividing the net result by the number of teams representing the club, will win the trophy. Great interest is being taken in this final effort of the curlers.

The opening game will be played on Royal Montreal ice Monday evening at 8 o'clock. The city's curling aristocrats will be out in line fettle this week.

**PRESIDENT SIGNS ARBITRATION BILL**

The president has signed the United States arbitration bill.

Under this law an arbitration award in a business dispute is valid in the federal courts, and has all the power of federal law. The act applies where parties to a contract agree to submit to arbitration any dispute during the life of the contract. If one of the parties attempt to break this agreement a federal court can appoint an arbitrator to represent him.

The new law, it is said, will reduce by one-half the number of civil suits that now number federal court calendars.

Labor disputes are specifically excluded from this act, which is of special interest to trade unionists because of their attitude toward arbitration as a means of adjusting disputes between men.

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## Sporting Gossip

The last stages of hockey now occupy the minds of fans. The soft weather has not abate interest but rather tends to heighten it, for big crowds have filled the Forum at every match this week. Ottawa sent their supporters in the air on Wednesday when they defeated Montreal in a heavy game while on Thursday the Vics took the title from the Sons of Ireland in a victory which they call in race track circles "by a nose". It is generally conceded that Ottawa has the best chance for the championship of the big league. Other interest centres on the Banks, the hotel and the railway and industrial leagues. Never in the history of hockey has there been such a revival.

Some interest is being taken in a lawsuit over hockey reverting back six years launched by the Toronto Hockey Club against the Arena Gardens for damages for failure to return certain St. Pat's players who had been leased to Arena Gardens, will have another round in the courts on March 23rd, when the Hockey Club's appeal will come before Mr. Justice Orde.

At the trial Chief Justice Falconbridge found in favor of the Hockey Club and awarded \$100,000 damages but this sum was reduced to \$10,000 on the appeal of Arena Gardens. The Hockey Club then appealed the \$10,000 award.

To night there is a big swimming meet at the M. A. A. tank, when a large delegation of artists in the water will appear in costume. Some of these will come from Ottawa, and many from the city and Westmont, both men and women, young and mature. Jimmy Rose, the swimming trainer has been a busy man all week and certainly great things are promised.

The programme includes events for men and women, although the contests for the ladies are more numerous than those for the men. There will be competitions in fancy and trick swimming, as well as in racing.

The programme planned will include 100 yards free style; 40 yards free style; 40 yards backstroke; 40 yards breast stroke and long plunge for ladies. The events for men are the relay race four men to a team, and a polo match.

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## HARMONY OF HELP IN INDUSTRY

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## AT THE PLAYHOUSES

**AT HIS MAJESTY'S**  
The Dolly Sisters, who have returned to America for a tour, are appearing in London and Paris and delighting France. They are being presented next week by A. L. Fagan and Morris Green, producers of the Greenwich Village Follies, and will be at the York Hippodrome. The presentation of "Sitting Pretty" is a lively musical comedy the work of Guy Bolton, P. G. Wodehouse and Jerome Kern. The cast includes Paul Frawley and Fred Stanley. A chorus especially selected by the Dolly Sisters are other attractions of the piece.

**AT THE PRINCESS**  
There will be a double headline next week at the Princess, the singing and dancing variety show. The popular Broadway comedian, other acts on the programme will be Flanagan and Edwards, a comedy team, the presentation of Jack Joyce's horses direct from the York Hippodrome; Joe Kohn and Lou Gato, who call themselves, "When Extremes Meet", in eccentric dancing; the Hamilton Sisters and the "Play-time"; Joseph Griffin, an Irish-American tenor and another act, yet to be announced.

**AT THE IMPERIAL**  
The feature item of the vaudeville bill at the Imperial next week will be Raymond Fagan and his four-piece orchestra. As every member of the organization is a soloist, a variety of solo numbers are interpolated. Other acts next week will be Harry Lang and Bernice Hoad; a comedy team; "Batling Terrence"; a humorous playlet "Batling Terrence"; and featuring Irene Sarte and Marjorie Chester; Lighting and Dolson in comedy and song; Fred Hill and Fred Hill, singers and Carl and Valeria Wallers, musicians, Betty Compson, John Davidson and Robert Loving are featured in the mystery film story "Ramsack House."

**"ZEBRUGGERS" AT PALACE**  
The vaudeville bill at the Palace next week will be the naval epic of St. George's Day, 1918, will be shown at the Palace all next week, starting Sunday. The production has the assistance of the British Admiralty and the Belgian authorities and the story is said to be vividly, clearly and gloriously told.

In order to show how the submarine war had developed and the necessity for destroying or bottling up the "nest" at the mouth of the St. Lawrence, the producers included some striking pictures of the actual sinking of ships, which were obtained through the capture of a U-boat. The preparations for the attack and the life of the volunteers during the waiting period are depicted in detail; and the sinking of the U-boat, the landing on the Mole from the Vindictive, the blowing up of Submarine C-3 under the command of the British, and the capture of the U-boat, and the brave part played by the Mersey ferry boats, Iris and Daffodil.

**AT THE GAYETY THEATRE**  
Brandwell and Travers' "Best Show in Town" is coming to the Gayety Theatre next week. There are twelve stage settings, a large cast of principals and a chorus. Frank Hunter, a character comedian, heads a list of entertainers who include Walter McManis, Jess de Verrier, Rose Bennett, Shirley Belmont, Max Fenwick, Lynn Lewis, Dick Bell and Harry Killy. The Six Showboat Girls are dancing specialists.

**AT LOEW'S**  
James Kirkwood, who has the leading role in the all star "Secrets of the Night," coming to Loew's Theatre Sunday night, has been in the theatre for 20 years on the speaking stage. Kirkwood now has the part of a man who is willing to sacrifice his life for his country. Kirkwood is made Bellamy, and the cast as a whole contains some of the most famous of the present day theatre stars. Rosemary Thelby, Tom Ricketts, Tom Wilson, Tom St. Cyr, and the story is that of the scary happenings that create consternation to a number of persons assembled a week or two ago in the mansion of the president of a bank. Wild words come from closets, from stairways and from the garden. A music machine possesses the guests and there are quarrels and threats between the guests and the long-time friends. Also strange forms are detected in the semi-darkness but shadowy figures are seen in the very eyes of the searchers.

The vaudeville bill next week is probably one of the best assembled for this house this season. There are at least three acts of principals and a chorus. The popular musical comedy favorite, "Sitting Pretty," already well known in Montreal, and who is billed as "The Playtime Girl" will be welcomed in a return appearance. "City of Dreadful Night" and "Back Stage" with the Berg Sisters and Paul Starlock will offer a vaudeville success in three scenes replete with comedy, songs and dancing. The Caltes Brothers have a comedy offering called "Quiet Please," a comedy vehicle said to be one of the funniest in vaudeville. An act which will create great local interest due to the fact that one of the young ladies formerly resided here should prove popular with May McKay and Sisters, three likable Lassies in Scotch character songs, dances and burlesque playing "The Original Four English Madcaps" who need no introduction to Montreal audiences will present a variety of entertainments. The De Vries Troup of European aerial gymnasts comprising four people will appear on the trapeze and aerial rings. This should prove truly a gala bill. Sanborn's Symphonists have arranged a special jazz program which they will play to one of the finest comedies ever looked for at this house, and which is called "The Luck of the Foolish."

**COMEDY AT ORPHEUM**  
Monday evening next will see the opening of the Orpheum Theatre at the location of another English company, under the management of Raymond Beaudry. "Ann" will be the inaugural play. The title role Ann will be played by Miss Betty Murray. The incidents of the play revolve around Ann, a newspaper woman whose interest in the love affair of an English clergyman's son, and the complications which result are said to provide a wealth of comic relief.

Miss Murray comes to Montreal with a well established reputation as an actress of charm and ability. It is announced that the other members of the company have parts which suit them well and those who have anticipated this season of English comedy should find next week's offering to their liking.

**BARBERS' UNION, LOCAL 659**  
At the last meeting of local 659, after the initiation of new members, a report was given by Secretary K. Slonsky one of the delegates to Quebec. This report was very interesting, all the members are satisfied of the work done by their delegates and expect that a by-law will be enacted at the present session to protect the Barbers. A vote of thanks was given to the Parliamentary Representatives of the Canadian Trades Congress for the active part he took in helping the Barbers in their demand.

**THE NATURAL LAW OF CO-OPERATION IS PROGRESS**  
—The following representative business houses are sympathetic with Labor and are interested in the welfare of not only their own help but of workers generally. They believe in the LABOR WORLD and are assisting its policies of cordial relationship between Employer and Employee. : : : :  
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TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION No. 176  
A mass meeting will be held at the Printers headquarters Hall, 248, St. James St., on March 7th, 1925, at 8 p.m. All members are requested to be present at the meeting. Questions of sending delegates to annual conventions will be discussed. All members are kindly invited.

**HALL TO LET**  
A very large hall located on St. Catherine St. East between Panet and Visitation, to let for labor or society meetings. For information apply to Mr. Chas. McKeeher, Business Agent of the Boot & Shoe Workers, 243 Malsonneuve street.

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## Public Utilities Under Fire

Trades Council have interesting discussion. — Home Bank matter dealt with. — Labor holding organization meetings. — Making Montreal Convention City is the slogan. — Five already secured. — Unemployment from another angle.

Several subjects of great importance were discussed at the regular meeting of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council held Thursday evening. One was that it had been decided to start a propaganda organization campaign and a sum of \$200 was voted towards the preliminary expenses. Several delegates seemed to think that a large sum might be given. The Secretary explained to the meeting that the Executive would be willing, he knew, to vote for four or five times the amount, according to the circumstances and the good work that would be done by those interested. Practically everybody agreed to this and it was left to the Executive to direct the campaign.

The next matter was brought forward by Del. Spence, of the Machinists' Association, dealing with the reimbursement to the donors of the Home Bank and Prime Minister King's action in Ottawa. The resolution presented by Del. Spence was seconded by Del. Wilkinson and reads as follows: "That the Corresponding Secretary of the Council be instructed to write the Honorable W. L. Mackenzie King asking that he advise as to the action the Government proposes taking to implement their proposals with reference to the depositors of the defunct Home Bank, and that a letter be also written the Speaker of the Senate soliciting the support of the Senate for any legislation proposed by the Government in this connection."

Del. Spence said that "if the Prime Minister is trying to play politics he will bring in a separate bill to cover the payment, if he is sincere, I hope he is, will include the amount in the estimates. For we all know how easy it will be for a special bill to be killed by the Senate."

The resolution was adopted.

Another subject which created an interesting discussion was a communication from the Assistant City Clerk indicating that the workers of Montreal were dissatisfied with the Public Utilities Commission. In part the letter said that in the question of the reduction of the rates charged by the Montreal Light Heat & Power Consolidated, that City Council's special committee on these matters had decided to ask all public bodies to transmit to it any information they may have gathered, either through investigation, a committee of enquiry or otherwise, on the question of the lighting rates in Montreal and elsewhere.

Several delegates related their personal experiences re meter rates and their reading, etc.

It was decided that the Secretary stand instructed to gather all the facts available and inform the municipal authorities.

The Council on recommendation of the Executive, to donate \$25 each to the following charitable institutions: Protestant House of Industry and Refuge, Royal Edward Institute, L'Assistance Publique and the Bruchesi Institute, passed a vote accordingly.

Incident to the recent invitation of the Council to International Unions to hold their conventions in Montreal some answers of thanks were read, one from the International Alliance of Hotel and Restaurant Employees and another from the Amalgamated Association of Electric Tramways Employees. At the present time there are two other conventions assured for the city, namely the Boot and Shoe Workers and the International Longshoremen which would be held during the next few months.

It was announced also that there was a possibility of the Painters and Decorators would meet in Montreal in the summer.

The Secretary was instructed to keep in touch with other labor organizations

## INSURANCE THAT DIDN'T INSURE

The best insurance against losses to employers against strikes is evidently to treat your employees so decently that they won't have any reason to strike. And those who took out policies in a mutual insurance company against strikes has just found out the truth of this to their financial sorrow.

Being insured these employers thought they could go to the limit and when their employers made reasonable demands upon them they arbitrarily refused to do them justice with the result of a strike being called. This didn't worry the bosses as they thought they could pile all the losses on the insurance company.

And the failure of this insurance company shows that the various concerns who had taken out such insurance entered \$1,000,000. The company's resources amounted to only a quarter of this great sum. And the result is a receivership for the Employers' Mutual Insurance and Service Company.

It would seem that the firms forming this company didn't even play square with each other. One of the first acts of the receivers was to bring suit against a number of firms who had failed to pay the assessments made by the company. In looking over the lists of these firms one finds some names quite prominent in the advocacy of the "open shop."

There was a great beating of the publicity drums when this mutual insurance against losses by strikes was formed. The labor unions were to be shown that the employers knew how to stand together and make it impossible for the workers to gain their demands for the wages and conditions that they thought were their due. And all that happened was that the employers contracted their relations with their employees so recklessly that strikes and the resulting losses were a foregone conclusion.

When the losses began to pile up each employer tried to get from under and keep from paying the assessments levied upon them by this mutual company. It is a sorry spectacle. Concerns who refuse to play fair with the labor that keeps their business going would of course not play fair with each other and the breaking down of this much heralded scheme for successfully fighting union labor was to be expected.—The Advance.

**WOMEN'S WORK LAW IGNORED BY EMPLOYERS**  
Organized working women employed in woolen mills at Passaic, N.J., have discovered that the "no-night work" law is ineffective. The net prohibits the employment of women between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., and was supposed to be in force beginning the first of the year. Several of the larger mills have ignored the law "on advice of counsel."

These sharp lawyers probably had a hand in shaping the law, which fails to carry a penalty violation.

so as to incite them to make Montreal their convention city.

From information obtained five conventions are now attained and it is estimated that these will bring to the city, by delegates, ex-delegates, officials and visitors over 10,000 people.