



FAUT-IL PRESENTER DES CANDIDATS OPPOSITIONNISTES ?

Si tous les partisans de Sir Lomer étaient élus par acclamation, il serait impossible à celui-ci de gouverner et il devrait alors adopter la représentation proportionnelle.

La semaine dernière, nous disions que seule la représentation proportionnelle nous permettrait d'avoir un gouvernement vraiment représentatif de la volonté du peuple, nous sommes heureux de constater que La Presse, elle aussi, appuie cette mesure dans un article éditorial, cette semaine.

A ce sujet, nous nous permettons de faire remarquer qu'un grand nombre de mesures prononcées par les dirigeants du mouvement ouvrier depuis plus de vingt-cinq ans et qui ont été considérées pendant longtemps comme des utopies, comme des doctrines révolutionnaires, socialistes, destructives de la morale publique sont maintenant acceptées par nos grands quotidiens et la plupart des hommes qui n'avaient pas l'habitude de la routine du passé comme des réformes sociales morales et nécessaires.

Nous pourrions en citer un grand nombre, si ce n'était la crainte d'en oublier et des principales, qu'il nous suffise de regarder en arrière et de constater le chemin parcouru, et de nous demander si ce sont les promoteurs de ces réformes qui en ont reçu le crédit ou bien plutôt si ce ne sont pas nos politiciens arrivistes qui en réclament la paternité?

Dans une quinzaine de jours, les électeurs seront, une fois de plus, appelés à se prononcer sur le choix de nos futurs législateurs, malgré les déclarations des leaders du parti conservateur qu'ils feront la lutte dans toutes les divisions électorales de la province — déclarations que nous croyons absolument erronées — nous répétons que l'issue n'est pas douteuse et que l'administration de Sir Lomer reviendra au pouvoir avec une énorme majorité.

Le parti conservateur fera la lutte dans quelques comtés et ne remportera la victoire que dans très peu de ceux-ci; le Parti Ouvrier a jusqu'à maintenant deux candidats officiels sur les rangs, Alfred Mathieu, dans la division Sainte-Marie, et A. Laurendeau, dans la division Maisonneuve. En mettra-t-il d'autres sur les rangs? C'est peu probable.

Quelle chance de succès auront ces deux candidats? Ils sont, l'un comme l'autre, membres de la Loge Sainte-Marie des Waggonniers de chemins de fer et ont été mis de l'avant par cette organisation; ils ont été de plus endossés par le Parti Ouvrier. Nous craignons fort que cet endossement leur fasse plus de tort que de bien, dans les circonstances, étant donnée la position prise dimanche dernier par celui-ci en faveur de la "One Big Union".

Dame Rumour veut également que le président de l'Union des Employés de tramways de Montréal, le camarade Aurélien Lacombe, soit candidat-ouvrier indépendant dans la division Dorion, ainsi que Joseph Gauthier, le président de l'Union Typographique Jacques-Cartier, dans Sainte-Marie. Comme ce ne sont que des rumeurs, nous n'en parlerons pas pour le moment. Nous souhaitons le succès le plus complet à chacun de ces candidats, ils méritent l'appui le plus sincère et le plus dévoué de la classe ouvrière qu'ils représenteraient dignement.

Il y a bien encore un autre groupe qui s'intitule libéral-démocrate et qui réclame l'autonomie de la ville de Montréal, mais parmi les noms des membres de ce groupe nous avons remarqué maints politiciens de profession dans lesquels le peuple ne peut avoir aucune confiance; il est vrai qu'il y en a par contre quelques-uns qui jouissent d'une excellente réputation. L'avenir nous dira ce qu'il faut en penser.

Bref, malgré tous ces racontars et ces préparatifs de lutte, nous restons convaincus que notre prochaine législature aura à peu près le même aspect que la dernière, et cela, au plus grand détriment de la bonne administration, car un gouvernement trop fort ne peut, par la force même des choses, faire un travail aussi effectif qu'un gouvernement qui a à faire face à une opposition assez puissante pour mettre son existence en péril s'il n'administre pas la chose publique pour le plus grand bien du peuple.

Dans les circonstances, ne vaudrait-il pas mieux ne pas faire d'opposition aucune aux candidats de Sir Lomer et les laisser tous élire par acclamation, ce qui rendrait l'administration de la Province impossible et mettrait le gouvernement dans l'obligation de faire de nouvelles élections et d'adopter la représentation proportionnelle, et alors comme tous les groupes et toutes les opinions seraient représentés à la Chambre, d'après leur véritable force numérique, nous aurions vraiment un véritable parlement démocratique et représentatif.

Les idées marchent vite dans le siècle actuel, et nous croyons que celle-ci mérite la peine d'être considérée.

Gus. Francq.

UN JUSTE MILIEU

Aimer l'ouvrier, le travaillant, ne veut pas dire flatter ses passions et faire comme ces parents insensés qui gâtent leurs enfants en satisfaisant tous leurs caprices. Quand un micheo demande la lune, il doit se trouver fort heureux qu'on lui donne une bricoche et c'est lui rendre un mauvais service que d'accéder à tous ses desirs. S'il érie sans raison, faites comme quel qu'un que je connais, décrochez-lui les cadres, donnez-lui l'horloge même pour qu'il s'amuse à les casser, il n'en harlera plus fort dix minutes après. Les extrémistes, ceux qui demandent des choses impossibles pour les ouvriers, font plus de mal que de bien à leur cause. La juste mesure, voilà à quoi il faut tâcher d'arriver. Il ne faut pas oublier une chose, c'est que de ce temps-ci tout le monde souffre et que faire droit à des réclamations exagérées, c'est mettre l'industrie et le commerce en danger, partant compromettre l'avenir économique de notre pays. Il ne faut pas sortir d'un mal pour tomber dans un autre.

Ceux qui ne veulent pas démoder de leurs prétentions, et qui, au lieu d'écouter le bon sens, s'exercent à faire du pathos et du sentiment dans le but de se créer de la popularité jouent un bien vilain rôle. Il faut se délier des patriotiques trop ardents et des défenseurs trop enflammés de la cause populaire. Je comprends qu'il faut vivre, mais autrement qu'en mangeant ce qui nous donne du pain. Si l'on veut arriver à ses fins et atteindre les véritables auteurs de la crise économique que nous traversons, c'est de s'en prendre aux spéculateurs qui exportent nos produits pour les vendre de l'autre côté à des prix exorbitants. Il vaut mieux s'employer à diminuer le coût de la vie qu'à faire hausser les salaires et à ruiner l'industrie. Le temps des munitions est fini et les manufacturiers ne sont plus à la solde d'étrangers qui les enrichissent instantanément. C'est alors qu'il est fallu se mettre en garde pour profiter de l'aubaine. Mais aujourd'hui que la vie a repris son cours ordinaire, que les patrons actuels sont les ouvriers d'hier, que tous se débattent dans les serres des mêmes oiseaux de proie, il ne faut pas que dans notre aveuglement nous imitions les boches, que nous tirions sur nous-mêmes, croyant tuer l'ennemi. Le procédé de déshabiller Pierre pour habiller Paul n'est pas très intelligent. C'est injuste aussi de faire rendre gorge à celui qui ne nous a rien pris.

Le bolchevisme a pu avoir ses raisons d'être dans un pays qui était la proie de l'autoritarisme et de l'arrogance des castes. Celui qui crève de faim près de ceux qui s'empressent jusque là, a raison de se révolter contre ceux qui vivent de ses sueurs, de son ignorance et de sa misère. La tyrannie justifie les représailles. Mais ici, où il n'y a ni rois, ni noblesse, ni militaires, ni fortune héréditaire arrogante et égoïste, où le riche d'aujourd'hui est le fils de ses oeuvres, il n'y a pas de raison pour s'attaquer à celui qui, à force de travail, d'initiative et d'énergie, s'est donné pignon sur rue après s'être sorti de la plèbe originelle. Avant d'imposer l'attitude des peuples européens, il faut voir si nous vivons dans les mêmes conditions qu'eux. Ils luttent

pour déminer de vieux préjugés qui n'existent pas ici. Ils aspirent à la démocratie que nous possédons, peut-être pas telle que nous l'avons voulue et rêvée, ni même comme elle devrait être, mais enfin susceptible de faire peu de mal.

Ceux qui détiennent l'industrie et la finance en ce pays sont généralement partis au bas de l'échelle, c'est toute la démocratie, il ne faut pas les traiter en ennemis, en parasites, alors qu'ils n'ont rien volé à personne, qu'ils sont nos collaborateurs dans l'évolution sociale. Cherchons à améliorer notre sort sans pour cela détruire nos collaborateurs. Faisons la guerre aux politiciens qui, pour la plupart, sont des ratés, des déchets de la vie, qui n'ont jamais rien produit, tout en ayant des appétits voraces et des passions dévorantes comme le tonneau des Danaïdes. Demandons-leur comment ils se sont acquittés du mandat qu'on leur a confié, pourquoi ils roulaient dans leurs stalles en devant leur lourde digestion quand tous nos produits traversaient l'océan? Qu'ont-ils fait pour diminuer le coût de la vie? Pourquoi ont-ils volontairement fermé les yeux sur un état de chose si pitoyable. Nous les ayons placés là pour autre chose que de se tenir sur les nuages. Quelle récompense ont-ils reçue pour leur aveuglement et leur surdités nécessaires? Quand ils ont comencé, ce n'est pas parce qu'ils ont en la bec à l'eau tout le temps. Méfiez-vous de ces eaux dormantes. Vraiment ces gens ont un silence effrayant. Aussi vrai comme je suis de Sorel, c'est pas naturel!

Julien Saint-Michel.

PEUT-ON S'ASSEOIR SUR LE GAZON ?

Le Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Montréal proteste contre l'arrestation de citoyens dans nos parcs. — La journée de huit heures et les candidats aux prochaines élections. — L'appui moral des unionistes de Montréal à tous les travailleurs en grève pour l'obtention de leurs droits.

"Vivons-nous en Russie, sous le régime bolchéviste, ou en Canada sous un gouvernement démocratique?" C'est en ces termes que le délégué Thompson, de la Loge Mount Royal des Machinistes, s'exprima en formulant la protestation la plus énergique que l'on ait entendue au Conseil des Métiers et du Travail depuis longtemps. Le délégué Thompson se plaignit vivement contre l'administration électorale de Montréal, qui avait donné ordre au chef Bélanger de faire arrêter toutes les personnes qui marchaient sur le gazon de nos parcs publics; c'est une véritable persécution contre les familles pauvres qui, dans ces jours de chaleur torride, n'ont que les parcs publics pour prendre un peu de frais et c'est une mesure ridicule, injuste et dangereuse au possible, au moment où tous les hommes soussés font tous leurs efforts pour calmer le malaise qui existe à Montréal comme dans tout le pays, notre Commission Administrative ne trouve rien de mieux que de pousser la patience du peuple à bout, et quand il y aura un soulèvement populaire, l'on aura recours aux bons offices des dirigeants ouvriers pour faire renaitre le calme. Et que dire, dit-il, du recorder Semple, qui trouve très intéressant de condamner toutes ces victimes de la stabilité de nos administrateurs, de notre chef de police et de ses subalternes qui ont tous fait preuve d'un manque de jugement complet, à des amendes variant de \$2.30 à \$40.00; de quel droit condamne-t-il un prévenu à \$40.00 d'amende, parce qu'il s'était permis de se défendre lui-même en Cour, il est temps que tout cela change, car nous pourrions bien voir nous-mêmes avant longtemps. Il déclara que le président Décarie avait donné des ordres pour ne plus faire arrêter les citoyens qui s'assoieraient sur le gazon, c'est très bien, dit-il, mais va-t-on remettre l'amende et la demi-journée de salaire, ces malheureux ont perdu.

En prenant le fauteuil, avant l'inauguration de l'Union, M. Drury, déclara que l'introduction d'une union de journalistes était opportune à Montréal. Si elle avait été fondée plus tard, les journalistes n'auraient pas eu l'opportunité de revendiquer leurs droits devant la Commission Royale sur les différends industriels comme leurs deux collègues, MM. Richardson et Larivée ont pu le faire ce jour-là.

Tous les membres présents furent dûment assermentés par M. Drury. La constitution amendée, un document contenant 6,000 mots, fut acceptée et ratifiée par les membres. M. Drury fit remarquer qu'elle avait été ratifiée par les quartiers généraux de l'Union Typographique Internationale, de l'Union des Journalistes, de l'Union des Indépendants, sans l'amendement d'un seul mot. Dans son opinion, le comité qui a compilé cette constitution méritait des félicitations pour ses efforts.

On procéda ensuite à l'élection des officiers, qui furent installés séance tenante par M. Drury qui transmit la charte au président qui fut acclamé. Des votes de remerciements furent votés par l'assemblée au président provisoire, M. Gilbert Larue, pour son dévouement ainsi qu'à MM. John Richardson et Louis Larivée, pour leur représentation en faveur des membres de la Commission Royale.

expliquant que quoique certaines industries telles que celles de l'imprimerie jouissaient depuis de longues années de la journée de huit heures, qu'il était nécessaire pour la protection des faibles et des ouvrières spécialement que cette législation soit adoptée par tous les pays du monde et que le système qui précède est, dans son opinion, le plus efficace, tant que nous n'aurons pas de députés ouvriers au Parlement.

Le président Foster se prononça fortement en faveur de cette résolution, qui n'empêcherait pas d'employer notre force économique pour obtenir la semaine de 44 heures ou même la journée de six heures. Il fut suivi par les délégués Foucher, Schubert, Proulx, Girard, Wall, Tardif et Bastien.

Le Conseil accorde son appui moral aux gantiers en grève ainsi qu'aux autres organisations actuelles en grève pour l'amélioration de leurs conditions de travail, et l'organisateur général des Barbiers, John Hart, fit un plaidoyer éloquent en faveur de son organisation et caricatura de magistrats façon l'individu connu généralement sous le nom de "scab".

Le Conseil chargea le secrétaire d'écrire à la Commission Administrative, protestant contre l'engagement de fausses non-unionistes pour jouer dans les parcs publics et également au gouvernement fédéral, demandant de limiter l'exportation des produits alimentaires.

L'Union des Plombiers se plaint des mauvaises conditions sanitaires des ateliers de la ville et demande au Conseil de l'aider dans ses démarches, ce qui fut accordé.

Un représentant du Parti Social-Démocrate demanda l'appui du Conseil pour l'aider à faire remettre en liberté un nommé Frank Léoni, qui fut arrêté pour violation à la loi des autobus et qui doit être déporté. Le comité exécutif est chargé de s'occuper de l'affaire et d'enregistrer un protesté.

Des communications très longues des Conseils des Métiers de Winnipeg et de Vancouver sont lues en anglais et un synopsis donné en français, après une longue discussion très animée parfois et se ressentant de la température torride qu'il faisait et à laquelle prirent part les délégués Foster, Wall, Landry, Franceq, Schmitz, Tardif et autres, la résolution suivante fut proposée par le délégué Wall et adoptée sans vote dissident:

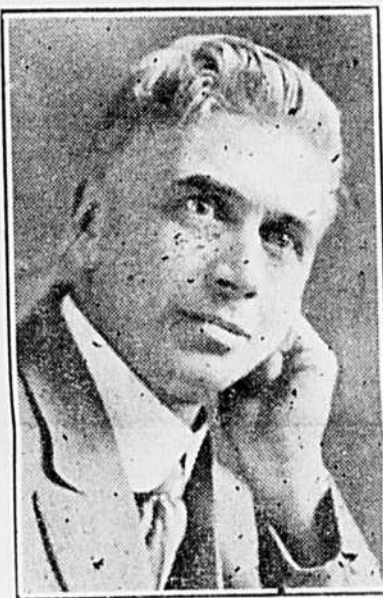
"Qu'il soit résolu, que ce Conseil accorde son appui moral à tous les travailleurs organisés qui luttent pour le principe de la semaine de 44 heures et du contrat collectif;

"Et qu'il soit de plus résolu que ce Conseil prie le gouvernement fédéral de réintégrer tous les postiers en grève."

Il fut annoncé que la charte pour l'Union des Journalistes serait présentée dimanche prochain à 2 heures, au No. 417 rue Ontario.

Les délégués suivants furent admis à siéger: L. M. Dupont, B. Gaffer, M. M. Hazanoff, Union des Couturiers, Local 317; J. Thompson, Association des Machinistes, Loge Mount Royal, No 711; chiniistes, Loge Mont Royal, M. Georges Vallières, Henri Dupras, M. Schlit, Union Internationale des Re-

teurs, Local 91; J. E. C. Tardif, B. Smyth, T. P. Keenan, Thos. Black Chas. Cooney, S. Thomas, Union Typographique de Montréal, Local 176; A. Mullin, Ingénieurs et Opérateurs de machines à vapeur; A. Rémillard, R. Champagne, J. N. Gauvin, Union des Boulangers, Local 55; Adrien Hogue, Union des Garçons de table de Montréal; J. E. Lemoine, Alf. Grims, Union des Fabricants de boîtes; P. Hébert, E. Mathurin, John Talbot, Union des Employés de l'Académie, Local 15661; W. Crooks, S. G. Read, John Carl, Union des préposés aux chars dorciots.



M. ALFRED MATHIEU Candidat ouvrier dans le quartier Ste-Marie.

La Commission Royale des Relations Industrielles est venue

Elle est venue, en effet, et durant les trois derniers jours de la semaine dernière, de nombreux "témoins" ont "défilé" devant elle. Des opinions qui ont été émises devant cette commission, il n'y a pas grand chose à dire, si ce n'est qu'elle ne nous ont rien appris de nouveau. Nous savions que "ça allait mal", nous en ressentions même les effets. Aussi n'avons-nous pas été autrement surpris quand, de part et d'autre, ouvriers et patrons sont venus exprimer leur mécontentement sur la situation économique actuelle. Naturellement, l'élément ouvrier s'est montré, et de beaucoup, le plus mécontent des deux. On avouera qu'il y a de quoi.

Les patrons, évidemment, n'ont pas trop à se plaindre, étant donné qu'ils tiennent encore "le bon bout". Il est vrai qu'ils ont bien leurs petits tracas, dont les moindres ne sont pas les grèves, dont on a usé et abusé depuis quel que temps, mais comme ils ont "le sac", ils peuvent passer outre sans trop d'inconvénients. J'oserai même dire qu'il serait presque indécrot de leur part de s'apitoyer sur le sort des choses et des gens quand ils sont, précisément, complètement ou non, les auteurs de ce mal-là. Ils mélo social ou nous patageons depuis quelques années.

On préconise partout, comme remède au malaise une augmentation des salaires accompagnée d'une réduction des heures de travail. Très bien, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, mais cela ne nous avancera à rien, en définitive, ou à peu de chose, on réalise, car le prix des produits d'alimentation et autres objets nécessaires à l'existence augmentent proportionnellement à moins, et c'est ici le point important, que l'on "lance" les profits des intermédiaires qui s'interposent entre le producteur et le consommateur pour prélever sur ce dernier un impôt ou tragementnel élevé.

Il me souvient à ce propos, avoir entendu une conversation dans un trainway, hier, entre deux hommes dont l'un devait être un commis de bureau et l'autre un contremaître dans une usine quelconque. La conversation roulait sur le coût élevé de la vie, ses causes, etc. J'entendis, là, exprimer des opinions qui m'ont paru quelque peu radicales mais que je vais rapporter sommairement parce qu'elles me semblent, après tout, intéressantes: C'est le commis de bureau qui les exprima. D'après lui, si ma mémoire me sert bien, il faudrait, en premier lieu, éliminer tout intermédiaire parasite entre le producteur et le consommateur et transformer radicalement le système actuel d'échange des produits par la "coopération" généralisée jus-

LA "ONE BIG UNION"

La Section de Montréal du Parti Ouvrier se prononce en sa faveur. — Une situation désastreuse pour les ouvriers.

* Dimanche dernier, la Section de Montréal, du Parti Ouvrier, s'est prononcée par un vote de 30 contre 21, en faveur du principe de la "One Big Union" comme étant sa forme de politique industrielle, venant en conflit direct avec le Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Montréal, qui, il y a à peine un mois, se prononçait contre la "One Big Union" par un vote de 74 à 3.

Il était reconnu jusqu'ici que le Conseil des Métiers et du Travail, composé exclusivement de trade-unionistes, avait le contrôle absolu des questions économiques et que le Parti Ouvrier, composé de trade-unionistes, de socialistes, de membres de clubs ouvriers, fabiens, co-opérateurs, etc., présidait aux destinées politiques de la classe ouvrière. Cette ingérence du Parti Ouvrier dans le domaine économique ne peut avoir que des résultats désastreux pour la classe ouvrière; elle ne peut que créer de la division et de la dissension et faire battre les candidats ouvriers dans la prochaine élection. Le résultat du vote explique très bien la situation; à part deux ou trois exceptions, tous les délégués des unions ouvrières au Parti Ouvrier ont voté contre la proposition et tous les délégués des clubs socialistes ont voté pour, creusant ainsi un fossé de plus en plus profond entre les deux éléments.

De quel droit, des délégués socialistes qui, en général, ne sont pas membres d'aucune union ouvrière, tiennent-ils aux trade-unionistes le genre d'organisation ouvrière qu'ils devront avoir?

Ceux qui ont le droit de se prononcer sur cette question de la "One Big Union" sont les membres des unions ouvrières qui sont directement intéressés et ils se sont prononcés d'une manière non équivoque au Conseil des Métiers et du Travail.

Le Parti Ouvrier, Section de Montréal, a commis un impair qui pourrait bien mettre en péril son existence même. Qu'en pensent les véritables trade-unionistes?

qu'à ses limites extrêmes. Dans le domaine industriel, toujours d'après lui, il faudrait inventorier toutes les compagnies et limiter leur capitalisation totale au montant réalisé par l'inventaire, limiter légalement le dividende à six pour cent, supprimer le cumul des emplois salariés et établir le contrôle conjoint des usines par les patrons et le personnel.

Cette opinion, pour incomplète qu'elle soit, n'en renferme pas moins des "germes d'avenir" qu'il est bon de noter en passant. Qui sait si, au cours de la présente session du parlement fédéral, le gouvernement, sur la recommandation de sa Commission Royale, qui doit faire rapport dans une semaine ou deux, qui sait si les autorités compétentes ne s'at-

telleront pas sur l'heure à une législation ouvrière. On peut le supposer, car cette Commission a été nommée. On sait, "ou haut lieu", que le mal social était grand et on a pensé, avec raison, qu'il serait prudent de prévenir ici la catastrophe qui s'est abattue sur la Russie et qui menace, si on n'y prend garde, de bouleverser le monde entier.

Quel que soit le résultat des travaux de cette commission, on peut s'attendre à une intervention quelconque mais directe du gouvernement fédéral dans la situation économique. Sous quelle forme se présentera-t-elle, il serait prématuré de le prophétiser, mais on peut s'attendre à "quelque chose".

Et ce ne sera pas trop tôt.

Georges Delpéque.

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LABOR THE WORLD OVER

There seems to be no end to the unrest in sight. Mail and newspaper information all tell of strikes being started and settled and it is a common thing to hear of workers getting better treatment every day.

This, as it should be and is encouraging to an extent at least. But the whole problem resolves itself, as had been said frequently in his department, why do not the big plant owners know enough to do what is right before being compelled to do it by force.

The local situation is still cloudy with trouble of various kinds, but the bright spot was the work given out by the City for repairs. Nearly a thousand extra men were put to work this week on civic work for street repairs. This includes a lot of horses and vehicles, etc. The streets to be repaired are many and permanent paving is being done also on many so that the work will last a long time.

The English newspapers of standing are all being quoted regarding the strike situation in Canada. The "London Daily News" emphasized the fact that Canadian Labor was solid upon the recognition of the trade unions, and the standard working day. Secondly it stated that the charges in respect of Bolshevism and alien influences were overstated. Thirdly, the American labor world was of inevitable unity and the frontier between Canada and the United States was political, not industrial.

This is fine and is a great deal more kindly and sane than some of the big Canadian papers have written during the abnormal conditions existing at Winnipeg.

Further the "Manchester Guardian", another strong Radical paper in England, remarked the other day that the origin of the movement was not so obscure, as Canada lies within the orbit of the general influences of America, and reveals symptoms exactly similar to those which in the last few years have made the American labor world so immensely significant.

In Canada, as in England, adds the "Guardian", the heart of the industrial unrest is to be sought in the insistent claim not only to better conditions of living, but to vital differences of status of the worker in the Commonwealth.

Both these fine papers commented also upon the executive ability of the strike committees and the absence of violence, which by the way is more than most of the capitalistic papers of the Dominion have admitted.

The good news of unemployment lessening in the Old Country is gratifying. The last report states that there are less than a million out of work. Robertson Stevenson Horne, Minister of Labor, stated that he hoped for greater improvement right along. The housing scheme now under way and a new road building plan was afoot as well as many other public works so that no fear of reconstruction exists there.

From U. S. A. the same tale comes and from Canada the same deadly silence sits on the Ottawa bunch of incapables. As Shakespeare made Hamlet say "There is something rotten in the State of Denmark".

There would appear to be some fat heads in the labor circles at Hamilton, Ont., where the civic employees declined to have a 44-hour week. The French expression "God help us" applies to such arrogant fools at such a time as this to get abroad the idea that they prefer a 48-hour week, and asked for it. It is evident that they

are working on piece-work which in most cases of government of civic work is an abomination. On general principles every Trades Council in Canada ought to condemn such an outfit as that.

The long delayed award on the Cook Construction Co's trouble with the city and the aqueduct contract, has been announced for September 1. The arbitration has lasted long and the officers of the Cook Co. have been waiting for the information for a long time. In the interim it is reported that the Cook Co. are disbanding and are selling all their equipment. This looks strange for a big company like this when big housing and building plans seemed to be in sight.

It is always interesting to see unions remember their former leaders and this was well illustrated this week in Toronto, where the local types gathered together and erected a table in memory of William Blair Prescott, former president of the International Typographical Union. It was placed in the cemetery and the participants in the ceremonies included, Commissioner of Labor, James M. Lynch, of New York State, and ex-president of J. T. U., Wm. Barrett, vice-president; and J. W. Hays, Secretary-treasurer of the J. T. U., besides many officials of the local unions.

The late Mr. Prescott was born in Toronto, which occasioned this honor.

The Trainmen in session at Columbus, O., elected officers this week and decided on their next meeting place at Toronto, which records the first time in Canada for many years.

W. G. Lee, of Cleveland, was re-elected President; he had no opposition. T. R. Dodge, also of Cleveland, other Vice-presidents also A. E. King, Cleveland, Treasurer and D. L. Cause, editor of the "Trainman", the Brotherhood's publication. Evidently a Cleveland bunch in power.

George Nicholson, M.P., for Algoma, gave some hot shot at the Winnipeg strikers, while addressing his constituency this week. His constituency comprises union men mostly of railway and they heard his message with great interest. He is reported to have said: "The effort being made by the leaders of the present Canadian situation is not to assist organized labor, but to break up the very organizations to which most of you men belong". He added: "I refer to the organizations of railway service employees. The men at the head of the strike are outlaws to constituted authority. It is stated that this man although a large employer of labor still remains a member of a railway union with which he has been associated for 35 years.

At least, Mr. Nicholson may be congratulated upon his frankness.

There seems to be an epidemic of metal workers' strikes for from Paris France, comes the news that the metal workers there are on strike. They went out because of the method used in applying the eight hour day law. It shows what a contrast there is in sizes of cities, when this strike in Paris is said to affect more than 200,000 workers. A report is issued to the effect that all the underground railway workers would go out in sympathy if the demands were not granted the metal workers. Thus Canada is not alone in her troubles.

In Toronto, Bolshevik societies are reported to be at work fomenting unrest. They wear the guise of peaceful names with high sounding principles

Education, Aristocratic or Democratic

A Chance for all or for a Favoured Few?

Two of the most important topics before the Montreal electorate at this election will be those of working conditions and education. These two topics are most closely related in the minds of Organized Labor than some of our self-made politicians can comprehend. As an immediate remedy for the high cost of living, Labor is asking for reforms to the economic system, its basis on the savage theory of competition; but Labor will never, I take it, be satisfied until it secures reforms that will give the working man a "place in the sun" and a chance to enjoy life. It is because Labor believes in education, not merely as a means of making him a happier and more contented person and a better citizen, that our Trades and Labor Council has always included educational reforms in its programme when it went to Quebec. It is for this reason that Labor has been demanding over and over again that the Government should make it possible for every child to go to school, and then see to it that the child does go. Labor will never be satisfied until every single mother's son and daughter is in actual possession of that boon.

But what do we find? Instead of universal acceptance of the proposition that all children should get an education and that the State should see that they do stay in school until 16 years of age, we find a certain school of thought (or perhaps lack of thought) "preaching" that education is a matter of charity or luxury and not a duty which the parent owes to the child. That is what L'Action Catholique has said with unblushing effrontery. Or listen to Father Lalonde. "Is it not superfluous to waste ink proving that at the present time in our province and for a long time past a large portion of the population has been able to get a living without education? How much more now considering the education which our children receive? Or again, and here he is speaking of the need of seven or eight years of schooling: "To prove the need of it, it would be necessary to show in our province and in our day that this degree of education or education is the one thing which is necessary for all classes of citizens and for children of all classes, who would without it be unable to gain a

living." Ah! there is the idea, is it? It is only necessary for the worker to gain a living. That seems the real notion behind much of the pious cant and these quotations from authority. But it is seldom that these medievalists are caught napping; they are usually clever enough to qualify their statements so that a way is left clear for a retreat, in case it is necessary to make a "mental reservation." Is it any wonder that our province needs an educational earthquake, dispensing these sophisms along.

And among our politicians too, there seems to be no unanimity in answering the question whether all are to benefit equally by education or only a select few. This winter "Le Canada" ran a long series of articles on the subject, "What Place will our Youth obtain in the New Era?" The author of these articles on several occasions made an open plea for an educated élite. This when speaking of commercial life he advocated a commercial upper class. Quoting Mr. Laureys with approval, he says: "Our college professors will have to make our students understand before their last year that the French-Canadians must set their heart on creating for themselves a commercial élite which will be the equal of those numerous groups of men of distinction and learning, who, for many years in the province of Quebec, have been the glory of the clergy, the bar of medicine".

Is not that a definite plan for training up by education a special upper class? And is not such a doctrine the veritable hot-bed for the rapid growth of anarchy and of revolution, or what some would call Bolshevism, when once the seeds are sown in the minds of a discontented class which sees no way out of an intolerable impasse? If Quebec is to avoid disaster in the future such clap-trap of aristocratic toadyism might as well be choked off now. The only real panacea is to set out to give every child a good education, so that the child when grown up to maturity can take his place in the sun by natural means without the need of using violence to break down any social barrier. A proper education is the one thing that

embodied in their charters, and are working secretly to keep alive unrest. Foreigners are being watched closely by the detectives as their membership is 90 per cent foreign and fully 75 of this is Russian.

Chief of Police, Guthrie, is reported to have said that conditions were not so bad in Toronto as in either Winnipeg or Vancouver, because they had Bolshevists under surveillance.

At the convention of the I.O.D.O.E. (Independent Order of the Daughters of the Empire), last week, a dainty reference to labor was made by a gracious lady in the person of Lady Pope, one of the officers. It seemed to come forth so innocently and so tastefully that Lady Pope is deserving of special mention. She said: "I would recommend that we cultivate sympathy towards the working people. If you are well dressed and are passing a building where workmen are engaged, and one happens to look at you, smile at him and say: 'It is a hot day or a cold day'. If you see an Italian or other laborer digging on the road, you can look pleasantly at him and smile. No have no idea of the value of that unseen link of sympathy that is established by a kind word or look."

What's the use of the Minister of Marine saying to a lot of workers in the Marine Trades Federation that he had given orders for two ships to be built at Canadian Vickers, and thus encouraged them to feel happy as plenty of good paid work was in sight, when it was denied the next day by Vickers themselves? No doubt Mr. Ballantyne meant well but that is camouflage of the most dangerous order as Vickers had been telling their men that unless they obtained some new orders for ships, they could not pay as much money as the men wanted. So one lie of the Government may have caused the walk out of Vickers' whole staff. The strike is straight for a 44-hour week, all other demands being incident to this one. Wm. Baugh, president of the Marine Trades Federation, is in charge of the strike, and headquarters have been established at the corner of 3rd Avenue and Notre Dame Street, Maisonneuve. It is evident that the strike is meant to stand, as a press committee has been chosen to give information to the newspapers and a special committee of five has also been appointed to act as a Board for the conduct of the strike.

At the Canadian Rubber Company's plant a strike of some proportions is on and is most orderly, but determined to get the 44-hour week and better working conditions. It may be said to the credit of this company that the committee of management have met a committee of workers and sense prevailed. A satisfactory arrangement was promised at the time of going to press.

A number of prominent International Labor leaders have been in town this week with a view to addressing certain unions and thus steadying the situation. Among these who have made some speeches and who is well known is J. P. Flannery, of the Freight Handlers' Union. He is of the opinion that the western unrest will be settled shortly, and that the International crafts will be stronger than ever before. That is our idea.

STRIKES ON AND OFF

Unrest still ruling. — Many big Montreal firms interested. — Vickers and Glove works' help still out. — Toronto and Winnipeg quiet but still not working.

To glance at the number of strikes and the general conditions prompts one to recall what Herbert Kaufman said about the Huns. He said that Germany had discovered amazing forces for progress, before her soul had recovered

from savagery. Is there not a gleam of a parallel between the Hun and certain capitalistic forces which seem to be striving for a dictatorship, and which have "discovered" some forces for progress but still treat their help savagely." This is merely suggestive and not a statement of fact.

Labor may not be free from fault, but labor is striking for democracy and God-speeding its champions. One by one, crafts is being stripped of its masks; the methods that used to put folks in the "Who's Who" of finance and commerce, are getting them into disrepute and jail.

This is the age when the credulous dollar, the widow's mite and the fool's fortune may be protected from the swindler. Who made it possible? Just organized labor.

In the first city of the Dominion, this Montreal, think of it that although the Toronto strike and the Winnipeg stubbornness has not reached here, there are over 7,000 workers on strike.

No rabid wrath is in evidence; no serious disturbances, but there is the undertone of dissatisfaction and grumpiness which can alone be cured by the employers "coming off their high horse" and meeting the men and the situation like honest men.

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Plea for Ownership Applied to all Production and Distribution

Whitley Councils approved. — Interesting points of unrest.

The epidemic of strikes and their close relation to the high cost of living suggests a theory as to the cause of at least one of these evils, and possibly both.

It will hardly be denied that the present general unrest is primarily due to the inability of the industrial workers to maintain a reasonable standard of comfort in his home life.

The expectation that a cessation of hostilities would bring immediate relief has not been fulfilled, and we have a condition that is, if possible, more distressing than the war.

That there will never be a return to what is called normal conditions, at least not for many years, is a general opinion, the reason given is that a huge war debt has to be paid, which can only be accomplished by a higher rate of production and rigid economy.

It is hardly necessary to add that (as in the past) any further sacrifices have to be borne by the worker.

During the war there was a generally

fied with this, and declare that they will stay out until they are granted the 44-hour week.

The Barbers' strike is about over as agreements have been signed for new terms and to hours and pay by a large percentage of the big shops. This means that the workers will get better pay and a share of the profits after a certain amount is made by the boss. Immediately the price for hair cutting is said to jump to 40 cents and shaves to 20 cents. What is the basis of all this stuff anyway? The working man has to get his hair cut, even though he may successfully shave himself.

John Hart, the International organizer of the tonsorial artists claims he is here to cut the tipping evil out of their trade. Prenez garde, John, there are some barbers so clever that they just draw money from your pocket, and they deserve it too, for they are real artists. If you want to be properly carved up, just cut the tipping. Try to stop the loose tongued barber who talks you to death and there is a reward awaiting you.

The glove workers are close to a settlement in fact just on going to press it looked as if all would be back to work today. This strike has been intelligently managed by both sides. The employers took the workers seriously from the first and have dealt with them sensibly. The Gold Glove Co. agreed to recognize the union on Wednesday and their folks went back to work. Better pay and better hours are the two desired demands most likely to be granted.

accepted theory that those who stayed at home should provide the necessary material for the fighting men who were engaged at the front.

It was recognized that there could be no equality of sacrifice, and that what was being done was the best possible; that the soldier would have to bear a share of the financial cost of the war, in addition to its dangers, was not considered as a possibility by the majority of the people.

It does, however, appear that the men who are being discharged, and are again becoming part of the industrial machine, will of necessity be compelled to carry part of the financial burden as well.

This apparent injustice suggests a question as to the reality of the war debt, and whether such debt, if it ever existed, has not already been paid to nature.

To one who believes that country belongs to the whole of its people, it is quite clear that whatever may be required for any purpose, has only to be taken from the earth, and, if necessary, manufactured into the various products essential to the support of life.

The war was an abnormal condition, in that a part of the nation was called upon to supply the wants of a large number of persons engaged in non-productive work.

The worker is what may be called legitimate industry, produced for his own requirements, for those of the munition worker, and in addition fed, clothed, and armed the fighting men.

Of course if our present economic system of production for profit, and not for use, is as perfect as any human agency can be, there is little more to be said. There is, however, an ever growing number of people who do not believe this to be the case, and who are determined that there shall be a change. To those people the thought is intolerable that a system should exist which allows one class to profit at the expense of those who fought in Flanders, and those who toiled at home.

This is not an attack on individuals, but it is an attempt to indicate defects in the economic system in its relation to the war, it thus being more easily demonstrated.

As to a remedy, there is only one.— State ownership and control of all the means of production and distribution.

This, however, is too great a step to be taken immediately; and in the meantime it is suggested that a measure which would work to the advantage of all, is the establishment of Industrial Councils, similar to those known as the Whitley Council, in the United Kingdom, which it is believed would bridge the period between the present economic system, and a more equitable one which will, sooner or later, replace it.

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PARKS AND GRASS MUST BE FREE TO ALL

Trades Council hot foot after the Civic authorities for arresting families for resting on the grass. — Outrageous injustice. — Eight-hour day law to be followed hard by labor. — All provincial candidates to be asked straight questions. — The Council sympathizes with all workers striking for their rights.

No such outrage has aroused labor in Montreal for years like that of arresting working people and others for resting on the grass at Lafontaine Park. This was vouched for at the regular meeting of the Montreal Trades & Labor Council, when before a rousing meeting, delegates registered most vigorous "kicks" against Recorder Semple and the Council, unanimously passed a resolution of vigorous protest, against such high-handed behavior on the part of the police and the whole civic machinery that would champion any such dastardly tactics. The theme of the speakers at this meeting, was made hot by several speeches to the effect that when a poor man cannot afford cool house, ice and all the comforts of the dictators and recorders, he must be allowed to at least take his family to the parks for rest.

It is true that, said one speaker, that Commissioner Decary has instructed the police not to arrest people generally, but to use their common sense. Why did they not use it before? These poor fellows who were dragged with their wife and children to the police station, stand in terrible evidence against the Recorder, who fined a man \$40, because he dared defend himself. Others were fined three and four dollars, and should not these men be reimbursed this outlay by the city and their lost time?

It was well said that the authorities had better be busy by arresting the sellers of cheap oleomargarine for butter, and many others, instead of wreaking vengeance unjustly on the innocent people, who suffer so extremely through these intensely hot days.

No Recorder ever knew what joy there must be to a tired family to go and have tea even on the grass and those little babies whose very life depend on the air and coolness, cry out in vain to the stoney hearts of civic administrators, trying to show off or cater to the rich dictators.

At any rate, Del. Thompson, a hot-headed Irishman, handed something to Recorder Semple at this meeting. He was wild with indignation at the idea of Semple calling himself an Irishman, and declared vehemently that he certainly had not the Irishman's sense of justice to all, that had been a characteristic of the race for centuries.

Other speakers took active part, and there was no uncertain sound as to where the Council's heart was on this question.

The next big question to be brought up, was the matter of an eight-hour day law, and the necessity of bringing its enactment about through the electorate at the elections, at least getting the candidates to pledge themselves in favor of its enactment at once.

Del. Gus. Francey presented the following resolution, which was seconded by Del. Wall, and carried unanimously:— Whereas the Peace Conference has adopted the policy of not more than eight hours as the standard working day in all civilized countries;

And whereas Sir Robert Borden, Premier of Canada, has declared to a labor delegation that the enactment of an eight-hour day law is a matter of Provincial legislation;

And whereas Sir Lomer Gouin is appealing to the electors of the Province for a renewal of support on June 23, and has repeatedly been asked by labor delegations, to enact an eight-hour working day law, with no result;

Be it resolved that the executive committee of the Montreal Trades & Labor Council be instructed to memorialize the various candidates of this Provincial election, to pledge themselves to support the enactment of such legislation in the Province of Quebec.

In introducing the resolution, Del. Francey felt strongly on the subject, because Premier Borden, he explained, had set his foot down hard that the eight-hour day law was provincial legislation. He had been a party to many overtures on the subject which had been forwarded by committees and otherwise to Sir Lomer's Government, and the answer was nothing, so it was about time to get down to

"brass tacks", and go after the individual members who at least would have some influence in the new Government after June 23. It was the simplest common sense, that if all civilized countries had been told that no work day more than eight hours was standard then, this country was living in the eighteenth century if it failed to rise to the occasion. This was an international question, and vital.

Other speakers along similar lines were Del. Foster, who was in the chair. He emphasized the importance of this resolution and urged the heartiest co-operation of not one delegate but every single one of them who believed in the eight-hour day, and were willing to work for it. Nothing but persistent effort would bring it about, and everyone should get busy.

Quebec had been referred to as the most democratic Province in the Dominion, this being born out by the Government going to the people. "We propose, in adopting this resolution, to put that democracy to the test".

Other stirring speakers were Delegates Foucher, Proulx, Girard, Tardif, Schubert, Bastien, Wall and others.

John Hart, International Organizer for the Barbers' Union was present and gave an interesting speech and gave some hot description of his idea of a "scab". His illustration was most impressive.

The Council instructed its secretary to write a protest to the Civic Administration re the employment of non union musicians to play in the Parks.

Moral support to the Glove workers on strike was recorded as also for other unions now out.

The secretary was authorized to write the Government at Ottawa, asking them to limit the exportation of coal products.

It was announced that on Sunday, P. M. at 2 o'clock, at 417 Ontario St., Organizer Laflamme would deliver the new charter to the new union of local laborers.

The question of the sanitary condition of the work shops of the city was brought to the attention of the Council, by the Plumbers' Union, and they were asked to communicate with the Civic authorities on the matter. This was endorsed by the Council.

Communications of considerable length were read from the Vancouver and the Winnipeg Trades & Labor Councils. These dealt with conditions incident to the strikes now on in the west and were heard with interest, and the following resolution was adopted:

"Be it resolved that the Montreal Trades and Labor Council tender its moral support to all organized workers fighting for the principles of the 44-hour week and collective bargaining, and be it further resolved that the council request the Federal Government to re-instate the postal workers who have been on strike."

President Foster referring to it, said that he was glad to see it unanimous and while the Western cities were having their innings, it was not realized when it might be the turn of Montreal. He dissipated the minds of certain delegates regarding calling strikes and pointed out that the Trades Councils had no power to call general strikes, in sympathy with any workers or strikers. That power remained in the hands of the various individual craft unions.

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Del. Gus. Francey was chosen delegate to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor and the International Labor Press convention to be held in Atlantic City next week. Delegate Landry, of the Brotherhood of Canadian Railwaymen spoke and as a former Winnipeg man, he gave some new light on the situation in the Western City, which was heard with interest. He was followed by Delegates Francey, Schmitz, Tardif, Wall and others. The case of Frank Lion, a socialist, who had been arrested by the Dominion Police, was brought up by a member of the Social Democratic Party. Lion was arrested for an infringement of the immigration law and, according to his attorney, is liable to deportation. The executive of the council were instructed to study the case, and endorsed the protest. Trades and Labor Council.

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