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## Les camions de la mort

Une terrible tragédie de la rue vient d'envoyer dans l'éternité six personnes et onze autres à l'hôpital, dont deux assez grièvement blessées. Un auto-camion est entré en collision de tête avec un tramway; l'accident est arrivé sur le boulevard Saint-Laurent vers 1 h. 30 du matin. L'enquête se poursuit pour établir les responsabilités.

Sans vouloir entrer dans les détails de cette triste affaire que les journaux quotidiens ont rapportée avec force détails plus ou moins macabres, il est permis de se demander comment il se fait qu'un auto-camion pouvait transporter une vingtaine de personnes en dépit de la loi qui le défend, en plus d'une quantité assez considérable de marchandises de toutes sortes, d'autant plus que le propriétaire du camion venait d'être condamné pour une offense semblable.

Il paraît qu'un camion ne peut transporter des passagers si ceux-ci paient pour leur passage, car il devient alors un autobus, mais si ceux-ci ne paient que pour le transport de leur bagage, la preuve devient plus difficile à faire, et advenant le cas qu'ils ne paient pas du tout ou prétendent ne rien payer, cela devient encore plus compliqué; on dit même que, dans ces cas, un auto-camion ne peut transporter plus de dix personnes. Est-ce contrôlable?

Le moyen le plus expéditif et le plus radical serait de défendre d'une manière absolue qu'un auto-camion transporte des passagers, même gratuitement. C'est ce que l'opinion publique semble réclamer, à la suite de ce terrible accident. Nous estimons que ce serait aller beaucoup trop loin, ce serait supprimer d'un seul coup les pique-niques du dimanche qui sont à peu près le seul moyen à la disposition de nombreuses familles ouvrières pour aller respirer le grand air de la campagne, retremper leurs forces dans la grande nature et oublier pour quelques heures trop courtes la terrible lutte pour l'existence. Il devrait y avoir d'autres moyens moins radicaux pour empêcher la répétition de ces drames de la rue, pour contrôler le trafic des autos-camions plus efficacement, mais lesquels?

Dans le cas des théâtres, on a trouvé des moyens radicaux d'éviter les hécatombes telles que celle du Laurier-Palace. On est allé si loin qu'aujourd'hui aucun enfant âgé de moins de 16 ans, même s'il est accompagné de ses parents, ne peut avoir accès aux cinémas. Pourquoi être si sévère dans ce cas et laisser les voitures automobiles libres de faire concurrence à la guerre pour ouvrir les portes de l'éternité à notre population?

Au cours de l'enquête qui se continue la Ligue de la sécurité va être représentée, ne pourrait-elle continuer le beau travail qu'elle accomplit depuis plusieurs années, en orientant ses recherches pour découvrir combien d'heures consécutives le chauffeur de cet auto-camion de la mort était au volant. Nous estimons qu'un grand nombre de ces accidents sont dus au fait que les chauffeurs sont contraints de travailler de trop longues heures, qu'ils sont tellement fatigués que la nature reprend parfois le dessus et qu'ils s'endorment en menant leur voiture. Tous ceux qui conduisent un auto savent par expérience combien il est parfois difficile de ne pas s'assoupir à la roue. Quand cela arrive aux prudents, à ceux qui sont maîtres de leur temps, ils arrêtent pour quelques minutes afin de surmonter cette "endormitoire", mais ce n'est guère possible à un chauffeur de profession, il faut qu'il marche, que le trajet se fasse dans un temps déterminé, s'il veut conserver sa "job". On frémitrait si l'on savait combien d'heures de travail on exige de la plupart des chauffeurs et quel salaire de famine ils sont payés.

Il faudrait que leurs heures de travail soient limitées à un nombre raisonnable, afin qu'ils n'exposent ni leur vie, ni celle des autres, cela s'impose et au plus vite, puisqu'on a bien limité les heures de travail des employés de tramways, pourquoi ne pas en faire autant pour tous ceux qui conduisent des véhicules à force motrice?

Un autre point sur lequel cette enquête devrait porter: "que faisait un auto-camion chargé de passagers sur la grande route à une heure et demie du matin?" D'après les "on dit", il paraît que le propriétaire de cet auto-camion faisait un service régulier de transport entre Montréal et Sainte-Agathe. A quelle heure ce service commençait-il et à quelle heure se terminait-il?

Ne serait-il pas opportun de décréter qu'après une certaine heure aucun camion ne pourrait transporter des passagers. Pourquoi les laisserait-on circuler à toute heure de la nuit? C'est une menace continuelle qu'on pourrait supprimer sans faire grand tort à personne.

SOCIOUS.

## Contrats de travail

La loi de l'extension juridique des contrats de travail est graduellement appliquée partout. C'est une excellente chose. Sans parler des avantages directs qu'elle procure aux ouvriers — ce dont il a souvent été question — constatons deux bienfaits connexes qui en découlent immédiatement.

Le premier, c'est qu'il est établi, entre patrons et employés, des relations directes. Le second, c'est que les associations patronales et les syndicats ont éprouvé leur force et s'en sont servi à bon escient. Tout ce qui peut améliorer les rapports mutuels des chefs d'industries et de leurs collaborateurs manuels est éminemment désirable, bienfaisant et nécessaire. En notre province, nous n'avons pas de conflits sérieux, d'antagonisme foncier entre ces deux catégories de producteurs. Nous n'en avons pas besoin. La paix sociale est le plus précieux des biens civiques. Il n'a pas plu à la Providence de permettre qu'elle fût troublée chez nous.

Aussi longtemps que le gouvernement de la province se bornera à édicter des lois aptes à maintenir cette paix, il pourra compter sur la collaboration de tous ceux qui lui reprochent d'avoir, trop souvent, voté de mauvaise législation. L'extension du contrat de travail est chose sage. Il n'y a pas de raison sérieuse de s'y opposer en principe. Les seules résistances éprouvées jusqu'ici venaient précisément, pour la plupart, de patrons déjà dénoncés à l'enquête Stevens. C'est tout dire... — *L'illustration.*

## Qu'advient-il des secours directs

L'assemblée régulière du Conseil des Métiers et du Travail a été tenue jeudi soir dernier, à l'hôtel Mont-Royal, sous la présidence de G. R. Brunet, président, qui était assisté de vice-présidents J. E. Gariépy et Jack Cuppello. Malgré la chaleur intense qui régnait, on peut dire que les délégués firent esprit de coopération en se rendant aussi nombreux qu'ils l'ont fait, car l'assistance était considérable. De nombreuses questions très importantes furent traitées à cette assemblée.

La première question qui vint devant l'assemblée concernait une demande de souscription émanant du Parti ouvrier du Canada afin d'acheter un set de haut-parleurs pour être utilisés lors des assemblées publiques qui seront tenues dans le futur. Tous les délégués présents se montrèrent favorables à la souscription de \$5 des fonds du Conseil, et parlant sur la question, le délégué J. Cuppello demanda aux délégués de se faire l'interprète du Parti auprès de leurs unions afin que celles-ci aident également de leurs souscriptions, qu'elles soient petites ou grosses, elles seront reçues avec remerciements.

Le Comité de la Fête du Travail fut rapport de ses activités depuis la dernière assemblée et annonça aux délégués que la fête sportive aurait lieu au Parc Belmont cette année. Pour ce qui est de la parade, le Comité a cru bon de dévier de l'ancien parcours des années passées. Il annonce que demande a été faite au Directeur de la Sécurité pour procéder comme suit: rassemblement Avenue Duployé (Parc Lafontaine) vers le sud à Sherbrooke vers l'est jusqu'à Papineau vers le nord jusqu'au Boulevard t-Joseph, vers l'ouest jusqu'à la rue Esplanade ou Jeanne-Mance vers le sud à la Ferme Fletcher, lieu de démembrement.

Le secrétaire du Comité, le délégué J. E. Gariépy, fit un appel spécial aux délégués de vouloir bien aviser les unions respectives de répondre sans retard au questionnaire qui leur sera envoyé dans quelques jours. Le succès de la fête dépend de la promptitude des unions et de leur plus entière coopération.

L'échevin Jos Schubert qui assistait à la séance du Conseil pria celui-ci d'adopter une résolution analogue voté par le

Congrès des Métiers et du Travail du Canada relativement au boycottage des produits allemands. La demande du délégué Schubert fut adoptée par le Conseil.

A la suite de la lecture de la convocation de convention du Congrès des Métiers et du Travail du Canada, le Conseil décida de se faire représenter par trois délégués et qu'une somme de \$125 soit accordée à chaque délégué. Les élus sont Alphéus Mathieu, Jack Cuppello et J. Charron; les substitués seront Jos Pelletier et Hugh Corrigan.

Une protestation contre le "one-man" car venant des barbiers fut lue et adoptée unanimement par le Conseil.

L'importante et vitale question des secours directs vint de nouveau devant l'assemblée lorsque le délégué Candide Rochefort se leva sur une question de privilège. Comme il est impossible pour les différentes villes de continuer à porter le fardeau de ce genre de secours et qu'il y a même certains gouvernements provinciaux qui n'en peuvent davantage, il est urgent que le Gouvernement Fédéral prenne à sa charge l'entier fardeau, car c'est lui qui a le droit d'imposer des taxes directes, il n'est que juste qu'il supporte le fardeau de la situation. Lorsque la guerre s'est déclarée, il a su où prendre l'argent nécessaire, qu'il fasse de même en cette période troublée de chômage.

Les délégués Cuppello, Corrigan, Beaudry, Tremblay, Boisvert et Brunet parlèrent sur la question, et tous furent d'accord que le fédéral doit en assumer le fardeau et permettre aux villes et provinces de refaire leurs finances.

Le Conseil fera donc pression auprès du Fédéral dans ce but.

D'autres questions de moindre importance furent traitées et référées au Comité Exécutif pour étude et rapport.

Les délégués suivants furent admis à siéger: Charpentiers-menuisiers, local 134, P. Lefèvre, R. Gingras, E. J. Gingras et Emile Marchand

Comme il y avait vacance à la charge de sentinelle, le délégué Archambault a été élu par bulletin.

L'ordre du jour étant épuisé, l'assemblée est ajournée à jeudi, le 2 août.

### CHEZ LES BRIQUETIERS

Le deuxième appel que le Local No 4 des Briquetiers, Maçons et Marbriers lançait à ses anciens membres pour une assemblée tenue le 17 juillet dernier à ses quartiers généraux, 415, rue Sainte-Catherine Est, fut un véritable succès.

Son dévoué président, Henri Landry, était au fauteuil et présida aux délibérations et avec sa maîtrise habituelle il présenta les orateurs invités, trouvant pour chacun d'eux quelques mots discrets d'éloges en termes choisis et spirituels.

Le premier à prendre la parole fut le confrère Al. Bastien, organisateur général de la Fédération Américaine du Travail; il sut vite captiver l'intérêt de l'élément anglais par ses chaudes paroles, son expérience, son enthousiasme et sa personnalité qui en font un orateur des plus intéressants et des plus recherchés. Le président du Conseil des métiers de la construction de Montréal et la banlieue fut le deuxième orateur; il s'attira la sympathie de la foule par ses vibrants appels à l'unité internationale des métiers de la construction et avec sa fougue accoutumée fustigea les unions rivales qui nous apportent la désunion. Le confrère Emile Mathieu, secrétaire du Conseil des métiers de la construction de Montréal et agent d'affaires de l'Union des Travailleurs de métal en feuilles, local 116, de Montréal, lui succéda. Lui aussi ne fut pas tendre pour les autres unions rivales, il ne fut pas lent à s'accaparer sa légitime part de succès et d'applaudissements, donnant suite aux dernières remarques du président J.-A. Charron il demanda à l'assistance: "Qui était responsable du stigmate de honte attaché à un certain hôpital et à la réfection de plusieurs bâtiments de la montagne (l'université)"

L'orateur fit remarquer que ces deux monuments passeront à l'histoire comme

un tribut que le travail désorganisé paya aux années 1933-34.

D'autres orateurs, tels que MM. W. Slater, J. McBain, E. Provencher et Alb. Cole adressèrent aussi la parole et firent de vibrants appels aux anciens membres de rejoindre le plus tôt le Local No 4 qui fut le plus solide et le seul à donner satisfaction aux briquetiers de Montréal.

Dans l'assemblée on remarquait plusieurs membres dévoués des organisations rivales et on les vit applaudir aux différentes remarques des orateurs.

Après avoir donné les informations demandées, le président Henri Landry remercia les orateurs et les ex-membres qui ont bien voulu assister à l'assemblée et les invita à donner leurs noms, ce dont un grand nombre prirent avantage et l'assemblée se dispersa, non sans que les assistants et leurs camarades aient été invités à la prochaine assemblée de propagande qui sera tenue le 21 août 1934, au même endroit. — Communiqué.

### EN AVANT TOUJOURS

A la dernière assemblée du Club Central C. C. F., il fut décidé d'organiser prochainement un grand ralliement ouvrier à l'île Sainte-Hélène, pour donner au peuple le rapport de la convention nationale de la C. C. F., tenue ces jours derniers à Winnipeg. Des orateurs bien connus adresseront la parole sur des sujets qui sauront intéresser la classe productrice pour son avancement dans ce pays. Des jeux y seront organisés, des prix y seront distribués aux grands et petits. Tous les ouvriers, sans distinction d'affiliation, sont priés d'y assister. Allons en foule pour prouver notre solidarité. L'union fait la force.

Pour informations, voir Jean J. Beauchamp, 5071, rue Saint-Denis, BElair 2922.



# Quelques "à côtés" de la crise

Nous traversons une douloureuse phase de notre vie économique. Il n'y a pas que les chômeurs qui soient à plaindre. Ceux qui travaillent ne sont pas sur un lit de roses. Outre les salaires de misère ceux qui ont la chance d'avoir une position gagnent plusieurs fois leur argent. Les patrons sont devenus d'une exigence et d'une arrogance incroyables. Ils ont diminué de plus de la moitié le personnel d'autrefois, réduit les traitements à leur plus simple expression mais ils ont augmenté considérablement la somme de travail de ceux qu'ils ont bien voulu garder:

"Hein! vous n'avez pas à récriminer, c'est une belle grâce qu'on vous fait de vous faire gagner votre pain. Sans moi, vous seriez à la mendicité... Si vous n'êtes pas satisfaits, il y en a cent qui seraient aux anges d'avoir votre place..."

Les pauvres diables font la tâche de trois, de quatre, sans que le patron soit plus content pour tout cela... Il ne faut qu'il perde, lui. Le client, l'employé, soit, mais le bourgeois doit y trouver son compte bien rond. Qu'il tombe de la grêle, des sauterelles ou des clous pour les autres, mais qu'on l'épargne, ce profiteuse de la crise. C'est à son tour à tirer sur le pauvre monde. Soldat ou ouvrier, la peau des uns et la sueur des autres, c'est toujours le peuple qui écope dans ces histoires-là. La politique et le capital à tour de rôle exploitent la plèbe. Hier, c'était la guerre qui saignait l'humanité à blanc, aujourd'hui, ce sont les trusts, les combines de toutes sortes qui l'affament. On ne sait pas "qui c'est". Ils placent le tort les uns sur les autres. Ces loups opèrent à la faveur de la nuit. On ne voit plus leurs yeux de feu dans les fourrés, on ne sent plus leur haleine brûlante courir sur notre nuque. Ils se gardent bien de se promener en bandes comme autrefois, car ils ont peur des battues dans les bois. Le matin, on trouve des brebis égorgées dans le bécail, les poulaillers sont dévastés, les hangars pillés et personne n'a rien vu. Depuis tant d'années déjà que l'on fait enquête sur enquête pour connaître les causes de la dépression. Le sphinx, le front dur, garde son secret. Quelle débâche de mots, de sophismes et de mensonges! Tout le monde est coupable. Chacun doit se frapper la poitrine — les pharisiens, les exploités exceptés, et s'accuser de tous les crimes. C'est l'histoire des animaux frappés de la peste, l'âne bat sa coule sur l'échine d'un plus stupide que lui:

"Moi, dans le temps des gros salaires, j'ai gaspillé tout ce que je gagnais, je n'ai rien su mettre de côté pour les mauvais jours et la vieillesse."

Les lions de clubs, qui jetaient leurs millions par la fenêtre, hurlent:

"C'est lui, ce pelé, ce galeux, qui a tondu la largeur de sa langue dans le pré voisin! Il souffre, il se plaint, mais il n'a pas volé ses malheurs!... C'est lui qui a comme l'araignée tissé la toile grise, opaque où nous étouffons!..."

Redevenu pharaon, tyran et exploiteur de la chair humaine, le maître montre les grosses dents. S'il ne prend pas le fouet pour conduire ses esclaves au travail, c'est qu'il a d'autres moyens de les atteindre au plus maigre. Il y a quelques années le bourgeois y mettait des formes. Il se montrait poli et aimable avec ses subalternes. Aujourd'hui, il a dépoilé le bon monsieur avec son paternisme conventionnel. Il a le ton rogue et dur, il roule tout le temps des gros yeux. Il arrive à des heures inattendues pour surprendre les hommes en flagrant délit de conversation ou de flânerie. Ils ne peuvent plus souffler, ni s'ôter les yeux de leur ouvrage. Ils sont guettés, espionnés, trahis. Pour un retard de cinq minutes, une maison de commerce des plus importantes a congédié un bon employé, sans vouloir entendre ses raisons qui pouvaient être bonnes. L'unique dactylographe de trois bureaux d'avocats, depuis cinq ans de ce régime pire que celui de la prison des femmes, n'est plus que l'ombre d'elle-même. Maigre, les épaules rentrées, c'est une candidate à la tuberculose. Je connais un clerc dont le notaire, son patron, tire un parti inat-

tendu de ses loisirs. Il lui fait laver les couches de son dernier-né et polir ses meubles. Il fait les commissions de madame, cire les chaussures de l'homme de loi ou pèle les patates. Il endure ces indignités, car il pourrait être plus mal. Un de ses amis, apprenti électricien, dans ses moments perdus, mais que le patron a su retrouver, scie du bois, "pelte" de la neige, blanchit le linge, le frotte sur la laveuse en zinc et tourne la manivelle de l'essoreuse. Un vrai cheval de carrousel, quoi!

Les servantes sont esquinées par des ménagères inhumaines qui ne savent quoi inventer pour les tenir en haleine tout le temps:

"Quand vous aurez fini votre vaisselle, il y a des bas à repriser et une poule à plumer... C'est ennuyeux de se tourner les pouces toute la soirée... Vous polirez le piano, comme une bonne fille, après avoir lavé vos torchons de vaisselle..."

Que voulez-vous, c'est la crise!! Il faut s'en tirer. Ce régime d'économie à outrance favorise le gros, mais écrase le petit. C'est toujours sur lui en somme que les tuiles tombent et qui écope dans les catastrophes. C'est lui la chair à canon et la chair à exploitation! C'est lui la cible des flèches acérées du destin! Le bourgeois, qui a diminué ses dépenses sans réduire de beaucoup ses excès, ne souffre guère de la dépression. Il faut voir scintiller au soleil le nickel des automobiles de luxe, un véritable éblouissement! pour comprendre que nombre de gens à côté de la multitude affamée prennent les bouchées doubles... Ils se plaignent cependant et plus haut que les autres. Leur visage comme celui des pharisiens affecte une tristesse hypocrite. Ces sépulchres blanchis à la poudre de riz ne recèlent que pourriture. Ces faux faméliques serrent leur bedon en des corsets rigides. Qui sait si ces profiteurs n'empêchent pas par quelques nouveaux trucs et des manigances coupables le retour à la prospérité?...

Si le peuple pâtit, c'est un signe évident que d'autres se gavent à ses dépens. La vie est un peu comme autrefois le traversier de l'île Sainte-Hélène dont le balancier haussait d'un côté quand il baissait de l'autre. Est-ce bien que pour garder l'équilibre social, il faut qu'il y en ait qui nagent dans le bien-être et que d'autres crèvent de faim?

JULIEN SAINT-MICHEL.

## CINEMA

La campagne entreprise aux Etats-Unis contre le cinéma immoral marche de succès en succès. Protestants et juifs honnêtes s'y associent. Evidemment, il était opportun que quelque chose fût tenté.

Ce qui a le plus grandement nui, chez nous, aux efforts des gens honnêtes — dans tous les sens du mot — pour enrayer la bêtise lascive et cupide de tant d'entrepreneurs, ça été l'ineptie de certains foudres de vertu, ignares, butés, étroits, qui ont dégoûté les esprits pondérés et sensés de l'utilité même de la censure.

On a vu, à Québec, par exemple, quelques abrutis fanatisés menacer d'aller casser les vitres du théâtre qui projetait "Fanny". On a vu la censure provinciale réduire à une salade informe cette merveille qu'est "L'Homme qui assassina". Mais jamais, au grand jamais, ces gens-là n'ont jugé opportun de protester contre les âneries du genre de "Husbands to let" ou de "Follies of 1933", où ce qu'il y avait de mieux était encore tout de même les anatomies féminines.

Chez nous, nos censeurs n'en ont que contre le film français (ou prétendu français: car il l'est rarement, très rarement, fût-il signé de Natan, de Braunberger, de Diaamnt-Berger, de M. Ufa, de Madame Osso, ou d'autres authentiques Bretons de Basse-Bretagne). Tout film yanki passe. Et c'est dans leur ramassis qu'on trouve les plus beaux spécimens d'amoralité ou d'immoralité, alors que le film au dialogue français en est, dans l'ensemble, et quelle que soit sa provenance, remarquablement exempté.

D'où il suit que c'était aux Etats-Unis de commencer l'épuration. — L'Illustration.

# LABOR DIRECTORY

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

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**WOOD, WIRE & METAL LATHERS, Local 315 of Montreal.**—Meetings every 2nd Wednesday at 1182 St. Lawrence Blvd. (Monument National), room 15. Frank Horn, Financial-Secretary, 3698 Jeanne Mance Street, Telephone: HArbour 4497.

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

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## Une conférence

M. Maurice Biltis, président et agent d'affaires de l'Union des Employés de provisions, fruits et viande, nous fait parvenir les renseignements qui suivent sur les activités de son organisme:

"Depuis le commencement de notre organisation, nous soutenons que le but de l'union est de travailler tous ensemble à améliorer les conditions des employés et de coopérer avec les employeurs et aussi ceux des magasins-chaines et indépendants.

"Nous admettons les difficultés qui existent dans le commerce pour les Exécutifs des chaines, et la lutte des Indépendants pour rester en affaires, vu la concurrence énorme dans ces lignes, mais d'un autre côté, nous croyons que le public en général ne s'opposera pas à ce que leurs employés, hommes et femmes, obtiennent des heures réduites ainsi qu'un salaire suffisant pour vivre.

"Pour arriver à un arrangement avec les

employeurs épiciers, bouchers, marchands de fruits et légumes, et discuter les avantages de la loi relative à l'extension des conventions collectives de travail, nous avons invité les exécutifs des magasins à chaines d'épicerie ainsi que les indépendants pour discuter et arriver à un arrangement en vertu de cette nouvelle législation. Nos membres en obtenant cette amélioration de conditions de travail deviendront non seulement pas plus efficaces, mais aussi de meilleurs citoyens.

"Je suis heureux de constater," a dit M. Biltis, "que la réponse des exécutifs des chaines a été très sympathique et je désire exprimer mes remerciements à ceux qui ont accepté l'invitation d'assister à cette conférence qui eut lieu à l'hôtel Mont-Royal, jeudi, le 19 courant. L'honorable C.-J. Arcand, ministre du Travail, qui est bien sympathique à notre cause, et qui connaît bien de son côté la position des employeurs, a été invité."

### PAUVRES COMMIS !

Les employés bouchers, épiciers et fruitiers se plaignent avec raison des heures trop longues qu'on leur impose. Ces employés commencent à travailler tôt le matin pour ne retourner chez eux le soir qu'après 7 heures, alors que ces magasins ferment. Le vendredi, ils travaillent jusque passé 9 heures. Le samedi, on les retient jusqu'à minuit, quelquefois plus tard, jusqu'à ce qu'ils aient tout remis en ordre.

Si l'on considère les salaires très réduits que les patrons leur paient, leur sort n'est pas très intéressant. Aussi ont-ils protesté auprès des autorités municipales pour faire amender le règlement de fermeture.

Ils allèguent que l'ouverture des magasins jusqu'à sept heures, cinq soirs par semaine, et jusqu'à onze heures le samedi soir, n'est pas nécessaire si l'on considère que les clients ont toute facilité de compléter leurs emplettes beaucoup plus tôt.

Ces employés ne peuvent pas jouir du

repos de la fin de semaine. Comme ils terminent leur travail tard dans la nuit du samedi, ils sont trop harassés pour songer à prendre quelque délassément le dimanche. Ils ne peuvent pas davantage profiter des soirées de la semaine, puisque la fermeture à sept heures leur laisse tout juste le temps de rentrer chez eux avant la tombée de la nuit.

Leurs revendications, semble-t-il, ne sont que justes. Ces longues heures étaient à peine excusables au temps où les employeurs offraient des salaires rémunérateurs. Maintenant que les salaires sont très réduits, est-il juste d'imposer à ces employés pareille servitude? — *L'Illustration*.

### GREVE DANS LA CONFECTION.

Dans la confection, si les événements ne sont pas détournés de leurs cours, il est trop probable que la grève ne sera pas évitée. Les ouvriers hésitent à recourir à cette extrémité, mais s'ils y sont forcés ils n'hésiteront plus: ce sera la grève.

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## Tram et taxi

La Compagnie du tramway nous fait parvenir une brochure, élégante et correctement rédigée, où elle s'attaque au taxi.

Sans entrer, ce matin, dans le fonds même du sujet — qui est l'urgence d'imposer de forts impôts aux voitures à taximètre —, constatons simplement que la réponse à la brochure serait chose très facile.

Que la guerre des taux, entre les compagnies de taxi, soit ruineuse, personne ne le nie. Mais que le Tramway ait le droit de s'en plaindre et d'en prendre prétexte pour demander qu'on assimile à lui-même son concurrent, c'est exagéré autant qu'inopportun. Le Tramway n'a pas l'oreille publique en ce moment. Et s'il ne l'a pas, c'est sa faute. C'est sa faute aussi si la vogue du taxi s'est accrue.

La Compagnie s'est toujours moquée des usagers, de leurs demandes romme de leurs plaintes, voire de leurs personnes. Elle est allée jusqu'au Conseil privé pour tenter de ne pas verser à l'une de ses victimes une compensation à un accident dont les tribunaux l'avaient jugée responsable. De-

puis quelques mois, elle donne un service abominable: suppression de circuits, raccourcissement des trajets, espacement intolérable des voitures, et surtout remplacement des trams normaux par l'exécrable monotram. Prières, protestations, clamours, elle s'en fiche.

Cinq personnes attendent — le cas est d'avant-hier —, au coin des rues de la Roche et du Mont-Royal, le tramway qui les conduira à l'Aréna. Deux minutes, cinq minutes, sept minutes, dix minutes: rien ne vient. L'un des expectants suggère aux quatre autres de sauter dans un taxi, ce qui est accepté. En deux minutes, le "voyage" est arrivé à son terme. Il en coûte en tout, pourboire au chauffeur compris, trente-cinq sous.

Si la Compagnie s'était donné la peine de songer qu'il y avait lutte à l'Aréna, si elle avait fourni un service convenable, ces cinq hommes auraient pris le tram. Ils ne se sont servis du taxi que devant l'inexistence d'autre mode de transport relativement rapide. Et, l'expérience tentée et réussie, il est probable que chacun des cinq, en des circonstances analogues, la répètera.

Le public n'existe pas pour le Tramway, mais bien le Tramway pour le public. La Compagnie ne veut pas le comprendre. Tant pis pour elle si le public le lui dit. — *L'Illustration*, 11 juillet.

BUVEZ

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PRIME PAR LA FORCE ET PAR LA QUALITÉ

577

# The Workers' Power to Influence Parliament

Industry Must Not Only be Democratized But Made to Serve the Best Interests of the Citizen and the Community.

By BERNARD ROSE.

Although Ralph Waldo Trine wrote his "The Land of Living Men" in 1910, the conditions, to which he drew attention and criticized, have not been sensibly ameliorated in the interval.

In certain industries, working hours have been reduced, and during the boom years, wages in the skilled crafts were sufficient to enable the worker to live comfortably. The situation, as he then outlined it, still requires improvement. Mr. Trine wrote as one interested in the welfare of his fellow men. His tone is that of the benevolent reformer, who, although not resorting to strong language, is frequently outspoken in his repudiation of the conditions to which he directs the attention of his readers.

Speaking of what the worker has to contend with, Mr. Trine says: "Undoubtedly lack of regular employment, sickness or weakness, combined with the receiving of a mere living wage, which leaves no opportunity to meet any emergency successfully, is responsible for the great proportion of the poverty and resultant pauperism that is in existence in our own as well as in so many other countries today. The uncertainty and darkness that the combination brings into the lives of millions of otherwise strong, honest, hard-working, and withal deserving, people, is almost undecipherable. We make it hard for many a man to be honest and independent and self-respecting, and when with all his magnificent struggles he eventually goes under, we throw the role of the criminal or the pauper upon him and those dependent on him."

Why honest, hard-working, and deserving people should become the victims of unemployment, sickness, and weakness, through no fault of their own, is what has caused not only those interested in the welfare of the worker, but even statesmen, serious concern. At one time, the attitude of those confronted with the conditions and the deplorable plight of the unemployed, sick, or afflicted, was fatalistic. It was taken for granted that unemployment, sickness, and privation, were inevitable, and little that man could do would alter things. Those who refused to adopt this attitude, pointed out that most of the ills from which man suffers, are of his own making, and can be cured by wise action on his part. We must no longer tolerate the possibility of men slowly wasting away, through lack of sufficient food, due to the difficulty of obtaining employment and their families dying of starvation.

In Mr. Trine's opinion: "We must learn that the duty of our industries is not done with the payment of just a living wage. Compensation must be adequate to enable something to be laid by for the emergency that comes to every individual and to every family."

The emergencies, to which he refers, come to almost every working family. These can be guarded against, given the goodwill on the part of Governments, and the workers insisting on their right to such compensation and consideration they are entitled to as producers and citizens.

The well being of the average workingman's family is contingent upon the wage or salary he receives. The difference between the worker who is properly fed, housed, and clothed, and one who hardly gets the necessaries of life, not to speak of comforts or luxuries, and provision for emergencies, is purely one of wages.

Mr. Trine quotes Professor Edward D. Jones, who says: "The necessity for higher wages is based upon the observation that, in the purchase and sale of labor upon the market, all the necessary and legitimate costs of producing labor are not provided for in the wages received. Such transactions are not complete economically, and do not meet the claims of social justice. Fair wages must include more than enough to support the laborer while working, and must cover compensation for seasons of idleness due to sickness, old age, youth, lack of work, or other causes beyond the control of the laborer."

Labor unions and reformers have long held that the wage or salary paid the worker or employee should cover compensation for idleness due to the causes mentioned in the extract given. Certain countries have already adopted unemployment insurance, sickness, as well as old age pensions. Canada is still behind in respect of the first, although several of the provinces now pay old age pensions. Governments no longer rely upon the voluntary kindness or benevolence of employers, to make provision for their workers during periods of unemployment, and when they reach an age that precludes their continuing at their occupation. Before these measures were adopted, considerable opposition developed, but this was overcome, since it was demonstrated, beyond any doubt, that the wealth of the State permitted making provision for unemployment as well as old age. Hence the view of Mr. Trine that: "The greed for gain when it once takes possession of a man is never satisfied, and the only way many times to protect the helpless from the brute is for society itself to stretch forth its strong mandatory arm."

Those who resent the intervention or interference of the State in the relations of employer and employee, cannot advance any ethical or just reason for their opposition to such intervention or interference. It is largely due to the fear that from their abundance, the Government may take something to help those less fortunate. The justification for such intervention or interference is, as Mr. Trine further points out: "The increase in general prosperity and of those at the upper end has been out of all proportion to that of the great laboring and middle class. The masses of the people are not getting their just relative increase."

A better distribution of the national wealth is the best prophylactic against social disorder. It also makes for economic hygiene, inasmuch as the worker gets a fairer share of what he helps to produce.

Although writing almost a quarter of a century ago, he even then said: "The masses of the people of all types are becoming profoundly dissatisfied with present conditions. They are inquiring into their causes, and where this is, there is hope. It tells also much of the future outcome."

"And just as soon as sufficient number of our people take enough interest in the public welfare, — which means always their own welfare to a far greater degree than many are given to realize, and thereby become conversant with the actual conditions that are fast crystallizing about us and the agencies that are at work in their sly and subtle manner bringing them about then the forces will be engendered that will take the Republic to that eminent and true position, that by the grace of God and the awakened common-sense of the people, we believe it shall yet attain."

What the masses have undergone, within the last three or four years, shows how difficult it is for employers and Governments to move in the direction of promoting public welfare. There has been altogether too much indifference on the part of both employers and Governments, to the lot of the millions of workers who constitute the vital productive force of the nation, and whose efforts, energies, and skill, create the wealth which gives the nation

the means to meet its obligations and permit a few to accumulate very large fortunes.

We hardly lay sufficient emphasis upon the remarkable changes that have been wrought within the last four or five decades. It has been difficult to convince employers and Governments, that because of the introduction of machinery which has made possible production along mass lines, that the ability of the workers to consume must be commensurate with the share of the product which they get in the form of wages or salaries. Concurrently with the increase in production has come a contraction of purchasing power, resulting in unemployment for longer or shorter periods.

Mr. Trine, in his book, expresses agreement with Professor Smart of Glasgow, who said: "But when machinery is replacing man and doing the heavy work of industry, it is time to get rid of that ancient prejudice that man must work ten hours a day to keep the world up to the level of the comfort it has attained. Possibly, if we clear our minds of cant, we may see that the reason why we still wish the laborer to work ten hours a day is that we, the comfortable classes, may go on receiving the lion's share of the wealth these machines, iron and human, are turning out."

Economists who take this broad view are few in number. It has been the engineer, rather than the economist, who has, with facts and figures to support him, demonstrated man's ability to increase production in so enormous a degree, that the welfare of the worker, both present and future, calls for a drastic reduction in the number of hours worked, in order that unemployment on a considerable scale be prevented and the worker be given the leisure permitting him to consume a larger share of what is produced, and which he has not been getting, in spite of the increase in the amount of wealth created.

Our author does not advocate rash experimenting along social or political lines. His viewpoint is that of the democrat who believes in the people exercising the rights guaranteed them by the constitution and laws of their country. As he well says: "The great common people have everything in their hands when they once fully realize it. They must come forward and make politicians and the moneyed interests know their power. They must take over and back to themselves the power that they have gradually allowed to be usurped by the politician, the political leader, for these enormously fat and gorged concerns and individuals."

"A people with that great weapon of freedom — the franchise — are invincible in the expression of their preferences and their demands when they present an intelligent and united interest, if it be done before special privilege with its great accumulations of wealth and power has grown too great and too cunning and too corrupting."

An enraged people can make their influence felt with the agencies at their command in a democratic country. This was demonstrated in the most emphatic manner in the last American Presidential elections, and likewise in what recently took place in two of the Canadian provinces. It is wholly within the power of the people to shape their own economic and political destiny. The ballot is a far superior agency to the weapon and organized violence in securing reforms.

When Mr. Trine wrote, he believed: "We are to have among us a revolution, a great and a very clear-cut revolution, but a great people's movement insures that it will be an evolutionary revolution, a peaceable revolution, but no less marked and telling, in fact, far more telling than any blood revolution can possibly be."

"In an intelligent and a determined political action on the part of the common people lies our safety; it is along this path that we must move."

Those who are opposed to the movements that advocate the overthrow of democratic Governments, tell the people that intelligent and determined political action can accomplish all that they desire in the way of reform.

Mr. Trine repeats what has so often been stated by the students of political institutions, that: "We must recognize once and for all the fact that government is always as good as the people demand it should be."

The people certainly do get the Government they deserve, and notwithstanding the contempt which some express for the people, they generally when once they are awakened, secure a Government prepared to meet their views.

The State has undergone a measure of evolution and is looked upon as the embodiment of the collective will. What this will desires, is ascertained through the political and administrative agencies of the State. Those who make and administer the laws, are expected to legislate and administer with a view to the welfare of the majority rather than a privileged few. The State because of its paramount authority, and through the agencies mentioned, can order that: "The wealth that is created by the common needs of the people or by the continually growing life of all the people should belong to all the people. By moral right it belongs to them, and without undue delay, that which belongs to the people morally must be made to belong to them legally and by custom."

Although this stage is not, nor is likely to be reached, for some time, the growing power of workers will enable them to secure an ever larger and fairer share of what they help to produce in co-operation with the technical and executive directors of the industry.

Discussing "Labor And Its Uniting Power," he pays deserved tribute to what the trade union has accomplished. It is quite evident, judging by the extract which follows, that he appreciates what they have and can accomplish. He says: "I know that there are various opinions held in regard to the purposes and even the good of our labor unions. This can be said, however, and without any fear of successful contradiction, that those who know most of them and what they have accomplished, and most of the business and labor world in general, realize the splendid results they have already achieved and the equally important work that is yet before them."

He also quotes the testimony of Mr. W. H. Sayward, the representative of the Boston Building Trades, which was to the following effect: "My experience has convinced me that labor thoroughly organized and honestly recognized is even more important for the employer than for the workmen. It makes possible a working method between the two parties which removes one by one the most dangerous elements of conflict and misunderstanding."

It seems somewhat of a coincidence, that one of the first industries to adopt a working method between the two parties is the building industry in our own city, which has entered into an agreement in accordance with the terms of the recently enacted Collective Labor Agreements Extension Act.

(Continued on page 8)

# Canada Waking Up

A Day to Day Cross-Section of Canadian Opinion Based on Extracts from Letters received by  
J. S. Woodsworth, National Chairman of the C. C. F.

(Compiled by Charles J. Woodsworth.)

A farmer from Stonewall, Man., writes:

"Yesterday I was looking up some of Mr. Bennett's fine speeches, especially the one he made in Winnipeg on June 10, 1930. Mr. Bennett has urged people to take a look at themselves in the looking glass if they wish to find the cause of the present depression. I have taken that look and I can't help but blame myself along with the other people who believed that all of these promises would be fulfilled."

A survey of opinion based on letters from scattered points across Canada indicates that the Stonewall farmer is not the only one who is regarding both himself and the reigning political parties critically. From every province in the Dominion and from persons of all walks of life comes an insistent demand for a change, not of a Liberal government for a Conservative one but of a government based on the new principles of social justice.

Favorable opinion regarding the C. C. F. is not confined to Canada. From far-flung corners of the globe come messages of interest and encouragement, hope that the movement will win to power and succeed in establishing a system under which the majority of people will be able to share the nation's wealth instead of a privileged few.

## PART I

A farmer and his wife — MacRorie, Sask.:

The Wife:

"..... well you know the tears came and I could not go on reading the rest of that friend's letter to my hubbie. We have not sent you a line of encouragement lately but we are with you and the others who are waging such a strenuous fight for better conditions which are so badly needed and which must come while those in power are wasting our time and money playing Parliamentary bickering and haggling. If they got what they deserve they would be thrown out. I would like to put them on relief and keep them there a while and see how they would enjoy going short of common necessities. After working hard all our lives we are at the mercy of those men..... the want and hardships that the people on the prairies are going through."

The Husband:

"..... the strong financial opposition which is trying to destroy and kill nearly every move for a better and saner world. All I can say, as I see it you are gaining. It is the younger generation who will give an account of themselves in the future."

\* \* \*

A Toronto Tailor:

"..... I want to thank you for the service you are rendering the people of Canada. I don't know whether you know the tremendous growth of feeling for the C. C. F. or not, by the general public....."

\* \* \*

Elgin, Man.:

"After carefully studying your programme I have come to the conclusion that you and your co-workers have the only possible remedy which will eventually lead the workers and farmers of this country out of this terrible condition of affairs..... The farmers are now beginning to realize that the two old parties are obsolete and economic conditions are forcing their backs to the wall....."

\* \* \*

Fall River, Mass., U. S. A. (A French-Canadian Catholic supporter of Norman Thomas):

"Because of the cause and ideals you and your party fight for..... I hope to be of service in answering any or all slanders made against it in French-Canadian papers....."

\* \* \*

Toronto, Ont.:

"Our war being a War of Peace can be won but it requires the combined efforts of us all."

\* \* \*

Wabigoon, Ont.:

"..... the consensus of opinion here seems to be very strongly in favor of the C. C. F. movement. We are all, or I may say the majority, are utterly sick of the present grandiose humbug. The only example they cater to is partizanship. Neither side have a platform. They are hopelessly at sea and are gradually placing the country four hundred years back to the time of slavery. (Re road work by men in "slave camps")..... What a proud thing it will be in years to come to say that this work was done by slave labor!"

\* \* \*

Weymouth, N. S.:

"I have had little opportunity to see any official C. C. F. literature. I have to take what I can gather from the press which seems to be bent on ridiculing it out of existence..... At any rate I am not prejudiced by any party ties and am rather inclined to the opinion that if common sense and consistency count for anything the C. C. F. are more entitled to manage our affairs than Mr. R. Benito Bennett."

\* \* \*

Chengtu, West China (From a Canadian missionary):

"Greetings from West China! We may be far away, but our hearts are with you in the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation..."

Editor "Common Sense," New York City: (requesting article on C. C. F.):

"It might be also of interest to American readers to consider the possibility of international co-operation between Canada and the United States on this tremendous enterprise (institution of the co-operative system). We feel that there is little hope of President Roosevelt going farther left. The NRA has definitely failed, excepting as a new advance of monopoly. Before long a real radical movement will be essential in this country."

\* \* \*

Telegram from Winnipeg (following trouble in Ontario):

"Representatives of Labor Women's Federation of Manitoba from North Centre Winnipeg, Elmwood, West Kildonan, East Kildonan, Norwood, Fort Garry, Fort Rouge, St. Vital Workmen's Circle, South Centre Labor Women of Greater Winnipeg gathered this evening passed resolution conveying to you and your colleagues a message of appreciation, encouragement and esteem in the courageous work you are undertaking on behalf of humanity and a nobler Canadian life."

(To be continued)

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New Legislation

## An Act respecting the Extension of Collective Labor Agreements

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THE LABOR WORLD, 11 St. Paul Street West  
MONTREAL

## Depression vs. Exploitation

Brutally Selfish Employers are Mercilessly Exploiting the Victims of the Depression. The Conscience of the Nation Must be Aroused!

By BERNARD ROSE.

During the course of a conversation with a confrère, the son of one of Montreal's most beloved and highly respected clergymen, he told me that a brother, who has been out of work for some time, answering an advertisement for employment, was informed that the salary would be seventy-five cents a day. Seventy-five cents a day for an able-bodied young man already over the age of majority, who was fortunate in receiving a fair education, possessed of health and strength, and ready to give of his best to a fair employer who would avail himself of his services!

Refusing to accept employment under such conditions, since it would necessitate working for seven and a half cents an hour, and deprive an able-bodied head of a family of employment, he suggested to a friend likewise out of work, that he make application for the position which was ostensibly to check trucks, but in reality, to do work entailing considerable physical exertion. When this second young man called and kept a check of the trucks that passed, he was asked by the party wheeling the truck whether he was ready to help him. He replied that he understood his duty was to merely check the trucks as they passed a given point, and not to act as an assistant to the laborer wheeling the truck. He then telephoned to the employer and was told that his salary for three days would be a dollar and a half, and that he would have to assist as well as check the employee wheeling the truck.

Such action on the part of an employer shows to what lengths a certain type of unscrupulous employer will go, in taking advantage of the critical employment situation, to force men and women to work for a wage wholly inadequate to enable them to purchase even the barest necessities of life.

It is unfortunate that, in this great Christian city of Montreal, there are scoundrelly persons who do not give a second thought to the plight and despair of thousands of their fellow citizens who, through no fault of their own, are unable to obtain work. Such human ghouls as the type of employer mentioned in the preceding paragraph are unfit to live in decent society. They are directly responsible for the increase in crime and prostitution. They violate all Christian and social laws. They are a menace to the community. They are responsible for those who apply to them for employment, falling into a state of despair that makes them look upon life as a burden too heavy to be borne.

Why employers who can afford to pay not high wages, but sufficient to enable those who work for them to buy the necessities of life, should stoop to such despicable lengths to degrade their employees still further, is almost beyond belief! The employer, who acts in this way, is nothing less than a common thief! Strong language it may be said, but nevertheless justified, when directed at those who steal the labor of the men and women who, seeking employment, and having no alternative but the dole, must accept the starvation wages or salary offered. Doubtless the employer who takes a grossly unfair advantage of the urgent needs of the worker male or female, who has fallen into the slough of despond, would resent being accused of brutality and being unchristian. He no doubt occasionally goes to church! In all likelihood he contributes to philanthropic organizations. On the Sabbath day he recites the creed or the prayers of the church to which he belongs and goes home feeling at peace with himself and the world. Men of this type are not Christians. They are not fit to be included in the category of the followers and disciples of the Great Reformer who made the supreme sacrifice, in order to demonstrate his sincerity and love for mankind!

I have had occasion, more than once, to refer to the evidence given before the Stevens Committee, when highly paid executives spoke with apparent relish of the positions they occupied, and the very large and exorbitant salaries which they received out of the earnings and profits of the firms employing them, and to which the underpaid and oppressed workers contributed in so large a measure.

For the fair employer, I have at all times expressed the warmest regard. For the executive who appreciates his responsibilities and opportunities in doing what he can to properly treat and decently pay his employees, I have the highest admiration. For the corporation that has not reduced wages or salaries during the depression, I have spoken of more than once in terms of deserved praise, and will speak again when the occasion presents itself. But for the employer, executive, or corporation that descends to the level of making workers serfs, and forcing them to live lives that are in no way different from that of the underpaid, over-worked, and exploited oriental, I have nothing but contempt! How to remedy this situation is what is causing serious concern to statesmen, enlightened politicians, labor leaders, and sincere preachers of the Word. It is a situation that can be remedied, if all men impelled by a desire to help their stricken economic fellows, will unite and raise their voices, so that the conscience of the nation will be aroused and so intense an indignation provoked, that all good men and women will unanimously demand that appropriate legislation be passed that will deal with the situation in the manner required.

Not only must the legislation be passed, but strictly enforced, if justice is to be done those who are not only the victims of the depression, but exploiting employers.

From every pulpit throughout the land, whether its incumbent is a Protestant, Catholic, or a member of other faiths, there must go forth a clarion call to action! If those who preach in the Master's name will do this, not only one day a week, but every day, there is no doubt that no long delay will elapse, when stirred by the denunciation of the conditions mentioned, and affecting hundreds of thousands of good men and women, those who are in a position to deal with the situation, will realize their responsibilities and conform to not only the teaching of the Gospel, but their own questioning conscience, and give relief to those who have suffered during the past four years, and according to the case cited, are the victims of the conscienceless exploitation of brutally selfish men.

Those who labor are entitled to a living wage. If employers, large or small, refuse to give them this wage, the Legislature and Parliament must intervene. Only thus, is it possible to maintain social peace, which is endangered because of the covetousness, cupidity, and inhumanity of those in a position to give employment, but totally devoid of feeling for those who are the victims of the depression and forced to seek any employment that is available.

## NEWS FROM OTTAWA.

### Money Power in Canada

Contributed by the Bureau of Social Research, Ottawa.

#### THE SOURCE OF PURCHASING POWER

Purchasing Power is merely an economic expression implying the ability to obtain and use the myriad necessities and luxuries so freely produced under our modern industrial system. In spite of the fact that this system is criminally wasteful, it is efficient enough to produce in abundance everything humanity requires. Yet the vast majority of the people throughout the world are insufficiently clothed, underfed, and pass from the cradle to the grave without being given any opportunity of acquiring those things which "make life worth living."

This complicated system of production has come into existence without a definite plan of distributing those things which it produces in such vast quantities. It costs more to sell some articles than it does to produce them! Millions of dollars are spent annually in advertising in order to "create a demand," when, in reality, people do not buy simply because they know they cannot afford to buy, and also because they object to paying for an article three or four times what it actually cost to produce.

#### Labor Is The Source of Wealth.

Under our present economic system there is only one recognized method of placing purchasing power in the hands of the people, and that is through the sale of their labor of hand and brain. Some may question this statement, pointing out that purchasing power is available to a great many who neither toil nor spin, nor use their brain to any good purpose. Yet a moment's thought will be sufficient to point out that even such people must depend on the workers for their dividends, rents, and other sources of so-called unearned income.

"Labor," says Adam Smith, "was the first price, the original purchase money that was paid for all things," and it is only as labor, (mental as well as manual), is applied to the production of useful goods, that purchasing power is created.

Labor, then, or rather the wages paid for labor, is the very root of our present economic system, for labor both produces and consumes. It is a vital necessity, then, that those who labor must be supplied with sufficient purchasing power to obtain possession of the things they produce. Imagine, if you can, a country whose scientists and inventors had constructed such perfect machines that all work was performed automatically. While these machines were being manufactured, and factories were being constructed to house them, there would probably be a short period of considerable prosperity, because the workers would be fully employed, and wages would be freely distributed. Presently a time would arrive when the machines would be ready to set to work manufacturing every conceivable kind of goods for the use of humanity. The workers would be discharged, but the machines would pour out endless quantities of clothing, automobiles, radios, etc., which no one could buy because no one was working.

#### A Lifetime Razor Blade.

Industry has only been able to function because man, as a machine, was also a consumer. But when the machine becomes a producer only, and not a consumer, our industrial and financial system must cease to operate. And this is a condition of affairs which is rapidly overtaking the world.

So long as industry has to depend upon the wages of the workers to purchase the things which it produces, it simply cannot afford to make full use of all the wonderful inventions and discoveries which would revolutionize the world. Perhaps one of the simplest examples of sheer waste, in order to uphold our present trading system, is the common razor blade. Actually it is easily possible to produce a blade with a tungsten carbide edge on a steel wafer base at just 20% additional cost over the ordinary blade. But it would last a lifetime or longer! The razor blade manufacturers could quickly supply the whole world with these lifetime blades, but the factories would have to close down immediately after. The only way the plants of today can remain in operation is to supply inferior blades which require constant replacement.

An automobile could be produced that would have an average life of 350,000 miles without general overhaul. The energy cost of production would be twice as high as the present car, but the life would be about ten times as long. If such a car were placed on the market, imagine the

consternation there would be among repair men, dealers, and all the thousand and one activities which go towards the upkeep and replacement of the deliberately short-lived car of the present day! In order to insure the continuance of a supply of purchasing power through wages paid for labor, we must send cars to the scrap heap every few years to provide turnover and a new yearly output.

#### Holeproof Footwear!

As for boots and shoes; there is really no reason why we should have to purchase a new pair every few months, to say nothing of periodical repairs. There is available a synthetic leather that is waterproof and has a wearing quality that would make a pair of shoes last two or three years. Our boot and shoe factories could turn out in a few months enough pairs to last every man, woman and child in the country for several years! The American shoe industry has a capacity of 900,000,000 pairs of shoes per year. No wonder they have to put inferior material into them so that they will only last a few months. They cannot afford to be honest! The very existence of many businesses depends upon their turning out shoddy goods.... and the same applies to the workers! Under our present system the production of honest goods would simply mean a vast increase in the number of unemployed.

#### Honest Goods Not Profitable.

So, when we come to examine the source of purchasing power, we find that it is the wage of the worker, and the continuance of that wage depends upon the production of shoddy goods which must be replaced within a comparatively short time. It is not the worker who is to blame for such a state of affairs, but a system which, while depending for its very existence upon purchasing power paid out as wages, is still trying to reduce the cost of production through the use of machinery which will displace the workers.

The worker, however, should have no quarrel with this tendency. Let the machine carry on; let it shoulder the world's drudgery.... that is all to the good! But while that is being done, see that you form a Government of men who understand what is going on in the industrial world, and who will see to it that every man, woman and child in the country will be able to share freely in the good things that can be so freely produced!

#### CANADIAN STRIKES BLAMED ON REDS

Ottawa, Ont. — The Workers Unity League of Canada, until recently affiliated and said to be still associated with the Communist Internationale, claims to have called 172 strikes in Canada and many this year.

Many of the strike "calls" were impotent, however, for the Canadian Department of Labor announces that there were not that many genuine labor disputes in all Canada last year.

#### Two Recent Strikes.

The league called strikes at the Flin Flon and Noranda Mines on June 12. Recognition of the union and 10 to 15 per cent wage increases were demanded. The strike at Flin Flon has been conducted without disorder and a Canadian Mounted Police detachment sent there has not had to intervene. But the mining company threatened to close down permanently if the 1,500 miners stayed out much longer.

At the Noranda Mine 12 of the 550 who walked out were arrested and fined. Another group of 25 were taken to Ville Marie for trial.

The company stated that the strikers had been replaced or had returned and the mines are again running at full capacity.

Some of the strikers at Flin Flon have lately broken away from the Unity League and organized an anti-Communist league. —A. F. of L. Weekly News.

#### TEACHERS FIRED FOR STRIKE AGAINST UNPAID SALARIES

Scranton, Pa.—The Old Forge Borough School Board dismissed twenty-nine teachers for participating in three strikes called during the last year. The teachers have been on strike in a dispute over unpaid salaries and contracts since May 16, and Joseph Connors, president of the Teachers Association, says the strike will be continued in September. Twenty-six were appointed to replace those dismissed. The board, in announcing the changes, said they were prompted by economy.

### THE WORKERS' POWER TO INFLUENCE PARLIAMENT

(Continued from page 5)

This measure provides for a degree of co-operation on the part of employers and employees which hitherto was somewhat difficult, since there was no overriding authority that could legally confirm the agreement and make it applicable to the industry as a whole in a given zone or section, regardless of whether the whole of the employers in the section or zone as well as the employees, were parties to the agreement.

Employers, who are enlightened enough to read the signs of the times, will cease their opposition to trade unions or warning their employees against joining a union, since they must appreciate that the workers, (where this opposition is maintained and they are refused the compensation to which they are entitled in order to overcome the handicaps of which they have in the past been the victims,) will make their influence felt as they readily can today through the exercise of their franchise. What they may not be able to immediately accomplish, because of the attitude and opposition of the employer, in the improving of industrial relations, they will secure through legislation, and the antagonistic employer may then find that, far from his opposition or unfair treatment of his workers reacting to his advantage, it has resulted in the political agencies of the State abridging his unrestricted right and power not only to treat his workers as he sees fit, but to even deal with what he considers the wealth that belongs to him because of the possession of machinery and the control of productive processes.

Industry, as that able economist and distinguished statesman, the Right Honorable William Lyon Mackenzie King, emphasized in his book, "Industry and Humanity," and on the many occasions that he delivered addresses both within and outside the halls of Parliament, must not only be democratized, but made to serve the best interests of the citizen and the community.

### Will Direct Reliefs Be Abolished?

The regular meeting of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council was held last Thursday night, at the Mount Royal, under the chairmanship of G. R. Brunet, president, assisted by vice-presidents J. E. Gariepy and Jack Cuppello.

In spite of the excessive heat, this was quite a large gathering and many important questions were dealt with.

The first item that was brought up to the attention of the delegates was that of a demand for subscription from the Labor Party of Canada to purchase a loud speaker set in view of broadcasting more advantageously the propaganda meeting that will be held in the future. All the delegates present were unanimous in acquiescing to the demand of the Labor Party, and delegate Jack Cuppello explained thoroughly the situation prevailing. He asked the delegates present to carry the message to their various organizations so that the goal of the Party be reached. Any sum of money, large or small will be welcome.

The Labor Day Committee made a report of its activities since the last meeting and told the delegates that the celebration will be held this year at the Belmont Park. As to the parade, the committee was of the opinion that a change should be made. For many years, the parade followed the same route and it is important that a little variation be made. The route was announced as: the departure on Duployé Avenue (Lafontaine Park) Sherbrooke east to Papineau, Papineau north to St. Joseph's Boulevard, to the west, Esplanade or Jeanne-Mance to the south to Fletcher's field where it will disband.

The secretary J. E. Gariepy, of the Labor Day Committee, made a special appeal to the various affiliated unions to answer immediately the questionnaire upon its receipt so as to facilitate the work of the committee and to assure the success of the Labor Day celebration. It was announced that affiliated unions will be circularized in a few days.

Alderman Jos. Schubert, who was present at the meeting, raised to ask the permission of the Council to adopt a resolution concerning the boycotting of German goods, action which has already been taken by the Winnipeg Trades Council. The demand of Alderman Schubert was adopted.

Following the convention call reading of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, the Council decided to send three delegates and voted a sum of \$125 each delegate to attend said convention in Toronto on the 10th of September. Delegates Alphéus Mathieu, Jack Cuppello and J. Charron were elected; will act as substitutes, Jos. Pelletier and Hugh Corrigan.

A communication from the Barbers' Union protesting against the one-man cars was read and the protestation adopted by the Council.

That vital and important question of direct reliefs was put up before the Council, when delegate Candide Rochefort asked for a question of privilege from the floor. As it is impossible for the various cities to stand the cost of unemployment

relief and in many cases provincial governments are in the same position, it is urgent that this Council ask the Federal Government to take the entire charge of helping the unemployed, for it is the only body that has the right to impose direct taxation, and it is only just that it stand the burden itself. When the war broke the government easily found money for that purpose, let it find it again to help along the unemployed workers.

Delegates Cuppello, Corrigan, Beaudry, Tremblay, Boivert and Brunet spoke on the question and expressed themselves to the effect that it is about time that something should be done. If the Federal government don't want to put up works, it is up to them to help along the workers who are unemployed.

The Council will therefore make a pressure before the federal government to that effect.

Other questions of minor importance were dealt with and referred to the Executive Committee for study and report.

The following delegates were admitted to seat: P. Lefèvre, R. Gingras, E. J. Raymond and Emile Marchand from local 134, Carpenters and Joiners of America.

There being a vacancy in the office of sentinel, delegate A. Archambault was elected by ballot.

The order of the day being exhausted, the meeting adjourned to Thursday, the 2nd of August.

#### CLUB SOCIAL TRAVAILLISTE

Section Nord (affiliée à la C. C. F.)

Ce club, qui compte à peine deux mois d'existence et dont les présidents sont MM. J.-C. Arcand et R. Guilbeault, n'en est pas moins une organisation qui a fait ses preuves dans le mouvement ouvrier de la métropole. Ce succès n'est sans doute dû qu'à l'activité déployée par ses directeurs, ainsi qu'à la coopération d'orateurs et de conférenciers bien connus, tels que Mme Grace MacInnis, fille du président national de la C. C. F., M. J. S. Woodsworth, M.P. et M. Jean Perron, professeur en sciences sociale et économique, D. Lapointe, H. Belec, J.-A. de Courval, Ph. Denis, L. Demers, H. Rochon, O. Latreille, J.-J. Beauchamp et autres qui ont été très appréciés du public.

La Co-operative Commonwealth Federation étant un mouvement qui tend à l'avancement de la classe laborieuse au Canada, nous invitons fraternellement tous ceux qui sont intéressés à assister à nos réunions. La prochaine assemblée du Club Social Travailleiste aura lieu mercredi, le 25 juillet, à 8 heures du soir, au No 6910, rue Saint-Hubert, près Bélanger. — Communiqué.

Buffalo, N. Y. — Steel employers here laid off approximately 2,000 employees for at least six days as a result of a slump in steel orders.

An additional 5,700 face several days of idleness, it was announced.

No order, no work! No work, no money to buy the necessaries of life! So the world goes on!

Cork legs are named in honor of their inventor, a Dr. Cork, and not for the material used.

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