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## Des mesures vexatoires

Qui soulèvent l'opinion publique sans faire avancer d'un pas la véritable solution qui réclame simplement l'application stricte des lois existantes.

La sombre tragédie du théâtre Laurier Palace tient encore le premier plan de l'actualité. L'opinion publique a été profondément remuée par la mort affreuse de ces soixante-dix-huit petites victimes qui se sont égarées sur le palier de ce lieu d'amusement populaire — car on y donnait, prétend-on, une représentation spéciale pour les enfants. C'était le rendez-vous hebdomadaire d'un grand nombre d'enfants qui y allaient avec ou sans la permission de leurs parents.

De toutes parts viennent les expressions de sympathie à l'adresse des parents éprouvés et de protestation contre les coupables. Deux enquêtes ont déjà été tenues. Dans l'une, les jurés ont tenu criminellement responsables trois personnes — le propriétaire du théâtre et deux de ses employés, qui devront subir leur procès lors du prochain terme des Assises. Dans l'autre, le coupable — ou plutôt la coupable — a été aussi désignée — mais, de ce côté, on n'a aucune preuve positive. C'est encore à la cigarette qu'on s'en prend. Sans vouloir nier les dangers de la cigarette qu'on fume — qu'on ne fume pas plutôt mais qu'on jette sur le parquet des édicules publics en contravention de la loi de la sécurité dans les édicules publics — nous croyons que ce verdict est plutôt donné pour apaiser l'opinion publique. Il fallait trouver une cause à cette catastrophe: c'est la cigarette qui servira de bouc émissaire. Quelques personnes — bien intentionnées sans doute et ennemies de la cigarette qu'elles ne peuvent plus fumer — ont trouvé là une raison inespérée de jeter le blâme sur "les clous de ceruciel", comme elles l'appellent. Elles voudraient qu'on rende plus sévère la punition de ceux qui seraient pris à fumer une cigarette dans les édicules publics. Si réellement la cigarette est en faute, cette fois-ci, on peut présumer que le teneur imprudent a payé de sa vie son imprévoyance. Il est donc assez puni et il faut regretter que soixante-dix-sept autres innocents ont été sacrifiés pour sa faute.

Chercher les coupables. Voilà le but vers lequel tendent toutes les énergies et les initiatives. Une enquête municipale a été instituée; une enquête royale a été demandée par des corps publics influents et des personnages de marque. Sans vouloir prétendre que l'enquête municipale sera découvrir les négligences ou les défaillances dans le service d'inspection des théâtres ou autres services publics, nous ne sommes pas portés non plus à appuyer la demande d'une enquête royale. En fin de compte, il n'y a que le coût d'une telle enquête qui est royal, car les résultats de toutes celles que nous avons eues jusqu'à présent ne sont pas des plus fameux. Si elle faisait découvrir les coupables, quelle est la sanction qui serait imposée? A vous de juger par ce qui est advenu des enquêtes précédentes. M. Charles Lanctôt, assistant procureur général a déjà déclaré que si les conclusions de l'enquête de la police — la dernière en date — avaient été appliquées le désastre du théâtre Laurier aurait été évité. A qui nous servirait une autre enquête royale si nous devions remporter le même succès?

Au lendemain de la catastrophe, les autorités municipales ont fait faire une inspection de tous les lieux d'amusements: trente-un théâtres furent condamnés; mais seulement trois reçurent l'ordre de fermer leurs portes. Cette dernière mesure ne fut pas mise à exécution parce que la ville, prétend-on, peut donner l'ordre à un théâtre de fermer, mais elle ne peut pas mettre elle-même le cadenas à ces établissements. Nous ne voyons pas la raison de défendre à certains théâtres de donner du vaudeville ou des chansons avec décors sur la scène. Les propriétaires de théâtres exercent une industrie tout aussi légitime que celui qui tient une épicerie: ils sont dans les affaires pour faire de l'argent, comme vous et moi, qui travaillons à la sueur de notre front. Il ne faut pas les blâmer de prendre les moyens d'attirer la clientèle dans leurs établissements. Si certains théâtres ne sont pas construits ou aménagés pour donner du vaudeville, c'est de leur force à se conformer à la loi qui les oblige à prendre les mesures propres à assurer la sécurité du public en ce cas. Somme toute, l'interdiction du vaudeville ne rentra pas les escaliers tortueux et dangereux plus droits et plus larges, partant moins semblables à des trappes à la mort. Nous avons assez de lois pour protéger notre population; ce qui semble faire défaut, c'est l'autorité de les faire observer. Rien ne sert d'être tracassés envers les propriétaires de théâtres: forçons-les à observer la loi sans distinctions ni préférences, et laissons-les libres de donner tous les amusements qu'ils jugent devoir être dans leur intérêt de donner pour satisfaire aux exigences du public. Si les classes moyennes de notre population n'ont pas les moyens de payer de soixante sous à un dollar pour aller voir une "vue" et du vaudeville, il est injuste de les priver de ce divertissement qu'elles trouvent dans les cinémas à bon marché. On semble accorder un peu trop d'importance à cette question de vaudeville dans les cinémas et pas assez aux moyens d'assurer l'évacuation rapide de la salle. Le vaudeville n'est pas à blâmer jusqu'ici pour cette hecatombe, mais bien un escalier tortueux et ténébreux. Ne cherchons donc pas de faux-tyrant. Ce que le public désire, c'est d'avoir le genre d'amusements qui lui plaît, de la lumière et de l'espace, en cas de feu ou de panique. La panique, voilà la grande coupable. Même s'il n'y eut pas de feu, un cri "Au feu!" lance inconsidérément aurait produit le même résultat. Nous espérons que les autorités verront à nous accorder toute la protection pour laquelle nous payons sans mettre à exécution des mesures vexatoires pour les propriétaires de théâtres ni surtout pour le public qui fréquente ces lieux d'amusements.

"Quand on veut noyer son chien, on dit qu'il a la gale." Aussi, de ce temps-ci, chacun fait tous ses efforts pour se débarrasser des personnes qui lui portent ombrage: on jette le blâme sur celui-ci ou sur celui-là et on demande que tel officier ou fonctionnaire public soit destitué. N'ayant pas pour mission de défendre ceux qui sont attaqués, nous suggérons que les responsabilités soient établies avant de demander la démission de qui que ce soit. Les responsabilités tant morales que matérielles ne seront probablement jamais connues à fond: tel qui se croit au-dessus de tout blâme peut porter une grande partie du poids de la responsabilité. Attendons les événements.

A Québec, l'honorable L.-A. Taschereau a demandé à la délégation ouvrière qui s'est présentée devant le Cabinet cette semaine, si les ouvriers étaient en faveur de la fermeture des théâtres le dimanche. Le président du Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Montréal a répondu que cette question n'avait pas été discutée dans les réunions du Conseil; mais que, d'après lui, les ouvriers sont divisés sur cette question. Quant à nous, nous sommes en faveur du théâtre le dimanche, ainsi que d'autres corps ouvriers plus orthodoxes (?) de cette ville. Nos raisons de cette attitude sont multiples et seront données si l'occasion se présente ultérieurement.

Ne pas admettre dans les théâtres les enfants au-dessous de seize ans, accompagnés ou non. Telle est la mesure préconisée par quelques personnes — adversaires du théâtre en tout temps sans doute. Cette mesure est impraticable et vexatoire. Cependant, nous sommes en faveur de l'abolition de cette section de la loi qui permet de recevoir les enfants dans les théâtres sans être accompagnés dans certaines circonstances. Si les enfants doivent être accompagnés dans les cinémas, ce n'est pas seulement pour leur sauvegarde morale, mais bien pour les préserver des dangers physiques: le feu ou la panique. Si les parents jugent à propos de laisser fréquenter les théâtres par leurs enfants, qu'ils se fassent un devoir de les accompagner, et que la loi force à le faire ceux qui voudraient se dérober.

Tant que la loi permettra à des enfants de quatorze ans de travailler à l'usine, à l'atelier, il n'y a aucune raison pour leur défendre de se récréer: s'ils sont assez grands pour gagner de l'argent en travaillant dix heures par jour, ils doivent l'être tout autant pour en dépenser une minime partie dans un cinéma. Si on leur interdit le cinéma, qu'on leur interdise l'usine. Soyons conséquents. Parmi ceux qui orient le plus fort contre l'admission des enfants au théâtre, combien n'y en a-t-il pas qui les font travailler dans leurs ateliers et ce pour un salaire presque toujours dérisoire? Ne devenons pas la risée du monde. Si vous refu-

## Quels sont les coupables?...

Le député de Sainte-Marie a suggéré la formation d'un comité avec mission de présenter un bill à la Chambre pour soumettre à la décision d'un tribunal composé de trois juges de la Cour supérieure les réclamations que feront les parents des petites victimes du Laurier Palace auprès des gens responsables de leur malheur. D'abord ces réclamations ont-elles raison d'être? Descendons au fond de notre conscience et demandons-nous quels sont les coupables de ce triste drame? Sans doute il y en a que tout accable; on trouvera toujours un bouc émissaire pour le charger des fautes d'Israël, car il en faut un. Faute d'Israël le sacrificateur offert à l'Éternel un mouton noir qui se trouvait à point sous son contour pour apaiser le courroux du Très-Haut. Le peuple dans sa colère, voulait immoler l'objet immédiat de son courroux, mais les gens raisonnables qui ont eu le temps de se ressaisir et qui savent la part de fatalité qui entre dans ces accidents, ne voudront pas faire porter le poids de la faute collective à quelques individus coupables surtout d'être antipathiques et de prêter le flanc à la haine publique. Sans doute, la mort de ces pauvres petits êtres est une perte irréparable pour les parents atteints dans leur chair et dans leurs espérances, mais c'est une perte plutôt morale pour laquelle il n'y a pas plus de consolation que de sommes d'argent à offrir. S'ils s'agissaient de pères de familles, de sentiments de veuves, et que par leur trépas des enfants, des veuves, des malheureux seraient laissés sans pain, sans gîte, sans instruction, il est juste que ceux qui ont causé ces malheurs endossent les obligations du défunct. Mais dans le cas présent peut-on dire que les pères et mères souffrent dans leurs biens de la privation de leurs petits, qui hélas! appartiennent plus de gène que de joie dans nombre d'intérieurs démunis, où de nombreux enfants sont parqués comme des sardines... Parce qu'on est pauvre on n'aime pas moins ses enfants, et c'est presque une insulte que d'offrir un sac d'écus comme compensation à cette effroyable catastrophe.

Loin de nous l'idée de demander que les parents convaincus d'avoir failli à leur devoir soient punis, puisque le ciel s'est chargé de ce soin en leur laissant

dans l'âme un remords qui les rongera à jamais. Je sais que tous les parents ne sont pas coupables au même degré. Nombre d'enfants souvent ont échappé à leur surveillance et pour cause. Il y a des logis tellement froids, parce que l'argent manquait pour acheter du charbon, qu'on n'a trouvé rien de mieux à faire que d'envoyer les enfants se chauffer ailleurs, à ce que dit la maman. Ensuite, il faut avoir le courage de se dire la vérité. Comme tous les prodiges nous jetons notre argent par les fenêtres. Si nous n'avions qu'un ou deux enfants, nous en prendrions soin comme de la prunelle de nos yeux. C'est presque une tare nationale que cette indifférence nous témoignons pour ces jeunes vies greffées sur les nôtres et qui puisent leur sève au tronc commun. Nous les laissons pousser à l'aventure comme si nous n'avions pas le devoir de les protéger, de les défendre contre les rigueurs du sort. Si sur neuf enfants nous en réchappons une moyenne de trois ou quatre, pourquoi imposer aux femmes des maternités inutiles qui les abiment moralement et physiquement? C'est par une sorte de fatalisme hindou que nous abandonnons la présente génération à elle-même. Nous l'avons mise au monde, qu'elle s'en tire comme elle pourra... Cette passivité des masses en face d'un destin hostile de complicité avec les rigueurs du climat sibérien, explique cette série continue d'accidents que les quotidiens rapportent chaque semaine. Cette incurie familiale est passée dans les mœurs et ne provoque de scandales que si le chiffre des victimes dépasse la moyenne. Devant une hécatombe de petits cadavres seulement l'indignation bat son plein, mais les holocaustes de cinq ou six bambins ne provoquent aucune vindicte, aucune explosion de pathos....

C'est pourquoi il serait dangereux d'accorder des indemnités aux parents des victimes, même s'ils paraissent innocents des soupçons que leur conduite laisse planer. On ne peut laisser le bras droit de la Justice s'appesantir sur eux et l'autre — le gauche — prodigier une pluie d'or qui semblerait une récompense. Que la générosité publique paie les frais des funérailles, soit, mais que les deniers du propriétaire de théâtre

ne soient pas le prix du sang innocent. On alléguera que beaucoup de braves gens ont perdu leur bâton de vieillesse, que les enfants sont une richesse pour un foyer, qu'ils coûtent cher quand ils sont petits et rapportent quand ils sont adolescents, mais ces dommages sont aléatoires et problématiques. Plus souvent ces enfants compliquent l'existence des ménages et s'ils sont une bénédiction pour les riches ils accablent les pauvres d'un surcroît d'afflictions et de privations. Se faire rémunérer pour des préjudices illusoire, si ce n'est par obtention d'argent sous de fausses allégations, c'est un défaut de délicatesse qui priverait des sympathies les pères et mères, abimés dans un deuil profond et dont le chagrin est un peu allégé par la part que tout le monde prend à leur désolation. Il est écrit: "Tu ne tenteras pas le Seigneur ton Dieu". Il y a bien assez des sociétés d'assurances sur la vie des enfants que l'on tolère en ce pays alors qu'on les interdit en Europe. Mais la vie et non pas la mort. Ayons comme-objectif unique la préservation de notre race. Ne compromettions pas une sensibilité de mauvais aloi l'œuvre de courage et de labeur accomplie par nos pères. Réservons nos doléances pour ces pauvres qui ont été cruellement fauchés dans la fleur de l'âge. Donnons aux autres notre pitié parce qu'ils souffrent, mais ne mettons pas une auréole d'or autour de ces fronts qui n'ont rien d'héroïque. Que les juges accordent plutôt une subvention à ceux qui ont aidé au sauvetage, voilà de beaux cœurs qui méritent d'être à l'honneur! Se rendre maître de soi dans l'affolement d'une panique, dominer ses nerfs pour penser à autrui, quand sa propre existence est en danger, sont des actes qui méritent d'être soulignés à l'attention publique. Sachons établir une différence entre l'égoïsme et le désintéressement. Mettons en évidence ce dévouement surhumain qui nous dédommage un peu des vilénies, des lâchetés inspirées par le sentiment de la conservation; plaçons la vertu au-dessus de l'instinct si nous voulons faire l'éducation des foules, pour que l'opinion de Murray sur nous soit toujours vraie: "Les Canadiens-français sont un peuple de gentilshommes."

JULIEN SAINT-MICHEL.

## Une stricte mise en force de la loi

Est la seule manière d'empêcher des catastrophes, déclare le Conseil des Métiers et du Travail. — Une enquête royale ne produirait aucun résultat pratique. — La fermeture des théâtres le dimanche. — Sympathies aux familles des petites victimes. — J.-T. Foster réélu président, ainsi que de nombreux officiers. — Les nominations sont nombreuses.

Le Conseil des Métiers et du Travail n'est pas en faveur d'une commission royale pour enquêter sur la tragédie du théâtre Laurier Palace, mais réclame la mise en force des lois actuelles sans crainte ni favoritisme. Telle est la base du rapport présenté par son comité exécutif à la séance tenue jeudi soir et qui fut adoptée à l'unanimité, après une discussion fort intéressante et qui fut faite clause par clause. Le président Foster était au fauteuil présidentiel, assisté de ses deux vice-présidents:

Voici la teneur de ce rapport:

Votre comité avait à considérer les circonstances tragiques qui ont marqué l'incendie du dimanche, 9 janvier 1927, au théâtre Laurier-Palace, circonstances qui ont amené la perte terrifiante de tant de jeunes vies, la plupart des victimes étant des membres de familles de la classe ouvrière. Votre comité ne peut trouver d'expressions trop énergiques pour faire part de son regret qu'on ait permis l'existence de conditions aussi révoltantes dont les conséquences devaient être aussi terribles. Il recommande donc: 1.—Que, nous, les délégués du Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Montréal, nous offrions aux parents et aux familles des victimes, en cette heure d'épouvante et d'affliction, nos plus sincères et plus cordiales sympathies, en exprimant l'espoir qu'ils trouveront la consolation et l'encouragement nécessaires dans la ferme confiance que leurs chers petits sont allés dans un monde où on ne connaît pas la souffrance ni le chagrin, "où une sécurité dans les bras de leur Père Céleste"; et qu'il soit de plus, décrété, que copies de cette résolution seront transmises à Sa Grandeur Monseigneur Gauthier et à Monseigneur LePailleur, joignant l'expression de notre sympathie à celle dont ils ont fait part dans les circonstances déplorables qui leur ont enlevé un si grand nombre de leurs fidèles bien-aimés. 2.—Votre Comité a considéré aussi les conditions lamentables qui ont amené cette calamité. Il ne peut y avoir de doute que, délibérément et ouvertement, sur plus d'un point, on s'est moqué de la loi régissant cette catégorie de lieux d'amusements. C'est animés du désir de soumettre des suggestions pratiques destinées à prévenir un nouvel état de choses que nous présentons ce rapport.

sez l'entrée du théâtre à une jeune fille ou un jeune garçon de quinze ans qui a travaillé toute la semaine, que voulez-vous qu'ils fassent de leurs soirées? Qu'ils les emploient probablement beaucoup plus mal que d'aller au cinéma. Tout cela n'est pas la solution du problème qui consiste à empêcher la répétition d'un désastre comme celui du 9 janvier, nous avons des lois suffisantes pour nous protéger, qu'on les applique avec fermeté et nous n'aurons plus à rechercher les responsabilités à l'avenir.

R. HACHETTE.

## La scission en Grande-Bretagne

Le "Daily Herald" signale, dans la rubrique: Divers, sans titre spécial, à la suite d'une "statistique des migrations" que le mouvement syndical national minoritaire (communistes) de Grande-Bretagne a dressé un plan pour la création d'une union des ouvriers mineurs qui est soumis en ce moment aux membres. Les initiateurs du projet espèrent que d'ici un an la nouvelle organisation comptera au moins un million de membres. M. P. Grassman songeait sans doute à de telles possibilités lorsqu'il déclarait devant une assemblée du Conseil général de la Fédération Syndicale Internationale britannique de faire

leurs expériences mais qu'il voulait par contre exprimer le vœu que leur restent épargnées celles subies sur le continent. Si l'on en arrivait vraiment à une scission en Grande-Bretagne, il est bon de montrer dès à présent d'où en vient l'initiative. Car on ne manquera pas de dire, après coup, comme dans tous les cas semblables, que ce sont une fois encore ces affreux gens d'Amsterdam qui ont perpétré la scission et que les communistes ont toujours voulu la seule unité. La même remarque vaut pour les déclarations de Cook, qui, à ce qu'en dit "Rote Fahne", aurait milité pour la "liquidation" de l'Internationale des Mineurs.

### CHEZ LES FERBLANTIERS

Le local No 251 des ferblantiers de chemins de fer, à sa dernière séance a passé un vote unanime de condoléances et de sympathies aux familles qui ont été si cruellement éprouvées par la mort tragique de leurs enfants, dans le désastre du Laurier-Palace, le 9 janvier dernier. Copie de cette résolution a été adressée aux journaux par le secrétaire de ce local M. J. Boivin, pour publication.

### NOUVEAU BUREAU DE RENSEIGNEMENTS

Le développement rapide de l'Ouest canadien a engagé le Chemin de fer national du Canada à ouvrir, à Vancouver, un nouveau bureau de renseignements sous la juridiction de son service industriel et ressources naturelles. La direction en a été confiée à M. M. R. C. W. Lett, surintendant des ressources naturelles de l'Alberta et de la Colombie Britannique.

Les délégués mais il fut entendu qu'un rapport par écrit serait donné à la prochaine assemblée.

### LA SITUATION DU PROLETARIAT EN AUSTRALIE

Nous apprenons d'un rapport original d'Australie que la situation de la classe ouvrière n'est point particulièrement favorable dans les parties où le mouvement syndical est puissant et joue un rôle de direction dans la vie publique par l'effet d'une solide représentation au Parlement. Cela est, par exemple, le cas pour les Nouvelles Galles du Sud et le Queensland. En Australie occidentale, seuls les fonctionnaires bénéficient de ce régime tandis qu'en Australie du Sud et en Tasmanie, par exemple encore, on est toujours à lutter pour cette conquête sociale. Au moment présent les syndicats défendent justement devant le tribunal fédéral d'arbitrage l'introduction générale de la semaine de 44 heures dans l'Australie entière.

### LA "COMPANY UNION" ET LA QUESTION DE GREVES

Une Commission industrielle britannique, qui fit récemment un voyage aux Etats-Unis, a rendu, entre autres, visite à la maison Swift & Company, qui comme d'autres grandes entreprises entretient une "Company Union" cela veut dire "une organisation des travailleurs occupés dans ses entreprises. On attirait spécialement l'attention de la Commission sur le fait que, grâce à l'activité d'un comité mixte des travailleurs et de la direction, les conflits de travail sont une grande exception dans cette entreprise. Cela n'a rien de surprenant, lorsqu'on sait que ce comité se compose de douze représentants de la direction et des travailleurs mais que ces derniers sont élus en accord avec le personnel de surveillance. Si l'on ne parvient pas à un tel accord c'est la direction de l'entreprise et non pas une commission d'arbitrage indépendante qui décide en dernière instance. Il faut souscrire à l'application de ce fameux système, le fait que les salaires sont beaucoup en dessous de la moyenne et que les conditions de travail sont mauvaises. Ainsi qu'on sait, la Fédération Américaine du Travail s'est prononcée, au cours de son dernier congrès, contre les "Company Unions" et a décidé d'entamer une grande campagne de recrutement parmi les travailleurs de telles entreprises où les "Company Unions" existent. Pareils exemples montrent aux travailleurs du vieux continent qu'il convient de prendre une attitude sceptique et circonspecte envers les employeurs qui les approchent, ces derniers temps plus que de coutume, de semblables propositions "idéales."

La charge de 1er vice-président est disputée par deux candidats: MM. Alphéus Mathieu et A. Racette. On prendra le vote à la prochaine assemblée.

Quant aux charges de 2e vice-président, secrétaires-archivistes, secrétaire-correspondant, secrétaire-financier, trésorier, guide, sentinelle et auditeurs, les candidats mis en nomination ont tous été élus par acclamation. Ce sont respectivement: MM. B. Drolet, J.-A. Beland et J.-R. Lynch, Jos. Pelletier, F. Girard, A. Gariépy, Charles-A. Giroux, D. Pelté, A. Mayer, T. Moore et Thos. Black.

Il y aura vote à la prochaine assemblée pour les charges suivantes entre les divers candidats: Statisticien: MM. Z. di Muro et H. Vaillancourt. Comité des lettres de créances: MM. T.-W. Malone, W. Bélanger, A. Archambault, R. Didier, C. Girard et T. Moore. Comité exécutif: H. Massé, H. Starks, Frank Griffard, G.-R. Brunet, Jos. Pelletier, A. Mathieu, E. Boucher, H. Vaillancourt, O. Proulx, J.-A. Cappelletto, W. Bélanger, C.-A. Giroux, R. Didier, T. Malone, J.-O. Donato, W.-N. Dixon, (neuf à dire).

Comité de la fête du Travail: MM. Jos. Pelletier, T. Malone, Z. di Muro, J.-A. Donato, A. Biggins, H. Massé, D. Pelté, W. Bélanger, A. Mayer, R. Lynch, T. Moore, C.-A. Giroux, J. Cappelletto, R. Didier et A. Grégoire, (neuf à dire).

Les délégués W.-N. Dixon, R. Lynch, E. Boucher, A. Arbogast et A. Mayer ont été choisis pour représenter le parti ouvrier.

Les élections auront lieu à la première assemblée régulière du mois de février.

Au cours de la discussion de la clause 5 du rapport traitant de la fermeture absolue des théâtres le dimanche, une forte opposition se développa et prouva une fois de plus combien il est difficile de concilier deux mentalités différentes; les uns prétendant avec force arguments que c'était une atteinte à la liberté individuelle des citoyens que de les empêcher d'aller au théâtre le seul jour de repos de la semaine, les autres prétendant que le travail organisé s'était toujours opposé au travail de sept jours par semaine et que personne ne pouvait prétendre que de tenir un théâtre ouvert le dimanche était un travail nécessaire et indispensable; cela prit plus d'une heure de discussion avant de pouvoir obtenir une majorité pour adopter cette clause.

Un vote de sympathie fut exprimé aux familles des nombreuses victimes de cette catastrophe, dont plusieurs sont membres d'unions ouvrières et tous appartenant à la grande famille ouvrière.

Le vice-président Mathieu fit un rapport verbal du travail accompli par la délégation à Québec, qui fut accepté par



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La délégation ouvrière à Québec

La délégation ouvrière a fait son pèlerinage annuel à la Législature de Québec; elle fut plus nombreuse que par les années passées et fut accompagnée d'une délégation de femmes...

Parmi la délégation, on remarquait: MM. J.-T. Foster, vice-président du Congrès des Métiers et du Travail du Canada; G.-R. Brunet, président du comité exécutif provincial du Congrès...

MM. Coughlin, A. Labrière, Wm. Best et A. Massé représentaient les Fraternités des chemins de fer et réclamèrent plusieurs mesures particulières.

La délégation des "futurs électriques" était nombreuse et se recrutait parmi les "social workers" les plus actives de Québec et de Montréal...

Voici le mémorandum qui fut présenté au nom des ouvriers:

1.— Réparation des accidents du travail. Cette question étant d'un très grand intérêt pour tous les ouvriers, nous prenons la liberté de vous présenter un mémorandum spécial...

2.— Législation émanant des décisions de la Conférence internationale du Travail. (a) Etablissement de la journée de huit heures dans les établissements industriels et commerciaux...

(b) Adoption de mesures législatives destinées à assurer une plus grande mesure de protection aux femmes et aux adolescents engagés dans les entreprises industrielles et commerciales.

(c) Coopération avec les autres provinces en vue d'obtenir la ratification par le Canada des autres conventions et recommandations.

(d) Nous vous prions également de continuer la bonne politique de faire représenter officiellement la province de Québec aux conférences annuelles de l'Organisation internationale du Travail.

3.— Echelle du salaire raisonnable dans les contrats du gouvernement. — Vu les différentes interprétations données à la clause du salaire raisonnable...

4.— Commission du salaire minimum des femmes. — Il nous semble que la juridiction de cette Commission devrait s'étendre non seulement aux personnes employées dans les établissements industriels mais également à toutes les femmes et filles employées dans les maisons commerciales, bureaux, ou toute autre occupation...

5.— Abolition des bureaux de placement privés. — Nous sommes convaincus que les bureaux de placement provinciaux rendent des services inestimables aux ouvriers...

6.— Allocations aux mères de famille nécessiteuses. — Cinq provinces du Canada et un grand nombre d'Etats de la République voisine ont cru qu'il était de l'intérêt général d'établir des fonds de secours aux mères de famille nécessiteuses...

7.— Livres d'auteurs canadiens imprimés en Canada. — L'article 2931 des Statuts refondus de Québec stipule que pour avoir droit à une part de l'allocation...

8.— Mesures éducationnelles. — Tout en reconnaissant tout ce que le Gouvernement a fait jusqu'ici pour développer l'instruction publique dans notre province...

BANQUE CANADIENNE NATIONALE

SITUATION AU 30 NOVEMBRE 1926

Table with columns for 'ACTIF' and 'PASSIF'. Rows include 'Argent', 'Obligations canadiennes', 'Autres valeurs', 'Prêts à demande', 'Prêts courants et escomptes', 'Immeubles', 'Divers' under Actif; and 'Billets de la Banque', 'Dépôts', 'Divers', 'Passif envers le public', 'Passif envers les actionnaires' under Passif.

(a) Instruction gratuite et assistance à l'école obligatoire. (b) Enseignement obligatoire et uniforme des langues française et anglaise dans toutes les écoles de la province. (c) Emission de tous les manuels par le gouvernement sur la recommandation des bureaux de l'instruction...

3.— Protection plus efficace permettant aux travailleurs quels qu'ils soient de s'organiser en associations ouvrières. — Malgré les termes de la Loi concernant les grèves et les lock-outs...

4.— Mesures d'hygiène industrielle. — Nous vous prions de bien vouloir adopter la législation nécessaire pour donner suite aux demandes ci-dessous:

(a) Examen des barbiers et inspection sanitaire des salons de barbiers et de coiffure. — Les rapports entre le client et le barbier sont des plus importants...

(b) Protection pour les peintres. — Comme il semble être admis que la machine à asperger la peinture, à cause de sa valeur économique, continuera à être employée...

(c) Nous vous demandons également d'amender la loi des échafaudages afin que son application s'étende à toute la province entière et que les inspections soient faites par le département du Travail...

12.— Demande des employés de chemins de fer. — Vu la nature du travail d'un grand nombre d'ouvriers employés par les compagnies de transport...

13.— Suffrage féminin aux élections provinciales. — Nous avons avec nous une délégation composée de dames qui désirent présenter leur cause...

CHEZ LES WAGONNIERS

La loge Sainte-Marie No 234 des wagonniers d'Amérique paraît décidément prendre le pas sur les autres organisations ouvrières du pays...

LIGUE DE L'ETIQUETTE

La Ligue de l'Étiquette a tenu sa dernière séance, dans les quartiers généraux de la "Boot and Shoe Workers Union".

EMPLOYÉS DE TRAMWAYS

L'union internationale des employés de tramways, à sa dernière assemblée, a adopté unanimement une résolution de condoléances et de sympathies aux familles qui ont été si douloureusement éprouvées...

REMBOURSEURS, LOCAL No 78

L'union internationale No 78 des rembourseurs, à son assemblée régulière tenue ces jours derniers au Monument National...

RECEPTION DE LA LOGE SAINTE-MARIE. La Loge Sainte-Marie, des wagonniers d'Amérique, a fait, vendredi dernier, une splendide réception à M. Frank MacKenna, vice-président général de la Fraternité des wagonniers d'Amérique...

M. MacKenna, dit que, pendant son séjour en Europe, il fut invité à assister au congrès du parti travailliste, à Margate, et au congrès de la Fédération internationale du transport, à Paris...

Avant de terminer la séance, le président M. Beaudry, s'adresse à M. MacKenna en témoignage d'estime et d'amitié de la Loge Sainte-Marie...

CLUB OUVRIER MAISONNEUVE

Le club ouvrier Maisonneuve avec la fin des fêtes, reprend le cours de ses activités passées. Ce club, qui est le doyen des clubs ouvriers affiliés au parti ouvrier du Canada...

Un remaniement s'est produit, ces jours derniers, dans le bureau des officiers du club ouvrier Maisonneuve. M. C. Letendre, ancien secrétaire archiviste...

LES PROGRES DE LA BANQUE CANADIENNE NATIONALE

La Banque Canadienne Nationale a tenu, le samedi 18 janvier, à son siège social, Place d'Armes, Montréal, la cinquante-deuxième assemblée annuelle de ses actionnaires...

AVIS DE DIVORCE

AVIS set par les présentes donné que JEAN VALENTI, gérant, de la Cité de Montréal, Province de Québec, présente...

DEMANDEZ ASK FOR LA BIERE POPULAIRE THE POPULAR BEER BROWLED IN MONTREAL SINCE 139 YEARS

LABOR DIRECTORY MONTREAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL — Meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at Building Trades Hall, 417 Ontario Street East...

FRATERNITE UNIE DES PEINTRES DECORATEURS, LOCAL 349 — Assemblee tous les lundis à 8 p.m., 417 Ontario Street East.

BUREAU DE PLACEMENT PROVINCIAL Sous le contrôle du Gouvernement de la Province de Québec. FRANCIS PAYETTE, Directeur.

Rheumatism Minard's is the enemy of all rheumatic troubles. Rub it in thoroughly and often. Rub it in! "KING OF PAIN" LINIMENT

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

# The Labour World



# Le Monde Ouvrier

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

13th Year — No. 4

SAMEDI, 22 JANVIER 1927 — MONTRÉAL — SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 1927

PRICE: 5 CENTS

## Red Cross Peace Time Programme

Why has the Red Cross a Peace Time Programme? And why did the Canadian Red Cross go on with its work after the war? These two questions were asked Dr. F. W. Routley, Director of the Ontario Division of the Canadian Red Cross when he returned very recently from a three months sojourn in France where he was in charge of the Health Section of the League of Red Cross Societies which is composed of fifty-six nations, all of whom are "carrying on" in peace time as energetically as they did during the war.

A peace time programme for the Red Cross Societies was formally brought into being. Headquarters of the League are in Paris where a staff of nearly one hundred health experts representing many nations carry on the work of the Secretariat which consists of the Divisions of Nursing, Disaster Relief, Junior Red Cross and the Health and Publications sections where my own work lay.

## As the Worker sees his World

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

—William B. Wilson, former Secretary of Labor, files contest of election of "Boss" William S. Vare as Senator from Pennsylvania; charges Vare was beneficiary of wholesale frauds in registration and voting; Senate unanimously orders inquiry into Vare's election.

—Epidemic of grip sweeps Europe, with deaths mounting. League of Nations orders investigation of situation.

—United States Supreme Court decides Harry F. Sinclair, oil magnate, must stand trial on contempt charge for refusal to answer questions before Senate oil investigating committee.

—Mexico willing to submit oil and land disputes with United States to Hague Arbitration Tribunal, President Calles tells visiting Americans; policy of United States in Mexico and Nicaragua hotly attacked in United States Senate and House; President Coolidge sends message to Congress defending his Mexican and Nicaraguan policies.

—Fascist regime in Italy plans year of hard work, with only three holidays for nation.

—French Chamber of Deputies for first time elects Socialist as its president.

—Only slight economic gains made by workers in December, although 91 wage increases were made, Labor Bureau, Inc., reports.

—Engineer killed, fireman badly sealed, several passengers hurt in collision of New York Central Limited train at Savannah, N. Y.; railroad blames dead engineer for wreck, charging he failed to heed signals.

—Two German workers tell Socialist member of Reichstag they have been working in secret poison gas factory operated for German army in Russia.

—Soviet government bans phonograph jazz records; calls American dances "bourgeois music, unfit for proletarian society."

—New Jersey structural steel contractors sign agreement with unions of engineers and iron workers; pact forbids strikes or lockouts except as last resort.

—Conductors, trainmen and yardmen of 22 Southeastern railroads take vote on question of striking if efforts to obtain wage increases are not successful; strike reported threatened on National Railways of Mexico.

—Prof. John Erskine of Columbia University denounces censors of plays and books as being unable to determine what constitutes immorality.

—New electric device, in test, halts Erie railroad train as engineer ignores signal.

—Bus and taxi men strike in Athens, Greece, in protest against new company taking over business.

## LOSS THROUGH ACCIDENTS COULD PAY NATION'S DEBT

The direct economic loss from accidents in the United States is at least \$4,000,000,000 annually, according to Charles E. Hill, general safety agent of the New York Central Lines.

"If these accidents could be wiped out over night our economic adjustment alone would be sufficient to dispose of our public debts in less than five years," Mr. Hill said. He called America the most reckless nation in the world, and declared that the fatal accident rate is nearly two and one-half times as high as in England and Wales.

He said that in 1925 more than 89,880 persons were killed in accidents of all kinds and that 2,500,000 were injured, or 246 death and 7,000 injuries for each day of the week.

If automobile accidents continue to increase at the same ratio during the next ten years they have in the last decade, 50,000 persons will be killed in that manner in 1937, while the total deaths during the decade will be more than 300,000.

The only way to reduce this appalling loss, Mr. Hill said, is by community effort along orderly lines following a definite programme. He advocated a complete mobilization of community forces, with the full cooperation of all agencies. To carry out a comprehensive plan, he said, consideration must be given to three fundamentals: Engineering, including scientific study of accidents and their causes, establishing safe conditions and determining what constitutes safe practices; education, including information showing causes of accidents and arousing understanding of the need for personal carelessness, and enforcement, through means for compelling the heedless minority to observe safe practices.

"AMBULANCE CHASERS" ARE UNSCRUPULOUS

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 21.—"Ambulance chasers" opposed popular approval of the Missouri workmen's compensation act and now appeal to labor unions to employ them as their counsel before the Workmen's Compensation Commission.

The Central Trades and Labor Union warns affiliates to beware of these shifty lawyers, who would create the belief that attorneys are necessary to secure compensation.

"The rules of the commission are so simple that it will not be necessary for injured workers to employ legal counsel except in rare cases. The commission will then supply legal aid without cost to the workers," the central body says.

PRISONS ARE UNFIT. INMATES MADE WORSE

New York, Jan. 21.—Ninety per cent of the county jails in this country make their inmates worse, instead of better, according to Dr. Hastings H. Hart, of the Russell Sage Foundation.

Dr. Hart said that a prison survey made by him shows that most prisons are unfit for human beings. The best chance for reformation presents itself immediately after the initial arrest, he said.

## The Shorter Workweek Is Upon Us

By WILLIAM GREEN, President, American Federation of Labor

People have always been slow to accept new theories or new concepts. There has been a manifest disposition to cling to the old because of the risk and uncertainty involved in a change to something new. This characteristic of human nature has been apparent in all political, social and economic reforms and in their acceptance by the public.

It can be safely said that no reform, however meritorious and however beneficial to the human race, has ever been established without meeting with bitter opposition and without the most earnest and heroic work on the part of those who sponsored and advocated it.

The average person is cautious and conservative. His acts are influenced by his fear for his own welfare. He weighs carefully in his mind the effect which would follow any change from the existing order and he applies the effect of such change to his material, social and economic welfare.

Shorter Day Inevitable

This trait of character has been especially noticeable in the discussion which has taken place regarding the suggestion of the American Federation of Labor that industry prepare to adopt the five-day workweek. The working people of the country believe that we have reached that period in the economic life of our nation when industry can methodically change from the five and one-half and six day workweek to the five day workweek.

Labor is gratified to observe that there are many public-spirited people, not classified as being directly associated with Labor, and some progressive employers who are in thorough accord with its point of view and expressed opinion. On the other hand, there are those who look upon this proposed change in silent disfavor while there are other large employing interests which are openly opposing it in a most vigorous way.

The change that has taken place in the daily working hours is a striking illustration of the gradual and complete acceptance of a great economic reform. The original proposal of the workers for an eight-hour workday was met with open and determined opposition. The shorter workday was regarded as revolutionary and economically unsound and many employers of labor gave utterance to dire warnings of industrial demoralization, chaos and destruction.

This opposition greatly retarded the adoption of the eight hour workday and for many years many working men and women were forced to struggle and sacrifice in their efforts to secure the benefits and blessings of the shorter workday. Some powerful corporations employing thousands of men resisted the establishment of the eight hour day until they were forced, by moral pressure and a sustained public opinion, to yield the untenable position which they had assumed. During all these years the thousands of workers thus adversely affected were forced to work long, unreasonable hours, against their will and in spite of their strong protests.

Eight-hour Day General

Today the eight-hour workday is an established fact. There are none who now advocate the return to the olden days of long hours arbitrarily fixed by the employer. The eight-hour workday is now an accepted and established fact. It is universally recognized as a contributing factor in the success of industry and in the increased efficiency of the workers.

The advocacy of the five-day workweek, on the part of the American Federation of Labor, is based upon two fundamental reasons. One is economic and the other is humanitarian. The workers are convinced that the shorter workweek is practical, economically sound, and necessary to the further social and spiritual progress of the great masses of the people. The advocates of the shorter workweek are thoroughly conscious of the fact that the economic readjustments involved in the institution of the shorter workweek cannot be made until industry and those associated with it are ready and prepared to accept it. Any premature attempt to impose such a vital change might defeat its purpose.

It may be that all lines of industry are not immediately ready to accept and put into practice the principle of the shorter workweek. The preparedness of industrial enterprises for the inauguration of such a reform depends upon their character, equipment and the public interests which they serve. Labor fully appreciates these difficulties and the necessity of developing and applying a policy, in the execution of this reform, which will be sufficiently flexible to permit its adaptation to any industrial condition which may arise. There are many lines of industry which can operate successfully on a five-day workweek basis. This has been made possible through the increasing use of mechanical equipment and the development of the efficiency and productivity of the individual worker.

Machinery the Means

The use of machinery and electric power is transforming our modern industrial establishments so that the service rendered and the commodities produced have increased many fold while the character of such service rendered has tremendously improved and the cost of the manufactured commodities has been greatly reduced.

The change from primitive methods of manufacturing and industrial service to mechanical and modern methods represents the revolution which has taken place in the industrial and economic world. We are amazed at the progress which has been made when we compare modern manufacturing enterprises with those of a

similar nature operating twenty-five or thirty-five or thirty years ago.

The best evidence that a shorter workweek is adaptable to industry is the fact that it has been accepted and is operative in numerous lines of industry. It has been tried and tested and found to be economically sound. It is in effect in many more industrial establishments than is generally known or generally believed. Many employers have experimented with it and pronounced it a success while many thousands of employees have been greatly benefited through its operation and use.

Production Requires It

The capacity to produce manufactured articles has increased to the point where continued serious thought must be given to an equalization of our producing and consuming power. We must recognize the stern necessity of balancing our facilities of production with our capacity to buy and use the things produced. There are a number of industries, some of which are basic, which are governed by seasonal fluctuations and which, because of their great productive ability, cannot operate steadily. In all such industries where part time operation is inevitable the substitution of a shorter workweek would distribute the working time over a longer period, and as a result overhead charges would be reduced, improved, scientific methods of production could be employed, wasteful processes could be eliminated, labor turnover could be reduced and a more efficient organization could be maintained. Industries which would come within this class would be greatly benefited by the acceptance and establishment of the shorter workweek.

The Building Industry has led in the progressive changes which have taken place. It has passed from a seasonal to a non-seasonal industry and in the passing much improvement and many advantages have come to both employers and employees. Building construction is no longer confined within the narrow limits of the summer season. The continuous programme of building operations has served to stabilize the industry and to enable building contractors to maintain a working organization of skilled and efficient craftsmen.

Efficiency Is High

The construction of a modern building excites our admiration, stimulates our civic pride and awakens our wonderment at the progress which has been made. The steam shovel, the derricks which operate with such precision, the swiftly moving elevators, the powerful trucks, the air compressors and various other mechanical devices all testify to the economies which have been introduced in building operations since machinery was substituted for hand process.

It would be well nigh impossible to accurately determine the increase in the efficiency of the individual worker employed in building construction. Notwithstanding these astonishing developments we know that the building industry has not yet reached its highest point of efficiency. Further progress and further economies will be introduced in this great industry through the use of improved machinery and improved methods.

United States government statistics show that industry, with all the improvements which have been made, is not more than forty-nine per cent efficient. It is the further progress which will be made through the use of economies and improved methods in production, construction and service which will make possible the substitution of the shorter workweek without increasing the cost of production, construction and service.

No Higher Costs Necessary

The general substitution of the shorter workweek is bound to follow these economic developments. The same underlying cause which brought about the general acceptance of the eight-hour day will operate just as effectively in bringing about the acceptance of the five day workweek.

It has been charged by some influential manufacturers that the shorter workweek will tend to increase the cost of manufactured articles and that such increased cost will burden the consuming public and greatly handicap American industries in foreign markets. Labor denies this charge and in reply asserts in most positive terms that the establishment of the shorter workweek can be brought about without adding to the cost of manufactured commodities. Under the stimulating influence of the economic and social benefits resulting from the establishment of the shorter workweek management the workers will develop plans and methods which will result in expanding productivity so that the cost of manufactured articles will be reduced instead of increased. The field of industrial efficiency and productivity has not been fully explored or its limitations clearly defined. Thus far we have not reached the limit of American enterprise or topped the standard of American efficiency and service.

In reflecting over these tremendous possibilities we must take into account the use and importance of electricity in industrial processes so we find electric power is working a greater transformation, at the present time. The general use of electric power has enabled the workers to raise their standard of efficiency and productivity until America has established its industrial supremacy throughout all the nations of the world. It is clearly evident that electric power will be utilized and applied in an ever-increasing way in all lines of industry. As the amount of electric power supplied to each individual in industry is increased in like proportion his efficiency and productivity is increased. Though silent and unseen, electric power is the greatest

agency making for the establishment of the shorter workweek in all lines of industry.

Europe Seeks The Key

The best answer to those who allege that loss of our foreign trade would follow the inauguration of the shorter workweek is found in the fact that foreign countries are sending commissions to the United States for the purpose of finding the true basis of our industrial supremacy and superiority. Other countries are studying our methods and are endeavoring to ascertain how it is possible for us to reduce manufacturing and production costs while increasing wages and reducing the hours of employment. Apparently they desire to do likewise.

It is the humanitarian reason offered in support of the shorter workweek which makes the strongest appeal to our conscience. The opportunity to live a more complete life and to experience surcease of exacting toil would be a boon to the human race. No industrial reform would be more welcomed or acceptable to working men and women than the universal inauguration of the shorter workweek. In all our industrial planning we must consider the spiritual and cultural welfare of mankind. We must emphasize these intangible human values which raise men and women to a higher plane life and living. The development of the mind, the artistic and spiritual part of life, depends upon recreational, educational and intellectual opportunities. The shorter workweek will help to provide these opportunities.

Less Fatigue From Toil

The exhausting effect of long periods of human labor can only be overcome by rest. Five consecutive days of constant toil make a heavy demand upon the strength and vitality of the worker. He must have time for recuperation. This is especially true where the work done is of a repetitive or monotonous nature. A study of the subject of fatigue among industrial workers shows that the efficiency and strength of the workers become greatly lessened after a reasonable number of hours have been worked. The material benefits which would come to industry through the establishment of a shorter workweek would be made manifest in the renewed strength and energy shown by the workers.

The extended period of rest accorded the workers, through the adoption of the shorter workweek, would enable them to face their weekly tasks with increased strength and vigor. Their bodies, minds and spirits would be restored and renewed and their morale and purpose would be raised to the highest point attainable. There is no doubt but that the workers would, within a short space of time following the change, be performing as much service during the five day period as they formerly did during the five and a half and six day workweek.

Five Day Week Is Near

It is not possible to comprehend the benefits and advantages which would come to industry, the working people and the public through the inauguration of a shorter workweek. Physical and spiritual values would be enhanced, our standards of living would be raised, family and home life would be made increasingly pleasant and a spirit of satisfaction would prevail in the minds of the workers.

This great reform—the shorter workweek is upon us.—We will be privileged to see it quite generally established in all lines of industry, within our day and within our time. These immutable economic laws which operate to usher in the changes which bring progress and human advancement will force the acceptance of the shorter workweek in all lines of industry.

Progressive and forward-looking employers have sensed the coming of this reform and are prepared to accept it as a natural and logical development in our industrial life. The class of employers which stubbornly clings to the old must ultimately yield to the overpowering forces of progress and modern civilization.

## Mussolini Splitting Italy; Bosses Pay Black Shirts

The Fascist militia is paid for by big industrialists, declared Prof. Gaetano Salvemini, historian and former member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, who is now in New York after an exile in England following his attacks on Mussolini.

Professor Salvemini bitterly attacked the present regime in Italy. He said the famous "march on Rome," when Mussolini seized the Italian government, was not a revolution to destroy Bolshevism, as is popularly supposed, but was a military coup against democratic institutions.

"It is not true that Mussolini and the Fascists saved Italy from Bolshevism," he said. "The Italian people had already begun to work out their own salvation, thanks to their good sense, when the Fascists arrived to coerce it with fire and sword, substituting for the post-war neurasthenia, which was already on the wane, a new and more deadly disease—civil war."

"The reconstruction which the Fascist boast of having achieved in Italy is a legend. In the economic field they profited by conditions beyond their control, and they have light-heartedly squandered the fruits of these favorable conditions. In the political and moral field they have destroyed in Italy all faith in justice, all respect for right, all mutual tolerance; they are destroying the Italian nation by splitting it into a minority of masters to whom everything, even assassinations, is permitted, and a majority of slaves, deprived of all right and protected by no moral law."

Professor Salvemini said it is "quite likely" that Mussolini will eventually perish at the hands of an assassin.

"Present conditions in Italy," he said, "have given most young men who are Anti-fascist the shooting complex and some day probably one of them will get him. But it would be extremely unfortunate. If Mussolini is killed he will be revered as a second Julius Caesar. If he lives he may become a second Kaiser William II."

There has now been published a full statement of the British Labour Movement's official policy with regard to the native races of Africa and the territories, inhabited by them, for which the British Government is responsible. This booklet ("Labour and the Empire: Africa"), published by the Trades Union Congress and Labour Party, 32-34 Eccleston Square, London, S. W. 1, Price 6 d.), contains a valuable summary of expert information on the reality of African conditions of Labour and is thus of much interest to all concerned with the important subject of Labour's Colonial policy.

The statement of policy deals only with these parts of the African Empire which are governed as Crown Colonies, Protectorates or Mandated Territory and not with the Union of South Africa, which is a self-governing Dominion. In this first class of territories which have no self-government but are subject to an autocracy, differing only in some degree as between the various types of government, there fall over two million square miles of African territory and some 42 million Africans. Of these 42 millions less than 20,000 are white men, mainly merchants, planters, capitalists, etc. Much heavier direct taxation is imposed on the natives than on the whites, and the former have been deprived of all their best land, which has been sold or leased to white men at very low prices.

Two conflicting policies are at work in the African tropics; one is the African Policy, which aims at the preservation of the land for the native population while not excluding European capital and enterprise in so far as these do not arrest the progress of the people, the other, the European Policy, favours the economic development of the country by European syndicates with the help of "hired" or forced native labour. The first policy is to some extent practised in British West Africa and Basutoland, the second applies to Kenya, Nyasaland, Rhodesia and parts of South Africa.

The definite proposals of British Labour deal with the land which is to be treated as the property of the natives, with taxation, the revenue from which should be spent on native requirements, such as health, education and agriculture; with labour, every compulsory form of which should be prohibited; with the colour bar, which should not be allowed to exist, and with education, hitherto quite neglected. On government the Labour Party would first develop the share of the natives in municipal government, and later his genuine representation on the Legislative Councils, the aim being to develop a political system of self-government in substitution for the existing autocracy.

In a brief preface prefixed to the pamphlet, the ex-economic Secretary J. H. Thomas concisely formulates the basic requirements of the British Labour Party for the welfare of the African negro, and expresses his conviction that the application of such a policy is one of the most important tasks which another Labour Government will have to carry through.

## LABOR QUERIES

Q.—What was the first American trade union to extend jurisdiction to workers in Canada?

A.—The International Moulders' Union of North America, which in 1863 extended jurisdiction to Canada, though Canadian unions had been represented at the convention of the organization two years earlier. "This is the first instance of the extension of the territorial jurisdiction of a labor organization from one country to another," says the Handbook of American Trade Unions, published by the United States Department of Labor.

Q.—When and where was the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen organized?

A.—In August, 1891, at Pueblo, Col.

Q.—Was the Cigar Makers' International Union among the first labor organizations to establish the 8-hour day in the United States?

A.—Yes. The Union adopted an eight hour law at its 1885 convention and had established it in successful operation by May 1, 1886.

Q.—Who are the president and secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor?

A.—J. W. Hays and John J. Manning, respectively.

Q.—Is there a union of laundry workers?

A.—Yes. It is the Laundry Workers' International Union, with national headquarters in Troy, N. Y.

STATE COMPENSATION FAVORED BY WORKERS

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 21.—The New York State Federation of Labor will urge the State Assembly to establish a monopoly of workmen's compensation.

The Federation will urge an amendment to the State constitution to enable voters to initiate amendments by petition for an immediate submission to referendum, and without intervention of the Legislature. The restoration of the primary nomination of all State officers is also favored.

In connection with the usual drive to be made to aid women and children in industry, the federation expects to assist any move providing for one day's rest in a week for domestic employees in hotels and public eating.

Never have more than one kind of trouble at once. Some people have three kinds—all they have had, all they have now, and all they expect to have. —Painter and Decorator.

## IMMIGRANT QUOTA CHANGED NEXT JULY

Immigrants to be admitted to United States annually after next July 1 will be reduced 11,126, according to a report sent to the Senate by President Coolidge.

The Department of State, Commerce and Labor prepared the report as a guide to the President in his proclamation before April 1 in which he fixes, according to law, the quotas for each European country after July 1 on the basis of the national origin of immigrants in this country instead of on the present basis of the foreign-born population from the various countries in the United States in 1890.

Under the new system there will be a general shifting, with the Irish Free State allotted only 13,862 a year and Great Britain and northern Ireland permitted 73,939, as against 84,007. Germany's quota would be reduced from 6,991 to 3,945, and Poland's from 5,982 to 4,978.

The quota of Sweden would increase from 3,258 to 9,561, for Norway from 2,267 to 6,455, and for Denmark 1,944 to 2,789.

The new and present quotas for the other countries listed in the report follow:

Austria 1,468 and 758; Czechoslovakia, 2,248 and 3,073; France 3,837 and 3,954; the Netherlands, 2,421 and 1,648; Switzerland, 1,198 and 2,081; Yugoslavia, 777 and 671.

All countries would be permitted a minimum quota of 100.

EXPRESS COMPANY PLEADS POVERTY

New York, Jan. 21.—"Enormous losses" the past six years makes it impossible for the American Railway Express Company to raise wages 12 per cent, Charles A. Lutz, vice president in charge of accounts, testified before an arbitration board.

Mr. Lutz said that salaries of 17,000 "officials" were not reduced in 1921 when employees' wages were reduced 6 per cent.

The arbitration board is composed of former Supreme Court Justice John H. Clarke, former secretary of Labor Wilson and Emery R. Stedman, a vice president of the company.

OPPOSE LONG WORK DAY IN TEXTILE INDUSTRY

Boston, Mass. Feb. 20.—In his inaugural address Governor Fuller expressed disapproval of a longer work day in the textile industry. Employers are asking the Legislature to permit them to work women and children employees more hours, because of southern competition.

Organized workers suggests that if these employers used some of their excessive profits to buy up-to-date machinery, instead of having rich returns to stockholders, they could compete with the South.

# The Laurier Palace Disaster

Discussed at the Montreal Trades and Labor Council meeting. — Many recommendations made to Civic Authorities. — Sunday closing of theatres advocated after lively debate and strong opposition. — Nominations were numerous, John T. Foster re-elected president as also many other officers.

The meeting of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council held last Thursday night was certainly one of the most lively and interesting held for a long time; the main topic being the report of the executive committee on the Laurier Palace disaster. Practically the whole meeting was taken up by that subject and it was not adopted until the whole situation had been explained and heated arguments being presented; a very strong opposition developed on the fifth clause advising prohibition of Sunday performances; the inevitable clash between the two mentalities being very noticeable and it took over a full hour of arguments by President Foster to convince a majority of the delegates to follow the committee on that question; it was evident that most of the French delegates are absolutely opposed on Sunday closing of theatres. Here follows the report:

Your committee had under consideration a report of the executive committee, held on Thursday last, and adopted at the meeting last night:

Your committee has under consideration the tragic circumstances connected with the fire that occurred at the Laurier Palace Theatre Sunday, January 9th, 1927, circumstances that resulted in the appalling loss of so many young lives, many composed of the sons and daughters of members of the working class. Your committee cannot too strongly express its regret that such shocking conditions were permitted to exist that were productive of such terrible consequences. They would therefore, recommend:

1.—That, we, the delegates of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council extend to the bereaved parents and relatives an heartfelt sympathy in this hour of trial and affliction, and may hope that they will find consolation and comfort in the sure knowledge that their dear ones have gone to a place where pain and sorrow are unknown, safe in the arms of their Divine Father, and be it further resolved:—

That copies of this resolution be forwarded to His Grace Archbishop Gauthier and Mgr. LePailleur, expressing our common sorrow and sympathy with them over the deplorable circumstances that deprived them of so many of their beloved parishioners.

Secondly:—Your committee then proceeded to consider the lamentable conditions that were responsible for the calamity. There can be no question but that the law governing places of amusement of this category had been deliberately and openly flouted on more than one occasion, and it is with a desire of submitting constructive suggestions that would prevent a recurrence of these conditions that this report is presented.

Without desiring to indulge in recriminations, fully realizing that to do so at this time would serve no good purpose nor bring the dead back to life, your committee, feel, however, that it is incumbent upon them to draw to your attention the fact that the question of the violations of the law by certain theatre managements had received the attention of this council on more than one occasion, and that the co-operation of the authorities has been requested with a view to securing greater protection for the general public. At a meeting of the council held during the month of June, 1926, a resolution of protest was adopted by the council, drawing attention to the open violation of the law by certain theatres both as to the admission of children under age and by the overcrowding of the aisles.

Recommendations Made  
Your committee cannot express themselves to strongly in regretting the fact that the authorities made no attempt to profit from these suggestions, nor were there any apparent measures taken to amplify them. Under the circumstances, your committee feel justified that the Council again memorialize the authorities, making the following suggestions that they believe should be of some practical value in dealing with the problem.

1.—By-laws Governing Construction.—It would appear from the enquete that the theatre in question has complied in a general manner with the by-laws governing construction of theatres, nevertheless the catastrophe occurred. This would indicate that the by-laws are inadequate. We would, therefore, urge that the authorities immediately consider the revision of same to the end that the public be more fully protected.

2.—Admission of Children under Age.—It should be clearly obvious that the young mind is not so adaptable to self-discipline as that of the adult, and naturally is more prone to panic in cases of emergency. Your committee therefore, are of the opinion that the authorities should rigorously enforce the section of the law applying to the admission of children under age, unaccompanied by their parents or other responsible adults.

3.—Continuous performances. — In the light of past experience, it is the studied opinion of your committee that the practice of holding continuous performances with the consequent overlapping of audience is a dangerous custom conducive to much unnecessary overcrowding of the theatres. Your committee would therefore suggest that the authorities seriously consider the adoption of legislation providing either for the prohibition of the custom or for the provision of a distinct interval between performances that would permit for the

circulation of audiences without overlapping.

4.—Uniformed Officials. — Your committee are of the opinion and would recommend that arrangements should be made for the presence of a uniformed official provided by the city at each performance. They are confident that such an official, well-trained and well-disciplined could do a lot to instill confidence and properly direct audiences in time of emergency. They would also recommend that the expense connected with maintaining such officials be made a charge on the theatre managements.

5.—Sunday performances.—Organized Labor has always been opposed to Sunday labor, wherever and whenever it could be avoided. Nothing has occurred that would cause a change in mind. The holding of theatrical performances on Sundays is both unnecessary and to some extent prejudicial to the best interests of our citizens. Your committee would therefore recommend that the holding of Sunday performances be prohibited.

In conclusion, your committee desire to emphasize that it is futile to enact protective and preventive measures without providing the machinery necessary to their enforcement. They would strongly insist, therefore, that in the enactment of laws care should be taken to see that they are rigidly enforced, without fear or favor.

Verbal reports in English and French of the labor delegation to Quebec on Tuesday were presented by Delegates Black and Mathieu respectively. The reports were accepted by the delegates and requested to present written reports at the next meeting. Both delegates reported courteous reception and careful attention to their many demands.

Nomination of Officers  
Following President Foster's acclamation as president he made a brief address, expressing his thanks to the delegates for electing him for the fifteenth time as head of the Council. He said that it was a further indication of well-tried French-Canadian toleration, that a body composed of 75 per cent of members of that race should continue to elect him year after year.

Other officers elected by acclamation last night were the following: Second vice-president, B. Drolet; recording secretary (French), J. A. Bellamy; recording secretary (English), R. Lynch; corresponding secretary, J. Pelletier; financial secretary, J. P. Girard; treasurer, A. Gariépy; guide, C. A. Giroux; auditors, A. Mayer, W. N. Dixon, J. R. Moore and J. Bradley.

For the vice-presidency, there were two nominations: A. Mathieu and J. C. Racette. Z. di Moro and H. Vaillancourt were nominated for the office of statistician.

Nominations for several committees were particularly numerous and were made as follows:

Credentia Committee: T. W. Malone, W. Bélangier, A. Archambault, R. Didier, C. Girard and T. Moore.

Executive Committee: H. Massé, H. Starke, Frank Griffard, G. R. Brunet, J. Pelletier, A. Mathieu, E. Boucher, H. Vaillancourt, O. Proulx, J. A. Cuppello, W. Bélangier, C. A. Giroux, R. Didier, T. Malone, J. A. Donato, W. N. Dixon. (Nine to elect).

Labor Day Committee: Jos. Pelletier, T. Malone, Z. di Moro, J. A. Donato, A. Biggins, H. Massé, D. Petelle, W. Bélangier, A. Mayer, R. Lynch, T. Moore, C. A. Giroux, J. Cuppello, R. Didier and A. Grigorio. (Nine to elect).

Delegates W. N. Dixon, R. Lynch, E. Boucher, A. Arbogast and A. Mayer were elected to represent the Council at the Labor Party.

The vote will be taken at the next regular meeting, that is, on Thursday, February 3.

CHARITY PAYS BILL FOR INJURED WORKERS

New York, Jan. 21.—Many workmen's compensation cases in hospitals are being paid for by charity instead of by insurance companies or the employers, said Assemblyman Hackenburg, a member of the Joint Legislative Committee of the New York industrial survey Commission.

Mr. Hackenburg said the commission is considering a bill which would force insurers to shoulder the burden now imposed upon charity.

# Inventions That Made Millions

By ALEXANDER J. WEDDERBURN

There may be more money in a trifling invention than in a big one. All about us are new ideas waiting to be grabbed if we could only see them. Consider the familiar mouse trap. It is a simple yet ingenious device, familiar to every household. The mouse pokes its head through a small hole to get a piece of cheese that smells inviting. His first nibble releases a trigger and he is garroted.

That little contrivance was the invention of a New England Yankee, Anthony G. Davis, of Watertown, Conn., who patented it in 1899. He made a fortune from it.

George A. Mitchell was a poor farmer living in the village of Turrer, Maine, sixty years ago. His children kicked the toes out of their shoes faster than he could afford to buy new ones. It occurred to him to cut pieces from sheet copper that happened to be handy and fasten them over the toes. Thus fortified, he found, one pair of shoes would last three times the ordinary length of time. He patented the idea and his invention brought him wealth.

Orandall's "building block" fame, was engaged in the manufacture of

croquet sets. It was half a century ago when croquet was a popular outdoor sport. He hit upon the idea of economizing cost by putting the boxes together with wooden teeth that would fit into corresponding openings along each opposite edge. Thus their parts could be assembled without the use of nails or glue.

It so chanced that at this very time Orandall's small daughter was sick with the measles. To amuse her he showed her some pieces of his croquet boxes and she found much delight in putting them together. Orandall observed her and was persuaded to adopt the idea to a new kind of building block.

Orandall was a born inventor. It was he who invented the famous "Pigs in Clover" puzzle.

Rather exasperating in the obviousness of many ideas which have brought fortunes to their originators. Take, for instance, the Dennison shipping tags would tear out at the ribcage with a cardboard reinforcement! Just that was the whole of Dennison's invention. Today the Dennison company is known from one end of the country to the other.

## LOOKING BACKWARD

By Edward BELLAMY.

Published by Vanguard Press, Inc., 30, 5th Ave., New York City, 50 cts.

"Looking Backward" is an old book. Everybody has read it,—almost everybody has been influenced by it;—that is, everybody who has been interested in sociologic questions, or been carried along the great stream of radicalism. And yet, as one re-reads this product of young Edward Bellamy, visionary with a mind for practical detail, one is amazed at its surprising freshness and remarkable applicability to modern life. The careful unfolding of the mechanism of living in the Utopia into which Bellamy suddenly projects his hero, is still a stimulant to the intellect and so thrilling to the imagination as a novel.

Julian West, a young Bostonian of the late 19th century, rich, but harassed by all the problems incidental to daily life in these dark and turbulent days, suffers from insomnia. He is put to sleep hypnotically by his physician,—and knows nothing more until he awakens in the year 2000.

Civilization in the year 2000 is, to the astonished eyes of the young man, an extraordinarily different matter from life in 1887. The disorder, the intensity of the struggle for existence, the bitter enmity of one class against another, to which he had been accustomed in the 19th century, contrasts strikingly with the apparent peace and perfect organization of the mechanism of living in the 21st century, and with an insatiable curiosity, he investigates every phase of this existence which seems to function so ideally and almost unbelievably.

The charming hosts of Julian West answer his multitudinous questions. Bellamy's Utopia spreads open before the reader in minute detail,—and one finds that the processes that make up this perfectly moving machine are so simple, so logical, so inevitable, that one is amazed at the blindness and stupidity which permits us to live in the confusion and rapaciousness of our day. When the life of our time is described to the people of the 21st century, they listen with the incredulity and pity which we contemplate the intolerance and cruelty of the middle-ages.

Who does the "dirty work" in Utopia?—question so dear to the sceptic who doubts the possibility of ever doing away with the "slave" and the "master"—and how can you alter human nature, which it seems always needs the spirit of competition and a personal reward to spur it into activity—and so on,—inshort, can it be done? Was it really possible that human beings could so regulate the elementary physical functions of life as to be free to occupy themselves with the more intricate and exalting problems of the intellect and the spirit? No problem is neglected in this brilliantly-conceived and cleverly-constructed Utopia, and every question is answered to one's thorough satisfaction.

"Looking Backward" is not a roseate picture of an idyllic paradise on earth. It is a description of life as it could be lived at any time if only, in the opinion of Edward Bellamy, the control of the machinery were removed from the hands which so grossly mismanage it today.

This book is one of a series of interesting books now being reprinted by the Vanguard Press in the social field, clothbound, uniform in size, well printed and selling at fifty cents a volume.

## A CITY WITH PRESTIGE

Ottawa is a city that has been made famous by famous men who grace the seats in the Dominion Parliament and direct the affairs of Canada. But Ottawa, besides drawing her prestige from this source, is a city that is regarded as one of the most picturesque on the continent. The journey from Montreal is only a matter of a few hours and the route is highly attractive. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company have instituted one of the finest train services to the Dominion Capital that exists. A high standard of efficiency is maintained throughout and everything is done for the ultimate comfort of the passengers. Full information regarding train schedules, rates, etc., may be obtained at any Canadian Pacific Ry Ticket Office, or from F. C. Lydon, City Passenger Agent, 143 St. James St., phone HARbour 4211.

Browning, the inventor of the machine gun of the same name, was buried with military honors.

So were most of his customers. — Illinois Miner.

## MASS ACTION IN INDUSTRY WIPES OUT SINGLE UNITS

"The individual manufacturer or business man is no longer the fighting unit in industry. He can not stand up under the competitive onslaught launched by whole industries," said Leslie Thorpe, editor of the "Nation's Business," in a luncheon talk to business men in this city.

The single manufacturer is facing a new war of the giants and his habit of fighting is as obsolete as one-pounder cannon and as useless as a popgun, the speaker said.

"The new order has caused some old houses of business, established for a hundred years or more, to disappear overnight, while new ones spring into prominence in an equally short time.

Electricity is grappling with ice for the control of the refrigerating cement, brick, stone and 25 other substitutes; oil is fighting coal for control of heating and power; silk is struggling with cotton, linen, wool and even wood; the automobile has vanquished the farm wagon and left the field of battle strewn with the shattered remnants of the buggy whip, harness and other industries, whose hopes went glimmering with the displacement of the horse.

"The automobile industry learned a lesson from agricultural implement manufacturers and combined to build the greatest triangle in American industry today, namely, mass production, mass selling and mass credit. Installation buying today is supervised, making it safer and more business-like than unsupervised buying of past years.

"Increased consumption by known markets and the development and discovery of new markets is the aim of modern industry."

The speaker said that a "bloodless revolution of 1900" is being waged. This contest, he said, affects the lives of every one and is bringing tremendous adjustments in American life.

## THE UNION LABOR LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

With two more international unions subscribing during the past week for stock in The Union Labor Life Insurance Company, the total number of international unions holding stock in the Company stands at fifty-five, with prospects of several more before the books are closed on January 31.

The Amalgamated Association of Iron Steel and Tin Workers have subscribed for twenty shares.

The United Textile Workers of America have subscribed for sixty shares. Both of these internationals are strong supporters and friends of The Union Labor Life Insurance Company and are offering their financial support as proof of their confidence and as an example.

During the week another Photo Engravers' local union, Minneapolis and St. Paul this time, came in for ten shares.

While stock subscriptions continue to come in, the work of organizing the company for business is proceeding rapidly. Policy forms and the rate book are on the press. This work was personally supervised by President Wolf, with the co-operation of printers, pressmen and engravers, so that the finest workmanship might be had.

The headquarters of the company here is at present a center of tremendous activity, with organizing work proceeding smoothly and rapidly, even though much of it must be done with the aid of long distance telephones and telegraph wires.

The company will move its new permanent offices about Feb. 1, meanwhile continuing its work in the American Federation of Labor Building.

## WISDOM

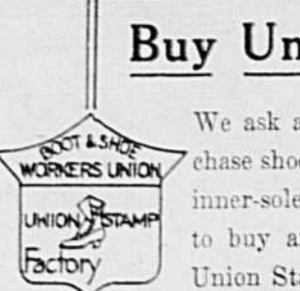
The glories of our blood and state Are shadows, not substantial things; There is no armour against fate. Death lays his icy hand on kings. Scepter and crown Must tumble down, And, in the dust, be equal made With the poor crooked sycamore and spade. —JAMES SHIRLEY.

## SHORTER WORK DAY FOOLS ALARMISTS

Calumnies that opponents of the eight-hour law predicted have failed to materialize, said the Board of Adjustment of Vancouver, B.C., in a report on the first year's operation of the act. This legislation affects 70,000 employees in the province of British Columbia.

The eight-hour day has reduced production costs in various industries. "More up-to-date machinery is being installed and it has been found that, with the employment of a superior class of labor, it is possible to equal the production of the longer day," the board says.

# HARMONY OF HELP IN INDUSTRY



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GASTON FRANÇOIS  
Secrétaire de la Rédaction  
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## AT THE PLAYHOUSES

AT LOEW'S  
Flower garden scenes which form a vital part of the exterior actions of the "Return of the Bitter End" coming to Loew's Theatre, Sunday, were photographed under the direction of Victor Schertzinger in a background that closely parallels the life story of Peter Grimm, floriculturist himself.

According to the David Warfield-David Belasco stage play on which the film is based, the Grimms owned their New York home until such three generations. It was completely surrounded by flowers.

In order to secure a similar setting Victor Schertzinger visited the five-hundred-acre of John Bodger at 21 Monte near Los Angeles, and photographed similar ships and other flowers which have been cultivated by the Bodger family throughout three generations.

The only difference was that the Grimms were Dutch and the Bodgers were English.

Clec B. Francis, plays the name role with Janet Gynor and Richard Walling in the leading romantic roles. Arthur Prince, undoubted the cleverest ventriloquist and one of England's greatest stars will be seen next week as the headline act in the "Bitter End" which is assisted by his famous old dummy Jim, who is just a dummy but becomes almost human in the manipulations of the hands and throat of Prince.

Other acts making up an excellent bill will include a modern revue with seven featured artists in a cycle of comedy songs and dances. McGrath and Deeds, the man with the big nose and the little fellow with the funny face will provide merriment.

Furman & Evans are billed as "Scoring Touchstones in the History of Song." The Weize Trio will offer a sensational novelty including perch balancing, risley, comedy and acrobatics.

Scarfage is the title of the act to be presented by Benace & Baird. To the above will be added a screen comedy, the news and an overture.

## AT THE IMPERIAL

England's premier ventriloquist comes to the Imperial next week in the person of Coram and Jerry. Not only is Coram a very fine ventriloquist, but he is a master mechanic, and Jerry is as funny as any comedian whose motive power is not and not mechanical. Coram's ventriloquical scene is Whitehall, one of England's historical landmarks. Nat D. Ayer, the popular British composer and pianist, with Miss Gladys Moffat, "the Canadian girl singer of glad songs," brings to the grandest stage in Montreal a musical offering. Broadus Eric, the seven-year-old boy violin virtuoso, returns with a repertoire of selected popular and classical numbers. That is, but is an expensive proposition if one has frequent contact with the feminine guardian of a check book is proved by Geo. M. Fisher and Honey Hunt in their comedy skit "The Check Room Girl." Every local Packard and Dodge handle prove to be a novelty musical instrument in "Two Nuts in a Garage." A unique bit of comedy is brought to the fore with plenty of music.

## WORKERS SHOULD BE PAID NO MATTER HOW INJURED

In asking the Michigan legislature to include occupational diseases in the State compensation law, the Michigan State Federation of Labor says it makes no difference to the victim or his dependents whether he has been struck down by a broken enemy wheel or absorbs poison through the lungs or hands.

"Sears may result in any case and dependents are deprived of support with equal privation and suffering," it is stated. "To contend even by interference that an accident of a violent nature must occur before an injury can be suffered, or that the advocates for such a law so understood is a misconception and distortion of the facts. The original advocates of the establishment of the law were the workers who understood that the consumers of Michigan products were at the time meeting all other operation costs to the manufacturer, mine operator, etc."

"It is contended by some that if the proposed change to include occupational diseases is made, we will be defeating the original intent of the law by making the fund a sick benefit society. It must be understood that the law was originally based on the principle of compensation to the injured in industry.

## THE NATURAL LAW OF CO-OPERATION IS PROGRESS

The following representative business houses are sympathetic with Labor and are interested in the welfare of not only their own help but of workers generally. They believe in THE LABOR WORLD and are assisting its policies of cordial relationship between Employer and Employee. : : : : : A number of leading firms whose names do not appear in this list are friendly to Labor and have shown their sympathy in a practical way.

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