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Au secours du Franc

Partout où battent des cœurs français, l'on est ému de la crise financière que traverse la France, à la suite de la dépréciation continue du franc. Et non seulement l'on s'émue du malheur de cette France, forte et vaillante, mais la vue de ses misères fait naître dans tout le monde, par-delà les mers et les continents, une sympathie générale, sincère et agissante. Voilà, en effet, que les admirateurs et les amis de la France veulent aider au relèvement de ses finances en venant au secours du franc dont la valeur ne finit pas de baisser. Des souscriptions généreuses d'argent ont déjà été envoyées en France par plusieurs Canadiens qui ont conservé pour leur ancienne mère-patrie un amour inaltérable et le plus haut sentiment d'admiration. D'autres, plus nombreux encore, le seront d'ici peu, car une campagne louable se poursuit à cette fin actuellement dans notre province.

Cette campagne n'est pas limitée à notre province; elle s'étend, ainsi que nous le disions tout à l'heure, par tout le monde, et nous ne doutons pas de son grand succès. Dans toutes les parties du monde civilisé, il y a des âmes qui tressaillent au souvenir de la France, de ses peuples, de ses héros et de ses saints. Partout l'on comprend que ce pays qui compte dans toutes les sphères de l'activité humaine des enfants immortels a la promesse de vivre. Et c'est ce qui assure le succès de la vaste campagne entreprise pour secourir la France.

La France doit vivre et elle vivra, en dépit de tous les ennemis employés contre elle et de tous les obstacles que lui opposent ses ennemis déclarés ou cachés. — *La Tribune*.

Vieux papiers, vieux journaux

Il nous plaît d'évoquer le passé pour le mettre en parallèle avec le présent, non pour en dégager d'utiles leçons, car ceux qui sont six pieds sous terre et de puis longtemps réduits en poussière ne sont guère mieux que nous. Les générations passent et disparaissent, mais l'humanité ne change guère, quoi qu'on dise. Ses vices, ses passions se répètent chez nous à trois millions d'exemplaires. Les caractères diffèrent, le mécanisme de l'âme canadienne fonctionne autrement, mais la nature à imprimer reste la même. Voici à preuve quelques anecdotes du bon vieux temps cueillies dans les gazettes fanées et presque pulvérisées d'il y a plus de cent ans, alors que le premier dentiste posait de fausses dents avec ses appareils chirurgicaux fit son apparition en 1816, dans un immeuble de la rue Notre-Dame. Le *Spectateur* lui met une réclame en première page et l'on s'attroupe dans les faubourgs pour causer de l'événement incroyable. La curiosité des femmes piquée au vif. Toutes les jolies effifées font irruption chez le dentiste. Mais à la vue de la chaise rembourrée de velours rouge qui a des degrés comme un échafaud et un sergent d'acier, ainsi que le pilori de la Place du Marché, plusieurs prennent leurs jambes à leurs roues.

Les plus braves, celles dont les pincées du maréchal ferrant, instrument dédié dans le genre des pinceaux en fer qui ornent le devant des cheminées n'ont pas eu raison d'une molaire entêtée et d'une canine cariée se résignent à subir le supplice de la chaise. Parmi celles-là, une petite bourgeoise rondelette et dont la jupe a pris la forme d'un de ces balons rouges comme on en achète aux petits enfants, les jours de fête où dans les cirques, voudrait bien voir dans le creux de sa main la dent qui la torture depuis une huitaine.

— Je ne puis me résigner à faire ôter ma dent, à moins qu'auparavant on pratique l'opération sur un autre....

Toutes les patientes pensent de même. Volontiers, elles diraient: Faites la tirer les premiers, messieurs les anglais.

C'est à qui n'étranglerait pas les pincées du bourreau, mal dissimulées sous sa manche:

— Puisque je vous dis que ça ne fait pas de mal... Pas plus mal que si je vous arrachais un cheveu... ça ne dure pas même une seconde... vous n'avez pas le temps de crier....

— Pas une ne bouge....

— Mon vieux, fait une petite bouille, si tu voulais te faire ôter une dent pour que je vois l'effet que ça fait, je me déciderais sûrement cussé.

— Mais je n'ai pas mal aux dents....

— C'est un détail... Il vaut mieux prévenir le mal....

A ta place je ferais arracher celle-ci, qui chevauche mal, ça t'enlaidit... Le docteur te la remplacera par une petite quenotte blanche comme du lait....

Le malheureux quoique tenté est réticent. Il n'est pas pressé d'offrir sa machoire au dentiste même avec l'espoir de ressembler à l'Apollon du Belvédère.

— Voyons, sois brave devant ces dames qui ont toutes les yeux fixés sur toi. Un vieillard de 1812 qui a fait le coup de feu avec M. de Salaberry... Ce n'est pas une goutte de sang qui doit lui faire peur....

Sous le commandement supérieur de ces yeux frangés de longs cils, le malheureux prend son élan, gravit les marches de la chaise, ouvre une large bouche, ferme les yeux, se laisse passer la serviette autour du cou, se crispe les mains, enfonce ses ongles dans le velours tandis que le dentiste, un genou sur le bras du fauteuil, d'une main main tenant la tête du patient, de l'autre tirant de toutes ses forces sur l'incisive qui lui résiste... Les veines du cou se gonflent, la pomme d'Adam monte et descend comme une par un mouvement, d'horlogerie, le front ruisselle de gouttes claires, ramassé sur lui-même comme une fauve, il fait un grand effort qui amène la dent et par contre-coup va rouler sur le plancher les quatre fers en l'air, sans lâcher ses pincées et sa précieuse conquête....

Je l'ai, je l'ai... crie-t-il.

La petite dame lâche un cri noir, comme si c'était elle qu'on charcutait et saute sur la dent ensanglantée, saine comme une balle.

— Une vraie dent de cheval, grogne le dentiste en se relevant....

— Pauvre chéri que tu as du souffrir! Je ne puis me décider à me faire ôter ma dent. D'ailleurs, elle ne me fait plus mal. Allons-nous en.

LOUABLE INITIATIVE DE L'UNIVERSITE DE MONTREAL

L'intérêt manifesté dans tous les milieux de langue française de l'est du pays pour la douzième excursion transcontinentale de l'Université de Montréal est d'excellente augure pour le succès de cette instructive entreprise touristique. Annoncée depuis à peine trois semaines, celle-ci compte déjà un nombre considérable d'adhésions, dont le total s'augmente encore tous les jours de nouveaux voyageurs, répartis non seulement dans la province, mais aussi en Ontario et dans les centres de la Nouvelle-Angleterre.

Ceci ne doit pas étonner, malgré l'ampleur et la durée de cette randonnée jusqu'à la Côte du Pacifique, car le goût des voyages, aujourd'hui si répandu grâce à l'excellence des moyens de transport, s'est aussi considérablement développé chez nos compatriotes. Les notes réalisées en effet de plus en plus l'importance qu'il y a pour eux de visiter d'abord le Canada, de connaître ses villes, de se renseigner sur ses ressources, d'admirer ses beautés scéniques et de prendre contact avec les divers éléments qui composent sa population.

L'initiative prise l'an dernier par l'Université de Montréal était donc des plus opportunes, en ce qu'elle mettait à la disposition des Canadiens-français un moyen parfaitement pratique à tous points de vue de voir le Canada avec le maximum de profit. Si le voyage individuel offre certaines attractions, l'excursion collective, préparée et dirigée par des personnes d'expérience, est de beaucoup plus avantageuse. Elle évite d'abord les ennuis et les fatigues de la préparation d'un itinéraire; elle diminue aussi sensiblement les frais de voyage et elle permet presque toujours de voir mieux les régions que l'on désire visiter.

Sans compter que tous les menus sont et parfois le temps perdu, qui sont le partage du touriste inexpérimenté, disparaissent devant l'organisation logique et efficace du voyage collectif.

L'Université de Montréal, dont le but principal en organisant ces voyages à travers le Dominion, est de fournir à notre population une occasion de s'instruire sur place des choses canadiennes, ne néglige rien pour assurer le bien-être matériel de ceux qu'elle prend ainsi sous sa tutelle. En s'associant à la Cie du Pacifique Canadien pour cette entreprise, elle s'assure que pour ce qui est de confort, ses voyageurs auront tout lieu d'être parfaitement satisfaits. L'expérience de l'an dernier a plus que justifié ses prévisions.

Il convenait donc qu'elle lançât sa

Les Canadiens d'il y a cent ans ressemblaient à ceux d'aujourd'hui; se laisser mener par le bout du nez ou par une dent, c'est tout comme....

En lisant les vieux journaux, j'ai vu également que dans le temps des élections les choses se passaient comme aujourd'hui, à cette différence près que si l'on buvait du meilleur rhum de jamaïque qu'aujourd'hui, mais on ne vendait pas son vote, rubis sur l'ongle. Le futur maire distribuait de nombreuses poignées de main aux électeurs, saluait les écrivains de larges coups de chapeau, donnait des cigarettes en sucre rose et des nanas aux petits. S'il sentait une sourde hostilité chez un électeur, il l'interpellait au coin d'une rue pour lui tirer les vers du nez:

Beau temps pour les sucrés, ça coule, ça coule! hein.

— A propos, c'est demain les élections. J'espère que vous avez été content de moi l'année dernière et que je puis compter encore sur vous.

L'électeur hésite....

— Oui... oui....

— Eh quoi! n'ai-je pas fait mon devoir, voyez les rues hein, c'est du beau travail. Qu'avez-vous à me reprocher!...

— Parle donc....

— Il y en a qui trouvent mauvais que vous soyez tout à la fois maire et inspecteur des chemins. Ils disent que vous êtes vos propres ordres, et que vous êtes votre bourgeois... Ce n'est peut-être pas juste....

— Les imbéciles! j'économise un salaire, les frais d'un autre bureau et je suis plus à même de surveiller mon subalterne....

— C'est possible, mais ils disent comme cela que vous avez donné cent louis à un inspecteur pour payer des travaux que votre charge vous obligeait à faire vous-même....

— Les mauvaises langues! Ça prouve que j'ai un bon cœur, que je ne suis pas comme un porc dans l'auge... Quand il y en a pour deux, il en a pour trois....

Le candidat tend sa tabatière:

— Prenez une prise, c'est du macouba. Sans doute, j'ai dépensé gros d'argent, mais c'est dans l'intérêt des citoyens... je viens justement de donner des ordres pour faire arranger votre rue, il serait malheureux que je partais juste au moment où je commence à bien faire....

— Vous êtes bien bon... merci.

— Je sais que tu ne penses pas ce que tu dis, parce que tu n'es pas bête... Tu te battrais pour moi à l'occasion....

Le bourgeois repasse sa tabatière pour détourner la conversation.

— C'est une chose entendue, si jamais vous avez besoin de moi je suis votre homme.

Rien de nouveau sous le soleil. Au lieu d'une prise de tabac le futur député offre un cigare....

JULIEN SAINT-MICHEL.

L'influence du machinisme

La "Revue internationale du Travail" vient de publier un article de M. W. A. Riddell, Conseiller technique du Canada auprès de la Société des Nations, sur le développement du machinisme dans l'agriculture, aux Etats-Unis et au Canada, et sur ses répercussions quant à la main-d'œuvre. Il y est dit comment, sous l'influence de raisons géographiques et de la pénurie de main-d'œuvre dont elle souffrait, l'Amérique du Nord a réalisé, la première et la plus complètement la "mécanisation" de l'agriculture, depuis l'invention, en 1834, de la moissonneuse-lieuse. Le développement considérable de l'utilisation de la force animale et de la force mécanique au cours des trente dernières années a permis une telle économie du travail de l'homme que la production de l'ouvrier, dans ce continent dépasse de deux à six fois celle qu'accusaient les pays européens. Grâce à cet accroissement de sa valeur économique, l'ouvrier agricole touche de hauts salaires et arrive souvent à réaliser assez d'économies en quelques années pour faire l'acquisition d'une ferme.

D'autre part, il est résulté de ce progrès une augmentation de la superficie cultivée et de la production totale, qui joue un rôle capital dans le ravitaillement du monde entier.

Cet article contient en outre un certain nombre de statistiques, du plus grand intérêt sur l'outillage mécanique agricole, au Canada et aux Etats-Unis. Au Canada, d'après le recensement de 1921, l'outillage mécanique possédé par les fermes avait, cette année-là, une valeur de 665,180,416 dollars, contre 257,007,548 dollars en 1911. Pour chaque ferme, la valeur moyenne de ce matériel était de 935,44 dollars en 1921, contre 376,20 dollars en 1911. D'autre part, une enquête effectuée par le gouvernement canadien en 1923 donne, sur le coût moyen de l'outillage mécanique par établissement agricole, des chiffres qui montrent d'une façon convaincante l'exactitude de l'opinion si souvent formulée que les machines coûtent moins aux gros fermiers qu'aux petits cultivateurs. D'après les renseignements fournis par 90 exploitations agricoles, le coût de l'outillage mécanique était de 3,37 dollars par acre dans les fermes de 20 à 50 acres, de 2,59 dollars dans celles de 50 à 100 acres, de 1,65 dollars dans celles de 100 à 150 acres. En d'autres termes, le petit cultivateur paie son outillage mécanique trois fois plus cher que le gros fermier.

Aux Etats-Unis, de 1870 à 1920, c'est-à-dire en cinquante ans, le nombre des machines agricoles s'est multiplié par plus de treize. Si l'on prend comme base le niveau des prix en 1915, la valeur de cet outillage mécanique a passé de 270 millions de dollars en 1870 à plus de 3 milliards et demi en 1920. Naturellement, le nombre des établissements agricoles, lui aussi, beaucoup augmenté pendant la même période, de sorte qu'il est peut-être plus instructif de connaître la valeur des machines agricoles par ouvrier. Ce chiffre s'est élevé de 36 dollars en

1870 à 68 dollars en 1900 et à 176 dollars en 1920, toujours en prenant comme terme de comparaison les prix de 1913. Ainsi, en moyenne, l'ouvrier agricole utilise aujourd'hui cinq fois plus d'outillage mécanique (en valeur marchande) qu'il y a cinquante ans.

M. Riddell termine par ces mots: "Somme toute, dans le travail en tant que travail il n'y a rien qui ennoblit. Travailler n'est qu'un moyen en vue d'une fin. Si la fin est noble ou du moins satisfaisante, il en est de même du travail qui y conduit. Mais si cette fin respectable peut être obtenue avec moins de peine, tout le labeur dépensé inutilement en vue de l'atteindre n'est qu'une corvée stérile. Telle est la conviction de l'Américain du Nord. Il ne voit ni vertu ni profit dans le gaspillage de l'effort et trouve qu'aucun travail n'est admirable s'il est superflu." — *Bureau international du Travail*.

Le 3 juillet prochain que le train spécial de l'Université de Montréal quittera la gare Windsor pour sa randonnée de quelques 6,000 milles à travers nos vastes territoires. Il sera de retour dans la métropole le 24 suivant, ramenant dans leurs foyers, plus fiers de leur pays parce qu'ils le connaîtront mieux, les Canadiens qui auront eu la bonne fortune de faire ce beau voyage.

Sur les grandes routes

Le département provincial de la voirie vient d'annoncer qu'il entend bien continuer cette année d'embellir nos grandes routes en plantant le long de celles-ci, de nombreux arbres. C'est aussi l'intention du même département de remplacer les arbustes qui ont été plantés l'année dernière mais qui n'ont pas survécu à la transplantation. On admettra que c'est le plus sage procédé à suivre si l'on veut que ces longues allées de verdure présentent, dans quelques années, une jolie uniformité et un coup d'oeil magnifique. Les arbustes morts étant immédiatement remplacés, la symétrie nécessaire qu'exige le plan d'ornementation projeté n'en souffrira aucune.

Comme l'on peut en juger par la décision du ministère de la voirie, le gouvernement provincial ne se borne pas seulement à doter la province de superbes routes, d'artères qui font l'admiration des touristes et des milliers de personnes qui nous visitent chaque année, mais de plus, il a à cœur d'embellir ces routes en corrigeant au besoin la nature elle-même qui se montre parfois généreuse à l'excès et parfois très avare pour certaines régions.

Ce travail d'embellissement de nos routes par la plantation de milliers d'arbres représentera à la longue une dépense considérable pour le département de la voirie, mais cette dépense est des plus justifiables puisqu'elle est faite dans le plus grand intérêt de tous et puisqu'elle servira à donner encore plus d'attraits aux nombreuses routes qui sillonnent maintenant en tous sens notre province si historique et si pittoresque.

PEUT-ON FUMER AU LIT?

Au cours d'une querelle matrimoniale à New-York, qui eut son dénouement en Cour, le magistrat Flowell a maintenu le droit du mari de fumer au lit.

LA CLEF D'OR

Nous accusons réception de la deuxième livraison de la "Clef d'Or" revue consacrée à la publicité, fondée récemment: "Clef d'Or".

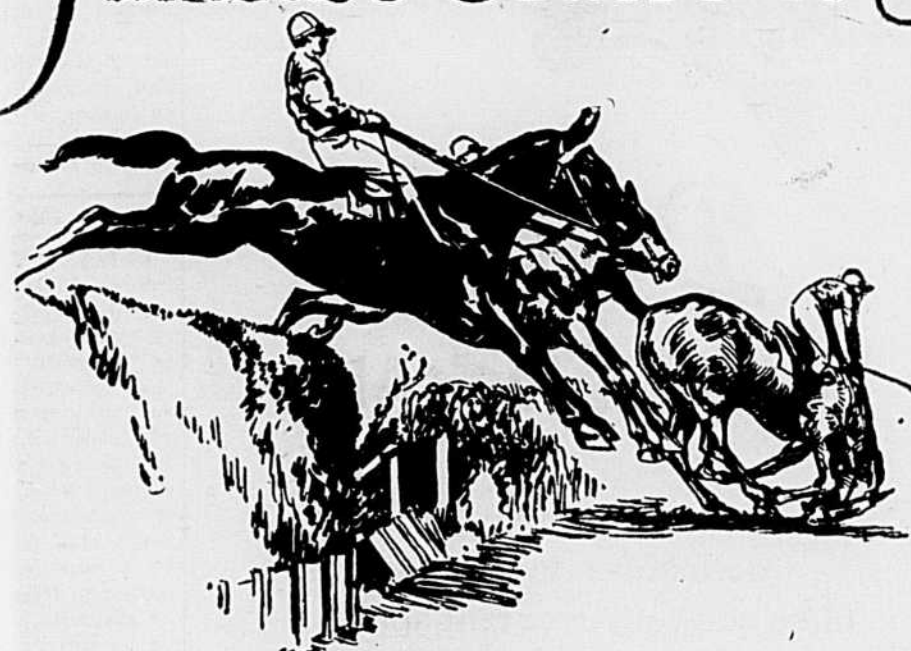
Le présent numéro renferme des études intéressantes et de nature à fournir des renseignements précieux à tous ceux qui, de près ou de loin, peuvent avoir un intérêt dans la publicité, que ce soit la publicité dans les journaux, que ce soit la publicité directe par correspondance, que ce soit enfin la publicité sous quelque forme qu'elle puisse se manifester.

Tous ceux qui sont dans le commerce ou qui se destinent au commerce devraient prendre connaissance de cette revue, car ils y trouveront certainement des idées qui leur seront profitables.

On peut se procurer un numéro spécimen en faisant la demande à la Clef d'Or, 552, première Avenue, Québec.

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12th Year — No. 20

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PRICE: 5 CENTS

Our Compensation Laws

In addressing the annual meeting of the Montreal Branch of the Quebec Division of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, held in this City recently, the Chairman of that body, Mr. W. H. Miner, commented on the fact that the consolidation of the Workmen's Compensation Act of the Province of Quebec was one of the most important features of the Association's work during the past year. After stating that this work had been consummated to the general satisfaction of the manufacturers of the Province, Mr. Miner went on to say, "I am confident that, in the work which was carried on by the Association in connection with the Workmen's Compensation Act of this Province alone, that the annual fee of every member of the Association was returned to him with interest."

The foregoing statements would indicate that the manufacturers, as represented by the Montreal branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, are generally well pleased with the results achieved through legislation in this connection, and that it means to them, collectively and individually, a considerable monetary gain, at somebody else's expense.

Organized Labor was also very deeply interested in and concerned with the effort to have the Government of this Province enact legislation on the question of Workmen's Compensation which would meet the requirements of the workers of the Province, but the action taken by the Government in this regard gives them no cause to be jubilant rather the reverse case. So great was the interest taken by Labor in the Compensation Laws, that for once, if never again in our history, all sections of the organized working class of the Province laid aside for the time being whatever differences of opinions that might have had on other questions and stood as one group behind a common proposal in this respect, which they requested the Government to place on the Status books. The International Unions, the great Brotherhoods comprising the men employed in the operation of our railroads, the National Catholic Unions, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees, the units represented by the Canadian Federation of Labor, and other national labor groups, together with their membership and the families of that membership representing close unto 250,000 citizens, supported this request which the Government refused to accept in deference to the desires of the few hundreds of members of the Quebec Division of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

Why the Government turned a "deaf ear" to the demands of the workers of the Province, the people for whom Compensation laws are of such vital importance, we will let the manufacturers' explain in their own language. At the same meeting, above referred to (the annual meeting of the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association), Mr. George Henderson reported for the legislation Committee as follows: "Your committee is pleased to report that on questions affecting industries in the Province we received a most courteous hearing from the Government, and where we could show the authors of a bill that certain clauses would work a hardship on industry, it was always possible to secure amendments. We found that legislative measures at Quebec were sound and sane, and that the Prime Minister and his colleagues were ever ready to lend a willing ear to the representatives of industry."

While it is true that the Compensation Act as amended, and which will become effective April 1st, 1927, is an improvement on the present Act in some respects, yet it contains many features which are bad. It is true that the scope of the Act has been enlarged to cover workers whose yearly wages are over \$2,000, but of what particular advantage is this if litigation is still a factor and the old difficulty of collecting compensation, under the Act, remains. Then again, for instance, when an accident results in death, the surviving consort is entitled to a life rental equal to but twenty per cent of the yearly wages of the deceased, which in the case of a worker whose wages are at the minimum under the Act, \$600.00, would give to a widow without children, for instance, the princely sum of \$10.00 per month. How she can be expected to live on this amount — which is the rate in nearly all the other provinces — we leave to your imagination.

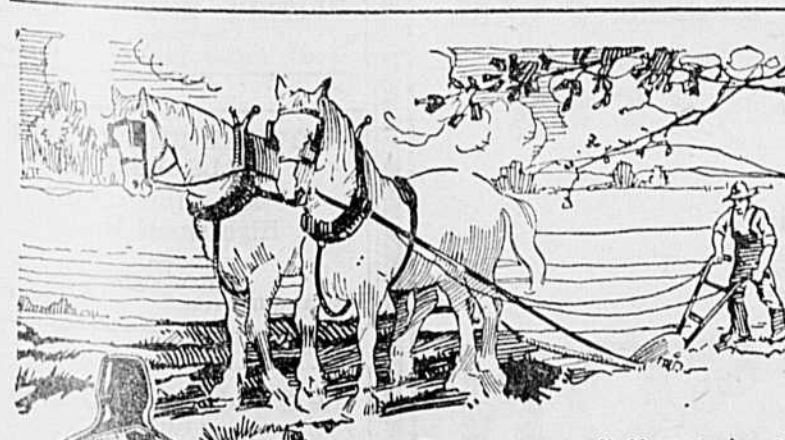
Under the new Act, the responsibility for reporting accidents to the Minister of Labor and Public Works rests with the employer or his representatives which must be done within thirty days. Notice of an accident must be given to the employer by the injured person, his representative or by the physician, also within thirty days, and in default of such notice, the person injured is deprived of his right to action unless it can be proven that he had been prevented from giving such notice for reasons deemed sufficient by the judge or the Court. Aside from the fact that an injured workman may often be placed in a position where it would be impossible for him to report an accident, and considering that the man himself, his physician or relatives, if any, cannot be expected to be fully informed as to the terms of the Act, we can see a grave danger in permitting an employer thirty days in which to notify the Minister of Labor of the occurrence of the accident. In such a period of time, if the employer so desired, he could destroy all evidence of the accident and make it impossible for the Inspector, under the instruction of the Minister, to report at first hand the causes of the accident. It may have been that the accident was due to a violation of the Factory Laws governing safety devices, which in the meantime could be remedied to comply with the requirements. These are facts worthy of consideration, and should strengthen our determination to have a new Act passed which will give the workers, the big mass of the people affected by Compensation laws, ample and proper protection.

H. A. SPENCE.

CLOTHING WORKERS ASSIST BRITISH STRIKERS

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, in session assembled at their 7th Biennial Convention in the Mont Royal Hotel, Montreal, on Tuesday, May 11th, voted to assist the members \$1.00 each, and to cable immediately the sum of \$25,000 to the British Trades Congress for the support of the Trade Unionists involved

in the general strike in Great Britain. A resolution to this effect was introduced by the General Executive Board and was unanimously carried by the delegates by a standing vote, amid a scene of wild enthusiasm. The generosity of this gift will be recognized when it is considered that the Amalgamated Clothing Workers has a membership of over 135,000, each member representing a dollar. Such a practical manner of expressing support and solidarity must arouse interest everywhere.



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The Week at Ottawa

By J. S. WOODSWORTH

We have just spent five hours listening to an argument on a point of order, and even then the Speaker reserved his decision. The question arose in connection with the peace River election petition by Mr. Bennett, which claimed that Mr. Kennedy of Peace River was not entitled to sit as a Member. The whole question of the frauds in connection with the Peace River election is now before the courts. Should the matter come before Parliament and be referred to a Parliamentary Committee. While only a point of order was really involved, advantage was taken of the opportunity to introduce a great deal of political propaganda. The petition was read and its statements enlarged upon. Mr. Bennett, as usual, made a passionate and grandiloquent appeal, which was as usual, not altogether convincing. Most of the speakers were lawyers who appeared to derive a great deal of enjoyment and edification from the dragging to light of musty precedents. It is very fortunate that British history goes back only a few hundred years or else points of order would involve weeks instead of hours of debate. Curiously enough, despite the supposedly impartial judgment of the learned legal gentlemen, their opinions corresponded exactly to the places in which they sat in the House, only in this case the Liberals stood for the established custom and the Conservatives were very anxious to sweep away hampering precedents.

Next followed the edifying spectacle of Robert Rogers exposing the political corruption of Robert Forke. With a seriousness befitting the pulpit of an old Scotch Kirk, Mr. Rogers told of farmers being organized into political associations to hold and disburse money for financing political campaigns, and most serious of all, on one of these committees, he discovered the name of Mr. MacKenzie, recently appointed a member of the Tariff Board.

Next day, sure enough, the "Gazette" and other Eastern papers came out with full accounts of Mr. Rogers' speech, in which the impression was clearly given that the Progressives had been guilty of evading the Election Act and of numerous unnamed corrupt practices.

We remember an old time commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness." It would seem as if this did not apply in politics. In Parliament, if one can misrepresent the situation and "get away with it," he is registered as a clever politician — indeed, as probable Cabinet member.

From a purely political standpoint, an interesting development in the East is the defection from the Conservatives of the "Montreal Star." In the discussion of this matter there is given us incidentally a glimpse of the power of the financial interests. Whether the Journal is right or not with regard to Mr. Meighen, undoubtedly the financial hierarchy is bent on holding or reclaiming its control. ("The Ottawa Journal", on April 30th, says "Mr. Meighen's crime is that he will not bow the knee to the Basil of St. James St. He will not take his orders from the mandarins of high finance who rule in Montreal. He is not a time-server for Lord Atholstan.")

"An American statement once said of Wall Street that you were either its enemy or its slave. That is becoming true of St. James Street. The political leader who is its puppet is its friend; the leader who is captain of his own soul becomes automatically its target."

"It is an outrageous game, for this country, whatever else it may do, will never be dictated to by a financial hierarchy bent on governing many for the benefit of the few. Those who think otherwise, who think they can be Warwick or that they can make or break leaders at will, are living in a paradise of mist."

"The mandarins of high finance" — a financial hierarchy bent on governing the many for the benefit of the few — surely it looks as if the Journal is turning Socialist.

In his speech, Dr. Edwards denounced in almost abusive terms those who differed with him politically. He fittingly began on Miss MacPhail who was not present in the Chamber, strongly repudiating her sentiments with regard to war and, disregarding the now well-known facts with regard to the origin of the war, urged that no one should question the disinterested motives of those responsible or harrow the feelings of those who had lost relatives by suggesting that the war had not been most disinterested and successful. We wonder whether those who still denounce the Germans do not realize that the worst crime of which the ordinary German people were guilty, was that of blind obedience to authority. Are we to exalt into the highest virtue that which we denounce in others?

In this connection, it is rather interesting to quote the editorial comment of the "Montreal Star" on the reason for America entering into the war. Here again we are given a sidelight on the underlying economic basis of wars in general. In its issue of April 26th, the Star says:

"The implication is that the American money-lenders were acting as big hearted philanthropists when they 'financed' the last war. They were of course doing nothing of the sort. They were joyously lending money at high interest. They were reaping a

rich harvest. They jumped at the opportunity. It is true that they bet on the Allies, but when they made the wager it looked like a sure bet. It is also true that they — that is, the American money-lenders — could not have afforded to see the Allies beaten, but if this had anything to do with bringing the United States into the War, when the bet did not look quite so sure, this is a question between the American money-lenders and the American doughboy."

If anything like that were said in the United States, we have not the slightest doubt that all the American patriots would be a seething in their denunciations as was Dr. Edwards of Miss MacPhail.

In this budget debate, a game of batalliere and shuttlecock, we toss backward and forward all the outworn political theories and slogans of past generations, yet anyone who ventures to make a critical analysis or suggest new solutions is ridiculed as indulging in academic discussion. In this connection, I think I cannot do better than sum up the situation in a paragraph from a very interesting article on "The Dilemma of Thrift" by Foster and Catchings, published in the April number of the "Atlantic Monthly":

"What a mess we get into! We work hard to pile our shelves high with what we most desire, and then we have to stop working because we are unable to take these things off the shelves and enjoy them. Though we produce much less than we could easily produce, we do not distribute to advantage even what we succeed in producing. We condemn extravagant buying at the very time when industry slows down because people are not buying enough. Then, while business wanes because it lacks consumers, we put taxes on consumption; and, precisely when business is in greatest need of people with income to spend, we reduce those incomes by reducing wages and dividends. We celebrate 'Buyers Week' and 'Thrift Week' at one and the same time. By increasing our savings, instead of spending them, we deny ourselves today in order to produce more in the future, although we are already equipped to produce more than we know how to use. While many at home are in want, we strive to send more and more of our own real wealth abroad; but we are loath to import much in return. Nations, at least, seem convinced that it is more blessed to give than to receive. A topsy-turvy world! Alas in Wonderland found nothing more paradoxical."

Inventions That Made Millions

By ALEXANDER J. WEDDERBURN

The last chapter in the history of a Portland invention which represents a forward step in the mechanical end of newspaper printing was written recently in the sale of the patent rights of a new type of "press blanket," invented by two Portland, Oregon, men, A. W. Cochran and F. M. Youngs. The price of the patent rights was \$100,000. The development of the new press blanket covered a long period of years in which many experiments were made and many difficulties were met and overcome.

The chemical formulae of the composition were first worked out in a laboratory in Mr. Cochran's office. The specifications were sent to eastern manufacturers and the article itself tested in the press room of the Oregonian under the supervision of Mr. Youngs.

The Oregonian press has been equipped with the new press blankets since 1915 and since the perfecting of the device it has been adopted successfully all over the country.

"A press blanket is the covering on a cylinder press which must be pliable and yet durable to accommodate the irregularities of the type," said Mr. Cochran. "Under the old system a felt and rubber covering was used, with the center composed of rubber and the surface of felt. This has many disadvantages as the rubber and felt would stretch, thus decreasing the diameter of the cylinder and constant adjustments were necessary."

"In this new press blanket we have used a cork composition with a fabric covering. This cork composition consists simply of ground particles of cork bound together by means of oxidized linseed oil. The fabric covering is made an integral part of the composition through the manufacturing process, which is carried out at a high temperature. The perfected cork composition blanket possesses the pliability found in the old type of blanket plus an increased durability."

The old rubber blankets had many serious defects. The rubber became blistered from contact with oil and the felt covering would stretch. Constant replacements were necessary.

In their experiments the inventors tested many materials before they found that cork contained all the qualities needed for a successful press blanket — flexibility, durability and printing qualities.

It was when they sent to have the article manufactured that they encountered the greatest difficulties. It was almost impossible to have good work done, as the manufacturing company was not used to producing materials of this kind to the exactness required by the specifications. When the inventors tried to explain by mail the company was not able to understand just what was wanted.

Some idea of how prominent Members of Parliament are involved in the scandals revealed by the Custom probe, may be gained from the following evidence given before the Committee.

Custom Investigation from Official evidence

Mr. A. Doucet, Captain Zinec, why do you not tell this Committee how much William Duff and H. C. Adams had to do with the proper performance of your duties in the Port of Lunenburg. Make the case clear to this Committee and we will know how to act; make your statements. Why this grinning when you have a statement to make, and you won't make it? A. Mr. Adams has nothing to do with me, Q. Has Mr. Duff? A. Well, Mr. Duff, I asked for advice often. Q. You asked Mr. Duff, for instance, for advice if the Schooner Grace Brown was to come into Port of Lunenburg with a cargo of liquor? A. I would not ask him that. Q. What? A. I would not ask him that. Q. Now, Captain Zinec, you would not ask him? A. No. Q. Would you be overzealous if a cargo on the Schooner Grace Brown came in to port? A. I was as sharp on the Grace Brown as any other. Q. You would be just as sharp? A. Yes. Q. Still at the same time, your appointment depended upon, and maintenance of it still depends upon, the owner of the schooner and possibly the owner of the cargo. Do you think you are going to lead this Committee to believe that you could be so inhuman as to be involved in the prosecution of the "Grace Brown"? I can not say anything about the "Grace Brown". I do not know. Q. You know the vessel? A. Yes. Q. You know who is the owner? A. I know Adams and Duff and others. Q. She is registered as William Duff's schooner? A. Yes. Q. You know that she has been in the rum running business? A. Yes. Q. You know she has been cleared from Georgetown, Demerara, with cargoes of rum pretending to go to Nassau, and ultimately in a very short time landing on the Nova Scotia coast, getting rid of her cargo and then coming into Lunenburg in ballast for outfitting to go to St. Pierre Miquelon and repeat the dose? Did you know she was in the liquor trade? Answer No yes — A. What is that? Q. You know the Grace Brown was in the liquor trade? A. Yes.

Finally Mr. Youngs spent nine months in the Armstrong Cork Company's mill at Lancaster, Pa., to oversee the work personally. At last all difficulties were overcome and the press blanket proved a success.

The patent rights were held jointly by Mr. Cochran, Mr. Youngs and The Oregonian, which had provided financial backing through the discouraging years of experimentation. The rights to the new blanket were purchased by the New England Fiber Company of Worcester, Mass.

Our Readers

This department we hope may develop into the most power of all, as has been proven in the Old Country papers not only interested in Labor but general newspapers. We do not necessarily agree with all that is sent in but we do believe in fairness, so bear the fairplay torch and write to us. The test of a sound mind is to investigate thoroughly what most people scoff at ignorantly.

PARIS BEAUTIFUL

Whoever said "See Paris and die" was not probably thinking of some of us who have blown into the Great French City in a state of such broken finance that early death is always more or less imminent. There are so many of us foreigners looking for a job to enable us to prolong our stay in the city that you may well be guessing just why we take such chances. And you will never fully realize just what we mean until you come to Paris.

What is it, or what is that sum of little "etis" which gives Paris the charm so well high supreme amongst the cities of the world? That is difficult to answer without wounding the susceptibilities of many a justly proud metropolis. It is just as difficult to enunciate this special charm as it would be to describe that special touch to the human physiognomy which makes a Frenchman, and distinguishes him from the German and the American. Who can depict that subtle turn of the lip, the nose, or the eye, which tells the tale for a man. And who can delineate that idiosyncrasy which identifies Paris as an expression of human impulse?

There is always something in every city which other cities should copy and Paris teaches much.

Throughout the whole length of the Seine which winds for miles through Paris, the two river banks are reserved for public drives and walkways as well as quais.

The parks, boulevards, avenues and

Be a Union Carrier

The following is from an admirable editorial recently published by two California labor journals — the East Bay Labor Journal of Oakland and the Union Labor News of Santa Barbara. All organized labor should take it to heart.

"Did it ever occur to you that being a workman you are in the business of selling your labor at the very best possible price that is attainable and that the union is the business association through which you attend to that business?"

"In other words, your union is your business and if you will stop long enough to look the facts squarely in the face you will realize that attending to this business is one of the first duties that you owe to yourself and your family."

"If you expect to get anywhere or accomplish anything through your union, make it your business to be at every meeting and see for yourself what is done and how things are handled and if you don't think things are done as well as they could be then, for the sake of yourself, and the good of every other member of the union, have the spunk and the manhood to get up in meeting and then and there point out the better way that you see or think you see. If you are right the chances are that there will be other right-thinking men to take the floor with you and if you are wrong the chances are that there will be somebody to point out to you the error of your way. But be there and do your part to help have your business run right."

streets are so generous in size and distribution that one receives the feeling that fresh air is still acknowledged to be the birthright of the masses. All above the routes are benches where the housewives can rest from carrying her burden from the market to her home. There is but little dust.

The blocks of houses are squares, for the streets radiate from a number of centres or hubs like the spokes of a wheel. And you must think of the streets of Paris as so many wheels placed in touch with another. For instance, from the Place de l'Etoile where is to be seen the tomb of the unknown soldier, there radiate at least twelve avenues. This style of city makes for beauty, and also for inconvenience to the stranger searching for streets.

Everywhere we encounter superb monuments and triumphal arches. The story of the past is ever present in the mass of chiselled crystal. Henry IV, Francois I, and Marie Antoinette still abide alongside of Pasteur and Victor Hugo, Jeanne d'Arc and Napoleon are everywhere looking upon the rush of autos.

Alas! Autos, cycles and trams with their hard utilitarian lines discord grievously with the harmonious, restful curves of much of the architectural and landscape sculpture. The roar and meteoric speed of modern transportation need other setting. Those of us who were born and raised to the haulage by horses will ever regret the disappearance of their graceful forms our life. Instinctively, we shall always adore the cantering lady who returns mounted upon her fringing palfray.

Does increased happiness come to Paris along with the adoption of steam, gasoline, and electric transport? It would seem that every change of manufacture and locomotion must always answer the sort of question with its "yes" and its "no."

Modern development of science and invention has given birth to modern business organization, and the latest word in this organization can control the distribution of production to a degree more accentuated than ever before in proportion to the number of people concerned. In fact the super centralized finance can make the necessities of life scarce or plenty at will.

Unfortunately, this sort of business disregards too much the fraternal obligation incumbent upon man to distribute the comforts of the day, and too often considers artificial scarcity as the quickest road to profit with the least effort of distribution. So we have always an aggravating shortage of the commonest necessities of life in the midst of plenty.

Like every other great country France produces enough for three times her population, yet there is vast disparity in the quantity of education given to her children. Nowhere on earth have we yet realized our ideal of giving all children equal educational opportunity. We are allowed to be born equal but there our equality ends. Our education is made to depend upon the financial circumstances of the family instead of the State.

So it happens that a majority of our children are thrown out of school into the treadmill of life several years before there is any justification for it.

As I write peacefully in the beautiful public parks which were once the love garden of many a tyrant of France, I am depressed under the presence and pressure of the men tyranny of enforced tribute to capital — those tributes we pay in the form of interest, rent, dividend, low wages and high prices. International finance constitutes itself the new tyrant of the world with the New York and London groups in the ascendant.

The lowering of the franc in the money comparison of the world is now a dictated affair, and we are forgetting that dictation once trained a French population to lower the Bastille and replace it with a graceful column, free and airy, called "La Victoire".

We can learn something by gazing upon the anglic figure surmounting that column. Better allow France to fully and equally educate all of her children than practice any more tyranny over the franc.

AMERICAN CANADIAN.

Editor — Canadian parliament is discarding the time-honored palladium

of democracy. Liberals and Conservatives are now alike committed to the use of closure, the device by which the government, at its discretion, may gag free speech. Now a motion has been introduced to abolish the requirement that members of parliament appointed to cabinet positions must stand for re-election. This proposal to further remove the government from the end of the by-party system, the action by the British parliament recently, it is likely to be adopted because it is in accord with the political trend. Another proposal, sponsored by financial press, is that great business leaders should be appointed as members of the government without portfolios, or responsibility to the voters, just "to create a thinking force capable of dealing with large problems and seeing that business principles shall be applied to the development and administration of the wealth of the country."

Under the British system of constitutional government, cabinet reorganizations have required by elections. And where such reorganizations involved anything like a radical change in the policy of the government, the defeat of the new ministers has traditionally called for the resignation of the government. But by making re-election unnecessary, new government may be formed with new policies, or no policies, and the electors will be deprived an expression of opinion except at the close of the parliamentary term of five years. Such a proposal paves the way for group governments, manipulated by family and financial intrigue; it signals the beginning of the end of the hierty system, the bulk work of bourgeois democracy. Governments will be able to function more freely as the organs of big industries and financial dynasties. This new apothosis of government, at the expense of the last relics of British form of political democracy, is demanded by the larger interests of the larger capitalism, and will no doubt be achieved despite the Labor Party's corporal guard or other paladins of the people.

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