



The Labor World



Le Monde Ouvrier



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"INSTRUIRE ET AMELIORER"

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Le Trade-Unionisme

Ce qu'il obtint sur le terrain législatif en Angleterre depuis le dix-huitième siècle à nos jours. — Comment se développa le British Labour Party.

V.

Combien y a-t-il d'ouvriers qui réalisent que la presque totalité de la législation ouvrière que nous avons dans nos Statuts a été obtenue grâce aux efforts incessants du trade-unionisme qui l'a arrachée bribe par bribe des politiciens qui, — recrutés dans le groupe des capitalistes et hommes de profession — ne conçoivent que difficilement le bien-fondé des réclamations ouvrières. Combien de travail, de sacrifices incessants n'a-t-il pas fallu pour faire comprendre à ceux qui détiennent le pouvoir, que le développement intensif de l'industrie, le remplacement du pouvoir de l'homme ou de l'animal par la force brutale et inanimée de la vapeur ou de l'électricité devaient marcher de pair avec une législation ouvrière adéquate d'un cadre plus étendu, si l'on voulait éviter des catastrophes désastreuses en pertes de vie ou en propriété.

Du temps de la petite industrie où c'était quasi règle générale que le patron travaillât seul ou aidé de quelques ouvriers, qui, à leur tour, pouvaient aspirer à devenir patrons un jour; lorsque l'artisan prenait la matière première et la transformait de ses propres mains jusqu'à achèvement complet, il était fier de son œuvre parce qu'il avait la jouissance de pouvoir dire: "C'est moi qui suis le créateur de cette chose; c'est mon cerveau qui l'a enfantée, ce sont mes mains qui l'ont façonnée et pétrie comme je voulais qu'elle fût"; le trade-unionisme n'existait guère, pour la simple raison que, comme c'est le besoin qui crée l'organisme, l'ouvrier n'en avait pas senti encore l'impérieuse nécessité; l'industrie présentant moins de danger n'exigeait pas non plus le code de législation ouvrière qu'elle réclame aujourd'hui.

Dès que la petite industrie donna place à la grande exploitation où l'individualité de l'ouvrier n'existe plus, ne compte pas plus que l'infime rouage d'un engrenage colossal, celui-ci comprit qu'il devait opposer à cette force nouvelle sans cœur ni âme celle de sa collectivité toute-puissante; de là est né le trade-unionisme avec comme conséquence logique une demande plus pressante de législation ouvrière, quoiqu'on en trouve des vestiges depuis les temps les plus reculés de la civilisation; mais c'est surtout de la fin du dix-huitième siècle que date véritablement l'histoire de la législation ouvrière en Angleterre, car jusqu'à cette période celle-ci se confinait plutôt à rendre le travail obligatoire et à trouver les moyens les plus aptes à forcer les artisans et les journaliers à respecter les contrats de louage qu'ils avaient été contraints d'accepter et de subir. En un mot, la seule législation ouvrière inscrite dans les Statuts était tout à l'avantage du patron qui s'en servait pour opprimer l'ouvrier.

Quand on songe qu'à cette époque, sur simple dénonciation du patron prétendant qu'un contrat de louage avait été violé ou qu'une simple aspière s'était élevée à propos de gages ou de heures de travail, devant un juge de paix, celui-ci pouvait le renvoyer du service ou l'envoyer dans une maison de détention pour "y être corrigé", ce qui signifiait être condamné aux travaux forcés pour un mois ou être fouetté au besoin; ce ne fut qu'en 1823 que le châtiment corporel fut aboli, et en 1867, ce fut l'emprisonnement aux travaux forcés pour bris d'un contrat de louage qui disparut du code civil en Angleterre.

Le travail des enfants dans l'industrie textile fut régularisé pour la première fois en 1819, par une loi qui prohibait l'emploi d'enfants au-dessous de neuf ans et limitait la journée de travail à pas plus de douze heures sur vingt-quatre. En 1833, une nouvelle loi fut adoptée limitant la journée de travail des enfants et jeunes personnes de moins de dix-huit ans et leur interdisant le travail de nuit entre 8 heures 30 du soir et 5 heures 30 du matin; mais le fait le plus important de cette loi était qu'elle pourvoyait à la nomination d'un service d'inspecteurs compétents et libres de toute attache avec les manufacturiers textiles; leurs pouvoirs étaient assez étendus car ils avaient la même juridiction que les juges de paix, ils pouvaient administrer le serment, établir des règles et règlements pour mettre la loi en force, entendre les plaintes et condamner les coupables à l'amende.

En 1844, une autre loi modifia les pouvoirs étendus des inspecteurs de manufactures, leur donnant un cadre d'activité et une juridiction plus conformes aux besoins. Fait digne de remarque, ce sont encore les mêmes principes généraux qui les gouvernent aujourd'hui dans toute l'étendue de l'Empire Britannique. C'est encore cette même loi qui régularisa le travail des femmes, le limitant à douze heures par jour et obligeant les enfants à suivre l'école moitié temps, soit un jour sur deux, ou une demi-journée par jour. C'est de cette date que des clauses spéciales furent mises en force pour protéger la sécurité et la santé des ouvriers et qu'une compensation fut payée aux victimes d'accidents provenant de machines non protégées.

Vers 1850, une législation fut adoptée régularisant le travail dans les mines et excluant des travaux souterrains les femmes, filles et enfants âgés de moins de dix ans; elle prévoyait également la protection de la santé, des membres et de la vie des mineurs et rendait obligatoire le rapport des accidents fatals.

L'organisation ouvrière plus intense chez les mineurs leur fit gagner leur première victoire en 1872, lorsqu'ils obtinrent, à force de persistance, l'adoption de la "Loi des mines de charbon de 1872", résultat d'une enquête d'une Commission royale qui fit rapport en 1864 et démontra le chiffre énorme des maladies et des mortalités qui décimaient les mineurs par suite de la mauvaise ventilation dans les mines, de l'inhalation des poussières, de la fatigue physique excessive, des changements subits de température et autres causes.

Cette loi établissait définitivement un code de moyens de prévention des accidents du travail et une inspection plus rigide; elle exigeait également des certificats de compétence de ceux qui dirigeaient les travaux et stipulait qu'avant qu'un règlement de travail soit soumis au Secrétaire d'Etat pour approbation, il devait être affiché dans les mines pendant au moins deux semaines afin de permettre aux ouvriers de soumettre leurs objections, s'ils en avaient, à l'inspecteur du district. Négligence coupable de se conformer aux règlements de sécurité (safety rules) de la part du patron ou des ouvriers était punissable par un emprisonnement aux travaux forcés.

En 1878, les différentes lois de mines et autres industries furent consolidées sous une même loi qui mettait pratiquement sur un pied toute l'industrie et pourvoyait à une limitation plus uniforme des heures et des conditions de travail; elle fixait un taux de salaire minimum et réglementait le travail à domicile. Peu d'amendements y furent apportés jusqu'en 1901, date à laquelle, sous la poussée de plus en plus forte du trade-unionisme, fut adoptée la loi des manufactures et ateliers qui est encore en force aujourd'hui dans ses grandes lignes et à laquelle on n'a eu qu'à ajouter des amendements suivant le développement de l'industrie et les besoins nouveaux créés par la force des circonstances. Elle prohibait d'une manière absolue et sans exception aucune le travail de tout enfant âgé de moins de douze ans dans toute manufacture ou atelier et inaugurait par statut tout un code de règlements sanitaires avec inspection plus rigoureuse.

Depuis, la législation ouvrière en Angleterre a continué à s'étendre de plus en plus, grâce aux efforts combinés du British Trades Congress et du British Labour Party. Contrairement à la ligne de conduite suivie sur le continent américain par le Travail Organisé, qui reste réfractaire à l'action politique et se confine strictement à sa force économique pour obtenir la législation qu'il désire, les ouvriers d'Angleterre eurent recours à ces deux moyens simultanément, se servant tantôt de l'un, tantôt de l'autre.

Dans un prochain numéro, je continuerai à traiter des bienfaits du trade-unionisme au point de vue législatif en Angleterre, dans quelques pays d'Europe continentale.

GUS. FRANCO.

SCIENCES ET INVENTIONS

La lutte contre le cancer.

Une conférence, aussi bienfaisante qu'originale, a été faite récemment par le professeur Bergonié: elle avait pour sujet la lutte contre le cancer et a été faite à la tour Eiffel pour être transmise par T.S.F. Entre autres aperçus saisissants, le professeur rappelait que le cancer tue chaque année en France 45,000 personnes, autrement dit "qu'à partir de cinquante ans, il supprime une vie sur sept parmi celles qui ont atteint le rendement social le plus élevé". Il faisait appel à l'initiative privée pour venir en aide à l'Etat dans la création et l'entretien si difficiles et si dispendieux de centres anti-cancéreux.

Mais, à ce sujet, le public ne doit pas ignorer non plus la méthode préventive soumise à la Société de biologie par MM. Binetti et J. Thomas et qui consiste dans l'analyse bio-chimique du sang dans le but d'y déceler le cancer, même latent ou virtuel. Ce procédé généralisé amènerait les plus heureux résultats dans la lutte contre le cancer, surtout en ce qui concerne les cancers internes de l'estomac, du foie, des reins, de l'utérus, aux débuts indolores et si insidieux.

Les traitements par piqûres d'abeilles.

Le Dr H. Bouquet, dans ses chroniques médicales du Temps, cite, sans d'ailleurs les expliquer, des cas bien curieux de traitements par piqûres d'abeilles. Il s'agit d'abord d'un lupus de la face de grande extension qui fut guéri complètement, chez une femme de cinquante ans, à la suite de quinze cents piqûres d'abeilles, et d'un autre lupus de la face chez une jeune fille, qui disparut également après quatre mille piqûres d'abeilles en l'espace de neuf mois. Dans des cas de rhumatismes, ce traitement original a, paraît-il, aussi donné des résultats merveilleux. D'ailleurs on avait déjà prétendu que les apiculteurs, exposés aux fréquentes piqûres d'abeilles, manifestaient une immunité marquée contre les rhumatismes. Et voilà, en outre de cet heureux privilège conféré aux apiculteurs, de nouveaux horizons ouverts à l'apiculture, surtout quand la science aura expliqué et organisé cette méthode encore toute empirique.

La potasse allemande, l'Amérique et la France.

D'après la revue l'Industrie chimique, l'emprise de l'Allemagne sur l'industrie de la potasse a été définitivement brisée par l'Amérique et la France. De cette lutte, il ressort que les Etats-Unis peuvent être eux aussi considérés comme une nation productrice de potasse.

Une enquête américaine a montré que la France faisait preuve d'une grande activité technique et financière dans l'exploitation des potasses d'Alsace et que les Etats-Unis fournissent un produit supérieur comme qualité à celui des autres nations: en outre les prix sont bien inférieurs aux cours pratiqués avant la guerre. L'Amérique consomme actuellement la totalité de sa production avant d'acheter à l'étranger.

La mouche du bœuf et l'industrie du cuir.

On appelle "dévarronnage" la destruction du varron qui n'est autre que la mouche du bœuf ou *Hypoderma*, qui se loge sous la peau des bœufs, y dépose ses œufs, et y perce de nombreux trous. Or, le dévarronnage s'impose de plus en plus, paraît-il, si nous voulons sauver notre industrie nationale du cuir des dommages énormes causés par cet insecte, au point que certaines pièces de cuir, comme les soufflets pour appareils photographiques par exemple, ne peuvent plus se trouver sans trous. Le dévarronnage se pratique en extirpant les insectes avec une pince et en répétant cette opération quatre ou cinq fois pendant la saison larvaire.—Dr L. CAZE.

SUCCES DES CORDONNIERS

Les négociations entre les cordonniers de la "Boot and Shoe Workers' Union" et les autorités de la compagnie Ames, Holden and McCready sont terminées avec un très heureux résultat pour les ouvriers. A la dernière assemblée du local No 266 des cordonniers de la B. & S. W. U., le comité de conciliation, présidé par M. Lionel Thibault, fit rapport que les négociations avec la Ames, Holden and McCready sont terminées. D'après ce rapport, les employés du département du cuir à semelles obtiennent une augmentation générale de salaire. Tous ces ouvriers font partie, dit le rapport, de la B. & S. W. U.

Le local No 266 a appris, avec un vif regret, la mort de l'un de ses membres les plus dévoués, dans la personne de M. Jos. Prévoist. Une résolution de condoléances et de sympathies fut adressée à la famille et aux journaux; puis la séance fut levée en signe de deuil.

Le local No 266 des cordonniers de la B. & S. W. U. convoque ses membres en assemblée générale, pour mercredi soir, à 8 heures, à la salle Gareau, pour les élections des officiers. Des rapports très importants seront soumis.

TRAVAILLEURS EN ORNEMENT EN FER

Les travailleurs en ornements en fer ont reçu leur charte dont ils feront l'installation, à l'assemblée de 30 mars courant, au No 417 rue Ontario Est, à 2 h. de l'après-midi. Tous les membres de cette union naissante sont priés de se rendre pour l'heure dite. Des orateurs très au courant du mouvement ouvrier à Montréal donneront un aperçu des conditions actuelles du trade-unionisme dans cette ville et des questions tendant à améliorer les conditions de ce métier seront discutées.

TRIBUNE LIBRE

Moins de Parti-Pris

Je suis un des lecteurs assidus de l'Action Catholique depuis sa fondation, c'est pourquoi, étant parfaitement au courant de ce qui s'est écrit dans ce journal, je me permets de faire quelques remarques.

Je constate, et je ne suis pas le seul, surtout depuis quelques années (2 ans), l'apathie que ce journal affiche, avec un sans-gêne incroyable pour un journal CATHOLIQUE ET INDEPENDANT (qui prétend, à tort ou à raison, ce qu'il le rendement social le plus élevé". Il faisait appel à l'initiative privée pour venir en aide à l'Etat dans la création et l'entretien si difficiles et si dispendieux de centres anti-cancéreux.

Je ne nie à personne le droit de critiquer les actes du Gouvernement qui sont mauvais, ni le droit de féliciter les bonnes mesures que les membres de l'Opposition suggèrent aux ministres (quand ils en suggèrent), mais je trouve étranges les procédés injustes et malhonnêtes que l'on emploie dans ce journal pour critiquer toutes les mesures du Gouvernement, SANS DISTINCTION.

Si l'on veut être un journal de parti, cessons de parler au nom de l'Eglise, car tout politicien, même s'il s'appelle Jules Dorion, ne peut sans compromettre l'Eglise Catholique, parler en son nom.

Je prends au hasard la loi de l'adoption. M. le Directeur, savez-vous qu'il y a beaucoup plus d'enfants illégitimes de nos jours qu'au commencement de la colonie? Que n'employez-vous pas votre zèle et la page éditoriale à écrire de longs articles sur ce sujet, au lieu de chercher à susciter des guerres de race et de religion comme vous le faites tous les jours?

Vivant en ermite comme vous, il se peut que vous ignoriez ce détail. Je crois qu'il serait bien important, surtout au point de vue catholique, d'écrire de longs articles traitant des devoirs de surveillance que les parents ont à remplir vis-à-vis de leurs enfants et des obligations que les jeunes gens et surtout les jeunes filles ont à remplir avant de contracter mariage. En faisant l'éducation des parents et des enfants à ce sujet, il est à présumer qu'il y aurait beaucoup moins d'enfants illégitimes et le Gouvernement n'aurait pas à amender la loi d'adoption et par conséquent ne déplaierait pas à M. le Directeur.

J'espère que ces quelques remarques, faites par un "Pharisien" (comme dira M. le Directeur), porteront leurs fruits et prouveront à qui de droit que le peuple de la province de Québec, tout en étant canadien-français, n'est pas si bête qu'on semble le croire en certains milieux. A bon entendeur, salut.

CANADIEN-FRANÇAIS.

LA "MARITIME SAFETY LEAGUE"

Après la formation de la Quebec Safety League à titre de division de la Ligue nationale canadienne de sécurité, l'établissement de date plus récente fut le développement de la Maritime Safety League à la suite d'une réunion convoquée sous les auspices de la Ligue nationale canadienne de sécurité à Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick, le 30 janvier 1924. Environ cinquante personnes représentant des intérêts commerciaux, professionnels, industriels et du transport, ainsi que des représentants de divers gouvernements et les chefs d'organisations ouvrières des diverses provinces y prirent part. La nouvelle ligue est affiliée à l'organisation centrale et comprend les trois provinces maritimes, nommément, Nouvelle-Ecosse, Nouveau-Brunswick et Ile-du-Prince-Edouard. Son but, qui est identique à celui de la Quebec Safety League, est de:

(a) Protéger et sauvegarder le public, tout particulièrement les enfants, des dangers présentés par les automobiles, les réseaux de chemins de fer, les tramways et toute autre forme de trafic véhiculaire sur les routes publiques.

(b) Instruire le public par l'intermédiaire des écoles, des églises, de la littérature et de tous autres moyens de publicité sur les questions relatives à la sécurité publique.

(c) Réduire le nombre des accidents mortels et autres chez les employés de magasins, fabriques, ateliers et autres divisions de l'activité industrielle et commerciale en faisant comprendre aux ouvriers et ouvrières la pleine signification de cette devise: "Sécurité tous-jours."

(d) Coopérer à la prévention de la destruction de vies humaines, de la propriété et des forêts par le feu.

"DICK" LYNCH EST FETE

Les membres des unions internationales des métiers de la construction, à Montréal, ont donné un témoignage éloquent de leur profonde estime et de leur vive reconnaissance pour services rendus, durant un quart de siècle, à leur bon et dévoué camarade, M. Richard Lynch, secrétaire de la Fraternité Unie des Charpentiers-Ménisiers depuis 25 ans; il exerce les délicates fonctions de secrétaire du Conseil des métiers de la construction depuis 16 ans. Il occupe, en plus, depuis un très grand nombre d'années, le poste de secrétaire-archiviste anglais du Conseil des Métiers et du Travail de Montréal. C'est une des plus vieilles pionnières du mouvement ouvrier à Montréal, et il jouit de la sympathie et de l'estime générale, parmi ses camarades tant de langue anglaise que de langue française.

Cette fête avait été organisée dans le secret, par un comité ayant à sa tête M. Frank Grifard, président du Conseil des métiers de la construction, et J. O. Gagnon, secrétaire du Conseil de district des charpentiers-ménisiers. Le secret fut admirablement bien gardé, et ce fut une grande surprise pour le héros de la fête, qui ne put contenir son émotion. Environ 500 amis de "Dick" Lynch avaient tenu à assister à cette fête.

La vaste salle était magnifiquement décorée comme aux plus beaux jours de fête. Un orchestre brillant, composé de musiciens volontaires, et tous membres des unions de la construction, releva l'éclat de la soirée par l'exécution d'un répertoire choisi et aux airs populaires.

CONVENTION DE LA DIVISION No 4

Pour la première fois, la Division No 4 du Département des Employés de chemins de fer tient sa convention en cette ville, à l'Hôtel Mont-Royal. La convention s'est ouverte lundi matin en présence de plus de 150 délégués venant de toutes les parties du Canada. Le Maire Martin a souhaité la bienvenue aux congressistes, dans les termes les plus élogieux pour le Travail Organisé. J. J. Cupello, président du comité de réception, remercia le maire. Au nom des ouvriers de Montréal, M. J. T. Foster, président du Conseil des Métiers et du Travail, souhaita la bienvenue aux délégués. L'échevin W. J. Hushion adressa aussi quelques paroles de bienvenue à la convention.

Le secrétaire Chas. Dickie donna lecture de son rapport dans tous les détails. Il fit part aux délégués de la position dans laquelle la Division se trouve par suite de la faillite de la Home Bank. Le plan "Baltimore and Ohio", que les Chemins de fer nationaux vont adopter, fut longuement discuté. Nous ne pouvons donner aucun renseignement précis sur les délibérations de la convention, car les séances ont lieu à huis clos.

Diverses autres questions d'importance vitale pour les employés de chemins de fer furent discutées. Nous aurons occasion d'en reparler, la semaine prochaine.

(e) Prévenir et obtenir tous les remèdes et préventions possibles et aider à l'adoption et à l'observation de toute loi tendant à améliorer les mesures de sécurité publique.

(f) Encourager et aider à la formation d'organisations de sécurité locales dans les provinces maritimes.

Il fut décidé que le siège social de la ligue serait établi à Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick et qu'un comité exécutif devrait être formé dans la ville de Moncton et des comités de district à Saint-Jean, Halifax, Charlottetown et dans tout autre centre que le comité exécutif jugera à propos. Tous les membres de ces comités seront aussi membres du comité exécutif. Un comité exécutif comprenant les maires des diverses villes, les présidents des commissions scolaires, officiers et gérants de compagnies de tramways, des représentants d'unions ouvrières syndiquées, dames représentant des organisations scolaires et environ trente-cinq autres représentants divers fut formé et fut autorisé à augmenter le nombre des représentants s'il le jugeait nécessaire. M. A. T. Weldon, gérant du trafic du chemin de fer canadien fut choisi président de la ligue. M. H. R. Thompson, d'Amherst, Nouvelle-Ecosse, qui occupe le poste de secrétaire de la "Accident Prevention Association of Nova Scotia", a assuré les officiers de la ligue de l'aide et la coopération pleine et entière de la "Accident Prevention Association."

La liste la plus forte se trouvant si largement privilégiée, les partis — et les candidats encore plus que les partis — ont intérêt à ce que cette liste la plus forte soit celle sur laquelle ils figurent, dussent-ils se mettre à plusieurs pour pouvoir s'assurer et se partager cet avantage. C'est en ce sens que notre loi électorale incite aux coalitions de partis. Supposons deux groupements adverses de partis. Supposons que le premier ait constitué dans toutes les circonscriptions une liste unique, alors qu'un contraire chacun des partis composant le second aurait présenté sa liste spéciale et pure. Supposons que chacun des deux partis ait, au total et dans la France entière, réuni un chiffre égal de voix. Le premier groupement pourrait fort bien, par l'unique vertu de la loi électorale, compter deux fois plus de élus que le second.

Ainsi s'explique, pour une large part, le succès du Bloc National en novembre 1919. Au point de vue purement électoral, le Bloc National s'est caractérisé comme une coalition de partis (droite royaliste et droite nationaliste, républicains modérés et, dans certains cas, radicaux) présentant dans chaque circonscription une liste unique. Et le succès électoral du Bloc National en 1919 s'explique dans une large mesure, par la prime légale que cette concentration lui assurait sur des adversaires dispersés. En mai prochain, la même coalition se reformera. On peut même dire qu'elle est déjà reformée, comprenant,

Les Prochaines Elections Françaises

Nous venons de recevoir l'article suivant, traitant des prochaines élections en France, de l'Agence Internationale de la Presse Socialiste. Quoique "Le Monde Ouvrier" ne soit pas un journal socialiste mais purement et simplement un organe trade-unioniste, nous croyons qu'il serait intéressant pour beaucoup de nos lecteurs d'apprendre de source officielle ce qui se passe dans les rangs ouvriers dans les différents pays et ce que pensent des événements mondiaux les dirigeants travailleurs et socialistes d'Europe.

Comme nous l'avons maintes fois répété, "c'est du choc des idées que jaillit la lumière"; il est donc utile de connaître les idées de tous afin de trouver la solution des problèmes sociaux qui confrontent notre pauvre humanité.

Nous publions, de temps à autre, des articles dus à la plume de MM. L. Blum, J. Longuet et Pierre Renaudel, de France; Vandervelde, de Belgique; Branting, de Suède; Tchervoff, de Russie; H. Massingham, d'Angleterre, et autres militants du mouvement socialiste et travailliste.

J'accueille avec empressement l'occasion qui m'est offerte de m'adresser aujourd'hui à nos camarades de l'Internationale. Il me semble utile, en effet, qu'un éclaircissement leur vienne de notre part sur les raisons qui ont conduit le Socialisme français à envisager, pour les élections prochaines, une tactique entièrement nouvelle, et dont toutes ses traditions contribuèrent à détourner cette explication, comme ils pourront en juger, les intéressés presque aussi directement que nous-mêmes.

Jusqu'en 1919, la Chambre française était élue au scrutin uninominal d'arrondissement. Il existait en France environ six cents circonscriptions. Dans chacune d'elles, en principe, et pratiquement dans la très grande majorité d'entre elles, le Parti présentait son candidat, menant campagne pour le programme du Parti, et profitant de l'agitation électorale, tous jours très vive en France, pour étendre à de nouveaux groupements sociaux ou locaux le recrutement des organisations du Parti. Si notre candidat n'obtenait pas la majorité absolue des suffrages, et par conséquent n'était pas élu dès le premier tour du scrutin — c'était, hélas! le cas le plus fréquent — nous pouvions alors, au second tour, à nous désister en faveur d'un candidat radical ou simplement d'un candidat républicain. Nous le faisons tout naturellement et, si je puis dire, gratuitement, n'ayant jamais conclu à cet égard avec aucun parti politique, nous n'acceptons de réciprocité. Nous le faisons, comme disait Jaurès, sans nous sentir obligés envers d'autres intérêts que ceux du Socialisme, mais sachant que ceux de la République en sont forcément ébranlables, ou bien comme disait Edouard Vaillant, par pur devoir et discipline socialistes, puisque tout socialiste est nécessairement républicain et que même le seul républicain complet, parfait, est le socialiste.

Cette tactique de désistement se heurtait parfois à des difficultés de fait, par la raison principale qu'en France, les hommes politiques de la bourgeoisie ne se distinguent les uns des autres qu'avec une grande difficulté. Les frontières qui les séparent sont confuses et mobiles, et leur position change même assez fréquemment pour qu'on ait parfois du mal à les distinguer d'eux-mêmes. De là des incidents parfois honteux ou pénibles, mais du moins avions-nous en notre premier tour à nous, bien à nous, à nous seuls, entièrement occupé par notre campagne propre de propagande et de recrutement. Et c'est ce que voulait dire Jaurès quand il déclarait que pour nous, socialistes, le premier tour du scrutin était en réalité le tour unique.

Or, la loi électorale de 1919 a modifié tout au tout cet état de choses. Elle divise la France en circonscriptions beaucoup moins nombreuses, éliminant chaque liste, et ne comporte dans la cas normal, qu'un seul tour de scrutin. Il est ainsi, je le sais, de toutes les lois de représentation proportionnelle, la loi française de 1919 avantage systématiquement, dans chaque circonscription, la liste qui a obtenu le plus grand nombre de voix. Si une liste a obtenu la majorité absolue, la totalité des sièges lui est dévolue. Et la liste qui a obtenu la majorité relative — il y en a toujours une — a droit à la totalité des "restes", prime variable qui peut atteindre ou même dépasser la moitié des sièges, et qui, en moyenne, en représente certainement plus du quart.

La liste la plus forte se trouvant si largement privilégiée, les partis — et les candidats encore plus que les partis — ont intérêt à ce que cette liste la plus forte soit celle sur laquelle ils figurent, dussent-ils se mettre à plusieurs pour pouvoir s'assurer et se partager cet avantage. C'est en ce sens que notre loi électorale incite aux coalitions de partis. Supposons deux groupements adverses de partis. Supposons que le premier ait constitué dans toutes les circonscriptions une liste unique, alors qu'un contraire chacun des partis composant le second aurait présenté sa liste spéciale et pure. Supposons que chacun des deux partis ait, au total et dans la France entière, réuni un chiffre égal de voix. Le premier groupement pourrait fort bien, par l'unique vertu de la loi électorale, compter deux fois plus de élus que le second.

Nous ne nous faisons pas d'illusions exagérées sur les effets de cette tactique nouvelle, ni sur les résultats possibles de la victoire du "Cartel des gauches". De lourdes déceptions attendent peut-être, à cet égard, l'opinion française comme l'opinion européenne. Mais nous n'avons pas voulu qu'on puisse nous imputer un jour d'avoir, par intransigence doctrinale ou attachement égoïste à notre honneur de Parti, laissé fuir la moindre chance d'assurer ce changement. Nous avons senti l'étendue du sacrifice; si nous l'avons consenti, c'est à la cause de l'entente internationale et de la paix.

Voilà ce que j'ai tenu à dire. Voilà ce que notre Parti unanime désire que l'on entende clairement dans l'ensemble de l'opinion sociale. Et nous renouvelons nos remerciements aux amis qui nous ont fourni le moyen de nous faire entendre d'elle.

LEON BLUM.

Paris, le 11 mars 1924.

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9th Year — No. 13

SAMEDI, 29 MARS 1924 — MONTREAL — SATURDAY, MARCH 29th, 1924

PRICE: 5 CENTS

WISDOM

"Toleration has never been the cause of civil war; while, on the contrary, persecution has covered the earth with blood and carnage." — VOLTAIRE.

Public Ownership of the Government

By J. M. BAER, The Congressman-Cartoonist.
(International Labor News Service.)

There is much talk for and against government ownership these days.

The first thing the public should own is the government. The people cannot control or own the utilities, resources and monopolies until they have complete possession of the "rights, titles and claims to said government."

Privilege now seems to have complete title to the officials who are in turn leaders of the old parties. Until the people reclaim the government, they cannot make much of a success as the trustee of their own property.

When politicians pass laws to regulate the railroads, the railroads get control of the politicians and regulate the "regulators." Instead of public ownership of the railroads under the present control we have railroad ownership of the government.

When politicians pass laws to "control the trusts" — the trusts buy up the politicians and control the "controllers." We then have private ownership of government.

The first thing for the people to do is to own and control their political premises.

Let the slogan for 1924 be "public ownership of the government."

As the Worker sees his World

Summary and Digest of Im-
portant Events of the
Week, Here and Abroad.

—The Old Country harvesters who were stranded in Toronto last Fall seem to be having the time of their lives on their trek to Ottawa, having been fed and dined all along the route. One of the biggest meetings and entertainments was at Kingston, Ont. The Y. M. C. A. allowed the use of their baths and reading rooms. Their slogan seemed to be: "We might as well starve there as here," and so on. They are determined to see Premier King. The Government officials have tried to persuade them to take up jobs offered en route, but to no purpose. Nice business!

—A newspaper man from Britain named S. K. Ratcliffe has been busy in Montreal delivering lectures on Labor Government. He praises Ramsay MacDonald and his cabinet at every lecture. He claims Britain is in for a complete change of life and a better life. He claimed also that the day of the two parties in politics, that is Conservative and Liberal, were over. MacDonald's Government was a religious government and a good one all round.

—There was a slight flutter in the postal unions at Ottawa and in Montreal this week re a threatened strike for more pay. The matter appears to have been fixed up by the Post Office Department and the strike is called off temporarily. However in Montreal City the postal employees are clamoring hard for a bonus which they formerly received and it is reported to have been dropped for this year. This is not final. Mass meetings were held during the week and an appeal is being made on their behalf.

—Suspension of action under the Workmen's Compensation Act for a year to allow appraisal of permanent damages is a feature of a judgment rendered in Montreal against the Harbor Commission. E. Sauvageau took action for \$3,000 for injuries received while at work on the Harbor. His right of action was denied by the Commission. The Court decided that the man had suffered and condemned the Harbor Commission to pay him \$10,500 weekly until March 25, 1925, when new evidence will be heard by experts, as to the man's permanent disability.

—An anti-tubercular League was formed in Montreal on Tuesday night. Mayor Martin was present at the meeting and spoke in favor of it. Sir Arthur Currie made the motion for the formation of the league, which was seconded by Mr. Zeph. Hébert, president of the Canadian Club. The membership will include heads of various social bodies, business and health organizations, and is a lengthy list. Lord Atholstan, as honorary president, presented \$100,000 to the League as a starting fund. This is certainly a worthy cause and a boon worthy of all co-operation.

—Dr. J. P. Gauthier, superintendent of Municipal Playgrounds, is already busy in Montreal getting ready for the nice Spring weather, to have more playgrounds for children than ever before. His desire is to have playgrounds in every one of the thirty-five wards. He also is trying to get kiosks built for shelter in rainy days and on cold ones in winter. The Doctor is a worthy worker and deserves all credit for his devotion to the children's happiness.

—The C. N. R. Forestry Protection Association met in Montreal this week and offered co-operation with their fire fighting equipment, their radio, and their telegraphic facilities to make one grand success of the work of forestry preservation. S. J. Hungerford, vice-president, presided at the meeting and voiced the will of the whole system in this move which he commended most

highly, naming the C. N. R. as "the greatest carrier and consumer of forest products in Canada."

—People who cursed the condition of the streets in Montreal all winter and many who slipped and hurt themselves without taking action will be interested in the fact that there is recovery for wound obtained by slipping. One man, a barber named Wilfrid Lamotte, recovered \$75 damages for a sprained wrist, caused by slipping on an icy sidewalk. Other actions should be taken so as to have more attention paid to the streets. The removal of snow was well done, but the sidewalks cannot be so praised.

—Child labor in New York State decreasing, State Department of Labor reports.

—Pennsylvania railroad engineers, firemen, hostlers and hostlers' helpers get 5 per cent wage increase.

—Wyoming Federal Judge restrains Sinclair company from Teapot Dome work; brief filed by Government charges Fall and Sinclair conspired to defraud nation.

—Former wife of Jess Smith says Attorney General Daugherty dealt in pardons, whiskey, fight films and oil.

—Baltimore & Ohio railroad grants conductors and trainmen 5 to 6 per cent wage raise.

—Senate ratifies treaty with Great Britain designed to prevent rum smuggling.

—Illinois reports sharp increase in employment, first important gain since last May.

—Berlin musicians win pay increase by strike at beginning of evening performance in theaters.

—Part time work general in New England textile and shoe shops, Federal Employment Service reports.

—More than 3,000,000 German children in desperate need of food, Dr. Haven Emerson says.

—General employment gains 6.7 per cent in February, Department of Labor of U. S. reports.

—New York Herald purchased by Ogden Reid and combined with the Tribune.

—Soviet losing hold on masses, say letters reaching Paris from Moscow.

—Wages in building trades show strong upward tendency, the American Contractor reports.

—House votes bonus bill, providing for twenty-year endowment insurance to former soldiers.

—Union elevator operators in New York City to get wage increase.

—Communists poll big vote in Ruthenia for the Czechoslovak Chamber.

—Non-union coal miners at Vintondale, Pa., strike in protest against wage cut.

—British Labor Government will not proceed with Singapore naval base.

—Circuit Court of Appeals upholds Government in case growing out of alleged interference with mails during shipmen's strike.

—Portugal's Government employees strike for higher wages.

—Japanese submarine sinks with 44 men aboard; four Japanese aviators die as naval dirigible burns.

—Pittsburg & West Virginia railroad makes wage agreement with train service Brotherhoods.

—Railroad traffic continues at record rate, reports say.

PUBLISHER LOSES SUIT

It behooves every publisher to take care as to who signs advertising contracts which was established strongly this week in the Court. A publisher owning the "Roman Canadian" sued to recover \$150 for advertising inserted in his paper by Mr. Feldman. Feldman disputed the account because he had not authorized the contract which was signed all right, but by a person without any authority.

Feldman claimed he repeatedly refused to advertise in the "revue" mentioned, and claimed that the publisher knew the contract was valueless. Justice Mercier dismissed the action with costs.

Labour at Ottawa

"IN ENGLAND, WHY
NOT IN CANADA?"
by J. S. Woodsworth

A great variety of communications and publications come to my desk, and from some of these it would seem as if there is a growing uneasiness on the part of the business group, lest Labour should successfully challenge its control. A recent resolution from the Associated Boards of Trade of eastern British Columbia petitions the leaders of all three Parties to demand elimination of all unnecessary expenditures. Among the various "Whereas," there are the following, "Whereas practically every industry recognizes that an eight hour day is the minimum which can be afforded at present, and that employees will do more efficient work when kept fully occupied; whereas the knowledge of these conditions (i.e. working conditions in the Civil Service) is bound to have a serious effect on future industrial life throughout the Dominion and will give strength to such organizations as the O.R.U. and I.W. W. and like revolutionary bodies";

Similar concern is expressed in the latest report of the Montreal Council of Social Agencies, which urges that greater attention should be given to the solution to our insistent social problems before they "shall have become acute, so demoralizing in their effect on the so-called labour classes, so productive of class feeling and antagonism, as to produce either such an overthrow of the existing form of government as has taken place in European countries, or such a class development in party politics as gave birth and strength to the Labour Party now in power in the Mother Country. It is only to be expected that people in this country who have not given much thought to social questions, will ridicule this statement and pass it off with the assertion that Canada is not an antagonistic country, or even Great Britain. But any thoughtful person who has been watching the trend of the relations between the employed and the employing classes in other countries on the whole, must realize that it is only a matter of time before the struggle for power will be less one-sided than it is today."

From the labour viewpoint, probably the most interesting event of the week has been the visit of the Trade Delegation on the Union of Soviet Republics. For a long time labour has been keenly interested in the experiment of a working-class government in Russia. The press of this country and the people generally, have denounced and misrepresented the entire situation, and from the beginning, prophesied its early overthrow. It is decidedly interesting to see the least, that now accredited representatives of Soviet Russia should be received by prominent representatives of our financial organizations and later by the Government of Canada. From this time onward, the term Bolshevik will perhaps cease to be the worst sobriquet that may be thrown at an enemy.

In the National Gallery here at Ottawa is a horrible picture entitled "The Bolshevik". In the background is a red flag on which are printed certain Russian characters. The caricature of a man in a frenzy, foaming at the mouth and hurling destruction at all and sundry, is presented to our horrified gaze. Surely now that our Canadian business men are cultivating friendship with Russia, it might be time that such pictures were removed alike from our public galleries or our memories.

The delegates were by no means, the uncompromising type of proletarians. They were attired in conventional morning coats and silk hats and exhibited a formal etiquette not frequently met with in this new country, even in official circles.

A rather funny incident occurred on their first arrival at Ottawa. Their coming had been somewhat delayed. A government official rang me up on the phone to find out if I could tell him where they could be found. Just why a Labour Member of the House should be expected to produce a Bolshevik on demand, was not apparent. However, as the delegates were later escorted to the gallery reserved for distinguished strangers, I presume there is now no disgrace in harbouring a Bolshevik!

In connection with the recognition of Soviet Russia, complicated constitutional questions may arise. My inquiry as to the standing of the delegates, was evaded by the acting Prime Minister, who, however, stated that Canada was anxious to do business with Russia. I note that the Conservative Montreal Gazette states that Russia has been recognized. If this is so, interesting developments may follow.

According to the preliminary treaty between Great Britain and Russia, it would seem as if each country agrees to forego hostile propaganda. What then about anti-Bolshevik propaganda in Canada? On March 17th, at the Canadian Club in Toronto, Boris Bakhteff, the Russian Ambassador to the United States under the Kerensky regime, delivered an address in which he exhibited hostility to the Soviet form of government. We presume that our officials will now move for his deportation!

One of the speeches recently recalled the rather clever saying often repeated, "Lies are of three classes: plain lies, damn lies and statistics." Here at Ottawa we meet with all three kinds, but most frequently with statistics. Speeches and reports are full of them. Almost any case can be bolstered up by an array of figures. It is well for the workers to question closely the sources from whence these come, and also as to whether they fairly represent the entire situation.

OUR OPEN COLUMN OPINIONS OF OUR THINKING READERS

This department belongs to the people who are interested in all the supreme problems of the day. Who will bear the torch? Editorially "The Labor World" does not necessarily agree or disagree with thoughts expressed, but intelligent controversy without any malice or unreasonable prejudice is welcomed.

The Rights of the Child in School

In the recent mix-ups regarding schools on the Island of Montreal, one cannot help regretting that school authorities appear to be narrowed down to considering public education in the interests of race, adulation, and denominationalism, rather than in the single interest of the child per se.

If left absolutely to themselves, the children would not know, nor want to know, that they are Jews and Gentiles, Catholics or Protestants, or anything narrowing. They would only want to live, love, grow, learn what is known to man, be free to search for the remainder of the knowledge of God, and then to express it all according to their own sweet fancy.

And would their generation not be the better for it?

The good God who is great enough to operate His law of gravity, His system of lighting and heating the universe, His radio waves, in China as well as in Quebec, whether we worry about racial and religious gesture or no, is not likely surely to cancel the operation of any of His Divine Principles in the schools owing to the breed, or denominational fussiness of mere man.

The reactionary proposal to multiply schools panels for the mediaeval reasons given would appear to be about as ridiculous as a proposal to install special tramcars for the different styles of tweeds, silks, and furs we wear.

Our father and mother love has been nationalized in the school life only to economize the time and effort of the children themselves in finding suitable environment for the steady unfolding of these delicate buds of God Himself. But all kinds of people have been trying to take advantage of public educational systems to prejudice the growth of our little ones in the direction of their own purely egoistic ideals.

There are those who would stifle the human birthright of freedom to investigate the ideas we were born to. It may be quite true to say that these persons are becoming noticeably fewer during the past 50 years, but the unfortunate fact remains that there are still too many of them. They unduly try to "fence in" some portion of humanity to their own uses, while avowing to protect it from the "contamination" of the remainder. Thus they defer the reign of the Golden Rule.

If the public school-teachers ever get control of the public school system as they logically should, there will likely be such a "clean-up" of quasi-superstition about schools as will remove all fears of contamination, physical, mental, moral, and religious as distinguished from religious. And the sooner these meddling outsiders can be kept within their own spheres of expertise, the better for the children, and the better for every religious. "Every man to his trade" is the safest rule for good work.

For more than 300 years we have been coming to America to found better family and school conditions than seemed possible in the Old World. We have had our opportunity to dismember ourselves of all the European obstacles to the highest child welfare. But have we done it? In school matters we are still wrangling over disputations which have long since proven to be quite irrelevant to public education, while our people suffer greater illiteracy and consequent subservience than in most of the countries we left in the hopes of betterment.

I. S. HENRI.

BRO. JOE SCHUBERT TO BE OPPOSED

Opposition is out in St. Louis Ward against Joe Schubert in the person of Jos. Murphy, head of a big business concern in the division. While it is most likely that Bro. Schubert will have all the support of Ald. Lyon Jacobs, the present alderman, it will be up to the workers to stand by their man and elect him. Now is the time to get to work, because there is no time to lose.

Mr. Schubert, as we have frequently said, would make an ideal representative for his ward. He is a master of both languages, is well known and well liked by his own and other people and he knows the needs of the ward better than most men. He would do much for Labor as an alderman and this is just a warning for those who say after a man is beaten: "Oh! we thought he'd win hands down." It's votes that win and they are secured by hard work with the electorate.

"RELIGION AND POLITICS"

At the next meeting of the Open Forum at the Labor College, on Sunday afternoon, at 3 o'clock, the speaker will be Mr. R. C. Good, M.P., and the subject: "Religion and Politics."

Mr. Good is a leader of the Organized Farmer Movement of Ontario. He has written books on the economic situation of the farmer and his point of view is sure to prove very interesting.

This meeting will be held at the Montreal Labor College, 70 Mance Street, on Sunday, March 30th. By attending you enjoy a splendid afternoon.

Appeal of Gompers

American Labor's endorsement of the May Day Child Health program of the American Child Health Association has just been given in a letter addressed to that organization by President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor.

"I am sure," said President Gompers, in his letter, "that the organized wage earners throughout the country will be glad to do their full share in support of the work undertaken by your organization. It is one of the first concerns of the trade union movement that there shall be conditions established which make possible the proper care and development of child life and any additional effort in that direction is to be welcomed and encouraged."

"A careful examination of the objects and work of the American Health Association indicates clearly to me its worthy character and the necessity for its support," Mr. Gompers continues. "The fact that the United States stands sixth among the nations in child mortality indicates the tremendous amount of work that remains to be done in behalf of the welfare and safety of childhood."

"It should not be necessary to set apart a day for this work and the fact that it is necessary to set apart a day in order to stimulate public interest is an indication of the apathy of a large proportion of our people in regard to the welfare of our future citizenship. Nevertheless, we must work with conditions as they are and I am glad to give my endorsement to the plan to set apart the first of May as a day upon which to emphasize the necessity for the improvement and safeguarding of the health of children and the general conditions surrounding childhood, in order that the children may have a fairer and better chance."

MUTUAL CO-OPERATION, THE SLOGAN

"I say therefore, let us divide the rewards of labor with those who co-operate with our success, not because we are of a philanthropic nature, but for the sole reason that we owe it to those who contribute to the success of the enterprises with which they are connected."

These stirring and sensible words were uttered in a speech of great interest delivered before a large luncheon of the Montreal Publicity Association, by Mr. Jos. Laporte, vice-president and general manager of Laporte, Martin & Co., Ltd. Mr. Laporte's address showed great thought on a question on which he has written for this paper and others, for many years.

He dwelt at length on the need of more business men at the helm of State and the national problems would be solved as easily as were the vexed difficulties of a big business. The Dominion problems call for the advice of business men, he declared.

He had no sympathy with those who would argue that things were abnormal and unmanageable, since the war. Things in some respects were abnormal during the war, but today, relatively speaking, national affairs were as normal as they were in 1913. The sooner business men realized that the sooner prosperity would return.

The best diplomatist in the world could profit by advice from a good business man. He hoped at no distant date that business men would be brought in conference over national affairs if necessary outside politics. National questions are too often dismissed by "leaving it" to the other fellow. It is not the case in business. A business man gathers his workers around him and takes counsel with them. That is what they did in their business and it had helped success.

In a strong plea for co-operation between employer and employee, he remarked that every worker was human and was entitled to his "honest dues". Then he remarked the words quoted at the beginning.

Things new and varied seem to have caught the imagination of the age, remarked the speaker. "Now we find that this tremendous power to suggest every day thousands of new things, whether of the luxurious class or the necessity class, has gone a step too far," he proceeded. "To-day, we see a reaction and a desire to stop this ever-increasing distribution. Many industries have given the word, 'halt,' and are trying to reduce and simplify the number of articles, particularly to their spheres of activity." It is high time that industries and groups of business men engaged in those industries should get together and realize the folly of this policy and start a practical process of elimination."

H. P. Kenyon, vice-president, was in the chair. From a Labor standpoint Mr. Laporte is to be openly congratulated upon his opinions so well expressed. What makes it doubly attractive is that the big company over which he presides has for years carried out the principles he has enunciated and have made a conspicuous success.

MORE LABOR VICTORIES

From far off Australia comes the good news of continued success of labor. The defeat of Mr. Maley, the Minister of Agriculture, gives the Labor Party 25 out of the 50 members, comprising the House, with a chance of winning one or two of the North West seats, where voting has been deferred until April 5. It looks impossible for the Government to carry on, and the formation of a Labor ministry is anticipated.

At any rate Labor will be the strong-party in the new Parliament and may with the anti-ministerial section of the Country Party, outnumber the Government supporters. It all looks well for the faithful little band who started their fight for position so many years ago. It is sure to come, as it did in England.

Prohibition and Hip Flasks

In the effort to enforce the farce known as prohibition, raids are being made on cabarets. The *Chicago Tribune*, for instance, in a report one day this week said: "Police sponge squads late Saturday night, and early Sunday morning, spread through the north side residential section in a series of hip pocket raids which left the sponges dripping with alcohol, a dozen or more cabarets lifeless, and more than twenty persons in the jail cells."

Plain clothes men sauntered into the cafés and the very moment they found anyone pouring liquid from a hip flask or a side bottle they grabbed them. In every case those seized were held on charges which under the State law calls for a \$1,000 bond — a bond that took many hours to get, with the result that many so-called respectable people spent the night in the cells. No women were arrested, only taking the escorts, but the girls had to go home alone. It is said that this is the first time residential districts have been raided. Now isn't that a pretty mess? Of course such open defiance of a law could not be overlooked, but everyone knows it is impossible to check such things as private drinking no matter with a regiment or small army of plain clothes men. Practically everywhere that prohibition exists this farce goes on, even in Ontario the good, the flask and moonshine too are the twin curses.

Stepping from the breaking of law to something more vital an article in the *British Empire Magazine* has a department headed "Medical Notes" and in a recent issue dealt with alcoholic liquor as a beverage. In one section Professor Starling, a well known writer, dwells on the fact that the leaders in every walk of life, with very few exceptions, are and always have been moderate drinkers. This is a fact which has no gainsaying, and it is useless to try to belittle it. The crux comes when any attempt is made to define what in this connection is meant by the word "moderation". They go on to say that alcohol is not as commonly supposed, a mere stimulant. It is a sedative as well as a stimulant. Dr. Starling is a very human professor and is evidently of the opinion of Matthew Arnold, who held that alcohol adds to the agreeableness of life. That is an asset which in view of most people will outweigh a host of countervailing disadvantages.

Just one thought of contrasting prohibition with control and moderation and it becomes an issue as obsolete as night caps.

Public Recreation and the Shorter Work Day

By HUGH FRAYNE,
General Organizer, American Federation of Labor.

Now that the shorter work day offers workers more freedom for relaxation and recreation, organized labor can give more attention to providing for the most worth while and enjoyable use of its increased spare time. Realizing that individual and social development is as much a matter of having opportunity for recreation and education as it is of leisure, the American Federation of Labor and its affiliations have given their hearty endorsement to the movement for securing public playgrounds and recreation centres under trained leadership.

Recreation when supported by a city or town in recreation in its most democratic form. It offers equal opportunity to all and is considerably cheaper than commercial recreation. This more and more communities are each year recognizing. During the past eighteen years the number of cities and towns providing recreation under leadership for their citizens has grown from forty-one to five hundred and five.

The Playground and Recreation Association of America, on whose board of directors I have the honor to serve, has found in its experience as guide and consultant to cities in their problems of public recreation since 1906, that practically every community of eight thousand or more population needs to employ a trained leader of recreation the year round. This need is far from being met. The time has already come, however, when the kind of recreation a community provides is considered an index of its progress just as are the kind of schools it provides or the way it paves and lights its streets.

When a community has failed to provide recreation facilities and leaders, or provides too few of them, public opinion can do much toward correcting the situation. In some states legislation has made it easier for citizens to secure public recreation systems. Iowa and Illinois have excellent opportunities in this subject. The recreation laws passed by the last legislature of these two states are among the finest and most direct in America. They provide that on a petition of a small percentage of the qualified voters of a city or two under 150,000 (ten per cent in Illinois and fifteen per cent in Iowa), the question of establishing a recreation system under public support must be presented for approval by vote at the next special or general election. If a majority vote, favorable to establishing the system, is passed, the local council or commission is required to set it up.

A number of cities in Illinois and Iowa intend to profit by these new laws. It is expected that the support of local labor groups will be an important factor in carrying on these activities.

An outstanding value of public recreation is the effect of directed play in safe places upon the rising generation. Not a single child drowned or killed while playing in the city was the record reported by the officials of the Lewiston, Me., playgrounds last summer. Bristol, Ind., attributes to its playgrounds the fact that it had no cases of juvenile delinquency last summer. Nearly communities without playgrounds had one to four cases. The National Safety Council, the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce, editors and municipal authorities agree as to the effectiveness of playgrounds in cutting down accidents. Judges, police officials, and social workers testify everywhere to the preventive value of playgrounds on delinquency. Aside from its value in preventing accidents and delinquency, directed public play is building sturdy bodies and teaching good sportsmanship and good citizen-

ship. It is developing interests in handicrafts, music, drama, and athletics that are starting children on the way to a creative and expressive use of their spare time.

In this age of passive amusements, of many lookers-on and few participants in athletic sports, supplying active, joyous play to all is worth firm support. But the benefits of public recreation are not limited to muscle-stretching, lung-filling and releasing the instinct to romp and frolic found in every normal person, young or old. Through such activities as social gatherings, neighborhood organization, holiday celebrations, and amateur drama and music, public recreation opens the way to that richer self-expression and broader social intercourse which was one of labor's main reasons for advocating the shorter working day, as it means healthier and happier children, better developed men and women, mentally and physically, and has its place in the whole general movement for human progress and enlightenment.

POWER AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PRESS

"Power and responsibility of the Press" was the subject of a stirring and interesting sermon by Rev. A. E. Runnels at the Fairmount Methodist Church last Sunday night. He scored pernicious books and "yellow" journals and periodicals which professed to be spreading truth "go to the lowest grade of world's sewage to find their material." He cited certain so-called "best sellers" and named several books which he thought should be banned by the Government.

The characters portrayed in many novels he felt were not characters that existed on earth, at least he had not met them. He slated certain kinds of movie films and said:

"Books teaching the doctrine of fatalism were said 'to be still more dangerous.' He remarked: 'Let us be fully persuaded that sin is not preventable; let us believe that the will is not free and that we have not the power to choose between good and evil; then everything is gone that makes for individual growth or social and national greatness. There is a cursed fatalism being printed today, and men and women relish it.'"

He paid a great tribute to the press of Canada adding that Montreal especially was happily blessed with a clean and capable press, adding: "I firmly believe that there are no finer editorials published on this continent than in the Montreal newspapers."

Even radio was not more wonderful than the press, and he charged that some of his flock were absent regularly through radio, but they would grow tired of that mechanism and return to church.

In the matter of books and periodicals that sink low in their morals, The Labor World heartily agrees, and as for movies, some of them require cleansing thoroughly before being put before the adolescent mind. This paper has started a campaign against vile movies but it's very difficult to get any co-operation either from the Censor Board or the theatres themselves. As for filthy books we have always condemned them. Workers in this affair are the heavy sufferers. (EDITOR.)

Augusta, Ga., March 27. An arbitration board has awarded street car men an increase of 2 1-2 cents an hour.

FIVE ROSES FLOUR

FOR BREADS - CAKES PUDDINGS PASTRIES

Can you guess it?

There are housewives whose cake is always praised—whose pastry is famous for its melting fineness—whose firm, light bread wins daily compliments—whose puddings are noted for savoury lightness—whose cookies are so lastingly crisp. They have one rule that applies to all their baking

Can you guess it?

Poor Eyes in Industrial Plants

Only about half the workers in our great industrial plants appear to have normal eyesight. For instance, we are told in the New York Times that twenty-nine thousand Ford workers have defective vision, according to a report made by the Ford management to the Eye-sight Conservation Council of America, following the investigation of industrial waste by the Hoover Committee of the Engineering Societies. The Times quotes the Ford report, made public recently, as follows:

"The present number of employees of the Ford Motor Car Company at Detroit is 65,000. Of this number 60,000 have received eye examinations. The company first started to make tests for sight in 1912.

"The results of even superficial tests of this sort show the amazingly high proportion of industrial workers having defective vision. Of the 60,000 persons who received eye examinations, 31,000 were found to have normal vision, and 29,000 were found to have defective vision. Almost half of this large group of workers, or 48.5 per cent, had vision below normal.

"Although very high, the percentage of defective vision would still be higher if more complete eye examinations were made. It is not considered necessary to do this except in special cases.

"All employees with poor vision are placed on jobs where there is no risk of injury or other conditions that would make the eyesight worse. A careful job analysis has been made throughout the plant for the purpose of determining what jobs are suitable for those with poor eyesight.

"The results of this study have made possible the employment of twelve totally blind persons on jobs suitable for their conditions. There are 207 persons who are blind in one eye, and 25 persons with light perception only in one eye, in the employ of the company.

"The eye department of the company is unusually active and attentive to all injuries and complaints. In May, 1923, there were 11,602 reported treatments of eye cases, marking the largest monthly total in the history of the company. The greater portion of these were minor cases.

"Those important enough to be recorded numbered 969. Of this number, foreign bodies were removed from 664. The next largest number, 101 cases, resulted from metal burns, while there were 87 cases of lacerations of the cornea, conjunctive and lid."

E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. of Wilmington, Delaware, reported the adoption of a complete system of eye conservation. This firm reports as follows:

"If men were employed at random and put at work without an examination, it can readily be seen how easily a man with one eye or with poor vision could be given work around acids and caustics in a chemical plant, which would constitute a very great risk for the employer and a grave injustice to the employee.

"Eye examinations were started at the Wilmington plant five years ago; 1,578 employees of the dye works have received eye examinations. It is the practice of the company to encourage all the plants to provide goggles for the individual worker.

"At the dye works eye protection is promoted by the Works Safety Committee.



Brown sells us our groceries

"Where do you buy your groceries?" we heard Mrs. Parke ask her friend.

"Oh! Brown sells us our groceries," the friend replied. "He calls up every morning between 9.30 and 11 and 'cook' knows by that time what is needed."

Brown is proud of his grocery business. He should be. It is growing.

He doesn't depend on "the telephone." He has three. One to buy with; one to sell with and one to take orders over.

He knows the value of "adequate equipment intelligently used."

'Are your facilities adequate?'



Big Railwaymen's Convention in Town

For the first time in its history the Division No. 4, Railway Shopmen of Canada, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, met in convention in Montreal last Monday morning, and have been in session all week at the Mount Royal Hotel. The presiding officer changed at times according to what division of the work was going on. All meetings were held behind closed doors and no real details of the inside workings of the convention have been made public. What is most encouraging, appealing to those who have been in the labor movement for years is just what J. T. Foster said at the door of the convention when he remarked that it was a long time since he has seen such a variety of crafts represented at any convention and such enthusiasm and interest shown; in fact, he said, any employer, big or little, who thinks all the elements of the labor movement are not functioning he may wake up for these conventions prove it fully that they are.

The fine parliamentary procedure that marked the meetings was noteworthy and the celerity of passing and arranging big resolutions covering big questions still more worthy of commendation. Among the leaders of the movement present were B. M. Jewell, president of the Railway Employees' Department of the American Federation of Labor; E. J. Evans, board member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; W. R. Rogers, W. Lester, George E. Wright, and C. E. Shaw, and W. A. McGuire, machinists; Geo. F. Chaburn, Joseph K. Hall, K. C. McCutcheon, boiler-makers; F. Harrison, F. Dinardo, and J. Barneet, blacksmiths; Frank McKenna, Joseph Corbett, L. McKinnon, F. J. Cullum, and T. Tardif, railway carmen; P. A. Jardin, A. L. Taylor, F. Macintosh, electrical workers; S. J. Irwin, J. H. Roberts and T. G. Sykes, pipe fitters and sheet metal workers; with R. J. Tallon, president, and Charles Dickie, secretary of Division No. 4; Tom Moore, president of the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

With 155 delegates present from all parts of the Dominion the opening was most impressive on Monday. Mayor M. Martin extended greetings in his customary manner. The Mayor took the trouble to praise Organized Labor generally and in referring to Montreal singled out two well known leaders as men who had done great good to the cause, namely J. T. Foster, president of the Montreal Trades and Labor Council, and Gus. Franque, the secretary of that body.

J. J. Cupello, chairman of the reception committee, referred to the Mayor as a "card member and a trade unionist."

J. T. Foster, on behalf of the Trades Council, welcomed the delegates in a very neat speech. Ald. W. J. Hushion also spoke suitably.

Secretary Chas. Dickie's report was read. In it he referred to the fact that just now the Division was passing through a very critical time and it would require every ounce of energy and vitality to maintain their position and oppose the forces arrayed against them. He mentioned that unfortunately the Division had their money deposited in the Home Bank to the extent of about \$16,405.83. Over 25 per cent of this had been recovered, but the rest was tied up in the failure. He regretted that the finances were not in as good shape as at the last convention.

Rates of pay and co-operative work with the employers occupied much time, also closer relations in all railway life. Reports were read of work done by different unions during the year, and suggestions made for improvement during the next year.

The Baltimore and Ohio railway form of co-operation, which the C. N. R. intended putting into force, was discussed and many other matters of close interest to railway workers' welfare.

All this matter will be published in book form for private circulation. The Labor World heartily welcomes the visitors, who seem to be having the time of their lives, local entertainment committees having presented many opportunities for drives, theatre parties and what not.

Next week the C. N. R. employees will follow in convention, and then the boiler-makers succeeded them.

AT THE PRINCESS
Enrico Castell, the world famous juggler, is playing his first visit to Canada, and will be the headline attraction at the Princess theatre next week. He is regarded all over Europe as a master-entertainer, and as one of the wonders of the theatre. Joe Morin and Flo Campbell are manufacturers of aviation jokes. In a skit entitled "A-Go-Go" they sing and joke through the telling of a story. Monsieur Alphonse Berg demonstrates in the course of a fascinating presentation of fashion creations how the modern girl can dress luxuriously in half the price of the employment of the very latest fashions and modern hustle. Laura Pierpont will be seen in "Women who pass in the Night," an episode in modern social life. Arthur and Marion Havel in "Lovers Lane" have a rollicking comedy. Gilbert Bell, "The Gentleman from Mississippi," is a gentleman of infinite jest. The Four Ortons perform prodigies in balancing and aerial feats on a single wire.

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Goldwyn has made the screen version of what is probably the most popular work of America's most noted author. Joseph Hergesheimer wrote the story of a disillusioned man, carrying most of the intense action of the plot to the wild swamp lands of the Georgia coast, and the groves and wild oranges that border the seashore. "The Covered Wagon," James Cruze, the story concerns Tom Rutherford, Southern-born, but is brought up by Quaker relatives in Philadelphia. At the age of 21 he returns to his folks' mansion on the Mississippi (the time is 1850) and becomes engaged to his pretty cousin, Elvira. Major Patterson, also interested in Elvira and finding Tom in his way, promptly challenges him to a gun fight. Tom not understanding the southern duelling code, refuses. His family, against practically drive him from home.

When Tom returns to his folks' mansion several years later, they see him as "Cunnie" Blake and are scared to death of him. In the end the hero is the handsome young Cullen Landis, a Southerner true to his type, and one of the most popular leading men on the screen today.

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Member of the

Membrane de la Presse Internationale
Ouvrière d'Amérique
Gus. FRANCO, Editor and Publisher,
Vice-President of the International Labor Press

9-11 St. Paul Street West

At the Playhouses

AT HIS MAJESTY'S
Owing to the cancellation of "The Lady of the Rose," which was to have been presented next week at His Majesty's theatre, that house will once more be occupied by the well-known but ever-unpopular melodrama, entitled "The Dark Secret."

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Enrico Castell, the world famous juggler, is playing his first visit to Canada, and will be the headline attraction at the Princess theatre next week. He is regarded all over Europe as a master-entertainer, and as one of the wonders of the theatre. Joe Morin and Flo Campbell are manufacturers of aviation jokes. In a skit entitled "A-Go-Go" they sing and joke through the telling of a story. Monsieur Alphonse Berg demonstrates in the course of a fascinating presentation of fashion creations how the modern girl can dress luxuriously in half the price of the employment of the very latest fashions and modern hustle. Laura Pierpont will be seen in "Women who pass in the Night," an episode in modern social life. Arthur and Marion Havel in "Lovers Lane" have a rollicking comedy. Gilbert Bell, "The Gentleman from Mississippi," is a gentleman of infinite jest. The Four Ortons perform prodigies in balancing and aerial feats on a single wire.

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Membrane de la Presse Internationale
Ouvrière d'Amérique
Gus. FRANCO, Editor and Publisher,
Vice-President of the International Labor Press

9-11 St. Paul Street West

At the Playhouses

AT HIS MAJESTY'S
Owing to the cancellation of "The Lady of the Rose," which was to have been presented next week at His Majesty's theatre, that house will once more be occupied by the well-known but ever-unpopular melodrama, entitled "The Dark Secret."

AT THE PRINCESS
Enrico Castell, the world famous juggler, is playing his first visit to Canada, and will be the headline attraction at the Princess theatre next week. He is regarded all over Europe as a master-entertainer, and as one of the wonders of the theatre. Joe Morin and Flo Campbell are manufacturers of aviation jokes. In a skit entitled "A-Go-Go" they sing and joke through the telling of a story. Monsieur Alphonse Berg demonstrates in the course of a fascinating presentation of fashion creations how the modern girl can dress luxuriously in half the price of the employment of the very latest fashions and modern hustle. Laura Pierpont will be seen in "Women who pass in the Night," an episode in modern social life. Arthur and Marion Havel in "Lovers Lane" have a rol