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On n'est jamais si bien servi que par soi-même

L'ouvrier a besoin d'une force qui lui est supérieure pour obtenir le salaire qui lui permettra de vivre convenablement, lui et les siens, et cette force, c'est l'union professionnelle de son métier respectif. Nous constatons, cependant, que le travail organisé n'est pas apprécié comme il le mérite par les ouvriers eux-mêmes, qui devraient être les premiers à en profiter.

Les ouvriers organisés sont une force morale qui peut résister à la mauvaise volonté des employeurs et à l'indifférence des employés.

Dans le règne animal, le sens grégaire est plus développé, proportionnellement, que dans le genre humain. Voit-on un loup attaquer une caravane lorsqu'il est seul? Non; il lance son hurlement, et le renfort lui arrive: c'est alors qu'on peut constater que l'union fait la force.

Malgré tous les efforts des pionniers du mouvement ouvrier pour enrégimenter tous les travailleurs, on constate qu'encore aujourd'hui, après plus d'un siècle d'efforts et de sacrifices, un nombre infime sont membres de l'union de leur métier. L'union a été prêchée par toutes les autorités, par le Pape, par les évêques, par les économistes avertis, par les protagonistes du trade-unionisme, par tous ceux qui ont intérêt à l'amélioration du sort de la classe laborieuse. Avec quels tristes résultats! Le travail est toujours à recommencer.

L'union ouvrière est la meilleure protection contre les déceptions. Avant la crise, les unions ouvrières étaient prospères, leurs membres ne se faisaient pas prier pour payer leurs contributions et ils obtenaient, par l'entremise de leur organisation, des conditions dont aujourd'hui on peut aisément croire que c'était un rêve. Mais depuis la crise, les unions ont décliné dans l'estime de leurs adhérents qui ont abandonné celles-ci à leur sort, croyant qu'elles n'étaient plus d'aucune utilité, parce qu'elles faillissaient dans leurs efforts pour maintenir les conditions industrielles au niveau d'avant la crise. Logiquement, l'abandon des unions a entraîné leur inefficacité relative.

Les gouvernements, se trouvant aux prises avec une multitude de problèmes jusqu'alors inconnus, ayant à faire face à des dépenses extraordinaires pour soulager la misère, ont pensé aux moyens de ramener un peu de prospérité dans la classe laborieuse. Des palliatifs plus ou moins heureux furent essayés... mais la crise dure encore.

Dans la province de Québec (et dans l'Ontario ensuite), le gouvernement a mis à l'essai une loi donnant force de loi aux contrats collectifs de travail. Cette loi est diversement appréciée... selon ses résultats. Pour d'aucuns, elle est un adjuvant puissant pour la réorganisation des unions ouvrières, tandis que d'autres croient qu'elle finira par tuer complètement l'organisation ouvrière.

Pour un temps, il est indéniable que la loi de l'extension des conventions collectives de travail dirigera vers les unions ouvrières un grand nombre de travailleurs qui, ne pouvant se procurer du travail autrement qu'en produisant un certificat de compétence délivré par un comité conjoint, se verront ou se croiront dans la nécessité d'adhérer à l'union ouvrière qui leur aura procuré le permis indispensable. Toutefois, cet état de choses ne durera qu'un temps.

Les ouvriers n'ont rien à gagner à se fier aux gouvernements pour l'amélioration de leur sort, pour leur bien-être. Voyez les ouvriers américains qui ont tout perdu depuis que la NRA a été démantibulée par la Cour Suprême. Tout ce qu'ils peuvent garder, c'est ce qu'ils ont gagné par la force de leur union. Les conditions industrielles menacent de devenir pires que celles d'avant la crise, surtout dans les industries dont les ouvriers ont été réfractaires au trade-unionisme.

Les ouvriers resteront toujours des quantités négligeables aussi longtemps qu'ils refuseront d'appartenir à une union ouvrière qui comportera la grosse majorité des ouvriers. Que les ouvriers cessent de se plaindre, d'implorer l'aide des gouvernements, qu'ils s'affilient à l'union de leur métier; ils ne tarderont pas à constater un changement qui durera aussi longtemps qu'ils resteront organisés. La législation qu'ils ne peuvent obtenir — même en étant fortement organisés — ils pourront contraindre les gouvernements à l'adopter sous la force de l'opinion publique, comme cela s'est toujours fait d'ailleurs avant aujourd'hui; ce qu'ils pourront obtenir par eux-mêmes, la force de leur organisation le leur procurera et il ne s'agira pour eux que de rester organisés pour maintenir leurs gains.

Pensez-vous que si les ouvriers étaient organisés comme ils devraient l'être, si tous faisaient partie de l'union de leur métier, le gouvernement aurait été dans la nécessité d'adopter une législation du salaire minimum des femmes, une loi de limitation de la durée du travail, une loi d'extension des ententes collectives de travail, et que d'autre législation sociale et ouvrière? Non, les ouvriers, par leur organisation, auraient réussi à obtenir des résultats meilleurs que ceux que peuvent leur assurer ces diverses législations.

Dans le moment, on ne peut condamner ou répudier la législation qui apporte un soulagement aux souffrances occasionnées par la crise, mais on ne peut nier que si les ouvriers comprenaient leurs intérêts ils seraient tous embrigadés dans les rangs de l'unionisme. C'est pour suppléer à leur incompréhension, à leur indifférence, que les gouvernements sont dans l'obligation de venir au secours des ouvriers. Quand la prospérité sera revenue — si jamais elle revient — ceux qui harcèlent les gouvernements pour en obtenir des lois d'assistance seront les premiers à réprouver l'intervention gouvernementale dans les domaines industriels et autres.

On n'est jamais si bien servi que par soi-même. Les ouvriers devraient se rappeler que, dans leur cas plus que dans tout autre, c'est la stricte vérité. Ils ne devraient jamais l'oublier. Si nous jouissons présentement de lois sociales et ouvrières, cela est dû en grande partie — pour ne pas dire en totalité, ce qui serait probablement plus au point — à l'influence des unions ouvrières qui ont travaillé dans l'intérêt de leurs membres comme dans l'intérêt de ceux des travailleurs qui n'ont jamais cru de leur devoir de leur apporter leur coopération, qui se contentèrent de jouir en paix des bienfaits de l'unionisme sans bourse délier.

Il est encore temps de se ressaisir et de prendre les devants: pour cela, il faut que tous les ouvriers deviennent membres de l'union de leur métier.

R. HACHETTE.

Pour combattre la crise et le chômage

Dans un grand nombre de pays, sur une échelle plus ou moins vaste, les gouvernements ont eu recours à l'organisation de travaux publics pour combattre les effets de la crise économique, et particulièrement le chômage. Des leçons qui se dégagent de ces expériences, le Directeur du Bureau international du Travail, M. Harold Butler, a tiré diverses conclusions qu'il expose dans un des chapitres de son Rapport à la Conférence internationale du Travail, présentement en session à Genève.

Le premier enseignement qu'il retient, c'est que *les travaux publics ne peuvent avoir d'effet important, soit comme stimulant de l'activité économique générale, soit comme moyen de réduire le volume du chômage, que s'ils ont une grande envergure.*

Il n'est guère douteux, par exemple, que l'expérience faite aux Etats-Unis, où 1 milliard 500 millions de dollars ont été dépensés en l'espace de quinze mois (somme égale à la moitié environ du budget national normal) diffère non seulement par son ampleur, mais par sa nature de celle que tente la Grande-Bretagne en prévoyant la dépense, répartie sur une période de quinze ans, d'une somme de 320 millions de livres sterling (soit à peu près la même fraction du budget annuel), pour la construction de routes et autres travaux d'utilité publique. Dans des pays tels que l'Italie, l'Allemagne, la Suède et les Etats-Unis, où l'expérience des travaux publics a été faite sur une grande échelle, il n'est guère contestable que des résultats appréciables ont été obtenus tant par l'impulsion donnée à l'activité économique que par le développement des possibilités d'emploi.

Seconde constatation: *Il semble que les travaux publics ne soient profitables que lorsqu'ils sont financés par la voie de l'emprunt et non par le recours à l'impôt.* En effet, l'augmentation de la fiscalité, en période de marasme économique, pour trouver les ressources nécessaires à l'exécution de tels travaux, est susceptible d'étouffer toute initiative nouvelle, en sorte qu'elle tend simplement, en définitive, à déplacer des travailleurs de l'industrie privée pour les employer aux travaux publics. Par contre, lorsque l'existence de disponibilités qui ne trouvent pas de débouchés dans des placements privés permet de contracter des emprunts à un taux modéré pour la mise en valeur de ressources nationales, il s'ensuit un accroissement et une accélération de la circulation monétaire, ce qui provoque une augmentation corrélative du volume global de l'emploi. C'est en vertu de ce principe que de gros emprunts nationaux ont été contractés aux Etats-Unis, au Japon et en Suède, et ils paraissent avoir eu des effets salutaires sur la situation économique.

Troisième conclusion: *Les travaux publics ne sont économiquement efficaces pour obvier à la dépression que s'ils s'accompagnent d'une politique d'expansion monétaire.* Tenter d'accroître le volume total des achats en développant les travaux publics et s'efforcer en même temps de restreindre plutôt que d'accroître les moyens de paiement, c'est poursuivre des fins contradictoires. Il est très probable que la valeur des travaux publics comme moyen de redressement rencontrerait moins d'incompréhension si cette condition essentielle n'était pas méconnue.

D'autre part, les dépenses effectuées pour l'exécution de travaux publics — qui ne sont au demeurant qu'une forme de dépense des deniers publics — ne sauraient offrir à elles seules un remède absolu contre le chômage, et elles constituent un moyen de fortune dont l'application n'est ni prompt, ni facile. On admet d'une façon générale qu'il convient de *n'entreprendre que des travaux ayant une valeur économique réelle*, et l'on établit fréquemment, à juste titre, une distinction entre les travaux de ce genre et les simples travaux de secours exécutés uniquement pour créer de l'emploi.

L'ampleur que peuvent atteindre les travaux utiles varie nécessairement selon le degré d'outillage et d'avancement du pays; mais — l'exemple de l'Allemagne semble le prouver — même un pays très industrialisé offre encore de notables possibilités de perfectionner sa mise en valeur. Il est exact par ailleurs que de grandes difficultés techniques sont à surmonter pour établir un programme rationnel de travaux, pour en tenir à jour les détails d'exécution et pour coordonner l'action des autorités centrales et locales. La Commission des ressources nationales des Etats-Unis, qui a étudié attentivement toute la question, est arrivée à la conclusion que le seul moyen d'aplanir ces difficultés est de *faire élaborer à l'avance un plan d'ensemble par un organe permanent créé à cette fin.*

M. Harold Butler observe qu'il serait prématuré de porter en cette matière un jugement définitif; mais, après la leçon d'événements récents, il n'est plus possible d'écarter cette technique comme une conception extravagante ou chimérique.

"Les présomptions qui existent en faveur de l'utilisation des travaux publics pour des buts sociaux", écrit-il, "justifient amplement d'ores et déjà l'attention que l'Organisation internationale du Travail n'a cessé de porter à cette question. Dès sa première session, en 1919, la Conférence internationale du Travail a adopté une recommandation sur l'établissement de programmes de travaux publics. En 1931, Albert Thomas a préconisé fortement l'adoption d'une politique à cet égard et, l'année suivante, la Conférence se prononçant dans le même sens, a attiré l'attention de la Conférence monétaire et économique sur la question. Nous avons nous-même, dans notre rapport de l'an dernier, souligné de nouveau l'importance et les ressources qu'offre une telle politique, et les faits montrent que ses possibilités sont de jour en jour plus largement reconnues. Il se peut que ses conséquences économiques ne soient encore qu'imparfaitement comprises, mais la qualité des résultats déjà obtenus dans certains pays commande plus que jamais d'en pousser l'étude à fond et sans relâche."

Ce qui se passe dans nos unions

ELECTION DES BIJOUTIERS

La nouvelle union des bijoutiers-horlogers a procédé, ces jours derniers, à l'élection de ses officiers, au cours d'une assemblée tenue au Monument National. M. Jos. Pelletier, secrétaire du Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Montréal, agissait comme président d'élection et M. J.-E. Gariépy, vice-président du Conseil, comme secrétaire. Tous deux dirent quelques mots de félicitations aux membres et leur demandèrent de rester unis dans l'intérêt de leur union et des travailleurs en général.

La votation a donné le résultat suivant: Président, J.-C. Lachapelle, élu par acclamation; vice-président, A. Robert; secrétaire-archiviste et correspondant, B. Adler, élu par acclamation; secrétaire financier et trésorier, Paul Mercier, élu par acclamation; sergent d'armes, Hébert Houseman; vérificateurs, J. Lefebvre, E. Pearse et H. Clark, élus par acclamation; membres du comité exécutif: A. Barrette, F. Morris, F. Woodcock, H. Mayoff, L.-P. Dula, Olive Ledain, P. Dansereau et P. Ostegard.

C'EST A LES FAIRE SONGER

Employeurs et employés de l'industrie de l'imprimerie regrettent vivement qu'on n'en vienne pas à une entente plus rapidement. Depuis plusieurs mois, on cherche, de part et d'autre, à faire un compromis, mais sans succès; et pourtant la situation s'aggrave de jour en jour.

Les maîtres-imprimeurs qui croient sauvegarder leurs intérêts, en ne se rendant pas aux demandes des ouvriers, seront sans doute édifiés par la révélation faite par un pressier. C'est une preuve de plus que la concurrence actuelle est absolument désastreuse et qu'il faut à tout prix y mettre fin. Et ce n'est pas en retournant aux conditions d'avant-guerre qu'on y parviendra...

"Pour travailler actuellement", a dit cet employé (ou plutôt aspirant-employé), "il faut parfois être voleur." Ce pressier, en effet, est allé chercher de l'emploi chez un maître-imprimeur bien connu dans notre ville. Le patron lui offrit \$9.00 par semaine pour travailler sur des petites presses. Mais, comme l'employé a une grosse famille, le patron lui dit: "Garde ton secours direct. Je te donnerai congé le lundi avant-midi pour que tu ailles chercher ton chèque. Je ne révélerai pas ton nom à la Commission." — Très honnête, n'est-ce pas, ce patron?

Ce patron tenta de convaincre cet employé qu'il ne devait pas se faire une question de conscience avec le secours direct, et qu'il devait accepter cette offre avantageuse — pour le patron, naturellement, car il fait payer une partie de ses salaires par la Commission du chômage. "J'ai", dit-il, depuis deux ans, dans ma boutique, deux employés qui reçoivent des secours directs, J'ai donné à la Commission des noms faux."

Notre pressier refusa entièrement l'offre de ce patron, disant qu'il n'entendait pas voler pour travailler, et qu'il aimait mieux rester honnête que de travailler en courant le risque d'aller faire un séjour à Bordeaux.

Et c'est cette catégorie de patrons que les Associations de Maîtres-Imprimeurs veulent protéger en ne voulant pas accepter les demandes des ouvriers qui demandent un salaire assez élevé et des heures de travail conformes à la situation afin de parvenir à mettre à leur place ces patrons qui ne reculent devant aucun moyen pour faire une concurrence déloyale à ceux qui veulent les protéger, en pensant se protéger eux-mêmes. Nous pourrions leur rappeler qu'il est dangereux de "réchauffer des serpents."

LE PLACEMENT EN NOTRE PAYS

L'activité dans le placement en mars 1935, telle que reflétée par la moyenne des placements journaliers, marque une contraction de 11 pour cent en regard de celle indiquée pour le mois précédent et de plus de 25 pour cent comparativement à mars 1934, le groupe de la construction et de l'entretien accusant les pertes les plus importantes dans l'une et l'autre de ces comparaisons. D'après l'information du ministère national du Travail, 24,788 offres d'emploi furent communiquées aux bureaux du Service de placement du Canada en mars 1935, qui reçurent, dans la même période, 46,014 demandes de travail et effectuèrent 23,231 placements tant à demeure qu'en extra.

ANNIVERSAIRE

Le trente-cinquième anniversaire de fondation de l'Union internationale des Casquettiers et Chapeliers d'Amérique sera célébré avec tout l'éclat possible le 18 mai 1936, nous apprenait cette semaine M. Paul Fournier, organisateur canadien-français de cette importante association ouvrière. Déjà, on voit à la formation d'un comité de ces fêtes et, à cette occasion, des délégués de toutes les parties du Canada et des Etats-Unis seront présents. Le 1er juillet, la semaine de 40 heures sera en vigueur dans cette industrie pour les régions de Toronto et de Montréal.

LE CONSEIL DE DISTRICT DES CHARPENTIERS-MENUISIERS

Le Conseil de district des charpentiers-menuisiers de Montréal a tenu son assemblée régulière, mercredi dernier, au Monument National, sous la présidence de M. R. Gingras. M. Pierre Lefèvre, secrétaire, a présenté des rapports importants et pour tous les membres comme aussi pour les unions affiliées, concernant les conditions actuelles dans l'industrie du bâtiment dans notre ville, surtout, et aussi de la province en général. Avec la saison qui commence, et qui devrait promettre d'être active, les corps ouvriers ne négligent rien pour être en position de faire honneur à la situation, si le travail s'offre à eux.

CONSEIL DES METIERS DE LA CONSTRUCTION

Une importante assemblée du Conseil des métiers de la construction des unions internationales eut lieu jeudi dernier, au No 415, rue Sainte-Catherine Est. Des questions du plus vif intérêt y furent discutées. M. E. Mathieu, secrétaire, a présenté quelques rapports fort intéressants sur ses activités comme aussi sur le travail accompli jusqu'ici par le comité paritaire, institué en vertu de la loi de l'extension juridique des conventions collectives de travail.

LES EMPLOYES DE TRAMWAYS

Mercredi dernier, avait lieu l'assemblée régulière de la Division No 790 de l'Union internationale des Employés de tramways, au No 1079, rue Berri, sous la présidence de M. Jean Renaud.

Avec la saison du tourisme qui commence, les questions auxquelles ont à faire face les employés de tramways deviennent plus nombreuses et compliquées. D'importants rapports furent pris en considération et les plans pour la saison d'été ont été élaborés.

L'union ouvrière professionnelle a toujours été pour les ouvriers l'arme indispensable pour se faire respecter et traiter avec plus de justice.

Demandez l'étiquette de l'Union sur toutes vos marchandises

Always demand the Union Label -- It pays

Reproduction des marques syndicales, cartes d'ateliers, boutons et insignes de travail qui désignent l'affiliation aux unions internationales affiliées à la Fédération Américaine du Travail. Union Labels, Shop Cards, Working Buttons and Emblems used to designate membership in the affiliated National and International Unions with the American Federation of Labor.

The image displays a wide variety of union labels and emblems, each with its own unique design and text. These include:

- Shoemakers' Union Label:** A diamond-shaped label with a central emblem.
- International Photo-Engravers' Union Label:** A rectangular label with a central emblem.
- Local Pressmen's Union Label:** A rectangular label with a central emblem.
- United Printing Trades Label:** A rectangular label with a central emblem.
- Local Typographical Union Label:** A rectangular label with a central emblem.
- Union Market:** A rectangular label with a central emblem.
- Shop Card of Journeymen Barbers' Union:** A rectangular label with a central emblem.
- Along Label of Tobacco Workers:** A rectangular label with a central emblem.
- Union Label of Upholsterers' International Union of America:** A rectangular label with a central emblem.
- Shoemakers' Label used as a Stamp:** A rectangular label with a central emblem.
- Stone Card of Brick Clerks:** A rectangular label with a central emblem.
- Brick and Clay Workers' Label:** A diamond-shaped label with a central emblem.
- Bushkin's Union Label:** A circular label with a central emblem.
- Union Label of Metal Polishers' Union:** A circular label with a central emblem.
- Union Label of Journeymen Barbers:** A circular label with a central emblem.
- Union Label of State Masons:** A circular label with a central emblem.
- Emblem of American Federation of Musicians:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Beet and Shoe Workers' Union Stamp:** A circular stamp with a central emblem.
- Jewelry Workers' Union Label:** A circular label with a central emblem.
- Green and White Makers Union Label:** A circular label with a central emblem.
- Union Label of Sheet Metal Workers:** A circular label with a central emblem.
- Emblem of Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Union Label of Bill Posters and Delivery Alliance:** A circular label with a central emblem.
- Emblem of United Hatters of North America:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Union Label of Carpenters and Joiners:** A circular label with a central emblem.
- Emblem of Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Emblem of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers Union Label:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Emblem of Ship Employees and Mating Picture Machine Operators:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Emblem of Cigar Makers:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Emblem of Cigarette Makers:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Emblem of United Brewery, Flour, Cereal and Soft Drink Workers' Union Label:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Emblem of United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Emblem of United Brotherhood of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Emblem of United Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Emblem of United Brotherhood of Paperhangers and Paper Stickers:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
- Emblem of United Brotherhood of Glass Workers:** A circular emblem with a central figure.
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L'activité de l'Organisation Internationale du Travail

Après avoir montré comment l'étendue et la durée de la crise économique ont fait naître partout un sens plus aigu des responsabilités sociales, M. Harold Butler expose, dans son Rapport à la Conférence internationale du Travail, les développements récents de l'Organisation internationale du Travail.

L'entrée de nouveaux Membres, parmi lesquels deux grands pays industriels: les Etats-Unis et l'U. R. S. S., l'élargissement du Conseil d'administration du Bureau international du Travail et les modifications apportées à sa composition ont fortement accentué le caractère d'universalité de l'Organisation. Pour la première fois, son champ d'action encercle à peu près tout le globe.

L'une des conséquences de cet accroissement est que le centre de gravité de l'institution tendra vraisemblablement à s'écarter de l'Europe, mais c'est là, à la vérité, une tendance qui correspond aux transformations mêmes de la mappemonde industrielle, la guerre ayant eu pour effet de disséminer à travers le monde l'activité industrielle qui, au dix-neuvième siècle, s'était concentrée principalement dans quelques pays de l'Europe occidentale, gagnant par la suite les Etats-Unis. L'après-guerre a vu cette extension géographique de l'industrie faire de nouveaux progrès, notamment depuis le début de la crise.

Aussi bien, sur les 60 ratifications de conventions internationales du travail communiquées au cours des douze mois compris entre le 15 mars 1934 et le 15 mars 1935, quarante-quatre proviennent de l'Amérique latine.

M. Harold Butler souligne également l'intérêt tout spécial que présentent les ratifications, par le Canada, de diverses conventions adoptées en 1919, au premier rang desquelles figure la convention sur la journée de 8 heures. Jusqu'à présent, l'opinion avait prévalu au Canada que les Chambres fédérales ne pouvaient légiférer en matière de réglementation des conditions de travail et que cette réglementation était du ressort des parlements provinciaux. Il en résultait des difficultés presque insurmontables pour la ratification d'un grand nombre de conventions. Ces difficultés sont aplanies par le changement de procédure qu'a proposé le Premier Ministre, l'honorable R.-B. Bennett, et qu'a approuvé le Parlement fédéral. Et ce changement permet d'envisager l'éventualité de nouvelles ratifications, non seulement par le Canada, mais par d'autres Etats fédératifs se trouvant dans des conditions constitutionnelles analogues.

A propos de ratifications émanant d'Etats européens, le Directeur du Bureau international du Travail signale la situation favorable de la convention tendant à l'abolition du travail forcé. A la suite de l'adhésion de l'Italie, venant après celles de l'Espagne, de la Grande-Bretagne, du Japon, des Pays-Bas, il se trouve que, sur les quatre-vingt-dix territoires coloniaux ou sous mandat, auxquels la convention en question est applicable, environ soixante sont dès maintenant assujettis à ses dispositions. On peut espérer, sans faire preuve d'un optimisme excessif, que les autres puissances coloniales prendront, elles aussi, les dispositions nécessaires pour mettre cette convention en vigueur, ce qui aura pour conséquence d'assurer la répression systématique du travail forcé dans le monde entier.

Dans l'ensemble, M. Harold Butler considère que l'état actuel des ratifications, surtout si l'on tient compte des circonstances, reste encourageant.

Il passe ensuite en revue, dans son Rapport, l'oeuvre accomplie par l'Organisation au cours de la dernière année, dans les divers domaines de sa compétence. Puis il indique les tâches futures que les transformations sociales en cours semblent devoir lui imposer, notamment en ce qui concerne les salaires et les modes de rémunération du travail, le travail des femmes, le travail agricole l'utilisation des loisirs, la formation professionnelle des travailleurs, et tous les grands problèmes que soulèvent les modifications de la structure de l'industrie, la rationalisation, le chômage technologique, les rapports entre la production et la consommation, la détermination des besoins minima de la vie civilisée en matière de logement, d'alimentation, les questions de la population et de sa répartition, des migrations, etc.

"La fonction fondamentale de notre institution qui est de travailler à l'établissement de la justice sociale", écrit M. Butler, "fait que l'Organisation ne peut se cantonner dans le domaine de la législation sociale, au point d'exclure complètement de ses préoccupations les questions plus vastes dont dépendra en grande partie le sort de son oeuvre. A une époque où l'instauration de la justice sociale devient plus que jamais le "leitmotiv" des efforts déployés sur le double plan national et international, il est particulièrement nécessaire de tenir compte, dans un esprit universel, de tous les facteurs susceptibles de contribuer à son avènement. Il convient d'ajouter que, si une telle attitude n'oblige aucunement à sacrifier les problèmes de portée moins générale qui peuvent être opportunément résolus par voie d'accord international, elle pourra exiger la recherche de procédures nouvelles destinées à compléter les méthodes usuelles qui ne sont que d'une application limitée. Mais ceci ne saurait prendre au dépourvu l'Organisation qui s'est déjà montrée capable, ainsi que son histoire le prouve, d'une adaptation continue aux nécessités nouvelles."

BUDGET FAMILIAL

Le budget familial comprenant l'alimentation, le combustible, l'éclairage et le loyer, accuse une certaine baisse à \$15.97 au début d'avril, à rapprocher de \$16.10 au commencement de mars, contraction enregistrée dans l'alimentation, notamment dans le prix du beurre et des oeufs. Les indices correspondants pour certaines périodes

anterieures sont: Avril 1934, \$16.28; avril 1933, \$15.75; avril 1930, \$21.53; avril 1926, \$21.64; juillet 1920, \$26.92 (sommet d'après-guerre) et avril 1914, \$14.32.

Une belle relation.

— Moi qui vous parle, monsieur, je connais l'Egypte comme ma poche.
— Alors vous connaissez les Pyramides?
— Je pense bien. Il y a à peine trois mois je dansais encore avec la plus jeune!

LABOR DIRECTORY

MONTREAL TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL.—Meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at the Mount Royal Hotel. President, G. R. Brunet, 7 Craig Street East; Corresponding Secretary, Jos. Pelletier, 7 Craig Street East.

ALLIED PRINTING TRADES COUNCIL.—To promote the interests of the Allied Union Label (which can be had in either the French or English language). The following organizations comprise Council: Typographical Union No. 176; Jacques-Cartier Typographical Union No. 145; Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union No. 52; Bookbinders' Union No. 91; Photo Engravers' Union No. 9; Stereotypers and Electrotypers' Union No. 33; Amalgamated Lithographers of America No. 27. President, Joseph Pelletier; Vice-President, Walter Forrest; Recorder, A. F. Ricard; Secretary-Treasurer, James Phillip, Room 12, 408 St. James Street West. Executive: H. Pettit, J. A. Bollier, John Moore. Auditors: J. A. Ricard, T. Niven, J. Kelly. Telephone: MARquette 7489. Council meets Second Tuesday of each month at 7 Craig Street East.

UNION TYPOGRAPHIQUE JACQUES-CARTIER No 145.—Assemblée le 1er samedi du mois, à la salle de l'Union de Commerce, 1079, rue Berri. Président, J.-W. Blaquière, 1174, rue Christophe-Colomb, téléphone: CR. 3800; secrétaire-trésorier, Henri Richard, 3477, rue Cartier, téléphone: AMherst 7034.

UNION DES RELIEURS, Local 91.—Assemblée tous les 1er et 3e mercredis de chaque mois, à la salle de l'Union, 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: LANcaster 2726.

TYPOGRAPHICAL UNION No. 176.—Meets first Saturday of each month at Union Rooms, 408 St. James St. W. William Skanes, President, 5630 Waverley Street; James Phillip, Secretary-Treasurer, Room 12, 408 St. James Street West. Business hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Telephone: MARquette 7489.

WOOD, WIRE & METAL LATHERS, Local 315 of Montreal.—Meets every 2nd Wednesday at 1182 St. Lawrence Blvd. (Monument National), room 15. Frank Horan, Financial Secretary, 3653 Park Avenue, Telephone: HARbour 4497.

FRATERNITE DES WAGONNIERS DE CHEMINS DE FER D'AMERIQUE, LOGE SAINTE-MARIE No 234.—Assemblée régulière 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, 3870, rue Montana; secrétaire-archiviste et correspondant, C. Miron, 5181, 7e Avenue, Rosemont; secrétaire-financier, R.-B. Lamarche, 4505, Delorimier, chambre 7; secrétaire-trésorier, A. Bertrand, 2345, Aylwin; guides: E. Deniger et A. Asselin; sentinelle, I. Côté; maître de cérémonies, Jos. Dufault; garden, H. Joly. Comité local de protection: L.-A. Beaudry, président, tél. FRontenac 5894; Geo. Gauthier, secrétaire, 5468, 12e Avenue, Rosemont, tél. CLairval 1314W; C. Miron, tél. AM. 5223; H.-J. Limoges, 1464, Desjardins, tél. CLairval 7555; H. Vaillancourt, 2494, Rouen, tél. FRontenac 5590; R. Provost, 2089, Préfontaine, tél. FRontenac 1523.

THEATRICAL FEDERATION OF MONTREAL AND VICINITY

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MUSICIANS, Local No. 406.—Telephone: PLateau 5200. Stewart Dunlop, President; Edward Charrette, Secretary. Office address: Room 11, Mount Royal Hotel. Meets First Monday each month, 10 A.M., Mount Royal Hotel.

THEATRICAL STAGE EMPLOYEES LOCAL UNION No. 56.—Meets 11.30 P.M. Every 1st Tuesday each month at the Mount Royal Hotel. P. J. Ryan, President; F. W. Cooper, Secretary. Office address: Room No. 4, 1242 McGill College Avenue. Telephone: LANcaster 2753. P. O. Box 336, Station "B."

MOVING PICTURE PROJECTIONISTS LOCAL UNION No. 262.—P. J. Ryan, President; E. Lamy, Secretary. Office address: Room 32, Bank of Montreal Bldg., 1260 University St. Telephone: PLateau 5562. Meets Second Wednesday of each month at 11.30 P.M. in the Mount Royal Hotel.

FRATERNITE UNIE DES CHARPENTIERIERS-MENUISIERS D'AMERIQUE, Local 134.—Président, F. Doucet, 1909, rue Cartier; vice-président, H. Trotter, 2214, rue Panet, tél. FRontenac 1608; secrétaire-archiviste, Pierre Lefèvre, 5491, 12e Avenue, Rosemont; secrétaire-financier, Edouard Larose, 1278, rue Beaubien, tél. DOLLard 3288; secrétaire-trésorier, Ernest Tisdelle, 1316, rue Gilford. Le Local s'assemble tous les lundis soir, au Monument National, chambre 11.

FRATERNITE UNIE DES PEINTRES-DECORATEURS, Local 349.—Assemblée tous les lundis, au No 1331, rue Sainte-Catherine Est. Président, E. Valliquette, 1989, Kent; vice-président, J. Boulet, 1465, Champlain; secrétaire-correspondant, Albert Renaud, 1139, William; secrétaire-financier, L.-P. Boiselle, 4621, Delorimier; trésorier, R. Robillard, 2306, Des Erables; conducteur, Art. Renaud, 387, Congrégation; garden, J.-N. Desjardins, 1745, rue St-Denis; auditeurs: J. Chartrand, 4326, Delaroché; E. Desèves, 3825, Henri-Julien; A. Boismenu, 5124, De Gaspe.

CHARPENTIERIERS - MENUISIERS, Union locale No 1558, Maisonneuve.—Assemblée tous les vendredis à 8 heures du soir, au No 1651, rue Letourneau (Temple des Buffalo). Président: J.-A. Chamberland, 1526, rue Saint-Germain; Vice-Président: Aram. Houle, 4696, rue Lafontaine; Secrétaire-Archiviste: Charles Thibault, 2434, boulevard Pie IX; Secrétaire-Financier: J.E. Delisle, 5233, rue Bordeaux; Secrétaire-Trésorier: J.-W. Corbell, 2350, rue Lacordaire; Conducteur: Joseph Cournoyer, 2530, rue Chambly; Gardien: H. Léger, 2427, rue Bourbonnière.

CONSEIL DE DISTRICT DES CHARPENTIERIERS - MENUISIERS D'AMERIQUE.—Président, F. Larose; vice-président, E. Boucher; trésorier, E. Lauthier; secrétaire, Pierre Lefèvre; agents d'affaires: J. Shears et G. Houle. Les assemblées sont tenues tous les mercredis soirs à 8 heures, au Monument National, chambre 14, tél. LANcaster 5754.

BOOT AND SHOE WORKERS' UNION, No. 249.—S'assemble tous les vendredis du mois à 8 heures du soir, au No 1331, rue Sainte-Catherine Est. Président, O. Proulx; secrétaire-archiviste, N. Gervais; secrétaire-correspondant, A. Roy; comité exécutif: président, L. Thibault; secrétaire, N. Poirier; secrétaire-trésorier et agent d'affaires, Charles McKecher, 1331, rue Sainte-Catherine Est. Le Local s'assemble tous les vendredis et l'Exécutif tous les mercredis.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES BARBIERS COIFFEURS D'AMERIQUE, Local 455, de Montreal.—S'assemble tous les 2e et 4e lundis de chaque mois, au No 1182, boulevard Saint-Laurent, Monument National, salle No 15. Président, H. Lacombe; secrétaire-archiviste, L.-D. Bélanger; secrétaire-trésorier et agent d'affaires, A. Roy, 254, rue Sainte-Catherine Est.

UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TAILLEURS DE PIERRE DE MONTREAL.—Assemblée tous les 2e et 4e lundis de chaque mois, à 8 heures du soir, à la salle des Cordonniers, 1331, rue Sainte-Catherine Est. Président, A. Laurin, 7370, rue Drolet; secrétaire-correspondant, J.-L. Longpré, 2440, rue Sainte-Catherine Est.

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L'expérience corporative

Une organisation corporative de l'économie française est-elle souhaitable? Les mesures prises par le législateur pour pallier les contrecoups de la crise mondiale, et notamment, la loi sur les "ententes industrielles", récemment votée par le parlement français, donnent une actualité nouvelle à cette question posée depuis un siècle par tous les catholiques sociaux, de Montalembert à la Tour du Pin en passant par Frédéric Le Play et par le comte Albert de Mun. Or, il se trouve que par un singulier paradoxe, au fur et à mesure que l'idée corporative gagne du terrain dans des pays comme l'Allemagne et l'Italie, ou dans des milieux politiques qui demeuraient jusqu'à présent réfractaires à sa pénétration, certains penseurs catholiques, tout en restant fidèles à son principe consacré d'ailleurs par la doctrine pontificale, accueillent avec une réserve croissante certaines formes ou certaines modalités du corporatisme. "L'expérience corporative est-elle souhaitable dans l'état actuel des choses", demandait ainsi M. Henry Janet dans un récent article de la "Revue Hebdomadaire". Nous n'hésitons pas, après avoir longuement regardé autour de nous, à répondre: "Non". Est-ce à dire que le jeune théoricien catholique et ses amis aient perdu confiance dans la philosophie économique élaborée

par leurs devanciers et sanctionnée par les Pères de l'Eglise? En aucune manière. Mais ils estiment que dans l'état actuel du monde toute réforme politique doit être accompagnée d'une morale pour prendre toute sa pleine valeur et garder toute sa pleine efficacité. "La Corporation", précisaient dans cet esprit M. Henry Janet, "comporte par essence un caractère d'obligation. Si l'on veut organiser une profession, la liberté et la bonne volonté ne suffisent pas. Il est nécessaire d'établir des règlements et de prévoir des sanctions."

"Règlements et sanctions imposées à tous sans quoi nous n'organiserons en fait que la concurrence déloyale. L'intervention de l'Etat qui dispose encore des pouvoirs de justice et de police est donc une nécessité absolue. Au milieu de cette immense tâche économique qui absorbera rapidement tous les rouages administratifs, personne ne pourra plus défendre efficacement l'Etat, c'est-à-dire ce qui demeure l'Etat qui n'est pas seulement gardien du présent, mais du passé et de l'avenir du pays." Il est particulièrement significatif que l'évolution de l'économie moderne amène naturellement les disciples d'Albert de Mun à vérifier et à reprendre la formule de leur maître: "Pas de réforme de l'économie sans la restauration totale des valeurs actuelles et des valeurs morales."

TRIBUNE LIBRE.

LES ASSURANCES SOCIALES ET LA CRISE DU CHOMAGE

Voici le texte d'une communication que M. J.-C. Arcand, vice-président et publiciste de la Coopérative d'Education Ouvrière, nous fait parvenir au sujet des assurances sociales. Cette communication contient d'intéressants détails, comme on pourra s'en rendre compte.

Monsieur le Rédacteur,
Le Monde Ouvrier.
Cher Monsieur,

Encouragé par la gracieuse hospitalité que vous avez bien voulu m'accorder en publiant dernièrement encore un de mes articles, je vous reviens aujourd'hui en quête d'une nouvelle faveur. Convaincu d'avance que vous saurez répondre à mon désir, en publiant les quelques lignes qui suivent, je vous fais part à l'instant de mes remerciements les plus sincères.

Je me dois de vous remercier enfin pour l'attention toute spéciale que vous portez à la cause ouvrière, qui est celle du peuple. En effet, vous n'avez pas hésité à nous ouvrir toutes grandes des colonnes de votre journal et en vous mettant à notre disposition.

Au cours du passé, nous avons maintes fois émis l'opinion que des réformes sociales s'imposaient au sein de notre province. La Commission des Assurances sociales a confirmé nos opinions en ce qui regarde d'abord la pension aux vieillards.

Cette loi de pension aux vieillards est réclamée par tous les citoyens bien pensants, quoi qu'en disent quelques adversaires intéressés. Néanmoins, le terrain est tout préparé. Il ne reste plus qu'à agir. La province toute entière a le regard tourné vers nos dirigeants et elle attend d'eux ce devoir social qui s'impose. La Saint-Père ne demande-t-il pas lui-même de secourir les vieillards. Alors, on n'a qu'à suivre la doctrine chrétienne qu'il nous enseigne dans ses encycliques pour s'en convaincre.

Maintenant je lance encore un vibrant appel à tous nos gouvernants leur demandant enfin de bien vouloir venir en aide aux vieillards, aux veuves et aux orphelins, en les incitant à ne pas reculer devant leur devoir d'Etat envers tous les citoyens du pays sans distinction de race, de religion, ou d'opinion politique.

Du reste, tout ceci n'est que pure justice. C'est l'enseignement de l'Eglise catholique. Le gouvernement fédéral contribue une large part, pourquoi Québec refuse-t-il obstinément sa contribution qui n'est que de vingt-cinq pour cent?

Il faudrait donc que Québec finisse par comprendre la nécessité d'établir en cette province cette mesure inspirée de la plus pure charité et que nous réclamons au nom de la justice sociale.

Les enfants et les communautés elles-mêmes suffisent à peine difficilement à secourir les plus nécessiteux. Chez les uns, c'est l'argent qui fait défaut; chez les autres, c'est l'espace; bref, il faut les fameux secours directs qui, tels qu'appliqués dans cette province constituent une véritable plaie sociale. Par la pension, cette contribution équitablement établie, on assurera à tous nos vieillards sans exception des jours de paix, de bonheur et de repos bien mérités.

Il est bien vrai que dans notre province

nous avons de nombreuses institutions de charité. Malgré tout le respect que je possède envers nos institutions, je vous dis bien sincèrement qu'elles sont insuffisantes à satisfaire aux besoins et au bien-être de tous nos malheureux vieillards.

Nous avons vu trop souvent de pauvres vieillards aux cheveux blanchis par les frimas de l'âge impitoyablement condamnés à prendre le chemin de nos prisons communes, ou de nos asiles d'aliénés.

Combien parmi ces chers vieux seraient heureux de finir ensemble une vie édifiée à deux au sein des épreuves et de lourds sacrifices.

Or, souvent ils ne le peuvent pas, non pas parce que leurs enfants manquent de courage et de cœur, mais parce qu'ils sont trop pauvres pour leur payer une pension suffisante, ou encore qu'ils ont de nombreux jeunes enfants. Et nos vieillards s'en vont ainsi parfois chacun de leur côté couler des jours amers, tourmentés par l'ennui, dévorés par le chagrin nonobstant tous les bons soins qu'on leur prodigue généreusement.

Monsieur le premier ministre, réfléchissez un peu et tâchez de revenir à de meilleurs sentiments humanitaires. Jugez la situation sans parti pris, laissez la politique de côté pour quelques instants et réalisez les choses telles qu'elles apparaissent. Soyez un peu plus vous-même, Monsieur le premier ministre, et qu'il nous soit permis d'espérer en une conversion prochaine à la foi que vous ont prêchée avec tant de zèle les dignes membres de la Commission des assurances sociales de Québec.

Je viens, pour ma part, au nom de la justice sociale et de la vieillesse, solliciter l'appui du gouvernement.

Mes réclamations, je vous les adresse au nom de mon pays, de ma race et de ma religion, et j'ai la ferme conviction que le travail de tous ceux qui s'intéressent à cette oeuvre admirable finira par nous procurer tous les fruits que nous en attendons.

Bien à vous, mon cher rédacteur, je me souscris votre humble serviteur,

J.-C. ARCAND, publiciste,
7969, rue Saint-Denis, Montréal.

UNE ASSEMBLEE DES CIGARIERS

Le comité d'organisation de l'Union internationale des Cigariers, local 58, déploie une activité fébrile afin d'assurer le succès de la campagne de propagande qu'il a entreprise, sous la direction générale de M. Corbeil.

Mercredi soir, une grande assemblée était tenue au Monument National, pour tous les hommes et femmes du métier qui veulent travailler à l'amélioration de leurs conditions de travail et, si on en juge par l'assistance, ils sont nombreux ceux qui ne sont pas satisfaits du sort qui leur est fait.

L'échevin H. Dupuis, membre du comité exécutif de la métropole, était au nombre des orateurs et de soirée et il a dit franchement ce qu'il pense de la question ouvrière. D'autres orateurs ont aussi adressé la parole. Cependant, du résultat final de ces assemblées de propagande dépend le succès futur de cette organisation. Rien ne sert de proférer des plaintes, si on ne prend pas les moyens de les faire corriger; et ce moyen, le seul efficace, c'est l'adhésion à l'union de son métier.

Ces maigres salaires

Depuis et avant la guerre, la question des salaires aux ouvriers se réglait entre unions ouvrières et employeurs. La crise est venue, entraînant avec elle le chômage. Devant une main-d'oeuvre trop abondante, les unions ouvrières ont été impuissantes à conserver leur influence vis-à-vis le patron qui, advenant une grève, n'avait que l'embaras du choix pour embaucher d'autres ouvriers. Les salaires ont nécessairement subi une baisse considérable.

On affirme aujourd'hui, avec raison, que la prospérité revient, lentement peut-être, mais sûrement. Une amélioration sensible apparaît dans tous les domaines. Seuls, les salaires restent à un niveau inférieur. Comment expliquer cette léthargie du coût de la main-d'oeuvre?

A certains endroits, le travail féminin reçoit une rétribution dérisoire. Il y a une législation du salaire minimum des femmes, législation dont certains patrons se moquent quasi publiquement. On sait que le salaire d'une apprentie est d'environ \$6 par semaine de travail. Des femmes, mères de famille, reçoivent à la fin de la semaine une enveloppe de paye qui mentionne un montant de \$6.50, mais, en réalité, il n'y a à l'intérieur que \$4.50 ou \$5.00. Il n'est pas besoin de dire que l'employée n'a pas l'avantage de dénoncer son patron, que la

moindre allusion de sa part au salaire de famine qu'elle reçoit provoquera sa mise à la porte de l'établissement. Forcée de gagner sa vie, l'ouvrière accepte ce qu'on lui donne; le patron en profite pour augmenter son bénéfice et violer sans vergogne la loi du salaire minimum des femmes!

Il est à souhaiter que le gouvernement provincial s'occupe d'enrayer cette gangrène sociale. Dans l'intérêt de tous cette législation sur le salaire doit être respectée. Personne n'a le droit de ne payer ses ouvriers qu'à moitié. Si le système que nous dénonçons, et que les inspecteurs sont à même de constater et la commission de réprimer, se continue encore quelque temps, nous aurons peut-être à combattre alors un mal bien plus pernicieux: le communisme. La plus grande provocation au désordre, c'est la violation des principes élémentaires de la charité chrétienne.

Cependant, nous devons rappeler aux ouvriers qu'il y a une disposition dans la loi qui protège les ouvrières qui ont des plaintes à porter et qui garantit leur incognito. Elles ne devraient pas avoir peur de dénoncer les patrons qui violent la loi. Il a été constaté que si les abus persistent, c'est souvent la faute des ouvrières qui refusent de renseigner les inspecteurs ou les renseignent mal. C'est à elles d'y voir et de ne pas craindre.

LE NOUVEAU PLAN DE COLONISATION

La mesure la plus importante votée à la dernière session fut sans contredit celle du nouveau plan de colonisation, dit Vautrin.

Cette mesure est d'importance primordiale parce que nos paroisses débordent de jeunes gens qui ne savent où tourner les yeux pour trouver un endroit où ils pourraient fonder des foyers.

Nous avons intérêt à garder cette jeunesse au pays, de lui faire développer à son compte les terres et les ressources naturelles qu'il découvre par ses ancêtres. Si notre commerce va mal, si tant de jeunes ne peuvent plus avoir les positions qu'ils détenaient dans les industries de nos villes, c'est qu'on a trop négligé jusqu'ici d'aider notre jeunesse à s'établir au pays, et de créer de cette façon un marché local suffisant pour la consommation de ce que pourrait produire notre industrie.

Au pays de Québec, sur une population de trois millions, nous avons à peine 136,000 familles d'agriculteurs. La ville de Montréal, à elle seule, a une population presque deux fois aussi considérable que toute la population agricole du Québec. Rien de surprenant si nous avons tant de chômeurs.

Sans que la population des villes augmentât, il faudrait au Québec au moins 500,000 familles d'agriculteurs.

C'est alors que notre marché local nous permettrait de produire pour employer notre jeunesse ouvrière.

Dans certaines classes, on compte sur le marché extérieur pour écouler les produits de notre industrie.

Dans tous les autres pays on fait de même, et partout ailleurs, depuis la guerre, on s'est industrialisé au point de pouvoir se passer de l'industrie des autres.

De plus en plus il faudra donc compter sur nous-mêmes. Et comme il n'y a que deux façons de gagner de quoi manger — soit en le produisant, ou en gagnant de l'argent pour acheter ce qu'on ne produit pas — nous avons donc à placer notre jeunesse sur des terres en rapport ou à défricher, ou à lui fournir du travail dans des usines, dans le commerce ou dans les diverses autres activités de la vie.

L'industrie et le commerce n'allant pas, il nous reste heureusement des millions d'acres de terre arable à mettre en valeur par le défrichement et la culture.

C'est pourquoi la colonisation chez nous est d'importance primordiale.

Il ne faudrait pas oublier qu'un peuple ne devient grand que s'il prend un soin jaloux de sa jeunesse.

Que ferons-nous de la nôtre?

J.-ERNEST LAFORCE.

— Dans l'intimité, ma femme m'appelle adjectif... moi, je l'appelle adverbe!

— Pourquoi?

— Parce que nous ne nous accordons jamais!

* * *

C'est un coupable usage de la liberté que de l'abdiquer. — VICTOR COUSIN.

* * *

— Docteur, vous m'avez dit de lui faire prendre du fer!...

— Eh bien, ça lui a réussi!

— Heu!... ça lui a fait sortir les clous.

L'INDUSTRIE TOURISTIQUE

Le voyageur étranger a dépensé, au Québec, l'année dernière, une trentaine de millions de dollars. Nous avons là, à la fois, un indice que l'industrie touristique a commencé de prendre rang parmi les industries qui enrichissent la province, et un encouragement à l'intensifier, par tous les moyens possibles, au cours de la saison prochaine.

Tout indique, déjà, que 1935 sera pour le tourisme, au Québec, une année meilleure que 1934. Cette année, plus que jamais, cependant, il importe de rendre à notre province sa véritable physionomie française qui sera toujours le meilleur atout de son industrie touristique, un atout d'autant plus précieux qu'on maintiendra chez nous une atmosphère de plus en plus française. Il faut que partout on apprenne à montrer un visage français, — français dans le parler, français dans les habitudes, français dans les coutumes, — français dans l'accueil et l'hospitalité qu'attendent de nous les étrangers.

Les visiteurs étrangers ne viennent pas au Québec seulement pour se livrer aux joies de la pêche et de la chasse; ils y viennent pour prendre contact avec un peuple différent des autres, à qui il prête une physionomie différente, l'attrait de la nouveauté, un commencement d'exotisme. Au point de vue touristique le Québec ne le cède en rien à aucune autre province du pays. Mais à quoi serviront tous nos avantages si l'on n'y maintient une atmosphère française, — ce cachet qui fait l'attraction du Canada français.

Il est important de faire disparaître aussitôt que possible une foule d'affiches et d'enseignes, rédigées en langue anglaise, qui ornent les devantures de nos magasins, hôtels, tavernes, restaurants, etc., etc., qu'on emploie à tort pour attirer les touristes et qui ne font que les éloigner.

Le voyageur désire, et il exige, d'être reçu partout et toujours poliment et avec empressement. Il veut du confort et de l'attention. A-t-il tort? Non, il paie! Qu'on lui donne donc ce qu'il veut; c'est si facile!

Soyons, comme toujours, propres, polis, hospitaliers, évitons la pratique de la majoration des prix qui a tant nui au tourisme, dans certains pays d'Europe.

Embellissons demeures, bâtiments de ferme et routes. Blanchissons, plantons des arbres, semons des fleurs.

La gaieté est un attrait particulier de notre race: conservons-la!

Rendons service aux visiteurs et fournissons-leur les informations dont ils ont besoin pour visiter agréablement notre belle province. Nous serons les premiers à en bénéficier.

AVIS est donné par les présentes que Dame LOUISE ISABELL SUTHERLAND, des cités et district de Montréal, dans le comté d'Hydrochelaga, dans la province de Québec, s'adressera au Parlement du Canada à la présente ou prochaine Session, pour obtenir un divorce de son mari, HENRY WILLIAM CHAPLIN, gérant, de la dite cité de Montréal, pour cause d'adultère.

Daté à Montréal, Province de Québec, le 13e jour de mai 1935.

HOWARD S. ROSS,
Suite 604 — Immeuble Thémis,
10 ouest, rue St-Jacques,
Montréal.

Le Procureur de la Requête.

Parliament from the Gallery

By GRACE MacINNIS.

School children learn that Parliament is the place where the laws of the country are made; that politicians, a few of whom are destined to become statesmen after their deaths, debate gravely the pressing public issues and make wise laws to remove grievances as they appear; that legislation is carefully prepared before it reaches the House and skilfully piloted through its various stages.

A school child straying into the House of Commons' gallery during the discussion on fair wages and hours of labor in public works and contracts would have received a rude jolt regarding the infallibility of at least some of the legislators. The bill was in two parts, the first, to secure an 8-hour day and a 44-hour week in government contracts; the second dealt with contracts to which the government merely gave assistance. This second part repeated the guarantee of the 8-hour day but said nothing about the 44-hour week. Mr. Woodsworth saw no reason why the second part should not secure the 44-hour week and said so.

Then the lawyers got into action. When it becomes necessary to squelch a layman there is nothing like the British North America Act. Mr. Heaps once suggested that its title really should be the BAN Act. With the possible exception of the "Constitution" of the United States, there is no better red herring which can be drawn across the trail of progress.

Mr. Gordon, the Minister of Labor, is a lawyer. Heavy, thick-set and pompous he had risen in his place and stated that "it was thought by the law officers of the crown and those who advised in the preparation of the legislation that the adoption of a forty-four hour week with respect to the class of work contemplated by section 5 might very well give rise to an invitation to impeach the validity of the legislation on the ground of its unconstitutionality." Now in reply to Mr. Woodsworth he rose again and repeated his argument in slightly different, but equally imposing language.

At this juncture, Mr. Kennedy from Winnipeg, also a lawyer, came to Mr. Woodsworth's assistance with the opinion, carefully couched in legal phraseology, that the clause was quite constitutional. Mr. Gordon again repeated his fears regarding the "impeachment of this legislation." He stated that it would be quite constitutional for the federal government to insist on a 44-hour week when it made each separate contract, but that it would be *ultra vires* for this provision to be put into a bill which would cover all cases.

Mr. Woodsworth remaining persistently unsatisfied, Mr. Guthrie, the Minister of Justice, came to the aid of Mr. Gordon. He proceeded, again as a lawyer, to deliver a crushing blow: The bill had already been submitted to Mr. Geoffrion, K.C., and Mr. Tilley, K.C., two of the leading legal lights in eastern Canada and "they said if we placed it (the 44-hour provision) in the bill it would constitute a clear infringement of provincial jurisdiction, but that we could put it in an agreement as a term or condition upon which a grant would be made, and that by doing that we would achieve the same end."

Mr. Woodsworth remained uncrushed. He indicated his hesitation in taking issue with such eminent counsel but objected to having "great names hurled at us so as to silence us." He even suggested that "we ought to use our own brains." The matter dropped for a few moments and then Mr. Woodsworth moved: "That in line 29 after the word 'day,' there be inserted the words 'nor forty-four hours per week.'"

Mr. Gordon again expressed dignified concern for the fate of the legislation, but Mr. Woodsworth was inconsiderate enough to want to see the advice in written form of the legal luminaries. Mr. Guthrie made one more feeble attempt to assert that the two parts were worded identically although our school child could have seen that they were not. Mr. Woodsworth relentlessly repeated his amendment.

Finally, after about an hour's wrangling on the question, Mr. Guthrie said meekly: "I do not see any objection to putting that in." (Mr. Woodsworth's amendment).

"Except," taunted Mr. Lapointe — another lawyer — "that, according to the Minister of Labor, the law officers of the crown and two eminent counsels who have been specially consulted in the matter have declared that it would be invalid."

Two paragraphs lower down in Hansard for the day appear the words: Amendment agreed to.

Well, that may all be dry as dust but that is how the laws are made — once they get as far as the House of Commons. What happens beforehand is shrouded in convenient obscurity. As for the future of any poor little law which manages like this one to escape the clutches of the British North America Act and its faithful guardians, the lawyers — well, it has to run the gauntlet of the Senate and perhaps later in the courts of such "eminent counsel" as those who tried to prevent its creation. If school children only knew!!

* * *

Facts About Wheat.

Mr. Bennett, on behalf of the Government, moved a resolution for the establishment of a Canadian Grain Board to "sell, store, transport and market" wheat, oats, barley, rye and flax-seed. Bill No. 98 will reveal the powers and scope of the new board and the House as well as the country is waiting in anticipation for its introduction. During the course of his speech on the resolution Mr. Bennett gave some data regarding wheat:

The price of wheat in 1932-33 reached the lowest point in four hundred years.

Unsold surpluses of wheat have been accumulating in Canada since 1929. Large crops have added continually to the problem.

There has been no diminution in the use of wheat by the people of the world.

But many countries which before the war imported wheat from Canada have not put themselves in a position to supply not only their own needs but also to export their surpluses to other countries.

In the last 5 years, for example, the largest sale of wheat to France was 31,000,000 bushels.

Thousands of acres in the Pontine marshes of Italy, never before used for farming, are now available for wheat production.

Fertilizers have increased the yield per acre in Germany to a greater extent even than before the war.

"The world has been producing so much more wheat than it has been consuming that there is a large surplus, and that that surplus must be taken care of by some orderly method or we will have a complete dislocation of the whole wheat industry in Canada."

Evolution of Collective Bargaining

In a recent number of the Christian Science Monitor Malcolm Keir, professor of economics, specializing in industrial history and labor relations, Dartmouth College, gave some interesting facts regarding collective bargaining and what it stands for. Excerpts are quoted:

With labor relations much in the news there is still confusion as to the meaning and reason for collective bargaining.

When medieval labor regulations were supplanted by freedom of contract each worker arranged with his employer mutually satisfactory terms as to wages, hours and working conditions. Both parties were about the same strength; for good workers were scarce, businesses were small, employers had scarcely greater capital resources than workers and lived within hail. But as industries expanded machinery eroded skill and the employer became socially or geographically remote.

An employer of 100 or more persons out-grew individual bargaining. The employer did not have to hire any particular person and so quite easily could wait to get one on the employer's own terms. On the other hand none seeking a place could wait until finding an employer whose terms were to the seeker's liking. Moreover, after being hired, anyone who objected in any way to the employer's dictates was discharged without any means of defense. Thus individual bargaining yielded to autocracy.

Meanwhile workers discussed their weakness in bargaining as single units; they concluded that although an employer could dispense with any one man he could not operate in the absence of his entire work force. Hence if the workers acted as a unit — or union — they could present their terms as a group and force recognition of the group by the threat or actuality of a strike or boycott. Shoemakers, printers, carpenters and others took this step before 1827 and each decade thereafter saw new groups of workers substituting collective for individual bargaining. The change took place most rapidly in cities either on account of the large size of the work places or because of the great numbers of the same kinds of work people in the same community. In addition collective bargaining was strongest among persons whose skill made it difficult to fill their places.

Soon it was apparent that it was impossible for an entire group to meet the employer, so someone or a few were selected as spokesmen. To be spokesman proved dangerous; for even when an employer met and bargained with the spokesman in this representative capacity the employer vented his own resentment at loss of arbitrary power by finding — sooner or later — a fair-sounding reason to discharge or in some other way force the departure of the representative. The casualties among spokesmen were so large that unions created salaried officers to act as spokesmen; these not only met the employer without fear of reprisals, but became trained negotiators. Thus true bargaining was restored but upon a collective rather than individual basis.

Of course employers disliked their loss of absolute power to dictate terms of employment. They rationalized this by citing inefficiencies wrought by union rules, especially ascribing to all unions the supposed absurdity of those imposed by building craftsmen. Employers also turned to the law for curbs upon collective bargaining. Before 1840 it was the common law of conspiracy that was used to condemn unions as unlawful combinations. After 1890 the injunction against all the means by which unions enforced collective bargaining was the employers' favorite legal weapon. The courts also legalized prohibition of union membership upon job applications. The Sherman act, too, was invoked more often against unions than against corporations. In nearly all these legal cases employers said they were defenders of the American fundamental of individual contract; but curiously no worker of his own initiative ever appealed to a court to protect this right.

The motivation of the employed was a mistaken theory that profits rose as wages sank. Moreover, as proprietors were succeeded by a multiplicity of stockholders the chief measure of good managership was high dividends.

To name the employers who protested collective bargaining and affirmed faith in individual bargaining is to call the roll of the most typical large-scale mass output industries. Among them have been the textile steel, coal, tobacco, automobile, rubber and aluminum industries. On the other hand, collective bargaining has been

most generally successful among printers, railway trainmen, building craftsmen, the needle trades and actors.

In the last several years employers who have resisted collective bargaining have had much of their legal arsenal outlawed by congress (in the United States). Hence shifting their strategy they no longer openly denounce collective bargaining, but seek to narrow it and its spokesmen to the employer's own immediate workers. Sensible as this sounds, it leaves the employer dominant. Unless the workers of an entire industry mutually support each other, and unless the spokesman is independent, there can be no adequate collective bargaining.

Americans long have enjoyed democracy in political matters, but in industry and business autocracy has been the rule — and still is desired by the most powerful employers. Do the majority of Americans also desire it? That question is getting an answer daily in the news columns.

UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

CAN VERY EASILY BE SOLVED

Every person in Canada should feel that there is a national need facing the country in respect to the unemployment problem that seems to be making itself a fixture because there has been no real effort made to unselfishly face the facts which point to a solution.

Cutting staffs, cutting wages, reducing consumption by economy in expenditures, both individually and nationally, has not brought about the amelioration of this social blight of idleness.

There is only one practical method of re-engaging most of those who have been unemployed for the past few years and that is by all industry shortening hours and putting as many men or women as possible to work, so that they can become self-supporting and share in the national wealth which is the result of the efforts of all our citizens.

Cornering the finances of the nation is just as bad as doing the same with our foodstuffs.

As we do business with currency as a token of the value of what we have produced, then wherever the recognized arbiter of our economic welfare may be it is certain that it must be turned back into the channels where people use it as a stimulant to trade by making its possession a means of acquiring so many things that have been denied them throughout the years of enforced self-denial over which they had no control.

Canada must tackle this job in a big way. There is no chance of things righting themselves and going back to the trade and labor status of years gone by.

It must be recognized that new systems are being adopted and less labor required. Inventions are displacing so many that to cling to hours suited to the days of hand labor is wholly outside the realm of good sound sense.

If those who are in a position to make the necessary readjustments of time fall, then the alternative must rest with the citizens of Canada who are not afraid to meet the situation and bring about the necessary changes, by demanding from the government a satisfactory solution in the form of legislation and regulation, suitable to meet the national need, no matter whose fingers are squeezed.

DEFINITION OF A SCAB

At a conspiracy trial held in England, the prosecuting attorney gave the following definition of a scab: "A scab is to his trade what a traitor is to his country, and though both may be useful in troublesome times, they are detested by all when peace returns, so when help is needed the scab is the last to contribute assistance and the first to grasp the benefit he never labored to secure. He cares only for himself; he sees not beyond the extent of a day, and for a monetary appropriation he would betray friends, family and country. In short, he is a traitor on a small scale, who first sells the journeyman and is afterwards sold in return by his employer, until at last, he is despised by both and deserted by all. He is an enemy to himself, to the present age and to all prosperity."

UNION-MADE CIGARETS

What's your band? There are ten union-made cigarettes on the market — Avalon, Carmen, Clown, Kool, Raleigh, Spuds, Twenty Grand, Wellington, Wings and Yankee Girl. Surely your union taste can be adjusted to enjoy one of these brands. Try it.

The Reform Programme

Workers Resentful and Suspicious Because of Delays. The Validity of the Measure Before Parliament.

By BERNARD ROSE.

The statement of the Minister of Justice, when introducing certain legislation, that it was of doubtful validity, was a shock not only to the House, but all who are interested in securing the reforms widely heralded, and particularly those predicted and expected, that would follow the concluding of the work of the Royal Commission.

It is all the more regrettable, since a considerable amount of money was expended on the work of both the Parliamentary Committee, and the Royal Commission which succeeded it, in securing evidence of a nature that revealed conditions that call for immediate and effective remedial legislative action.

The hopes of those who looked forward to this legislation being enacted and in effect, have been completely frustrated. The members of the Opposition, particularly those who belong to the legal profession, were, to judge by their remarks, astounded at the admission made by the Minister of Justice. He, at least, was frank in making the statement he did.

The fact that the Government found it advisable to retain the services of two prominent lawyers, one from the Province of Quebec, and the other from Ontario, to express an opinion concerning the validity of the legislation drafted and submitted, proves that it was somewhat fearful of introducing it because of its liability to be attacked before the courts. The several measures, that constitute the so-called reform programme, may be therefore taken for all practical purposes, as non-existent. They are negative, rather than positive.

One is impelled to ask, why the Government, before announcing its programme of so-called reform, did not ascertain, by submitting the proposed legislation to legal experts, how much of it Parliament could validly enact. The Leader of the Opposition and several of his colleagues expressed, even before the legal opinions were given, their doubt as to the constitutionality of the measures proposed. They thought it wise, in view of the difference of opinion that prevailed, that such legislation be submitted to the Supreme Court for an opinion. Even though the Supreme Court might have decided that the proposed legislation was constitutional, there are quite a number of precedents, consisting of decisions rendered by the Privy Council, upsetting those of the Supreme Court, on constitutional and other questions.

Those, who are interested in legislation of this kind, are aware that the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act was held to be within the powers of Parliament by the Superior Court of this Province, and the Court of Review. Mr. Justice Mowat, of the Supreme Court of Ontario, and a majority of the Court of Appeal of the same province, held the same measure constitutional. The Privy Council, to which the case was subsequently submitted, held that where the dispute was a purely local or Provincial one, the Act was *ultra vires*. It was suggested that enabling legislation be passed by the Provinces, so that the Act might continue to be applicable in disputes that were regarded as purely local, such as differences between a public utility operating within a given Municipal area, or restricted to a province.

The several provinces have enacted enabling legislation, and application is made for boards to deal with disputes that might arise. No attack has yet been made on any enabling measure passed by a Legislature, whereby disputes in the industries mentioned in the Act must first be submitted to a board of conciliation, before a strike or lock-out is declared.

In view of the decision rendered in this particular case, and others of a like import, the opinions expressed on the floor of the House, concerning the validity of the legislation, might have induced the Government to suspend the introducing of the projected legislation until a conference of the provinces was called and agreed to adopt enabling legislation, or consented to an amendment to the British North America Act, whereby, in virtue of its residual powers, and particularly the clause relating to peace, order and good government, Parliament would be legally empowered to pass legislation of the kind which the investigation revealed was necessary to protect the worker and the consumer.

The powers of the provinces and the Dominion are so clearly defined, in Sections 91 and 92, and the precedents as to the jurisdiction of both Legislature and Parliament are so many, that it hardly requires any lengthy analysis of the powers of either, to determine to what extent suggested or projected legislation is within the jurisdiction of either the Legislature or Parliament.

Employment being a contractual relation, any and all measures relating to it comes squarely within the jurisdiction and powers allotted to the Province by Section 92 of the British North America Act. The issue, it would appear, will be one that must be finally submitted to the electorate. It is no doubt a grievous disappointment for a former member of the Government much in the public eye, to learn that, in spite of his labors, and his resignation from the Government because of disagreement with its Leader, that for all immediate purposes, his labor and sacrifice have been in vain.

The public will insist that remedial legislation, to eliminate the abuses disclosed, be enacted by Parliament without any undue delay. Such legislation, in view of the opinion expressed by the Minister of Justice, will have to be delayed, until a new Parliament is elected. Such Parliament will have a direct mandate from the people, authorizing it to proceed to immediately call a conference of the provinces, to obtain their collective consent to enacting concurrently, enabling legislation, or Parliament asking the Provinces to give it the necessary power to adopt the legislation which the Canadian people believe the times and changed conditions require.

It is quite likely that considerable capital will be made of the Government's lack of foresight in this respect, by the Opposition. Those interested in the welfare of the workers have been asking why the Government waited so long, in view of the mandate it received at the last election, as well as the large majority, before enacting legislation which it was recently admitted by the Leader of the Government was a necessity, because of the present employment situation.

I have, more than once, pointed out that, if an unemployment insurance act had been adopted shortly after the present Government took office, granting substantial relief (not a dollar a day) to the unemployed, hundreds of thousands would not have been forced to endure the privation they have, because of their inability to obtain employment.

If a measure of this kind was supplemented by legislation, in connection with hours and minimum wages, uniform throughout the Dominion, it would have increased the volume of work, and thus considerably reduced the number of unemployed, as well as the demands upon the exchequers of the municipalities, the provinces, and the Dominion Government.

The major criticism directed at the Government, by those who have demanded remedial legislation, is due to the resentment aroused because of the

delay. Several of the critics point to the solemn pledge given the workers of the country by the Leader of the Government prior to the 1930 election, that he would "cure unemployment in three months," and that it was the business of the Government to find jobs.

They also point to the statement he made, upon his return from the World Economic Conference, that "the present was no time to experiment with wages and hours." They contend that this opinion, expressed in 1933, is a repudiation of the pledge given, that employment would be found within three months, and that it was the business of the Government to find jobs for the unemployed.

While there is a tendency to accept what is said in the heat of a campaign with a certain amount of reserve, when a Leader gives those to whom he appeals for support, a pledge that, if given office, he will immediately deal with the situation that gave them material for criticism against the party and Government he opposed, that no long delay would elapse before the pledge would be redeemed. What the workers want is employment. They know that an unemployment insurance measure, even when in effect, is merely a palliative, and that employment at good wages is far more desirable than reliance upon a meagre grant from an insurance fund.

Our most valuable assets consist of our raw resources, and the human labor and skill available, (but unfortunately not used,) which can convert such resources into wealth to be used or consumed by the people in Canada, or those of other lands, in exchange for the commodities which they are prepared to sell us. There is no reason why in a country so sparsely populated as ours; so very large in area; so bountifully endowed with resources, that men and women willing to work should be deprived of the opportunity and forced to subsist upon public or private charity.

A party or Government, that is interested in the welfare of the people, can very effectively encourage the organization of industry, and the distribution of what we grow, manufacture, and mine, to permit all living in the country, to earn a decent livelihood. Where the Leader of a party is given a mandate by the people, he can, with the co-operation of his supporters in Parliament, formulate the plans that will not only ensure a speedy recovery, but make it permanent.

Accepting the depression as something that is the natural order of things, is a reflection upon our intelligence and humanity. Depressions are not normal or natural. They are due to lack of vision on the part of those who direct Government or control industry. Men and women should not starve or be in want, in the midst of abundance. We have all that we require for not only domestic consumption, but export to other lands. Why, then, should Canadians suffer and be denied the necessaries of life, and other nations anxious to sell their raw material or manufactured commodities from us, not given an opportunity for exchange?

A wise Government must at all times think and plan in terms of the welfare of those that provide the funds to carry it on, and because of its powers able to effect changes economic and social, that will assure continuous employment to the nation's workers and an equitable distribution of what they produce.

OUR RELIANCE OF UNIONISM PROTECTS AGAINST DISAPPOINTMENTS

The International Typographical Union was at least one year ahead of the national government in reducing hours of work in the printing industry. Many locals of the International Typographical Union were at least two years ahead of governmental action in bringing the hours of work down to forty or less. The wages of members of the International Typographical Union were set by collective bargaining ages before the government ever thought of entering that field. However, it took seventy-five years of effort on the part of organized labor to convince industry and the government that the principles of the American labor movement are sound and that it takes something more than conversation or political speeches to raise the standard of living and increase purchasing power.

The fact that the NRA has been declared unconstitutional will have no effect upon the hours, wages or working conditions of members of the International Typographical Union. We will continue to determine such matters as we have in the past and will under no condition surrender the progress we have made.

Labor must be protected in its civil right to organize and bargain collectively, and should the Wagner bill be adopted and also declared unconstitutional as regards workers engaged in interstate commerce it may be necessary to amend the constitution of the United States to provide for that protection. In the meantime organized labor in every state in the union should make an effort to have the law provided for in the Wagner bill adopted in each and every state so that no time will be lost in bringing about that degree of protection to civil rights that labor should have.

The federal government has found it possible to stretch its influence all over the nation in the suppression of crime, in the saving of the banking system from utter collapse, in helping the farmers and

feeding the starving industrial workers. The admittedly inability of employers operating on a national basis to keep wages high enough and hours of work low enough to keep pace with the industrial development of the country demands national regulation.

The United States Supreme Court, however, in adopting an attitude of strict construction as regards interstate commerce seems to preclude any national legislation of that kind until the constitution is amended. It seems, therefore, that organized labor will have to make strenuous efforts within each state to punish those employers who have used every possible means of coercion in preventing their employees from organizing into effective labor unions.

It is unfortunate that in a time of a basic and drastic change in the economic status of the nation the supreme court could not have adopted a policy of liberal construction with regard to what may be considered interstate commerce.

Unfortunately, the experience of labor has been in the past that courts are more than willing to stretch the protection of the new law over property rights, but have very little patience with defending human rights, especially when such rights are in conflict with precedents already established with regard to property rights. It seems that a very different conception of the purpose of law must be instilled in the minds of legislators and jurists. If it is necessary to amend the constitution of the United States to accomplish this purpose, then by all means the constitution should be amended.

In the meantime organized labor must continue the uphill fight it has always had on its hands and make definite progress through conciliation and arbitration where possible, but where not, it must resort to the strike to bring about the proper and reasonable advancement of the interests of those who work for a living. — WOODRUFF RANDOLPH, *Secretary-Treasurer, International Typographical Union.*

What's Doing in the Maritimes

By GRACE MacINNIS.

During the time that Hon. R. B. Hanson, B.A., LL.B., K.C., M.P., Minister of Trade and Commerce and Member of Parliament for York-Sunbury, N. B., was exploring the wilds of the woolly west and becoming shocked by the number of "isms" he found there, Mr. MacInnis and I decided to do a little prospecting in the Maritime provinces, heretofore the jealously-guarded territory of the two old parties. We came to the conclusion that the time-honored sham battles of Liberals and Conservatives are becoming more and more unreal to the Maritimers, that it is only a question of time until some of the dreaded "isms" begin to penetrate the armor of the old-timers. The Maritimes are ripe for C. C. F. organization; with a little help from outside speakers and experienced organizers the people there could work wonders. Worsening conditions are preparing the ground.

There are reasons for our slow progress in the Maritime provinces. Farming as well as industry has been so diversified that people have been less dependent on a world market than they have in Western Canada. Then, too, the Maritimes have suffered a great loss in their young people. For years they sought and found employment in the Eastern States. Later many of them went to Western Canada, some on harvest excursions, many of them to found permanent homes. They left behind them the less adventurous and the older people. Unable now to find employment elsewhere, the youth of the Maritimes is staying at home and should contribute vitality and vision to the east.

One illustration of the "rugged individualism" which still prevails in isolated districts. We had dinner with an elderly couple, she in her seventies, he in his eighties, both of them farming with the help of one son. Only one other of their nine children remains in the Maritimes. The meal was excellent; meat, potatoes, beans, bread and butter, blueberry pie and tea. With the exception of the tea, every single item had been produced on their own farm. The bread was home-made from their own wheat, ground at a neighboring grist mill; the meat and beans and blueberries were of their own canning; the butter of their own making and the potatoes grown in their own fields. They could still afford to be Liberals!

Chatham, New Brunswick, was our first point of call. Leaving the train at Newcastle, a few miles distant, we were driven along the low-lying banks of the Miramichi river. A Sunday-like quiet hung over the countryside; almost the only evidences of industry were the dismantled skeletons of lumber mills which we passed from time to time. Here was once the busy hum of the saws in the mills and the sound of the shipbuilder's hammer as he built the craft which plied up and down the broad Miramichi and out into the world of commerce. Today all that is changed. Two companies, we were told, control the timber resources of the district — the International Pulp and Paper and the Fraser company. The rights of these modern "rugged individualists" were obtained from the government of New Brunswick. Today wood is shipped to the United States, either as logs or pulpwood. Unemployment has risen to such proportions that we were informed that two-thirds of Chatham's population is now on relief.

Chatham itself might be called a "ghost town." You know those deserted towns which one comes across in British Columbia, which have been active mining centers at one time and are now grey shadows. Chatham too, is grey — houses, stores, public buildings and hotels. One could have wished for gallons of bright-colored paint. Loafing about the streets were plenty of young fellows to apply it. Those were the streets where Mr. Bennett once hustled back and forth from the office in which he read law in preparation for his career.

Our meeting was well-organized and a real success. About 400 people were present and gave us a very attentive hearing.

Moncton, as a railway center, has more employment and quite a bit more paint. Possibly the extra bit of prosperity was responsible for our smaller meeting there, although several people came from points as far distant as 40 miles. There has been a C. C. F. local in Moncton for some time, but in spite of the interest of several connected with it, it has not yet managed to generate wide enthusiasm.

Our poorest meeting was held at McAdam Junction, another railway center.

We found no local organization and very few people interested in the movement.

And then, buried away in a little town, Fredericton Junction, we made a real discovery — a retired school master who had been a socialist for forty years and had labored openly for all those years to spread his convictions. In the modest little parlor of his house Mr. H. H. Stuart showed us the yellowed files of the British Columbia "Western Clarion," one in particular bearing the date, I believe, of May, 1904. It contained the minutes of the convention of the Socialist Party of British Columbia at which the Socialist Party of Canada was formed. Naturally we were curious to know how anyone living within the constituency of Hon. R. B. Hanson became a Socialist. Mr. Stuart answered us briefly: "I read the Bible." He wanted to see the teachings of Christianity put into practice and believed that socialism could accomplish this purpose. The well-attended meeting which we addressed in Fredericton Junction that afternoon, and at which fully half the audience was composed of young men in their late teens and twenties, bore witness to the untiring efforts of Mr. Stuart who wanted to "keep fit" long enough to see the Co-operative Commonwealth become a reality.

C. C. F. sympathizers in Saint John must keep their sympathy very largely under cover, we were told, owing to the fear of losing their jobs. One of our former western comrades and his wife are doing their best to break down the fear-complex and helped to organize a very good meeting.

* * *

Our two Nova Scotia cities were New Glasgow and Halifax. While in the former we were fortunate enough to meet and chat with one of the professors at St. Francis Xavier, a Roman Catholic College, whose extension department is doing excellent work organizing co-operatives among the farmers and fishermen of Nova Scotia. Over thirty co-operatives credit unions are functioning there, into which the people put their savings and from which they can draw cash when they need it. To discover that privately-owned banks, no matter how powerful, are not essential to their welfare has been the experience of those who have joined the credit unions. Last year, the fishermen's co-operatives were able to purchase rope from the C. W. S. of Great Britain, thus out-witting the Canadian companies which refused to deal with them as an organization. Co-operative stores are springing up, co-operative marketing is going ahead, and great sections of Nova Scotia producers are learning to rely upon their own co-operative efforts to get them what they need.

Our New Glasgow meeting was very satisfactory, but the supporters of the movement seemed none too sanguine of success in keeping an organization going.

Halifax cheered us greatly in this regard. We held two public meetings there and there was such a demand for a permanent organization that we held a third to discuss ways and means. A committee was set up to canvass the situation and since our return to Ottawa we learn that a C. C. F. local has been formed. The committee consisted of a clergyman, a longshoreman, a doctor, a street-railwayman, a lawyer and several others. A lawyer? Yes, this one has six children and makes less than \$50 a month. A doctor? Dr. Bonge Atlee's article on socialized medicine will be familiar to readers of the Saskatchewan C. C. F. Research Bulletin. A clergyman? Throughout the Maritimes we found the clergy — both Catholic and Protestant — among the most progressive and most ready to aid the work of our movement. A street-railwayman? A group of them met us in an informal discussion which touched on many aspects of the economic situation.

While in Halifax I addressed the League of Nations Society on "An Effective Peace Program for Canada." This gave a good opportunity for an expression of our views regarding the causes of war, an opportunity renewed in a radio broadcast under the auspices of the Society.

* * *

Prince Edward Island is sometimes called "The Garden of the Gulf." Well-cultivated farms, neatly-painted houses, white-washed barns, carefully-fenced fields enclosing the red soil characteristic of "the Island" — all seemed to speak of a measure of prosperity foreign to other parts of Canada. However, upon our arrival in Charlottetown, we were met by a man

Mayor Evades Issue

By C. McKAY.

The Canadian Government figures that a boy is worth \$20,000 at birth and 20 cents a day at maturity. Mayor Houde is even more realistic. He says it is time the unemployed should know that they are not necessary to industry, that if they were put to work they would produce so many goods that confusion would be worse confounded. So the unemployed young man is worth less than nothing!!!

"O God! O Montreal," as Butler exclaimed apropos of draperies on the human form divine. Statesmanship only needs now a way out putting surplus humans in cold storage.

Mayor Houde can see no way out of the economic dilemma except to send the surplus population of cities to the country. But why have cities grown? Because one industry after another has left the farm and fled to the city factory. It is said, of course, that the bright lights attract the young people from the country.

But Vandervelle and the few other economists who really investigated the matter, arrived at this conclusion:

"It is not so much that the cities draw the laborers to them a sit is that the country casts them out."

Now the Canadian farmers are producing more products than they can sell. And subsistence-farming — the pioneer existence — is largely out of the question. Can you see the city man, sent to the country, going a-hunting to get a rabbit skin to wrap baby Bunting in? He would not know how to preserve a rabbit skin. Besides he would be up against game laws.

Mayor Houde, in proposing to send the city unemployed to the country, should say how all the conditions of a pioneer existence can be revived — plenty of free game, free fish, free wood — the co-operation of pioneer community — the varied knowledge and training which made the man a Jack of all trades, the woman a Jill of many industrial arts.

Mayor Houde evades the real issue, which is to develop an economic system in which the workers are permitted to consume the goods which they can produce in abundance. A society in which the workers become superfluous and are condemned to charity because they produce too much belongs, as Senator Meighen might say, to the genus of "loose, livid lunacy."

The Brookings Institute, an American Research Foundation, finds that as a way out of depressions neither the device of cutting wages, nor the idea of raising wages faster than prices works. So what? The Institute arrives at the conclusion that a large programme of public works is about the only way the unemployed can be tided over.

Roosevelt started out to raise wages faster than prices. Then the banks had collapsed; the capitalists were in a chastened mood — also frightened. But, as the whole system did not crash, they soon recovered their assurance, and returned to their old tricks. Not for them to raise wages faster

who speedily dispelled our illusions. For years he had been a subscriber to various C. C. F. publications in western Canada and Ontario; he had some of our pamphlets on sale at the bookstore; and he assured us that the depression had struck Prince Edward Island. The large audience which came to hear us, their absorbed attention and the applause which greeted many points indicated interest and a readiness for further knowledge of our movement.

Our last meeting was held in a country place called Marshfield. Fully half of the audience were young people. The verbal warfare of the two old partis has no connection whatever with their need for finding a place in society and the young people are beginning to realize it. New loyalties are about to supersede the old loyalties based upon conditions which have passed into the limbo of outworn things.

than prices; that would be to reduce the profit rate, and capital is in business to get profits. The capitalists may hate the hammer and sickle, but they love the chisel and the combine. So they chiselled the Roosevelt idea out of the picture. They raised prices faster than wages and increased their profits. The Roosevelt theory failed to reckon with the anti-social character of the capitalists. Roosevelt didn't really know what he was about.

And now, with the NRA on the rocks, Roosevelt is trying the plan suggested by Brookings Institute — a vast programme of public works. That may prime the pump a little. But will it have any more permanent effect than Bennett's original programme of public works? The Dominion, provinces and municipalities spent nearly 140 millions of dollars on public works, and less than one-third of the money went into the hands of the workers excluded from private industry. And it didn't prime the business pump sufficiently to make more than a temporary dint in unemployment.

The Brookings Institute has assembled some interesting data. For instance:

In 1929, some 219,000 American families with incomes over \$20,000 accumulated 54% of the total savings of all American families.

On the other hand, 5,900,000 families, with incomes of less than \$1,000, went into debt — \$60 per family on the average.

Again, 59% of all families saved only 1.6% of the total savings.

It was found that 24,000 families, with incomes over \$100,000, saved from 40 to 60 per cent of their incomes.

With the great inequalities of income, is it surprising that goods glut the market while millions are condemned to poverty? And these great inequalities of income — how do they arise? Is it not the property or legal relations in which production is carried on that determines the distribution of incomes?

The Brookings Institute found that in the decade 1920-30 American savings accumulated out of all proportion to American opportunities of investment in capital plant. To make fat commission the bankers persuaded their depositors to put their money in foreign loans — now largely in default. Still American productive capacity increased much faster than the consuming capacity of the masses; wild speculation with surplus savings masked for a while the accumulation of goods on the market; but in due course the crisis broke with devastating fury.

One thing the Brookings Institute does — not meaning it. It assembles information which blows sky high the wish-dreams of many reformers like J. Maynard Keynes, the wish-dream of a managed society through a managed currency, the false hope that by moving the bank rate of interest up or down, the rate of investment can be kept stabilized, and consuming capacity kept equal to production capacity.

THE FORTY-HOUR WEEK

The 40-hour week in industry is a step in the right direction, firstly, because it would enable people to have more leisure time; secondly, it would help to reduce the ranks of the unemployed; and thirdly, it would help the workers in their declining years to enjoy the fruits of acquired knowledge.

To spend the best part of one's life in the workshop, trams and bed, with only a few hours to spend at week-ends, leads to individual deterioration.

The following quotation very aptly puts it. "The mind barely wakes ere the bodily powers decline."

In places where systematic overtime is worked, the present 40-hour week becomes a farce, because workers are frequently working 54 hours a week.

"I haven't got the time," is a phrase one frequently hears. Therein lies the injury of long hours.

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From Our Readers

RAPID TRANSIT AND ITS RELATION TO CITY DEVELOPMENT

Montreal, May 30, 1935.

Editor, *The Labor World*.

Sir. — As the railways have made it possible for the people of a Continent to travel quickly and cheaply from one place to another, and thus develop the whole country; so does the development of a City depend upon quick and cheap transportation between all its parts.

Rapid Transit is the chief factor in a City's growth and prosperity. Nothing will help to solve the many evils from which Montreal like other big cities is suffering, as the putting into operation of quicker and better transportation.

Montreal is growing into a very big city, and we want it big and prosperous, and a place in which we are proud to live, but unfortunately the increase in wealth and population is accompanied by many unfortunate social conditions.

The central portions of the City are growing more congested, and the dwellers in these crowded areas cannot leave them, owing to the lack of quick and cheap transport between their place of occupation and the outlying districts where they would like to live. No one can be expected to live an hour away from his work, whether he is employed in office or factory, and it takes that time to reach anywhere fresh and open, by the present surface system of transportation.

More parks and playgrounds are wanted, but these cannot be made where they are most needed, in the crowded sections of the City. They can only be found in the suburbs and to reach them by any system of surface transport, however well operated is impossible.

In addition to the crowding into tenements in the heart of the City, there is the congestion of traffic on the streets to be taken care of and removed, and neither can this be relieved by extensions and additions to the present routes of tramcars and buses. This congestion and the consequent effect — the slow progress made by the street cars, so much complained of, is largely due to the demands made on the Tramways Company for increased accommodation. Unfortunately the greater the number of street cars, the greater is the congestion of traffic and the slower the speed.

Great relief would be afforded by the withdrawal of a considerable number of street cars, but this can only be done by the substitution of another system of transit, namely the underground rapid transit lines.

In the near future street cars will disappear from our streets, and be replaced by motor buses, which is rapidly being effected in many of the large cities of the world. To secure this result, however, and to provide a really rapid service between all parts of the City, there must be the under surface system. Thus only can the suburban districts be brought within a few minutes of the heart of the City. The saving in time to the travelling public is of tremendous importance, and the increase in taxable values following the building of rapid transit subways, will place additional sources of income in the control of the City.

The assessed value of real estate in districts tributary to such routes in New York, Boston, Chicago, and other cities all over the world, has increased 75 to 100 per cent.

If a return to the popular 5 cent fare is ever to be realized, it can only be brought about by a joint service of subway and surface lines, with transfers between all three systems — Subway, Street Cars, and Buses.

A considerable volume is being lost to the Tramways Company by the increasing use of the private automobile, and public taxis. When the subway is in operation, the speedy service will appeal to the users of motor cars, who will find that they can travel about the greater city more expeditiously, cheaply, and comfortably by the underground lines.

The Tramway Company has stated that no time should be lost, in putting into operation of subway lines, and it is apparent that the army of unemployed anxiously waiting for work should be used for this great undertaking, so important for them and for the advancement of the interests of the entire city.

Every man, woman, and child in this City, has a personal interest in this matter of rapid transit, and everyone should do everything possible to assist in the development and extension of rapid transit lines not only within the City, but into

suburban territory. Population follows such development, with the consequent enhancement of real estate value.

The logical source of new revenue to finance the subway, is the specially benefited land, the value of which is increased by such rapid transit facilities. To place the full burden of cost of rapid transit service upon the passengers, does not seem just, in view of the great advantages which flow to the neighboring property owners in the form of enhanced values, and to the business interests and public at large, by reason of increased prosperity and convenience.

Rapid transit for the masses is what we need, and this can only be secured by a subway gradually reaching out into all parts of greater Montreal.

F. STUART WILLIAMSON.

WORKERS SHOULD GIVE THE PREFERENCE IN PURCHASING PRODUCTS OR SERVICES TO THE FAIR EMPLOYER

Montreal, June 3, 1935.

Editor, *The Labor World*.

Sir. — I was glad to note that, in his address before a Verdun meeting, the former Minister of Trade and Commerce exhorted the workers to give the preference to concerns that treat their employees decently.

The union label was adopted as a device by the International Union and the American Federation of Labor as a guide to the workers when making purchases. The union label is a guarantee that the commodity or service purchased was made or given under fair conditions to the workers. It is regrettable that the amount of union label products purchased is comparatively insignificant, if we judge by the volume of goods manufactured and purchased. The average housewife is unfortunately, because of the small wage or salary received by her husband, forced to buy cheap goods, which are manufactured by poorly paid labor. The consumer would no doubt like to buy good quality merchandise, if he could afford it, but the problem is always a question of the ability to buy the better quality product which lasts longer.

Where it is difficult to purchase union label products, the workers, in fairness to the decently paid and properly treated employees, should at all times give the preference to firms that enjoy a reputation for turning out a good product under conditions that are fair to the workers employed. The majority of workmen know, to their bitter cost, that the depression was used as a means to reduce wages, as well as personnel. If wage rates had been maintained at a fair purchasing level, the depression would not have continued as long as it has, and Governments would not be implored to come to the aid of the unemployed starving worker.

The advice given is sound, providing it is acted upon by those whom it intimately affects. In denouncing or attacking unfair employers who exploit their workers, I think an opportunity presents itself to speak in favorable terms of employers who have not, during the depression, taken advantage of it to reduce the wages of their employees. An employer, who treats his employees fairly and did not during the depression reduce wages, is certainly deserving of favorable mention by men occupying positions of public importance. Furthermore, organized labor should point to an employer of this kind, as a splendid example to be followed by Governments, as well as employers generally. What is most essential to the welfare of the workers as a whole, is that all who depend upon employment to earn a livelihood, should be members of organizations. Governments can help in this respect by encouraging the formation of trade unions. If employers generally dealt with their employees through associations, the latter would be able to secure consideration for their members in the matter of wages, hours, and redress of grievances. If 90% of the workers of both sexes, in Montreal and this Province, were organized, the great majority of abuses, to which reference was made, would be eliminated, even without Government intervention.

Enlightened employers should encourage their workers to join unions. It is far better that they do this, than become identified with revolutionary organizations that wish to upset our established political institutions.

It is quite likely that, following the next election, very substantial reforms of a

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positive and constructive nature will be adopted. The present reform program is not yet in effect, and with all due respect to its sponsor, cannot, by any means, remedy the many evils to which the attention of the public has been drawn, as a result of the action and disregard of employees' rights shown by a certain group of employers.

The employer, whether a public utility or an individual, that pays its employees fair wages, and looks after their welfare, is entitled to the support of the public, since it or he show an appreciation of their responsibilities, as well as opportunity, for contributing to the general well being.

I have more than once referred to the local public utility which did not, since the depression began, reduce wages.

BERNARD ROSE.

UNIONS, BULWARKS OF LABOR

Commenting upon the Winnipeg situation, the Toronto (Ont.) Daily Star is thus quoted: "The international unions are the bulwarks of the labor cause. The opponents of organized labor denounce these unions because they are strong and are capable of being effective. * * * It is always interesting to see great employers of labor indicate the kind of unionism they would approve. As a rule it is the kind that would not do the employer any harm, nor the worker much good."



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