The District Ledger

Industrial Unity Is Strength — The Official Organ of District No. 18, U. M. W. of A. — Political Unity Is Victory

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The Legislative Assembly of British Columbia

On Thursday last the new Lieutenant-Governor, F. S. Barnard, opened the Legislative Assembly at Victoria with the usual formalities.

The subjects briefly touched upon in the speech from the throne, after allusion to the existence of war had been made, were:

"Industrial Activity."
"Bond Sales."
"Workmen's Compensation."
"Agricultural Improvements."
"Partial Moratorium."

It is intended that this session shall be a short one, and unless something unexpected transpires a month hence the labors of the third session of the 13th Parliament will have been concluded.

With reference to the mineral output for 1914 the statement is made that it was $1,250,000 less than the previous year, due to the lower price of metals.

Touching upon the lumbering industry comfort is furnished to those whose mills are not running by the knowledge that the pulp and paper products are finding ready sale.

As already stated in these columns, the compensation act will remain as it is for a year at least, so that experience may be obtained by the results achieved by recent enactments in Washington, Ontario, etc.

Dominion Trust Matters

Dominion Trust matters are likely to be thoroughly aired during the session. Mr. Parker Williams will attack the government on this subject and promises to make sensational charges against the department of the attorney-general and against the attorney-general personally for allowing the Dominion Trust Company to proceed after the time when, Mr. Williams alleges, the attorney-general knew that the late W. R. Arnold was breaking the law and the Dominion Trust Company was operating illegally. Mr. Williams and Mr. Place have a mandate from several hundred Nanaimo depositors to demand a searching inquiry into every phase of the Dominion Trust collapse and the government's relation directly or indirectly with this concern.

J. Place (Socialist), Nanaimo, intends to bring up the Gas Inspection Committee question in the Legislature this session. If the third time works the charm something would be done to remedy the grievous state of affairs, well known to exist by the miners, but little understood by the general public, as Place has on two previous occasions called the attention of the representatives of the people (!) to this matter.

WORKER AND BOSS TOO FAR APART

U. S. Commissioner Believes Lack of Intercourse is Fomenting Dissension

NEW YORK, Jan. 24—Establishment of a city, state or national employment agency, foundation of vocational schools and extension of continuation schools were suggested for the relief of industrial unrest made in an address here tonight by S. Thurston Ballard, who represents the employers as a member of the United States commission on industrial relations. He expressed the belief that the main cause of dissension is lack of intercourse between employer and employe, and thinks that if the officials and men in the Colorado mining field had met to discuss the situation frankly there would never have been a strike.

The speaker said he believed in the profit-sharing system and that for several years he had divided one-third of the annual profits of his milling business in Kentucky among his men. He expressed the belief that universal education was doing more toward aiding the laboring man than were the unions, but that the unions were doing good in solidifying the men and securing concession at this time, when education had not finally solved the problem.

New York Makes Progress

Out of 1500 unemployed men examined by a corps of investigators at the municipal lodging house here four-fifths have been found employment and upward of 50 per cent. were anxious to work, says a preliminary report on this investigation issued tonight by John A. Kingsbury, commissioner of the department of charities.

About one-fifth of the men were found so broken in health from various causes as to be unemployable, the report says, while a few others admitted to being vagrants by choice, and a third group was temporarily unfitted for labor and needed treatment to restore them to normal health.—Spokesman Review.

The list of Canadian visitors in the City of London contains the name of Harold Anderson of Ferndale. This, we assume, is our doctor captain.

MASQUERADE BALL

The Grand Masquerade Ball given by the local Fraternal Societies working in conjunction with the Ladies' Benevolent Society on Monday evening in Victoria Hall, was one of the most successful events held here this season. The attendance was satisfactory, over two hundred couples taking part. The judges had no easy task to perform in awarding the prizes, as the costumes were so numerous and the richness and elegance of them surpassed any collection on exhibition in this city. The following are the prize winners:

Mrs. Ireland, best dressed lady, "Queen Elizabeth."

James Blakemore, best dressed gent, "Duke of Wellington."

Mrs. Johnson, best character lady, "Belgium" (Poverty).

Harry Haydock, best character gent, "Jester."

Miss M. Neath, best dressed girl, "School Girl."

Miss A. Mills, best character girl, "Indian Girl."

J. R. Puckey, best comic gent, "Sandy McKie."

Miss L. Telfer, best lady waltzer.

The committee in charge of the masquerade ball take this opportunity of thanking the donors of the various prizes, among whom were Mrs. E. Todd, Trites-Wood Co., Crow's Nest Trading Co., H. N. McLean, N. E. Sudaby, A. C. Liphardt, R. Duthie, J. D. Quail, and also express their thanks to all whose efforts resulted in making the event such a notable success.

A special meed of praise is due to the musicians for the excellence of their performance, the consensus of opinion may be summed up in the remark made by one of the dancers, "Say, there's no use talking, Allen's Orchestra is sure all right."

INTERMENT

The funeral of Thomas Mason, of Coal Creek, will take place Sunday from the undertaking parlors at 2.45, thence to English Church.

Wm. Minton will speak at the Socialist Hall Sunday, 8 p.m., subject: "Negation of Endeavor."

Dave Rees, I.B.M., will leave this week for Indianapolis to attend a board meeting in the Hoosier capital.

Fernie Junior Hockey team defeated the Coleman Junior aggregation here Saturday night to the tune of 7—1.

R. M. Young, secretary of the Crows Nest Pass Coal Company, Ltd., left on Monday for a visit to the Provincial Capital.

Two rinks of local curlers left on Monday evening for Lethbridge where they will participate in the bonspiel now in progress at the prairie city.

Regular monthly tea of Methodist Church will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 2nd, from 4 to 6 p.m., at the home of Mrs. G. B. Thomson.

The regular monthly meeting of the Ladies' Guild of Christ Church will be held at the home of Mrs. Moffatt on Wednesday, Feb. 3rd, at 3 p.m.

The person who took a cream silk knitted scarf, fringed, by mistake at the masquerade ball, Monday, is courteously requested to return same to Mrs. Marsham, Annex, or to Box 68.

W. L. Phillips left on Wednesday night's eastbound for a visit to the camps in Canmore, Bankhead and other points, and will be away for over a week.

Regarding the municipal election, nothing definite has as yet been arranged. The city authorities are awaiting receipt of advice from the Attorney-General's Department before any action will be taken. In the meantime last year's Council will transact only such business as is absolutely necessary.

His Honour Judge Thompson held a special session of the County Court Monday when the appeals of G. Attobelli and John Parri, who had been sentenced to six months each for infringements of the act respecting the sale of intoxicating liquors. His Honour allowed the appeals, but immediately after dismissal the defendants were taken into custody on amended charges being preferred against them and will come up at a later date. Bail was allowed.

From our advt. columns it will be seen that the Waldorf Hotel not only keeps up with the times but pushes a little ahead. A general all round cut has been introduced by the management, who realizing the present hard times have adapted their prices to meet same. The cafe which has recently been opened is rapidly gaining in popularity and Manager Mills reports "All's well!" A call will satisfy the most fastidious that the Waldorf still leads, while the services of a competent chef have been secured to cater for the cafe.

VANCOUVER TO HAVE ANOTHER LOCAL MEMBER

VICTORIA, Jan. 26.—The report of the commission on redistribution has not yet been announced. It is understood, however, that changes recommended will provide for an increase of five members in the legislature.

Vancouver will get another member. Richmond, which now includes North Vancouver, South Vancouver, Eburne, Howe Sound, etc., will have three members, instead of only one as at present.

The other two additions will be in Northern Cariboo. The entire district of Yale-Cariboo is now represented by two members at large. The change will give a member for Fort George and probably another for the Grand Trunk Pacific zone to the westward, embracing Smithers, Aldermere, etc.

The House now contains 42 members. If the recommendations are adopted the new House will contain 47 members.

Was The Dispute Over Wages to be Paid

Taber Council Agreed on 20 Cents an Hour—Taber Stores Entered by Robbers

Stormy scenes were witnessed in the council session for a few minutes on Monday evening last, when the town fathers discussed the question whether work provided by the town for relief purposes would be paid at the rate of 20 cents an hour, or at the stipulated minimum wage of 30 cents an hour, which is supposed to be paid for all town work.

The council have on deposit in the bank the sum of $500 for expenditure for park purposes. It is proposed to spend this amount at once to provide work for the unemployed, and it will be expended in replanting trees from the river around the agricultural grounds or other town property. It is a known fact that while this is not the most economical time of year to plant trees, it is the best time so far as the health of the tree is concerned.

This proposal met with the unanimous support of the council, but when it came to deciding what should be the rate of pay, the storm broke.

Mayor Malo said that while 30 cents an hour was what the town had always paid, he thought 20 cents would be better, as the money would go farther, and more relief be given in that way. He considered that 20 cents an hour would be sufficient for a man to provide the actual necessities of life for a short time. He also pointed out that he would not propose spending this money at all at the present time had it not been imperative that some work be provided for the unemployed. He also thought that the number of hours each man should work should be limited, and that the married men should be given the preference over single men.

Councillor McRoberts could hardly wait until the Mayor had finished putting his proposal before the council before he launched upon a vigorous denunciation of the 20 cents an hour proposal. He said no man could live on that and he would oppose it to the last ditch. It was not a living wage.

The remainder of the council, however, were in favor of the 20 cents an hour wage, even Councillor Brown, who said that though this was not the best and most economical time to spend money, he thought something should be done at once. He would not be in favor of 20 cents an hour for one minute under normal conditions, but it was a question of providing relief and making what little money the town had go as far as possible. The council voted for the 20 cents wage, Councillor McRoberts going on record in the vote as in opposition to it. The hours of work were limited to 30 a week for married men and 20 hours for single men. Even at that rate the money will last a very short time.

BLAST CAUSES LANDSLIDE AND THREE MEN ARE KILLED

Heavy Charge Shakes Rocks and Four Acres of Land Slide Into the River

VANCOUVER, Jan. 24.—Three men were killed and five injured in a curious accident at the British Columbia Transport Company's quarries near River, 20 miles from Vancouver, Saturday night at 10 o'clock. A big blast was set in the quarry and luckily all the workmen stayed up to wait for the shot. The heavy charge shook up the rocks so greatly that four acres of ground on which the company's wharf, offices and machinery stood was pushed off the muddy banks down a steep incline into the river. More than a score of men were caught in this miniature landslide. Most of them were rescued by workmen from a nearby quarry, but three were never found and were evidently drowned. Where the company's office formerly stood is now more than 30 feet of water. The dead men are: J. Chisholm, T. Lowne and T. Evans, all engineers. They were unmarried.

JOHN LOUGHRAN "COMES FORWARD"

To the Editor, District Ledger.

Dear Sir,—When I got my mail on Wednesday of last week and found that my reply to "Dave Rees Comes Back" was returned, I felt inclined to say some swears, and make a new years' resolution never to write to the Ledger again. However, seeing there were still a few weeks left before the Convention meets, and as "every picture tells a story," I thought it best to try again in hopes of finding the Printer's Devil in better humor next time. But seeing that when Brother Dave "Come in the wee sma' hours," he told us that he could not give this debate the attention it deserves, and as this letter will close the controversy so far as I am concerned, I will endeavor to steer clear of new issues, and instead of using caustic or sarcastic remarks I will try to explain briefly how elections are conducted in Great Britain and allow the members to be the judges as to whether that method is preferable to the system of conducting elections in District 18 or not.

Needless to say the members of every trade and craft in Great Britain belong to locals in much the same way as they do on this continent; and that all the locals belonging to any particular trade or craft are governed by District or Country associations. For instance, in the County of Durham, England, where I spent the early part of my life, the coal industry is by far the most important, and all the local miners' unions are federated with the county association, which has its head offices in Durham City. Next in importance to the coal industry is the coke and by-product business, but although the coke men have an organization of their own and elect their own officers and control their own funds, yet they are represented on the council of the Miners' Association. The same might be said about the colliery engineers, the blacksmiths and helpers, and the carpenters and joiners, and all other grades or classes of men employed about the mines who are numerous enough to have a separate union of their own. They contribute towards the funds of the greater association and take their proper place in its management.

And what is true of Durham County is also true of most of the other industrial counties of England, Scotland and Wales.

But the trade unionists of Great Britain have long since recognized the fact that there is no single organization in the world powerful enough to protect its members against the encroachments of organized capital in times of adversity or bad trade, seeing that the money power is almost entirely vested in syndicates, trusts and wealthy corporations which not only control the machinery and the great industries, but through their agents, shareholders and paid lackeys, also control parliament which makes the laws their wage slaves are forced to obey.

The great English miners strike of 1892 and the Scotch and Welsh miners strikes which followed, taught the miners of Great Britain a lesson they were not likely to forget. Although the Durham and Northumberland Miners' Associations were, perhaps, the oldest and wealthiest then in the world, yet in about six months their funds were exhausted and the men defeated.

Needless to say, while the English miners were out their Scotch and Welsh brothers were having a good time and that wages in both countries went up rapidly, but when the English miners went to work, and the markets became normal, the Scotch operators asked for a 20 per cent reduction. This led to a strike and enabled the English miners to get a bit of their own back, but when the Scotsmen were flogged, then "Taffy's" turn came, and after a long and bitter struggle he met the same fate as his brothers "John" and "Sandy."

This set the leaders of the various associations a thinking and led up to the formation of the British Miners' Federation, which includes not only all the coal miners, but with few exceptions, all the iron ore, lead, salt and other miners in Great Britain. The formation of that federation put an end to sectional strikes in Great Britain, and although on more than one occasion the Federation was about to call out its members, yet on every occasion the Board of Trade intervened and removed the necessity for a strike. (See, as mentioned in my last letter, within the past few years the various unions of Railway Servants who had formerly wasted their funds and energies fighting each other, all joined the big federation, while the sailors and firemen's unions did likewise.

Let us see what would happen there today in case any section of the federation came out on strike: Providing the railway men came out and scabs were found to run the trains, the miners would refuse to find the coal to keep steam, and the same would occur if the sailors struck, while if the min-

(Continued on Page Eight)

PROPOSED NIGHT SCHOOL FOR NEXT WINTER

By J. Kyle, A.R.C.A., Organizer of Technical Education

For many years past school trustees all over the world have been realizing that the education of the boy and girl ought not to stop when they leave the day school, but should be continued beyond the years of adolescence, even to seventeen and eighteen years of age.

The neglect of the years between fourteen and eighteen has often a deplorable effect in counteracting any habit of concentration and study which may have been developed at school. If these years are wasted the youth are undoubtedly handicapped for further effort. When this fact was fully recognized, classes were formed in order to give young people a chance to voluntarily attend night schools, and continue the education received in the day school. This many thousands have done greatly to their credit and profit.

Progressive countries, however, have long since gone beyond the stage of voluntary attendance, and now make such continuation classes compulsory; also providing means whereby such study may be carried on before the hour of seven in the evening.

This system is considerably beyond our present stage, but the school trustees of Fernie would be doing a wise thing if they would give the people an opportunity to proceed with their studies and fit themselves more completely for their daily employment.

As the ability of a nation to hold its own against other nations depends upon the skilled activity of its units, so it is to the benefits of all that the workers make themselves efficient, reliable, trustworthy citizens and tradesmen. It is with this end in view that classes have been formed in various cities in British Columbia and without exception they have been immensely successful. I feel confident that classes once began in Fernie would be not only well patronized but be a boon to the community.

The parents of those boys and girls who happen to have just left school should pay particular attention to the work and induce their children to continue the studies begun in the day school. They should endeavor to have their children catch the night school habit. The necessity for mental alertness, to grasp opportunities and improve existing conditions is felt now more than at any previous time.

The work of these schools should be centered around the mining industry, and boys should find a course of work laid out which will lead them by gentle stages to the examinations for fireboss, overman and mine manager.

Let it be clearly understood, however, that there should be no age limit, boys, in the true Canadian sense of the word, of all ages should be welcomed. There is no work done in the world in which more knowledge and intelligence is required than in mining. There is no work that I know of which lends itself so well to laying a basis of general intelligence. Electricity, chemistry of gases, mechanical engineering, civil engineering, are all embodied in the mining industry, but it is imperative that theory and practice go hand in hand.

It is important too, that great intelligence should be exercised to avoid all waste in the development of our resources. The losses sustained in other countries from lack of care and thought in this respect are enormous. Dr. Douglas, for instance, estimated that during the last thirty years 270,000,000 worth of sulphur has been wasted at the Rio Tinto mines in Spain, and with the establishment of improved methods they now save over one million tons of sulphur per annum. Perhaps the most serious waste which is taking place in the Dominion at the present time in connection with its mineral resources is in the mining and utilization of coal.

Knowledge of one's business obviates waste. Knowledge is the stuff that wins—

"Knowledge is the stuff that wins,
The man without it soon begins
To get his trade in kinks:
No matter where a fellow goes,
He's valued for the things he knows
Not for the things he thinks."

[illegible] and obtain knowledge, and it is the Board School Trustees who can best place the opportunity before the people.

HOLD ALIENS' SAVING FUNDS

Canadian Officials Will Investigate Before Allowing Withdrawals

WINNIPEG, Man., Jan. 25.—Instructions have been issued by the district officer commanding the local banks to the effect that no naturalized aliens of a country now at war with Great Britain and living in Winnipeg can withdraw any money he may have on deposit in a local bank without the matter first being investigated by the military authorities of the district.

B. C. Federation of Labor Convention

(Special to the District Ledger)

NANAIMO, B. C., Jan. 27.—The various delegates to the B. C. Federation of Labor Convention, which convened here on Monday morning in the Dominion Hall, were warmly welcomed by George Pettigrew, International Board Member U. M. W. of A., who, briefly outlined the object of the gathering, and expressed the hope that their efforts on behalf of the workers would be crowned with success. Upon taking his seat he was warmly applauded.

President Watchman, having received the report on credentials, then appointed the various committees.

Consequent upon the financial stringency having so adversely affected the funds of the different labor organizations affiliated with the Federation the number of delegates in attendance was only 34, but the lack numerically did not in the least affect the activity displayed, in fact, it may be said, with candor, that the determination to make the proceedings of the convention notable seemed to be the aim of every delegate in attendance.

Tuesday, when the meeting was called to order, the usual routine was quickly disposed of, then a number of resolutions were introduced and discussed at length, the principal ones being in reference to Compensation, Unemployment, Anti-Militarism and amendments to the Election Act.

The delegates from District 18 asked permission to bring in a special resolution re H. Elmer, formerly secretary of Michel Local. This being granted, and the facts of the case stated, it was unanimously carried that

"This convention instruct the executive to use its good offices towards obtaining the release of Herman Elmer, a fellow worker who is now interned by the military authorities at Vernon, B.C."

A very interesting feature of the convention was the earnestness of the different speakers on the subject of anti-militarism and the composite sentiments of the participants can be readily gauged by the contents of the following resolution that was passed:

"Whereas the working class is universally awakening to the horror and uselessness of international war, and

"Whereas the burdens of war, loss of life, limb and suffering are borne exclusively by the working class, and

"Whereas the working class has it within its power to stop such conflict, and

"Whereas the workers of such countries, by ceasing work could make such wars impossible, therefore

"Be it resolved that all labor bodies throughout Canada and the United States take up and discuss such questions as anti-militarism, general strike and organization work so that they will be in a position, should occasion require to take definite action in such a way as will make war impossible."

The executive board, Vice-President Graham and Secretary A. J. Carter, accompanying, will meet Premier McBride on Friday when the questions brought up at the convention that affect the workers' interests will be called to the attention of the Government authorities.

President Watchman and Secretary Wells were re-elected to their respective offices. Vancouver was selected as the next meeting place of the annual convention.

COMMUNICATED

To the Editor, District Ledger.

Dear Sir, Should be pleased if you would allow me space to discuss the reply of Bro. Frank Barringham to [illegible] Hospital appearing in last week's issue. The advice is given that if the writer has any grievance the place to bring it up is to the Local, from which one might infer that it had not already been brought up there. This is not so, because it has come up before the meetings [illegible] has opposed it on the ground that the local could not take the money, and the majority of the members accepting this as correct, nothing was done [illegible]

There is another statement of Bro. Barringham's that I wish to call attention to: He says that the 300 men employed at the mine are of the same opinion as himself. I might call his attention to an incident that he may remember when he was called upon to visit a sick brother at Diamond City Hospital, when he strongly objected to such a long drive on a cold day, and at the time he was neither sick nor lame. The best place to hear the opinion of the 300 men about the five mile drive to the Diamond City Hospital is at the mine when some poor unfortunate has received injuries which compel him to go to the hospital.

The argument that we haven't the funds can be overcome if we carry out the same plans as were used to purchase two lamps for the Union Hall, and I would suggest to Bro. Barringham that some such plan should be started, and as we know full well we cannot get all the money at first, We must make a start if we wish to get anywhere, and I, for one, will render him every assistance in my power, and by so doing help to lessen the sufferings of those who may be unfortunate enough to meet with any accident.

I am heartily of the same opinion as Frank that we should endeavor to get all workmen to join our union, and I go still further and would like to see those workers who may be in some minor official capacity, likewise admitted to membership. This, I trust, will be acted upon at the next convention, as I am a firm believer in the need for the workers of the whole world becoming a united body and hope to see the day when class war shall cease and all shall stand as one great brotherhood.

Yours truly,
A UNION MAN.

PREPARING FOR LABOR CONGRESS TO BE HELD HERE

Trades Council to Ask City Council for Grant of $1,000 to Entertain Visiting Delegates

Vancouver Trades and Labor Council at Thursday night's meeting, decided to ask the City Council to include in their estimates for 1915 a grant of $1000 for the purpose of entertaining the visiting delegates to the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, which convenes here in September of this year. It was also pointed out in this connection that the City of Ottawa granted the sum of $5,000 for that purpose when the convention was held in that city.

Two delegates were appointed to attend the convention of the B. C. Federation of Labor, which opens at Nanaimo next Monday.

The balance sheet for the past half-year showed a balance of $125.12 in favor of the council.

President McVety stated that a representative of the Carpenters, Electrical Workers, Engineers, and Plumbers had been nominated to act in an advisory capacity in connection with the night and prevocational classes.

The president further stated that $12,000 per month was being expended by the city for the purpose of feeding the hungry men of the city.

Relief distribution was being carried on in the usual manner, some complaints being received, but those he personally had investigated he had found did not amount to anything.

In the election of officers, which followed, the president, vice-president, secretary, secretary-treasurer, sergeant-at-arms, the statistician were elected by acclamation, the list for the ensuing term being: President, J. H. McVety; vice-president, G. Estinghausen; general secretary, G. Bartley; secretary-treasurer, Miss Helen Gutteridge; statistician, F. A. Hoover; sergeant-at-arms, J. Sully; trustees, W. H. Trotter, F. Knowles, A. J. Crawford; delegates to convention of B. C. Federation of Labor, President McVety and Delegate F. W. Welsh.

Work for Idle Printers

Delegate Pettipiece stated that in view of the number of printers at present idle, and the fact that the government printing presses at Victoria were not crowded with business, a deputation from the Typographical Unions at Victoria and Vancouver, was to meet the minister of education, Hon. H. Young, for the purpose of placing before him the question that the government print the text books necessary in the schools.

Endorse New Wage Schedule

The wage schedule committee reported on the new wage schedule for all trades in the Vancouver Builders' Exchange, which was met by Industrial Delegate Kelly and endorsed by the council, the rates per hour, for a day of eight hours or 44 per week being as follows: Journeymen, per hour, 75c; bricklayers and masons, 75c; bricklayers' and masons' laborers, 62½c; carpenters and joiners, 55½c; plasterers, 75c; plasters' laborers, 50c; lathers, 65c; painters, 56¼c; plumbers and steamfitters, 62½c; sheet metal workers, 56c; structural iron workers, [illegible]; hoisting engineers (according to rig operated) 43¾c to 62½c; common laborers, 37½c.

Building trades workers are to meet on Tuesday evening, next week, to decide on action in regard to the cut proposed.

Hunger and Misery-What -: For and How Long :-

Written by Allan L. Benson in the "Appeal to Reason."

Danger signals are flying everywhere in America. Every man who cannot get work is a danger signal. Every hungry man is a danger signal. Every hungry woman is a danger signal. Every hungry child is a danger signal. They are danger signals because men will not forever stand to be deprived of opportunity to work; to be deprived of home and bed and food, and to be compelled to see their wives and children suffer. Men become riotous when they have been thus wronged too long. The desire to live overcomes everything else. They strike out blindly. They do not care. They burn, they kill, they steal, they rob, they plunder. They destroy governments. History runs red with the story of such acts. What men have done they will always do in the same circumstances. Provide the tinder and the match will come. It is not in human nature to die without a struggle.

Thank God that it is not. The right of revolution is sacred. The fear of revolution is the oppressor's only conscience. But while revolution should not be avoided, if it is needed, the necessity for revolution should always be avoided. An appeal to violence is so awful that it should never be made so long as it is possible to appeal to reason.

* * *

What are the great men of the United States doing to remove the just causes of the people's discontent? What are they doing to keep food within reach of the famishing and work within reach of the idle? The question of unemployment is pressing upon this country as it has seldom or never pressed before. It promises to press still harder. It is already pressing so hard that the president of the United States is considering it. It is already pressing so hard that the mayor of New York and the mayors of all other great cities are considering it. It is already pressing so hard that Judge Gary, head of the steel trust, is trying to help solve it. The food question is becoming so acute that great hunger already exists and greater hunger is threatened. Last year we produced the greatest wheat crop in our history, yet the price of wheat is going up by leaps and bounds. Flour has gone up and bread is going up. John Hohn, chief of the division of statistics of the department of commerce, says that a wheat famine is threatened. A wheat famine means a bread famine. A bread famine means an abundant crop of misery and death. All these facts are well known. What are our great men doing about them?

I shall tell the story here. I shall not set it down in malice. I shall not abuse the great men. I shall not hold them responsible for crimes against the people. But I shall indict the system of industry upon which they stand. I shall indict the principles upon which they proceed. I shall show how these principles affect you, whoever you are and wherever you are. I shall show that these principles mean drudgery to you at the best and death to you at the worst. I shall arouse your mind just so surely as you have a mind. And, after I have aroused your mind, I shall ask you to ask yourself whether the conditions that exist are not the direct result of the votes you have been casting ever since you had a vote to cast?

* * *

What is the president of the United States doing to provide employment for the unemployed? He knows how great is the problem of unemployment. As men go, Mr. Wilson is a good man. He is sympathetic. He wants to do well. In such an emergency, he would not be idle. Mr. Wilson is doing something about the problem of unemployment. We need not be in the dark as to what he is doing. He himself has told us. In his speech at Indianapolis on Jackson Day, he gave a report of his activities. I can do no better than to let him speak for himself. Hear him:

"Don't you think it would be a pretty good idea for the Democratic party to undertake a systematic method of helping the working men of America? There is a very simple way in which they can help the workingmen

"If you were simply to establish a great federal employment bureau it would do a vast deal; by the federal agencies which spread over the country men could be directed to those parts of the country, to those under- [illegible] profitable employment

The labor of this country needs to be guided from opportunity to opportunity. We proved it the other day.

"We were told that in two states [illegible] crops. We suggested in a cabinet meeting that the department of labor should have printed information about this in such form that it could be posted in the post offices; and that the department of labor should get in touch with the labor departments of states so that notices could go out from there. What was the result?

"Three 20,000 men were found and were sent to the places where they are profitable employment."

* * *

All hail and glory go to Woodrow Wilson. Glory, too, to the Democratic party that elected Wilson. This is the first known instance in which the conditions created by the democratic party have provided work for any man not an office seeker. In comparison with the millions who cannot get employment, 30,000 men are but a few. They are like 30,000 drops in a bucket as big as the sea. But Mr. Wilson "guided them from opportunity to opportunity" and set them to work "gathering the crops." He told of his achievement on the ninth of January. Presumably the men are gathering the crops yet. If they began on the wheat crop, perhaps they are now at the ice crop.

As a matter of fact, Mr. Wilson provided a few days' work for a few men. If the men earned enough to pay their fares both ways and average a dollar a day, they did well. Whatever they made, they are not "gathering crops" now. They are back in the cities idle. What is Mr. Wilson going to do with them—and the other millions like them?

Why, he wants the Democratic party to establish federal employment bureaus throughout the nation. Federal employment bureaus! Do you understand? Labor needs to be guided from opportunity to opportunity," but where are opportunities for the millions of unemployed to work? Does Mr. Wilson know where jobs may be found for this vast multitude? Does anybody else know? The country is stagnant. Mr. Wilson knows it. California is crying to the east to send no more men west. The east is crying to the west that it knows not what to do. A Wall Street paper printed a map the other day in which it showed that business was good only in two wool counties in eastern Iowa and poor almost everywhere else. Yet, if the fact of business stagnation be true—and who dares deny it—of what value would federal employment bureaus be in the solution of the problem of unemployment? Is it Mr. Wilson's idea to establish bureaus everywhere and from them start columns of unemployed moving toward the wool counties of Iowa? If not, exactly what did Mr. Wilson mean by making the suggestion? Why did he think it worth while to ask the question as to whether it would not be a "pretty good idea for the Democratic Party to undertake a systematic method of helping the workingmen of America"—in this way?

* * *

Let us now move on to New York. The degree of unemployment in New York City is tremendous. Conservative estimates place the number at half a million. The city is aroused. The mayor is so aroused that he has appointed a committee to consider what should be done. The chairman of the committee is Judge Gary, head of the steel trust. Judge Gary has pondered deeply. He sees and acknowledges the enormity of the evil. He believes we should grapple with it. But how should we grapple?

The first hint as to what the committee believes comes from the New York Sun, an exceedingly respectable journal devoted to the interests of over-worked bondholders, bankers and millionaires.

"The committee is careful," says the Sun, "not to consider new and radical measures involving questionable civic practices whose permanent effects might outweigh the temporary relief."

I have quoted these words and, in a little while I will tell you what they mean, but, for the present, let us hear Judge Gary say the same thing in a letter to the mayor. Here is what the judge said:

"The committee does not regard it wise to urge new and special public undertakings to give employment, but it urges most earnestly that every effort be made to work a double benefit by executing all contemplated public works at this time of distress."

In short, the judge wants to settle the problem of unemployment, so far as it pertains to New York, by causing the city to erect any buildings that it may have in mind or dig any sewers or pave any streets that it may soon intend to dig or pave and do it now instead of later.

Now, I will tell you what the quoted words of the Sun mean:

By no means should the unemployed be hired by the city to manufacture the necessities of life in competition with private employers, because, if the precedent were to be established, the people would soon learn to settle the unemployment problem for themselves [illegible]

In the minds of these gentlemen, it is always a "questionable civic practice" for a city to do anything for itself at cost that private capitalists [illegible] profit. That is why the great minds of New York grappled with the unemployment problem only to discover that nothing should be done except to take skilled mechanics who can manufacture flour, for lack of which many are hungry, or clothing for lack of which many are cold, and set them to work erecting more public buildings to house politicians.

* * *

Nothing would be more logical for the nation to say, or for any city to say than this: "We have many who are hungry and cold. We have many who are idle. Out of public funds we will build factories in which food and clothing can be made. In these factories, we will set the workless to work. At one stroke, we will thus remove unemployment, hunger and cold."

But that would be a "questionable practice," because its "permanent effects" would threaten the profits of the capitalist class. The capitalists feel sorry for the unemployed. The hearts of the capitalists bleed for the unemployed. Some of the capitalists, like Judge Gary and the mayor of New York, go solemnly about it to settle the problem of the unemployed. But they dare not attempt to solve the problem in the only way that it can be solved. They dare not say: "If the capitalist class cannot provide work for the people, the people, through their government, should go about it to provide work for themselves in the production of the necessities of life.

Your capitalist always stops short of this—and that is why the unemployed are still with us and, so far as the capitalist is concerned, will be with us until the crack of doom.

* * *

These gentlemen know when to draw back. Let me show you that they do. The department of charities of New York opened a factory a few days ago to manufacture supplies for the municipal lodging house. The factory gives employment to two shifts of 1,000 men each, drafted from the ranks of the unemployed. The factory is used to manufacture supplies for the municipal lodging house and other public institutions. The men are at present engaged in hemming sheets and towels. Later they are to make nightshirts, mattresses and pillows.

This looks like a manufacturing enterprise established by the city to relieve unemployment. But here is the safety clause from the point of view of the capitalist: "The men are not to be paid in cash for their work. They are to be given only credits entitling them to beds and meals.

Do you see the point? The capitalist government of New York was not going to give an actual demonstration that it could pay wages and make goods. It was not going to start a factory that might show a large profit at the end of the year. It was not going to prove that work at good wages could be provided if the people, through their government, would only elbow the private manufacturer out of the way and employ themselves.

* * *

So much for the unemployment problem, which is growing greater every day. Let us see what is happening to bread. We produced, last year, the greatest wheat crop in our history—891,000,000 bushels. Some people thought this wheat—or as much as we needed of it—should be kept at home to eat. Others thought it should be shipped abroad. The reason given for desiring to ship it abroad was that we owed Europe $200,000,000. It was argued by rich gentlemen that it would be much better to pay this bill with food than to pay it with gold. Of course, this country might have declared all debts off temporarily as England, France and many other nations did, but that does not seem to have occurred to our rich gentlemen here at home. They were anxious to begin "paying off our debt to Europe" by exporting our food. Mr. Wilson was so impressed with the necessity of exporting our food that he urged congress—and is still urging congress—to take millions of public funds out of the treasury and buy ships with which to carry away the food more rapidly.

Well, you know what has since happened to the prices of wheat and flour. Here is what the New York World says has happened to the wheat:

"Eighty per cent of the 891,017,000 bushels at which the crop is estimated has been sold by the farmers at prices averaging 98 cents. The balance will be held by them for the higher prices of the late winter and spring; but what they have already released may be disposed of by the traders.

"The prices the speculators will get will be in advance of $1.40 a bushel, and they will have a profit of easily $250,000,000 to allow for their winter's work. Even as the case stands the farmers are believed to have realized $268,000,000 more this year than they did in 1913, when the crop was 763,380,000 bushels."

In this country are approximately 10,000,000 farmers. The stripping of the country of wheat, which promises [illegible] little less than $16. Yet, read what President Wilson said on Jackson Day at Indianapolis in connection with his plan to buy a federal fleet of grain [illegible]

"The merchants and the farmers of this country must have ships to carry their goods, and just at the present moment there is no other way of getting them than through the instrumentality that is suggested in the shipping bill."

It would be easy to say that President Wilson spoke in Indianapolis on Jackass Day instead of on Jackson Day. It would be easy to say that Judge Gary and the mayor of New York are fools or crooks. None of these things is true. These men were born into a world in which it was deemed proper for a few men to own the railroads, the factories and the natural resources which all of us must use to live. They are trying to perpetuate the system that they found here when they were born. They no doubt honestly believe it is the best way to carry on industry. Certainly it is exceedingly profitable for rich men to believe it is best that they should own everything and that all the rest of us should work for them.

* * *

But if the rich men and President Wilson honestly believe they are right, we Socialists as honestly believe they are wrong.

We Socialists say that the way to keep a people from starving is not to turn an abundant wheat crop over to speculators and let them ship it abroad. If we had our way last year's wheat crop would be here now and bread would be cheap.

We Socialists believe that the remedy for unemployment, hunger and cold is to set the unemployed to work making the things that prevent hunger and cold. The capitalists say they cannot set men to work without a profit. We say the people, through the government, could set themselves to work without a profit. If the nation received all it produced, it could ask no more, because there would be nothing more for which to ask.

These ideas, if put into effect, might bear down heavily upon the capitalists. In fact, we Socialists are inclined to believe that these measures would bear down heavily upon the capitalists. We suspect that that is why capitalists oppose them. We do not much blame capitalists for opposing them. We can understand why the capitalists oppose them.

But we cannot understand why the American working class opposes them, as it does when it votes a political ticket that stands for the capitalists' program of private ownership of industry. The Republican, Democratic and Progressive platforms all stand for the private ownership of industry by the capitalist class. The Socialist platform does not. Would you rather vote with the capitalists and starve by yourself than to vote for a party that stands for no one else but you and men like you, everywhere and all the time?

(The above article written by Allan L. Benson whilst dealing with conditions as they exist in the U.S., altho' differing somewhat in detail from those of Canada, is nevertheless equally applicable thereto. We may go still farther afield and state that a like picture can be painted as typical of Australia or the Argentine, and every other unit of the commercial world. The writer in question has the knack, all too rare, of telling his story in such simple language that it is readily understood by those whose schooling is of the elementary order as well as being accurate of statement and logical in deduction.—Ed.)

Scientists and physicians claim that the lives of millions are shortened by many years through economic worry. Socialism will eliminate all economic worry and thus under Socialism we will not only live better, but longer.

It takes steel to shackle the wrists, but the old party voter's brains are bound with cob-webs.

The old party voter wants freedom but he's afraid to go outside the slave-pen to look for it.

Night Schools For Fernie

It is expected that in the near future steps will be taken by the Provincial Government in the matter of establishing schools throughout British Columbia, when instruction will be given in the theory of mechanics, mining, etc., thus affording an excellent opportunity to those engaged in the practical work to supplement the same with sound theoretical knowledge. We believe this has already been started in a few districts, whilst in the adjoining Province of Alberta the scheme has met with a success far exceeding the expectations of its promoters. One department of education in the sister province that could be introduced into B.C., which has been taken advantage of by the foreign element is the study of English. In those industries where quick action is often necessary in order to avert or lessen the likelihood of disaster a ready understanding of what is said is vitally important, a fact that numerous experiences have already been demonstrated by those following the hazardous occupation of mining.

Answers to Examination Questions

Questions selected from those asked at an examination for mine foreman, held in Price, Utah, September 15 and 16, 1914.

Q.: What four principal things are bandages used for?

A.: Bandages are used (a) to keep dressings in place; (b) to fix splints; (c) to stop bleeding; (d) as slings to support a broken limb.

Q.: Name the different kinds of bandages generally used in first aid to the injured work.

A.: The bandages commonly available for first-aid work are the roller and the triangular, but these may be combined to form a third class of special bandages. The roller bandages are best adapted to placing over a wound or to hold some liquid dressing. The triangular bandages have a much greater range of usefulness than the roller bandages, and the special bandages are, as the name indicates, used in the unusual cases where the standard kinds are not suitable.

Q.: Describe the Red Cross first-aid outfit?

A.: First-aid outfits come in various sizes and their contents naturally vary. The outfit generally contains the following materials: absorbent lint, cotton, and gauze; cotton and gauze roller bandages 2 inches and 2½ inches wide; picric acid gauze; adhesive plaster; triangular bandages; safety pins; carbolated vaseline; scissors; tweezers; splints, tourniquet; etc.; and a book of instructions. Rarely, stimulants like aromatic spirits of ammonia are included in the first-aid outfit.

Q.: Name some stimulants you would give and state how you would use them.

A.: Stimulants are applied in two general ways: externally and internally. The external stimulants are heat and cold; the internal, liquids of various kinds.

Heat is best applied through the medium of hot water contained in an ordinary hot-water bottle or, if such is not to be had, in glass bottles or jars. When none of these are to hand, hot bricks or stones, wrapped in one or more layers of cloth or paper so as not to burn the patient, may be used. In other cases, bandages soaked in hot water are applied.

The use of cold as a stimulant is generally limited to starting breathing which was stopped or to strengthen it if weak, by sprinkling cold water on the face, chest and abdomen.

Internal stimulants should be given hot, when possible, and consist of tea, coffee, and wine, brandy, whiskey, or grain alcohol; the last three being given in doses of two or three teaspoonfuls after dilution with water to one-half to two-thirds strength. In place of alcoholic stimulants it is recommended to give from 20 drops to 30 drops of aromatic spirits of ammonia in one-third of a glass of hot water.

Q.: (a) What is shock? (b) When does shock occur? (c) Describe treatment of shock?

A. (a) Shock is a depression of the nervous system of varying degrees of intensity, and is commonly accompanied by stupor of unconsciousness. (b) Shock is due to a severe injury arising from any cause of accident around the mines. (c) The patient should be placed on the back with the head low. If able to swallow, give him liquid stimulants as explained in the preceeding question. If whiskey is used, give but one large drink. Cover the patient with blankets or coats and keep him warm. Stimulate externally by applying hot-water bottles, bricks, etc., as explained before. The legs and arms may be rubbed upwards toward the body to quicken circulation.

Q.: How would you prevent a simple fracture from becoming a compound one?

A.: A simple fracture becomes a compound one when the jagged edges of the broken bone pierce the flesh and protrude through the skin; hence all possible care must be taken to prevent this. The patient should be placed in a comfortable position, and broken bone being supported on each side of the break while he is being moved. The bone should then be set by drawing it into its natural position and held in place by splints and bandages. It is well not to remove the clothing if the nature of the injury can be determined without so doing; if the clothing must be removed, cut it at the seams so that it may be folded aside over the broken bone. If there is shock, treat it as explained.

Q.: How would you know whether bleeding came from an artery, a vein, or capillary?

A.: When an artery is severed, the blood is expelled in jets and is bright red in color; blood from a severed vein is dark blue and issues as a steady flow; in capillary bleeding, the blood is a brick red and oozes from the wound.

Q.: How would you treat a burn due to electricity?

A.: Burns due to electricity are [illegible] of the treatment depending upon the depth of the injury. First-aid treatment is generally limited to excluding the air with a thin paste made of bicarbonate of soda, water, or flour and water, which is spread over the burned part. More of the paste is spread on a cloth which is applied to the burn, and is held in place by a bandage. If bicarbonate of soda is not available, vaseline, either plain or carbolated, olive or castor oil or lard, may be used. If the burn is very deep it may have to be treated like an open wound; in some cases the treatment for shock will be necessary.

Q.: How would you treat a person overcome with noxious gases?

A.: Get the person into fresh air, loosen the clothing about the chest and abdomen, perform artificial respiration, use the breathing apparatus, if necessary, and give stimulants as soon as the patient can swallow.

Q.: Describe briefly the Sylvester and Schaefer methods of artificial respiration.

[illegible] the operator kneels on one [illegible] thigh facing the patient's head. The patient is placed on his back with a rolled up coat under his shoulders. The tongue is drawn forward and held clear of the mouth with a bandage, rubber band or clamp. Clean obstructions from the mouth. Kneeling just above the patient's head, catch both his arms below the elbow and draw them outward and upward gently and steadily as far as they will go above the head, and hold them so for about two seconds. Bring the arms down till the elbows press against the chest, and hold them so for about two seconds. Repeat these motions about 15 times a minute until the patient begins to breathe.

In the Schaefer method the patient is placed face down with his head turned to one side so that his mouth and nose do not touch the ground. Kneel astride of the patient's thighs, facing his head. Raise the clothing so that the back is bare. Place the outspread hands on the back, with thumbs nearly parallel to the fingers, so that the little finger curls over the [illegible] Keep the arms straight and locking your weight upon the patient by bringing your body and shoulders forward gradually until at the end of three seconds the vertical pressure upon the lower ribs of the patient is [illegible] enough to compress the parts; then suddenly release your weight. Pressure and release of pressure should occupy about five seconds.

Either method of treatment should be continued for two hours or more. As soon as the patient begins to breathe the limbs may be well rubbed upward toward the heart. After regular breathing is restored he may be put to bed and stimulated by the application of hot-water bottles, and internally by hot drinks as soon as in a condition to swallow.—The Colliery Engineer.

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GLADSTONE LOCAL
No. 2314
Meet first and third Fridays, Miners' Hall, Fernie; second and fourth Fridays, Club Hall, Coal Creek. Sick Benefit attached.—T. Uphill, Sec., Fernie, B. C.

MICHEL LOCAL
No. 2334
Meet every Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock in Crahan's Hall. Sick Benefit Society attached.—R. Beard, secretary.

PARK LOCAL
No. 1387
Meet every Sunday. Sick and Accident Benefit Society attached.—Michael Warren, Sec., Cannore, Alta.

HILLCREST LOCAL
No. 1058
Meet second and fourth Sunday in month. Sick and Benefit Society attached.—Thos. Thompson.

CARBONDALE LOCAL
No. 2227
Meet every alternate Sunday at 2.30 p.m. in the Opera House, Coleman.—J. Mitchell, Sec., Box 105, Coleman.

BANKHEAD LOCAL
No. 29
Meet every Tuesday evening at 7 o'clock in the Bankhead Hall. Sick and Accident Benefit Fund attached.—Frank Wheatley, Fin. Sec., Bankhead, Alta.

COALHURST LOCAL
No. 1189
meet every Sunday in Miners' Hall, 3 p.m. No sick benefit. Secretary, F. Barringham; President, Duncan McNab.

BEAVER CREEK LOCAL
No. 481
Meet every first and third Sunday at Lyric Hall, 3 p.m.—John Loughran, Sec.

COLEMAN LOCAL
No. 2633
Meet every alternate Sunday at 2.30 p.m. in the Opera House, Coleman.—J. Johnstone, Sec.

PASSBURG LOCAL
No. 2352
Meet every second and fourth Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. in Slovak Hall. Sick Benefit Society attached.—Thos. G. Harries, Sec., Passburg, Alta.

BURMIS LOCAL
No. 949
Meet every second and fourth Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in School House, Burmis. No Sick Society.—Thos. G. Harries, Sec., Passburg, Alta.

MAPLE LEAF LOCAL
No. 2829
Meet every first and third Sunday of each month at 10 a.m. in Union Hall, Maple Leaf. No Sick Society.—Thos. G. Harries, Sec., Passburg, Alta.

LETHBRIDGE LOCAL
No. 574
Meet every Wednesday evening at 7.30 in Miners' Hall, 12th Avenue North.—L. Moore, Sec.-Treas.

BELLEVUE LOCAL
No. 431
Meet every Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in the Socialist Hall.—James Burke, Sec., Box 36, Bellevue, Alta.

CORBIN LOCAL
No. 2877
Meet every second Sunday at 2 o'clock in the Club Hall. Sick Benefit Society attached.—R. Garbutt, sec., Corbin, B.C.

GEORGETOWN LOCAL
No. 3026
Meet every Sunday afternoon, 2.30, at Boarding House. Sick and Accident Fund attached.—Max Hutter, Sec.

FRANK LOCAL
No. 1263
Meet Sundays, after each pay day, at Miners Hall. Sick and Benefit Society attached.—E. Morgan, Secretary.

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2 YEARS

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ULCERS

on my leg. I tried all kinds of medicines, ointments, liniments, etc., but notwithstanding, the wounds seemed only to get worse. Finally became so bad that I was on the point of going into a hospital, when a friend persuaded me to try Zam-Buk. I did so, and the first few applications made the ulcers less painful. From first commencing to use Zam-Buk the ulcers improved and twelve boxes of Zam-Buk effected a complete cure."

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ZAM-BUK CURED ME.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

"God Save the King" is assigned to John Bull (1563-1628), and to Henry Carey (1692-1743), but is believed to be of even earlier origin. This tune is likewise employed in the American patriotic song, "My Country 'tis of Thee." The air was also adopted by the Danes (1790); by the Prussians as "Heil dir im Siegerkranz" (1796). This explains the reason for the confusion that exists in the minds of many that the British National Anthem is of Prussian origin, whereas it is the reverse.

Robt. Foster of District 28, U. M. W. of A. Writes

With all the tirade of abuse of certain individuals that has been published by the subsidized press of this Province in the past two years trying to justify the laws of the Provincial Government relative to coal mining industries in this province, I quote herewith the law as it now stands relative to inspection of mines by gas committees:

"The persons employed in a mine may from time to time appoint one or two of their number to inspect the mine at their own cost, and the persons so appointed shall be allowed, once or oftener, in every shift, day, week or month, accompanied, if the owner, agent or manager of the mine thinks fit, by himself or one or more officers of the mine, to go to every part of the mine and to inspect the shafts, levels, planes, working places, return airways, ventilating apparatus, old workings and machinery, and shall be afforded by the owner, agent and manager, and all persons in the mine, every facility for the purpose of such inspection; and shall make a true report of the result of such inspection; and such report shall be recorded in a book to be kept at the mine for the purpose, and shall be signed by the persons who made the same. And if the report state the existence or apprehended existence of any danger, the person or persons making the inspection shall forthwith cause a true copy of the report to be sent to the inspector of mines for the district:

Provided always that where the miners in any mine fail to appoint two of their number to inspect the mine, the Chief Inspector of Mines shall select from the men, in alphabetical order, where possible, two competent miners, who shall comply with the provisions of this section and the said owner, agent, or manager, may withhold from the wages of the underground employees a sufficient sum pro rata to remunerate the persons making such examination."

A casual glance at this clause would lead the inexperienced person to believe that the miners had every facility for making an inspection of the mines on behalf of their own safety. But anyone who knows the indirect methods and the unscrupulous manner in which the operators of this province deal with men who act on these committees, and who perform their duty as the law directs, know full well that there is absolutely no protection whatever for them. Suffice it to say that the miners of Eastern British Columbia are refusing to act on these committees, stating as their reasons that it is absolutely impossible for them to do their duty as the law directs and maintain their employment with the companies.

Causes Indirect Discrimination.

Is there a sane man in this Province who understands the case of Mr. Mottishaw, relative to gas committee work in connection with the late Vancouver Island strike, but what will agree that Mottishaw was discharged because of his activities in performing his work as gas committee man, and only by the stupidity of the petty understrappers who were running the mines at Cumberland made it possible to show to the general public the indirect methods of discrimination that is practised by the coal operators If the Minister of Mines (Sir Richard McBride) and his colleagues, who are acting as inspector of mines and the members of Parliament are desirous of protecting the lives of the men in the mining industries, why do these men advise and vote against the amendment which has been offered to the Provincial House for the last two years by the local member, Mr. Place of the Nanaimo constituency, which specifies that said clause relative to gas committees be changed from two of their number to read that a competent person or person, thereby eliminating this indirect method of discrimination. And it would be a humanitarian move for the benefit of mankind if the general public would demand an investigation into the appointment of mine inspectors and in doing so ask these questions: Why is it that the Provincial Government of this Province has never appointed a miner from the face to the position of mine inspector, but on the contrary it has always been a pit boss or superintendent of some of the companies appointed to this position?

There are scores of men working in the mines of this Province who are competent men and have passed the necessary examinations as prescribed by the law to fill said position. We would like to know if the Minister of Mines can truthfully contradict these facts or show wherein the above statement is not correct.

As an organization that is working for the uplift of humanity and trying to insure the safety of the lives of the men who follow the mining industry for their livelihood, we claim that mine inspectors should be elected by the miners in the locality wherein they perform said work of inspection, surely this is no crime? Men whose lives are at stake should have the privilege of saying who shall make the inspection of the mines to insure their safety. Another question that should be asked the Minister of Mines and the Mine Inspectors of Vancouver Island District is: Do you expect reasonable and intelligent people to believe that during the last two years with all the riff-raf of the civilized and uncivilized world operating the mines on Vancouver Island that there were no violations of the mining laws, when inside of two months after the settlement of the strike, there has been no less than ten cases of violations of the mining law before the courts. I am heartily in accord with the work of the inspectors in punishing anyone for violating the mining law, but I hae ma doots whether they were actually trying to enforce the mining laws during our strike. I know all other laws were enforced and where they had none they made some suitable for the occasion. The general public will be well advised to watch the vote on this question in Victoria this year and place the members of their constituencies on record regarding same.

ROBERT FOSTER.

If John D., jr., will get a job for a day or two in one of his Colorado mines he can find out what is the cause of "labor's unrest" and save that $100,000,000.

There are a million broken homes in Europe in which the head of the house has been shot down in the name of civilization. And still they tell you Socialism will break up the home.

There's many a taker 'twixt product and maker.

A SCHOOL OF MINES

In view of the interest which has been taken in the education of the men who will later have to occupy responsible positions in the coal fields of the world, it will be interesting to refer to an institution which has been recently founded and which is supported and maintained solely at the expense of the colliery proprietors of the South Wales and Monmouthshire coal field. For many years the coal owners were desirous of improving the technological and practical instruction in the science of coal mining in all its branches, for the purposes of their business. As a result, a number of coal owners in the district formed a mining board for the coal field mentioned for the purpose of establishing schools of mines in South Wales and Monmouthshire. The new school of mines, at Treforest, is the first instalment of their scheme, and will, no doubt form their central institution. This school of mines has been provided with modern laboratories and equipment, and a similar course will be adopted at other schools in the coal field, for the purpose of affording similar facilities for those for whom the central institution is not readily available.

The intention is that the students shall receive by means of the laboratory equipment, technical and practical training and experience in the matters with which they will subsequently have to deal as colliery officers, and an important part of the scheme is that arrangements have been made whereby the students are afforded opportunities of visiting, under the control of the staff, the different collieries of the associated coal owners and handling under working conditions, the machinery and plant with which they will subsequently have to deal. As the work of the school is directly associated with a large number of collieries in the immediate neighborhood, exceptional facilities are afforded to students for studying the most modern methods of colliery practice at first hand. The students have the privilege of seeing tests made under actual working conditions, and, generally speaking, the work at the school is looked upon as an integral part of actual colliery management. This gives the students an unrivaled opportunity of getting a good technical education while keeping in touch with actual working conditions. Moreover, the school is open to all students on equal terms subject to passing the entrance examination or an equivalent test.

The expense of the scheme is borne by the coal owners by means of a tonnage levy of one-tenth of a penny on their declared output for the previous year. The institution at its start is supported by associated companies having a total output of approximately 20,000,000 tons. The University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire is at Cardiff, closely adjacent, and in order to prevent any overlapping in instruction, a joint working scheme has been arranged. The three years' diploma course in mining hitherto carried out at the University College, Cardiff, is discontinued, and instead a joint diploma is given by both institutions, the University College, at Cardiff, giving that part of the joint instruction comprising pure science, while the School of Mines attends to that part dealing with the technical application of the science to coal mining. A fourth year, or post diploma, course is also put into operation by the college for those promising students who wish to specialize scientifically in any one or more subjects. The joint authorities also award certificates to mine surveyors who require recognition under the British Coal Mines Acts. The mining board is the governing body of the School of Mines and is composed of two representatives from each constituent company. Sir Clifford J. Cory, Bart., and member of Parliament, is the first chairman of the board, which comprises most of the principal colliery proprietors in South Wales. The legal constitution of the School of Mines is under a deed of trust.

In addition to the usual lecture and drawing rooms there are gas testing, geological, physical, chemical, heat, and mechanical laboratories, also electrical and mechanical workshops equipped with modern machinery for practical tests. These include lathes, drilling machines, smithy, steam testing plant, an experimental winding engine, a gas producer, gas engine, water turbine and generator, electric motors, a 150-ton testing machine and other appliances. The principal and director of mining is Prof. George Knox, Fellow of the Geographical Society, to whom we are indebted for the information herein contained. It would be tedious to detail the courses which are given. Generally speaking, however, in addition to a full time day mining course, there are special courses for mine mechanics, electricians, chemists and surveyors, while there is also a course for colliery surface foremen, and special courses for colliery managers, surveyors etc. Among the subjects treated are chemistry, particularly that of fuels, colliery practice, colliery engineering, design of machinery, electrical physics, and electrotechnics, engineering, mining, mining mathematics, geology, mechanics and heat engines, methods of working, mineralogy and mining chemistry, physics, mining valuation and mining law.

In addition to the work at the college itself, part of the instruction consists in visits to the collieries during the session, while students having a full-time mining course have to obtain at least four months practical experience in the mine during each summer. Facilities are provided for this by the mining board at one of the subscribing collieries in cases where students are not in a position to provide such experience for themselves. The part-time courses are arranged for students employed in or about collieries, who cannot afford to give up their work entirely during a protracted course of study. At the end of the session, visits of inspection are arranged to other British or Continental coal fields under the guidance of members of the staff, the students furnishing a detailed report of the mines and other works visited as part of their class work.

It is not often that it is possible to record such a thorough and systematic attempt to equip colliery men with the highest possible means of technical education appertaining to their industry with the minimum of expense and inconvenience. The situation of the School of Mines is in the centre of one of the world's most important coal mining areas, and with the establishment of further schools of this nature, it will be seen that probably one of the completest and most progressive attempts at the technical education of colliery workers that has ever been attempted will have been successfully accomplished.—The Colliery Engineer.

OWES HER LIFE TO "FRUIT-A-TIVES"

Cured Both Stomach Trouble and Headaches

PALMERSTON, ONT., JUNE 20th, 1913.

"I really believe that I owe my life to "Fruit-a-tives". Ever since childhood, I have been under the care of physicians and have been paying doctor's bills. I was so sick and worn out that people on the street often asked me if I thought I could get along without help. The same old Stomach Trouble and distressing Headaches nearly drove me wild. Sometime ago, I got a box of "Fruit-a-tives" and the first box did me good. My husband was delighted and advised a continuation of their use.

Today, I am feeling fine, and a physician meeting me on the street, noticed my improved appearance and asked the reason. I replied, "I am taking Fruit-a-tives". He said, "Well, if Fruit-a-tives are making you look so well, go ahead and take them. They are doing more for you than I can".

MRS. H. S. WILLIAMS.

"Fruit-a-tives" are sold by all dealers at 50c. a box, 6 for $2.50, trial size 25c. or sent postpaid on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

One thing the bosses want is an objection to Socialism that doesn't apply with greater force to Capitalism.

Wonder if there ever was a flea that spent the time between bites wondering why the dog he was living on had become restless?

Why is the man who tries to stir up a bloody war called a patriot while a man who tries to end the class struggle by peaceful means is called a traitor?

Many a man who is a howling success at telling why he objects to Socialism would be in an awful fix if he were asked to tell why he doesn't object to Capitalism.

War, poverty and unemployment, are three international crimes that Socialism will do away with. Are you for or against these?

The District Ledger

As an Advertising Medium is Without Equal in the Crow's Nest Pass

It reaches Earner and Spender. It appeals to them because it supports their cause. The workers own the paper and control its policy. All advertising of a questionable nature is barred from its columns. Advertisers do not have to pay compliments, but we quote the following received from a very large firm in New Jersey, U. S.

We have looked through your paper with considerable care and interest. We might take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the service as rendered so far. We would also add that it is one of the cleanest weeklies that we have run across in some time.

The District Ledger

Published every Thursday evening at its office, Pellatt Avenue, Fernie, B. C. Subscription $1.00 per year in advance. An excellent advertising medium. Largest circulation in the District. Advertising rates on application. Up-to-date facilities for the execution of all kinds of book, job and color work. Mail orders receive special attention. Address all communications to the District Ledger.

Telephone No. 48 Post Office Box No. 380

REDUCE HOURS; RETAIN WAGE SCALE

The extremely tender solicitude for the unemployed by some sympathizers (!) is truly touching. By "Touching" we wish to convey the meaning that they do not take a firm hold of the question and by digging down to the root cause end it. Such drastic action might spell a tumble from their lofty seats, and by so doing the established rules of society would be shattered.

These alleviators "view with alarm the deplorable state of affairs," but the alarm would be a reality and not a mere mouth phrase were the producing class to throw off the goggles of ignorance that blind them and determine that hereafter those who do the work of the world should enjoy the fruits of their labors.

We are willing to acknowledge there are many well-meaning people who feel genuine regret at the widespread destitution. This is quite easy to understand, for the simple reason that no normal person likes to see others suffering, because to all, save those temporarily insane,, the sight has a depressing effect upon the spectator, hence, if from an egoistic viewpoint alone, misery could be eliminated by sympathy, it would soon be a non-existent quantity.

Owing to the exceptionally hard times prevalent there are innumerable advocates of the reduce-the-wage plan, who advance arguments by no means void of plausibility. For instance, if a certain sum at thirty cents an hour will provide labor for a given number of men, then at twenty cents an hour there will be employment for half as many more workers. Mathematically considered this solves the problem with surprising ease. This process of computation might be carried on the descending scale down to one cent an hour, when the recipient, like the fabled horse whose rations were reduced one oat daily, had the stupidity to die just when he was getting used to it.

They who argue upon the advantages accruing by the establishment of the descending scale payment plan may feel righteously indignant at the criticism of their suggestion and berate the critics as cynical faultfinders. To such we would reply that twenty cents is totally inadequate to approach a standard of living that any human being in this western country should enjoy.

There are at times individuals who come forward with fine spun theories and supplement them with statistics showing how life can be sustained on some insignificant sum per diem, regardless of the information also furnished by others who have given figures in detail proving that not less than eight hundred dollars per annum is required in order to maintain a modest standard of living. One of the latest advocates of the reduction of the minimum wage is Mark H. Irish, M.P.P., who, as a member of a delegation appointed to look into the unemployment in Toronto, he called upon the Prime Minister and Cabinet. This worthy would doubtless consider it an impertinence if any of his constituents should suggest that he and his parliamentary colleagues should agitate for a decrease in the sessional indemnity proportionate in effect to the one the workers be called upon to submit to.

Mr. Irish, as a set-off to his proposition, puts forward the suggestion that a commission be appointed to protect organized labor and that, when better times come back, the old rate of pay should be resumed. This benevolent attitude is worthy of the highest commendation. The fly in the ointment is this: In all previous instances on record when the swing of the pendulum has changed the employer of labor uses the wrong end of the telescope when gazing about him to discern an improvement sufficiently noticeable to induce him to pay a higher rate of wages. This is not a theory, practical experience in former crises have afforded excellent object lessons of the accuracy of the statements made.

If it were not so fraught with tragedy, the oft-repeated wails of the mayors of cities about the outsiders flocking in would be comical. To hear the plaintive notes of the heads of municipalities one might imagine that these outsiders were not born but had just growed (like "Topsy" in "Uncle Tom's Cabin") and the sole purpose of their existence was to inflict themselves upon various corporations.

The usual treatment meted out to those who have wandered from place to place in quest of the elusive job is of the move-on character. The guardians of the taxpayers' money do not care what becomes of the unfortunates so long as they can get rid of them and sometimes have actually paid the fares of the impecunious one to another city in order that the burden shall fall on somebody else's shoulders with the result that the receiving end of the not needed package of labor power has emitted an awful squawk about the iniquity (?) of the act. This practice is in vogue from the Atlantic to the Pacific and they who are the victims, wearied with the futility of finding work, develop the Ismaelitic strain of thought and become hobos, furnishing 'orrible examples for the dilitantti social reformers to use as themes for discourses on "Thrift vs. Improvidence," etc.

In this part of the world where the cost of living is high, to offer a man twenty cents an hour is adding insult to injury and leads the non-partisan critic to reach the conclusion that they who offer so meagre a pittance are more desirous about getting the work done cheaply than they are to relieve distress.

When the financial circumstances afford an apparent justification for the enforcement of an extraordinary rigid economy, instead of reducing the rate of wages it were better to reduce the working hours. To this suggestion some superficial observers might ask what is the difference between a man working for 30 hours a week for $6, or only working 20 hours when the amount received is identical. In either case the recipient has not been paid enough to keep up a decent standard of living, but by decreasing the hours worked payable on the 30c. basis he may obtain occasional employment elsewhere to enable him to eke out a slightly improved existence. Furthermore, he has not been party to the establishment of a precedent at a ridiculously absurd figure.

For an able-bodied man to use his strength to abuse wantonly a weakling is considered by the public generally as despicable; it is equally censurable for a community, under the cloak of benevolence, to take advantage of one who is financially crippled in order to get work done at starvation prices.

This is, however, the law of capitalism; the fang and claw practice of our boasted civilization, and affords an object lesson to those who suffer from its application, urging them not only to study how to escape from the thraldom but to use their every effort to spread the information broadcast so that by co-operative effort exploitation may receive its quietus and instead of living to get a job every worker will be afforded an opportunity to develop the best that is in him or her and not simply be satisfied with a dull, drab, animal existence.

A FEW MORE WORDS ABOUT THE FARMER

In a previous issue we referred to the deplorable situation the Prairie agriculturist finds himself in. He is so badly off that he is beseeching the Government to come to his rescue to avert catastrophic effect.

Allusion was made to the statement of "The Financial Post" that the Department of Agriculture was "toying with the question." Assuming that what was meant by this was the failure on the part of that branch of the Canadian Government to promulgate sufficiently the scientific knowledge whereby two blades of grass would grow where one formerly flourished for the purpose of ascertaining how the tillers of the soil in the United States were progressing, we decided to investigate, and find the farmers in the republic to the south of us have had much greater opportunities for studying soil husbandry and kindred subjects than are yet obtainable on this side of the imaginary boundary line, hence it is reasonable to suppose if this were the determining factor (which it isn't) that their material conditions should be far superior to those of their Canadian confreres. Logically as this may appear on the surface, statistics do not corroborate it.

The United States Department of Agriculture is sponsor for the statement that "the yearly income of the average farmer is less than that of a laboring man." According to the same authority there are six million (6,000,000) farmers in the country, of whom more than half have incomes of less than six hundred and forty ($640.00) dollars a year.

Dealing with the subject editorially the organ of high finance, "The Wall Street Journal," says:

"It is distressing to think that half of the 6,000,000 farmers who feed the country must receive such a pitiful return for toil that knows no union hours. It is even worse, because this income represents the work not of one man, but of the whole family. The small return means poverty of a kind that keeps children out of school to work in the fields. Thus poverty and bad farming perpetuate themselves."

This trusty champion of the "Interests" does not question the reliability of the statements made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, but supplements it by pointing out that the $640 per annum is not per capita, but per family. The last paragraph of the above is decidedly illuminative.

"Thus poverty and bad farming perpetuate themselves."

First we are told that after a year's hard work by the entire family the total remuneration averages $640 for those "who feed the country." After paying for the up-keep of the family, buying automobiles for somebody else's wife, and paying the expenses of somebody else's daughter to go to Europe, poverty still remains as the farmer's portion.

For the sake of illustration, figure out that the entire 6,000,000 do get an average of $640 a year, and we have $3,840,000,000. Now, we will take the figures of the Department of Agriculture on the value of the product, $8,928,000,000. Take the value produced from the amount received by the farmer and we have $5,088,000,000 of a difference. In round figures for the production of 9 the farmer receives 4, and as this discrepancy between the amount received and the amount produced is even more noticeable in other industries, the explanation of the farmers' poverty is as plain as an open book.

Who gets the other 5 the farmer produces?

The following extract throws a bright light on the subject:

"Washington, Jan. 9.—The majority portion of the wheat crop of the United States in 1914 is no longer held by the farmers, according to officials of the Bureau of Markets of the Department of Agriculture. The enormous profits which are expected to accrue to holders of grain will go in a large measure to the speculators."

From time to time we have wordy articles written by those who tell us that there are millions of acres lying dormant awaiting the plough and offering the means of a splendid livelihood! (Average $640 a year for a family!) and yet we find that this, the reward in a country that is undoubtedly in advance of Canada, insofar as scientific knowledge is concerned. Again we have those counsellors of the rainbow chasing brand who persistently cry "Back to the Land!"

What the worker on the farm, as well as in the factory, needs to extricate himself from the quagmire of poverty is to use his brains for the study of how the 5 out of the 9 is filched from him; then, and then only the sympathy (!) of Wall Street journals and others of like stripe will be no longer forthcoming, and instead of a dull, monotonous grind from the cradle to the grave, he will be no longer so philanthropically inclined to "dividing up" the produce of his labor with those who look upon him as a "rube" or a "dub."

CONFISCATION!

According to dispatch from Berlin, in order to obtain food supplies the grain grown by private individuals is to be confiscated. The object, of course, is to enable the warlords to continue the slaughter fest, lest they lose the fight for their commerce. This is a precedent that stands the working class in hand to take due note of—for future guidance. Here is what power carries out.

Should the useful elements of society ever fully realize their latent power, and realizing it decide to act, then instead of a few cornering wheat whilst millions are lacking bread, the needs of humanity will completely over-shadow the grab for the dollar; then all the rag-tag and bobtail of that soul numbing jade, "Charity" will be relegated to the Museum of Antiquities, and then will begin a REAL struggle for a REAL life, and not a brain-racking scramble for a mere subsistence.

The quantity of tea sent into Germany from Holland during—

September and October, 1913, 1,028,356 lbs.

September and October, 1914, 16,328,464 lbs.

Cocoa—October, 1913, 1,038,400 lbs.; October, 1914, 7,581,200 lbs.

Strange is it not, that conditional contraband of war is seized on the high seas and British exporters of tea and cocoa conveniently ignore the final destination of the above commodities when they are consigning them to Holland!

Pay! Pay! Paying Patriotism!

The exportation of tea has now been prohibited despite the efforts of one of the London M.P.'s to prevent the Government from taking action.

A Time of Travail For England

EARSDON, Eng.—Amidst the pain and anguish which surrounds the national life of the European nations as I write, the year 1914 passes away into history which will ever be remembered for the sorrow and heartaches it has left behind. When we think of over five million men being killed, wounded and missing during the five months off this war we cannot help but stop and think how long are the democracies of these European nations going to allow these horrible conditions to go on; brothers slaying and maiming each other, just in order to please despotic ambition. For after all, Mr. Editor and fellow readers, it is the democracies of these nations that must really put down this cruel militarist spirit under which they have bound themselves, before any confidential terms of peace can be established; which will make for that ideal brotherhood so much talked about. Yes; farewell, 1914; it has left for future history pages of thought which will cause the readers of it to wonder why it was amidst so much enlightenment that there was so much cruelty and carnage. Well, as long as there are diplomatic powers ruling nations who care not for the real welfare of their people but simply allow them to be used as fodder for cannons, and neither care for the home life of their people which they have torn asunder, never to see each other again. It is heart-rending to stand by the streets and see the drafts of noble men marching away to embark for the front, and as their military band plays them away these gallant souls leave full of glee. Yes, hundreds have left our district that are now lying in French and Belgium graves. But what a shame and disgrace that such things should be, and my young readers, beware of such a spirit as that of conscription into military service. Be loyal for justice and liberty, but see to it that your services are required for higher purposes than to slay and maim each other in the trenches of war. True, you have a war to face in your industrial and social betterment. You cannot escape it if you follow out your own convictions. You meet the same despotic spirit in your social and industrial conflicts and just need to point out Nanaimo, Colorado and Arkansas in your own organization to prove my words, but we must trust and hope that the younger men and women of today will see to these things with more earnest thought than they appear to outwardly manifest, and we of the older school of thought, who have suffered and sacrificed much of our younger days in paving the pathway by making it better for you. See to it, my comrades, that you don't become slothful and throw your dear-bought privileges to the winds.

I was pleased, Mr. Editor, with your remarks upon the past and present conditions of the miners. Yes, the writer well remembers the Scott Haven Iron Clad in District 5, and the bitter sufferings endured rather than I would sign the cursed hand. Some years later, when I entered life with a loving partner whom I promised to love and cherish, we started our domestic life together at Hayward mines, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, and of course the pluck-me store system was in full order in the mining camps at that time. But my partner and I [illegible] pluck me and of course the penalty was a bad room and very often a wet one, and many other disadvantages. For we laid the foundation which was the means of freeing you younger men [illegible] being compelled to deal in those rightly named pluck me's.

But, brothers, it is sweet to suffer to better the conditions of our fellow men, providing they embrace them and cherish their worth. But it is very painful to those who suffer for the cause if these new improved conditions are taken in a careless and indifferent spirit. Be true to your cause and may the new year bring to you all a new light and a new vision of your duties, and may you all have strength and vigor to carry them out so that 1915 may be a bright and prosperous new year to all of you.

Now, I have just to hand information regarding the employment of Belgium refugees, of which, as I write, there are about 125,000 in this country. Now, I don't purpose detailing in this any outside our own calling. There is a movement on foot to use these people for exploiting purposes, and in certain districts there has been requests made to introduce Belgian miners into the British mines, but the British Miners' Federation has protested against any person not acquainted with the English language being empolyed in the mines without first being able to understand all the orders and regulations of the mines. Mr. Redmayne, chief inspector of mines, says there is very great danger of employing these people in British coal mines without there first understanding the language and all rules governing the mines. There are vacancies for 6,000 surface workers in the British mines of which there is no real objection to them being employed, only they must not have anything to do with any employment even where the life of the miners are under their control. I will have more to say on this in future.

Mr. Editor, Mr. Managers and all others who may have to do with the transformation of the Journal into such a grand magazine, accept my sincere congratulations for your taste, and may the forthcoming congress adopt some plan for its worthy increase in subscribers, for I am sure it is the very best miner's paper I have seen, and I have them from far and near.

A bright and prosperous new year to all.

HENRY EVANS.

MAY REQUIRE EMPLOYES TO RENOUNCE ALL LABOR UNIONS

Supreme Court Ruling Says Kansas Can Not Stop Coercion

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—Employers may require employes to renounce union affiliations as a condition of employment, the supreme court of the United States held today. Justice Hughes and Holmes presented a dissenting opinion, in which Justice Day joined. The decision was made in a suit over the so-called Kansas coercion statute, which it holds unconstitutional, and according to Justice Day, laws on like lines in California, Colorado, Connecticut, Indiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, and in Porto Rico, are invalidated with the Kansas law.

Under the Kansas statute it was unlawful for any individual or corporation to coerce or influence any person to enter into an agreement not to join or remain a member of a labor organization as a condition of securing or continuing employment.

The case today arose from the conviction of T. B. Coppage, a division superintendent of the Frisco railway system, for threatening A. R. Hedge, a switchman with dismissal if he did not withdraw from the switchmen's union of North America.

Both Have Similar Rights

The substance of the opinion of the majority of the court was in this paragraph:

"Since the constitutions have the inherent and constitutional right to deny membership to any man who will not agree that during such membership he will not accept or retain employment in company with nonunion men, and that as a union man has the constitutional right to decline proffered employment unless the employer will agree not to employ any non-union man; so, the employer has the constitutional right to insist that the employe shall refrain from affiliation with one union during the term of employment."

The contention of the dissenting justices is expressed, in the main, in this paragraph of their opinion:

"Could an employer not be forbidden from demanding as a condition that an employe should not join the national guards? Could not the state strike down agreements not to join a certain political party? Why not labor unions, whatever members of this court may think of these unions?"

Questions Employers' Rights.

"Wherein is the right of the employer to insert this stipulation in the agreement any more sacred," inquired Justice Day in his dissenting opinion, "than his right to agree with another employer in the same trade to keep up prices?

"He may think it quite as essential to his 'financial independence' and so be considered. But it is too late to deny that the legislative power reaches such a case. It would be difficult to select any subject more intimately related to good order and the security of the community than that under consideration—whether one takes the view that labor organizations are advantageous or the reverse. It is as much within the legislative power as restraint of trade.

"The law should be as zealous to protect the constitutional liberty of the employe as it is to guard that of the employer," continued Justice Day, touching another point. "The principal object of this statute is to protect the liberty of the citizen to make such lawful affiliation as he may desire with organizations of his choice. It should not be necessary to the protection of the liberty of one citizen that the same right in another citizen should be abridged or destroyed."

Base Decision on Adair Case

Justice Pitney, in announcing the majority's opinion, made it clear that he did not consider "actual coercion" as beyond the power of the states to prohibit. He declared the decision was not only based on reason, but was supported by the decision of the court several years ago in the Adair case, in which the federal act of 1898 prohibiting an interstate railroad from discharging an employe because he belonged to a union was annulled as unconstitutional.

Justices Hughes and Day held there was an element of coercion in the switchmen's case which distinguished the two cases, while Justice Holmes was in favor of overruling the Adair decision.

Reverse News Contempt Cases.

Contempt of court sentences, imposed on William L. Curtin and George Burdick, of the New York Tribune, because they refused to divulge sources of information of a printed story of grand jury investigations of customs frauds in New York, were set aside today by the supreme court, which did not pass upon whether the men would be compelled to state the sources of their information.

I. O. D. E.

The card party by the above society for the Belgian Relief Fund was an unqualified success, redounding greatly to the credit of the ladies who had charge of the affair. A dance arranged for by the gentlemen, with Carrie's Orchestra supplying the music, was greatly enjoyed. The amount realized was $230, less $15.00 expenses incurred, netting the appreciable sum of $215.00.

The I. O. D. E. made and sent to Toronto at their own expense 256 roller bandages. These will be sent to the front on the hospital ship which leaves Halifax, February 11th.

The Provincial Red Cross Society send out a request that, owing to the scarcity of wool, women will knit socks as much as possible. Other articles are pretty well supplied, but there is a very great need for socks.

The following donations have been received:

Mrs. Suddaby—½ bolt of cotton for bandages.

Mrs. Klauer—10 yards cotton for bandages.

Mrs. E. Wright—1 cholera belt.

Mrs. F. White—3 pair wristlets.

Mrs. W. R. Wilson—1 pair socks.

Mrs. Cooke—1 pair socks.

Miss Coope—2 pair wristlets.

Mrs. J. J. Martin—1 pair wristlets.

Mrs. and Miss White, Hosmer.—4 caps.

Mrs. Dobson—1 pair wristlets.

Cecilia Schelaika—1 pair wristlets.

Mrs. Barnes—1 belt, 1 cap.

Miss McKay—1 belt.

The wedding of Mr. John Albert McKonkey to Miss Hadie Arminta Rupert took place at Wallace, Idaho, Jan. 17. The couple are well known in this city, they both having resided here for a year and a half, the groom having been in business here until about a year and a half ago, when he left here to go into business at Wallace, where he still will reside.

READ IT

Can a Woman Succeed in Her Play of Vengeance? JUDITH DOES.

See THE THEVENARDS

The Greatest Problem Play of the Age

Story ( ) Show Here

See it

At The Isis

COMMENCING FRIDAY FEB. 12th 1915

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Good dry wood for sale $3.50 for 2 ricks, delivered anywhere in

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A. F. HADDAD

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and peaceful security as well. With a policy in our old line company, you can go off on your vacation or visit the ends of the earth and you know you're secure. The best in

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M. A. KASTNER

SOLE AGENT FOR FERNIE

ALEX BECK BLOCK. FERNIE, B. C.

News of The District Camps

COAL CREEK NOTES

The mines worked every day last week.

The working turn of men in the mines changed on Tuesday.

D. F. Markland was elected secretary to the Local Relief Committee at a meeting of subscribers held on Thursday evening last week. J. T. Dixon and T. Wilson were added to the committee.

At a meeting of ratepayers held in the schoolhouse on Friday evening, R. Hillsborough was elected as a trustee of the school in place of R. Johnstone (resigned). He was also elected secretary to the board.

Harry France came home from hospital during the week-end. Pleased to report him doing as well as can be expected.

Ed. Mahoney entertained a few friends on Sunday evening at his residence in Coyote Street.

News of the death of Tom Mason in the Fernie Hospital was received in camp on Tuesday evening. The sympathy of the whole camp go out to the bereaved ones.

Don't forget the "Moose" Social on February 1st, commencing at 7.30 p.m. Be on time to toe the line.

A most enjoyable smoker was held in the Club Hall on Saturday evening under the auspices of the Football Committee. The opportunity was taken to present the Mutz Cup medals to those entitled to same. Supt. Caufield, in a neat little speech, made the presentation, and spoke in eulogistic terms of the achievements of the Coal Creek club. He also made touching reference to the absence of two who should have been present to receive their medals—viz., Jock McLetchie, deceased, and Peter Sawyer, who is away at the front. The various artistes received loud applause for the vocal abilities displayed. Mutzine and crackers constituted the menu.

Don't forget the grand concert and dance in the Club Hall on Wednesday evening, Feb. 10th, in aid of Wm. Bennett and family. A grand array of talent will appear. Concert commences at 8 p.m. sharp. Tickets 50c.

Born—Saturday, Jan. 23rd, to Mr. and Mrs. J. Fawley, French Camp, a daughter. Mother and child doing well; Jimmy all smiles.

Born—Monday, Jan. 25th, to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Carrol, Coyote St., a son. All doing fine. Uncle Johnny smiling.

COLEMAN

The Odd Fellows and St. Albans were opponents in a whist tournament last Wednesday evening in the St. Alban's Recreation Rooms. A pleasant game ended in favor of the church by 6 points, the score showing 221 to 215. Lunch was served during the evening.

A dance under the auspices of the Relief Society was held last Friday evening in the Opera House. The Coleman Town Band and Stokes Orchestra supplied the music, and under the capable management of Mr. E. Disney, who had charge of the floor, everything passed off smoothly.

A hockey match between the "Has-beens, or would-be" hockeyists of Coleman and the International Coal and Coke Co., took place last Wednesday evening on the skating rink. While not calling for much praise in so far as playing hockey was concerned, it was entertaining in a way, and caused lots of amusement. One thing that everyone seemed to take particular notice of was that some of the players seemed to have their skates on the wrong place, judging by the end of them that was most on the ice. Seeing that half of the proceeds were handed over to the relief society, it might have been better patronized than it was.

Born—Sunday, Jan. 24th, to Mr. and Mrs. C. Annulott, a daughter.

Bonr—Thursday, Jan. 21st, to Mr. and Mrs. C. Hill, a son.

Mrs. Walter Nelson died suddenly Monday morning. Deceased gave birth to a son ten days previous, and arose on Monday morning feeling in good health and seemed to enjoy breakfast. Soon after she had a bad turn and in less than half an hour passed away. Dr. Ross was called and certified death as due to a clot blood passed over the heart, causing heart failure. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the bereaved husband and his family for the loss they have sustained.

John Truswell died suddenly on Tuesday in the Coleman Hotel. Deceased, who belonged, to Taber, suffered from a chronic disease. He spent a short time in Coleman a few months ago and seemed to think that he derived some benefit from it. Dr. Ross certified death as due to tuberculosis. The remains are being shipped to Taber for burial.

TABER NOTES

At the regular meeting of Local 102 on Sunday a lively discussion took place on the action of the town council in reducing the rate of wages for men who were furnished with work to help them over the hard times. A resolution was passed condemning their action on the matter. At a meeting of the relief committee on Monday in discussing the disposal of funds to be granted by the government, the Mayor and some other members of the committee were in favor of the reduced rate, but a majority voted in favor of the old rate of thirty cents per hour.

Sam Sanderson has been appointed secretary of the relief committee and will have the issuing of all relief orders.

The management of the various mines have agreed to allow their miners to load a ton of coal per month and company will deliver same at cost of haulage.

Mr. Stirling, Inspector of Mines, was in town on Friday in connection with the application that had been made to the government for assistance for the miners in this district.

The Block Mine has been closed down the last couple of weeks owing to a lack of funds. It is reported that the men have been asked to work under a reduced rate.

B. Nugent was elected diegate to the convention in Lethbridge.

LETHBRIDGE NOTES

The mines only worked two days last week, but we are now having a cold spell which may create a greater demand for coal—provided those in need of it have the money to get it.

The Citizens' Committee appointed to go over the estimates with a view of pruning, after becoming thoroughly acquainted with all particulars, acted wisely in not interfering in any way with the commissioners' salaries. There were a few officials whom they considered were receiving exorbitant salaries according to their duties or responsibilities. These were left to the discretion of the commissioners. As a member of that committee I commend the action of the commissioners, particularly the Mayor and Commissioner Lean, in voluntarily reducing their salaries for the benefit of local relief.

The excavation for the new Standard Bank on corner of 3rd Avenue and 13th Street was started last week.

The interment of Joe Hanisko took place Wednesday of last week from the undertaker's parlors. It was a cold and stormy day and very few of his own nationality turned out, but those who did on their return from the cemetery met and formed a committee of three men and three women to look after the children until the mother is able to be out from hospital.

Mrs. Karl Theorodovitch was taken home from hospital Friday of last week.

"Big Karl" is progressing as favorably as can be expected.

Monday, Jan. 25th, being Burns' Night there were several celebrations in various parts of the city.

General Sam Hughes arrived in the city on Tuesday night and Lethbridge did herself proud in honoring Canada's greatest soldier.

BELLEVUE NOTES

Frank hockey aggregation were visitors to the Bellevue rink and succeeded in defeating the home team.

Thanks to the manner in which Mr. Christie is spending his spare time (and he has lots of it these days) the Methodist Church is presenting an artistic appearance.

Mesrs. Burnett and Barlass will represent the local Odd Fellows at their coming convention in Edmonton early in February.

The regular annual meeting of the Bellevue ratepayers was held this afternoon in the Workers' Hall. The reports of the various servants show a very healthy state of affairs, with the exception of finance. The report of the inspector on work of the teachers should be gratifying to the ratepayers and especially to the school trustees, whose efforts have been crowned with such success. To use the inspector's own words, he "could not close his report without commending the work of the janitor. The school, under the latter's charge, being the cleanest in the district. In view of such success, Mr. Wm. J. Cole was elected for another three year term by acclamation as trustee.

The first regular meeting of the school board will take place on Thursday, February 4th, at 8 o'clock.

A series of whist tournaments will be played in Mr. Cole's poolroom, for which a large number have already entered.

The local Odd Fellows purpose holding their first ball in the Workers' Hall, on Friday, Jan. 29th.

We note with pleasure that preparations are under way to receive the overflow of water from the company's water system, which has become a menace to some of the property holders on the Conley townsite.

The recruiting officer is expected in this town shortly, and the possibilities of securing recruits seem good! Why?

The mine worked five days last week but so far has not worked this week. (Is that the reason, Ed?).

HILLCREST

On Wednesday, of last week, a grand concert and dance was given in Union Hall under the auspices of Local 1058, on behalf of Chas. Beaver. A large number of singers of Hillcrest and surrounding district rendered songs and recitations to a crowded and appreciative audience. Mr. Hart, the Methodist minister, very ably filled the office of chairman. After the concert supper was served and dancing commenced, at which everyone appeared to enjoy themselves immensely. As a result of the concert over $180 has been raised for the relief of the brother.

"Hillcrest, Alta, Jan. 25, 1915

"To the Editor, District Ledger.

"Dear Sir,—At the request, and on behalf of Bro. C. Beaver, I would like to thank every single individual who helped to make the dance on Jan. 20th such a splendid success both financially and socially, as it netted $182.25.

"Yours very truly,

"J. DUDLEY.

The mines worked four days last week.

Mr. Mellard, of Winnipeg, and Miss McMagheney were joined together in the bonds of holy matrimony Wednesday of last week at the home of the bride's parents. The happy couple journeyed to Banff to spend their honeymoon and then proceed to their home in Winnipeg. We wish them long life together.

President W. L. Phillips and Board Member D. Rees were in town over the week-end on important business. They left Sunday night westbound.

The boys of Hillcrest took advantage of the idle days and held a smoker on Monday, commencing at 2 o'clock and lasting until the early hours of Tuesday morning. Lots of good things were provided.

HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE — For Sale. Apply, 69, Victoria Avenue.

TO RENT—Five-Roomed House. Apply, Wm. Minton, Fernie Annex.

TWO GIRLS desire employment either in hotel or private family. Write Mary Vavrecnian, Fernie P. O.

TO RENT—Two Furnished Rooms, reasonable. Apply 149, Howland Ave.

FOR IMMEDIATE SALE—One red cow; 3-year-old; calved second call on 15th January. Price $75.00. Apply F. M. Thompson Co., Blairmore, Alta.

WAR NEWS

Information of Interest to Those Who Sympathize With Labor's Progressive Movement

Here is another illustration of international labor solidarity that does not appear in the daily papers, and which shows that if labor were given a fair chance the horrors of war and war itself would soon disappear. The organ of the seamen of Holand contains an article from the pen of the President of the Belgian seamen in which he describes a prison camp that has been established by the British seamen near Northernham, England, to which all captured German seamen are sent. An estate, called East Cote House, was purchased by the British seamen some time ago and fairly comfortable accommodations were provided to feed and house the men of the sea who fall into British hands. The British government appropriates $2.40 a week for each prisoner in the detention camp, and there is little complaint of suffering among the mariners, as they are treated like brothers by the union officials who have the place in charge and probably wouldn't run away if they could. Many of the German prisoners were members of the British union at one time or other, and so they spend a fairly enjoyable time among their British comrades, who declare they are doing all in their power to preserve the bond of international fraternity and good will.

* * *

Army scandals, due to the greed of contractors who furnish supplies have raised quite a hubbub in England. The trade unionists and Socialists charge that the contractors are exploiting clothing workers in a shameful manner, paying $5 or less a week for work that usually brought $9, and some women receive as low as $1.50. Along with this skinning at the production end, it is further charged, the contractors unload food, boots and clothing on the soldiers that are rotten. Leather is a mixture of paste and brown paper, clothing falls apart and meat is unfit for cooking, canned goods are spoiled, bread adulterated, etc. The contractors have been fiercely denounced in Parliament, but somehow nobody has made a serious move to arrest and try them for treason and then line them up against a stone wall.

* * *

A ringing declaration against the war has been adopted by the Socialists of Italy and is now being circulated throughout that country.

"The primary and fundamental responsibility for the war," says the manifesto, "is to be traced back to the present capitalistic system, based on the internal rivalry of the classes, and external rivalry of the States, which creates in its development forces which at a given moment it can no longer contain and dominate, and which in times of peace plunders the proletariat, and demands from it in time of war, the utmost sacrifice, the supreme surrender.

"Italy alone of all the great countries has been able to keep out of the gigantic conflict and to declare itself neutral. To bring about this decision of the government the resolute attitude assumed by the Socialist party and the proletariat ever since the commencement of the crisis has not been without effect."

After warning and denouncing the elements that are attempting to plunge the country into the monstrous conflict, the statement concludes:

"The Socialist party, in this perturbed and anxious hour, claims full responsibility for the position it has taken up, caring nothing for the storm with which the monopolists of patriotism point at it as a party hostile to the fatherland.

"Workers! The pretexts by which you are to be led to the shambles are not worth the waste of human lives and treasure which war necessitates. Hold your meetings! Resist the pro-war infatuation, oppose your demonstrations to those of parties in favor of the war.

"The Socialist Deputies will not vote the military credits for a war of aggression, resulting from a grotesque and contradictory foreign policy made up of expedients and devoid of ideals, for which the Italian governing classes and the dynasty are responsible.

"The Italian Socialist party reaffirms its abiding faith in the Workers' International, destined to arise greater and stronger from the blood and the ruin of the Nations." Cleveland Citizen.

MINERS' ASTHMA

is caused by inhaling tiny particles of dust; they choke the bronchial tubes and bronchitis or pneumonia easily follows.

The cod liver oil in Scott's Emulsion corrects asthma by building healthy tissue; it soothes and heals the irritated membranes, and strengthens the lungs, throat and nerves.

Always take Scott's Emulsion for Miners' Asthma.

EVERY DRUGGIST HAS IT.

THE EASTERN OHIO SITUATION

Convention Instructs to Continue Strike Until Won—Assessments for Strike Relief Continued Infedinitely.

BRIDGEPORT, Ohio.—Encouraged by the splendid endorsement of their position signified by the delegates to the annual convention of the miners of Ohio, the strikers of eastern Ohio stand as solid and determined today as they were almost ten months ago, when the former agreement expired.

The convention at Columbus was attended by delegates from nearly every local union in the State of Ohio.

A spirit of complete harmony prevailed.

On the eastern Ohio strike situation the delegates vied with each other in expressions of determination to win; on the part of the delegates from the strike district "to stand solidly, indefinitely, until the victory is won"; while the delegates from other parts of the state pledged their moral and financial support, for any time necessary.

It was unanimously decided to continue the 5 per cent. assessment, and the action of the officials in levying the same prior to the convention was endorsed.

That the rank and file fully endorsed the actions of their officials was conclusively proven by the report of the tellers. President John Moore, Vice-President Lee Hall, Secretary-Treasurer G. W. Savage, were all re-elected by handsome majorities, thus proving, beyond cavil that the miners of the district are in sympathy with the policies of the officials in the strike situation.

The mediators appointed by Secretary of Labor W. B. Wilson met with a committee of the operators of Eastern Ohio, at Wheeling, last Thursday.

On Friday and Saturday last the same two gentlemen—Daniel J. Keefe and Hywel Davis—were in consultation with the members of the District No. 6, executive board, and officials of the eastern Ohio sub-district.

The mediators have given out no statements. So far, they are only acquainting themselves with the merits of the points in dispute.

For some time past, influences have been at work in this field to lead the operators of the mines in the struck field to believe that the miners would return to work at the rates offered if approached as individuals.

Those who believed in these assertions were thoroughly undeceived this week when attempts were made to reopen the mines at Ramasy.

Some miners, and daymen had been working there, as elsewhere, in agreement with the policy adopted by the striking miners, allowing enough men to work to keep the properties from deterioration; with the understanding that no coal should be produced for market.

When it was found that the fact of these men working in agreement to this enlightened policy was pointed to by the operators as a breach in the ranks of the strikers these men also quit work.

There has not been any desertions from the ranks of the strikers. Even the operators who were deceived into believing that there were numbers of their employes ready to go to work are now thoroughly convinced that this is a strike to win, which all of the miners are unanimously determined.

The resolution that follows is self-explanatory, and bears out the above:

Resolution

"Dilles Bottom, Ohio, Jan. 15

"We, the members of Local Union 1256 and Local Union 2262, in mass meeting assembled at Dilles Bottom, Ohio, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"Whereas, A misleading statement has been widely circulated that a large number of union men have broken away from the United Mine Workers of America and have gone to work on the open shop basis, thus accepting the operators' terms; and

"Whereas, As a matter of fact a few men have started cleaning the mines under day labor, which is in accordance with rule 28 of the District Constitution; and

"Whereas, Since the operators have declared hostilities against the organization and threaten that they will open the mines on the open shop plan and evict the miners that will not return to work; therefore, be it

"Resolve', That these men who have gone to work as day laborers, [illegible] ed that they be exonerated from any blame for unintentionally doing unfair work; and be it further

"Resolved, That none of the men [illegible] to work in the mines of the sub-district until the operators sign the scale for 47 cents per ton for straight run of mine; and be it further

"Resolved, That we unanimously feel that the contention for 47 cents per ton for mine run is our own fight and not exclusively the fight of our worthy officials.

"R. F. WALLACE, Chairman.
"THOMAS HALL.
"GUTHRIE ALLEN.
"C. H. BUCHEYON.

A CORRECTION

To the Editor, District Ledger.

Dear Sir,—I wish to correct a statement made by the Beaver Creek correspondent which appeared in the Beaver Creek items, Jan. 16th, in which he mentions a letter received from Hillcrest Local referring to some friction which exists between the medical attendant and the members, and also that we were short of funds.

The following is a correct copy of letter sent out to several locals, of which Beaver Creek was one, and in which nothing is said about our funds being short or friction between the members and the Doctor:

Hillcrest Local Union,

Hillcrest, Alta, Nov. 13, 1914.

Dear Sir and Bro.—I am instructed by the above local to write you in regards the doctor question. We had one brother crippled and our doctor could do nothing for him. We sent him to Mayo Bros., Rochester, Minn., which cost our members $200. Now we also have another brother that has been crippled for almost one year, and it seems as though he will never get better while under the local doctor's care, which means another trip to Mayo Bros, with another $200 expense to our members. We feel that the time has come when we must take some step to stop this unnecessary expense. The scheme that we have to offer is to take a certain portion of the doctor's money and place it in a separate fund to be used only in sending members to a specialist when our local doctors can do nothing more for them; or the doctors to pay all expense and stoppage to remain the same.

Hoping your local will take this question up and give it the discussion it deserves, and if you cannot fall in with our scheme offer us something better, when we will gladly fall in with yours.

I remain, yours,

M. STIGLER, Sec.

In the Province of British Columbia there are thirteen custom ports, Fernie holds fifth place for exports and seventh for imports.

KNOX CHURCH, FERNIE

Sunday, Jan. 31—"11 a.m., Special service for children, come and bring your little ones; 7.30 p.m., "The Most Powerful Motive"; 2.30 p.m., Sunday school. Wednesday, 7.30 p.m., Annual Meeting; a full attendance is desired. Thursday, 7.45 p.m., Thoughtful workers. You are cordially invited to attend. W. J. MacQuarrie, B.A., minister.

METHODIST CHURCH, FERNIE

Sunday, Jan. 31.—11 a.m., "The Failure of the Strong"; 2.30 p.m., Bible class and Sunday School; 7.30 p.m., "What Men Live By." Monday, 7.30 p.m., Mr. Stoodley will relate some of his interesting experiences in the Navy. Thursday evening, prayer service at 7.30. Friday, choir practice.

Dr. Simmons, L. D. S., D. D. S., dentist, Bank of Hamilton Building, opposite Trites-Wood Co. Vancouver prices.

READ IT

If You Were in Trine's Place What Would You Do?

See the Great Problem Play

THE THIEVE OF HEARTS

By Louis Joseph Vance

Story ( ) Here Now

See it at

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SUITABLE FOR LADIES AND JENTLEMEN

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The Complete House Furnishers of the Pass

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We will furnish your house from cellar to garret and at bottom prices. Call, write, phone or wire. All orders given prompt attention.
If you are satisfied, tell others. If not satisfied, tell us.

Coleman - Alberta

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"The Quality Store"

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Flour! Flour! Flour!

For lowest prices on Flour call or 'Phone 25

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The Store That SAVES You Money

— The —

Waldorf Hotel

Mrs. S. Jennings, Prop. L. A. Mills, Manager

EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN PLAN

CAFE OPEN DAY & NIGHT

Menu a la Carte

On and after February 1st we wil make a Spepial Rate Board and Room by the week or month

MEAL TICKETS $6.00

European Plan Room Rates 50c. & Upwards

American Plan Rates $1.50 & Upwards

FIGHTING FOR A BLUNDER

By William Morris Feigenbaum

(This writer says the Workers of Europe are fighting the battles of German, French and British Capitalists.)

The nations of the world are fighting for a blunder! France, Germany, England, Russia, Austria and Japan are locked in the greatest and the most ghastly war that the world has ever seen for a mistake in economics, for a blunder in political science, for mistakes and blunders that any high school boy who is master of a little elementary science could puncture in a moment if it occurred to him to associate his school subjects with current events, which hardly anybody thinks of doing.

When we say "Germany" we do not mean the people of Germany. When we say "Great Britain" we do not mean the British people. Socialists devote much time in pointing out that in the news of the day the dispatches say "Austria" when they mean the capitalistic autocracy of Austria; they say "Russia," but they do not mean the oppressed millions, the tortured people of that big country. It is true that the Germans and the British and the French are fighting the battles of the German and the French and the British capitalist class. We know that. The people have finally come to realize it, and they will bear it in mind—*until this country manages to get into a squabble.* Then they will forget what they have been saying about Europe. But for the time being, it is generally realized that the good men of Europe are slaughtered for their masters, that the good women of Europe, and the innocent children of Europe are made burnt offerings to the greed of some one else. Some think it is autocracy; some think it is Prussian militarism; Czarism; Caesarism. Some call it something else. Socialists call it capitalism; they say that the debacle is the logical result of the profit system, and let it go at that.

A Crime Against Humanity

All know that it is a crime against the human race; all know that it is compelling men and their families to suffer for the ruling class, whatever that class may be named. But in addition, there is a sort of vague feeling that the capitalist, or the autocrat, or the banker has selected that thing that is of most profit to him, and thereupon sets out to make the world do his bidding. There is an almost fatalistic feeling that what the capitalist sets out to do is the best thing for him; that he is cruel, cunning and calculating. Among the masses who see the vast wealth that they pile up for the ruling classes there is an instinctive feeling that the capitalist class knows it all, that what its members do is the very best way to get their wish. And so much the greater is the cruelty of remaining under their yoke.

But that happens not to be the case. the ruling class would like to have it the case; the ruling class, speaking in terms of their much loved 'efffficiency," would like to get as near 100 per cent efficiency as possible out of their control of the world. They might get it if they were not a lot of chuckle headed chumps; they would get it if they read history and economics and political science. But they are as ignorant as they are brutal. They are as stupid as they are greedy.

It may be said dogmatically that practically every government in recent centuries has been based upon some theory of political science or economics—and that theory is wrong!

Every government in recent centuries has been run upon some theory whose purpose it has been to enrich the ruling economic class, and that theory is a blunder; a theory that cannot hold water!

For instance, the present war. We know that it is a terrible crime. But let us put ourselves into the place of the ruling class for the moment and see what there is in it for "us" if "we" win the war. Let us suppose that glorious victory has crowned our standards, that we re-enter our capital in triumph; we have swept the sees clean of the enemy and we have cleared the land of his legions.

What then?

We all know that militarism is fostered by the "Munitionsfabrik," by the Krupps. But that is only by the way. Militarism is necessary to the development of the capitalistic state, and the graft and the corruption of the armament makers is only a side issue. The object of all the arming and the backbiting burdens of ever increasing navies has accomplishel its purpose, and the Krupps are compelled to find other grafts. That will take care of itself.

The German capitalist class has been egging the government on for over forty years to undertake two exploits—the acquisition of colonies and the building of a giant navy. That giant navy is known, as has always been known, as a direct challenge to the British navy, as a bid for the world trade that Britain now holds. Those two things are the two great matters that have engaged the attention of German capitalist government for all the years of Prussian Junkerthum.

Now, since the rulers of the empire are so infernally anxious to have colonies, and to fight for the trade that is now held by Great Britain, one would think that those two are the things that above all are needed to add to the money bags of the German capitalists.

As a matter of fact, that is farthest from the case; there is nothing that would do less to enrich German capitalists than to conquer more colonies, and to have the trade of the world, as conquered by German war vessels.

The error is psychological. Not "psychological" like the present depression, but really psychological.

The manner of it is thus: We have had a habit, since the days of the Medes and the Persians, of personifying things. We personified trees, and rivers and sicknesses and tastes. We personified cities and nations. Is it not so? Do we say: "The people of Germany do thus and so?" Do we say, The autocracy of Russia did as follows against the protests of the body of the people?

Rulers at War

On the contrary, we say Germany did as follows; Russia committed the following act; "Russia" sent an ultimatum to Japan; Servia hit Austria in the jaw; Montenegro stuck her tongue out at Roumania.

A moment's reflection will make us realize that it was the government of this or that or the other country that did these sassy things; that, when Andorra declares war on the United States, when Bokhara sends its last word to Brazil, asserting that it will commence operations immediately, we know that the soil of that mountainous commonwealth does not grasp a pen and write the words that we read. We know that all the people do not at one swoop utter the self-same words at the same moment.

Certain men, speaking for the government of that country, who at that moment are that country, do, or say, or think certain things. But that is the second thought. It is the first thought that does the harm.

It is well for men to have. If one has, he is well off. If one has more, he is better off. Therefore, if one would be well off, one devotes his time to the glorious task of getting.

We speak of nations in terms of persons. We say "Germany has this." That is upon first thought. Well, what has Germany? Germany cannot adorn its pallid brow with jewels. Germany cannot drink ice cream soda. Germany can have—what? It can have what a country can have; namely, territory, more territory; population, more population, and yet ever more population. Ditto territory. Hence, wars of territorial aggrandizement.

Hence, colonial expansion!

People, instinctively personifying a nation, say that "France 'gets Tunis,' or that "Italy 'gets' Cyramyca."

A Wrong Theory

Italy no more 'gets' that nation than Servia rose as one man and wrote a fresh note to Austria. In a word, there is a tall amount of reasoning by analogy. By analogy with a person "getting" something, a nation "gets" a colony. Hence, the more colonies a nation "gets" the richer that nation is. Further on, we will see how at one time it was worth a great deal for a nation to have colonies, under another economic school of thought that dominated the world a century or so ago. But today that school is abandoned: that school is now known to have been utterly wrong, and that method of making money out of colonies is no longer used.

Today a colony is not an asset to a nation. Speaking from the standpoint of the capitalist class, a colony is a liability, or it is merely an ornament that is pretty to look at, that is "worth" nothing to the ruling class.

Here is a situation. Germany has an area of 208,780 square miles, more than 50,000 less than the area of Texas. But to Texas' 3,000,000, Germany has 64,925,993 (1910). That means a crowding of 310.4 to the square mile. Now, Germany "must have an outlet to her congested population," so says the average "thinker." Well, Germans must have some place to live. But that is another story entirely. You would think that "Germany" was a growing child that had overgrown its children's clothing, and needed newer and more capacious clothing. It does seem that way, if you insist upon personifying a nation, if you persist in your psychological error.

As a matter of fact, you are about as far as you can be from the truth when you say that a nation that is crowding up needs more territory to fill up, needs more colonies.

You buy a suit of clothes, if you have grown fat. Your waist line was like unto that of a sylph. You measured twenty-nine inches around the equator. Now you have opened a bank account, you clip coupons. You now have a circumference of forty inches. You want a new suit of clothes. You do not swipe some one else's pants that are already inhabited. You take a new pair of nether garments that are as populous as the polar regions, you fill up an empty pair of beinkleider that are adequate to the exigencies of the time.

Does Not Hold Water

There are no vast gobs of territory lying around loose that can be used to dump surplus population upon, as there are plenty of garments that may be devoted to the noble purpose of taking up the slopping over embonpoint.

That is, your analogy, your personification of the nation as a growing person, is utterly wrong, does not hold water for one moment.

We are considering Germany. Germany is filling up. That great and wonderful nation is more packed than any other nation on earth, except the exception, Belgium, that is really only a region, and England. The people of the Fatherland are crowded. They want to go somewhere. To get them somewhere to go, their kind government has provided various and sundry colonies, as England has provided Canada and Australia and South Africa.

Do the Germans go to the Cameroons? Do they go to German South West Africa? No, they are utterly unpatriotic, they do not go to those colonies that their government has so carefully provided for them. The government has done its best. It has wrought long and well to get colonies. The Imperial Chancellor, Hohenlowe, tried to get colonies to emulate Germany's great rival, Great Britain, and utterly failed.

Here is what the government has done for the good people, here is what they have spilled blood for, in order that German emigrants stay under the German flag, and thus make the German capitalist class glad by the fact that the good men and women would not leave their benevolent sway:

Togoland—33,659 square miles area; population, 1,000,000.

The Cameroons—191,071 square miles area; population, 1,300,000.

German South-West Africa—322,348 square miles area; population,120,000.

German East-Africa—Area 384,079 square miles, population, 10,000,000.

German New Guinea—Area, 100,000 square miles; population, 300,000.

Islands in Pacific—Area 1,000 square miles; population, 20,000.

Those are the main colonies. There are also some smaller ones. Also the [illegible] 1,027,820 square miles, with a population of 12,041,603. The fact that these bulk figures do not agree exactly with the totals of the detail figures of [illegible] are estimates by the government, and the estimate of the bulk need not exactly jib with the totals of the other table.

Now let us study the figures in the light of the fact that the German people are now armed and fighting to the death for the acquisition, among other things, of colonies: in the light of the fact that more than once Germany was on the verge of war with France over Morocco, and was only prevented by united action of the Socialists of both countries.

The Rest of the Story

Here is a nation bursting with people. The people have no vacant land next door to stream into, as America had when the great West was being opened up. The government has provided colonies over the seas six times the area of the Fatherland. These colonies have a population of one-fifth that of the Fatherland, which is in itself a great population. There has been a steady stream of emigration from Germany, over 5,000,000 in the inneteenth century, varying from 220,902 in 1881 to 19,883 in 1908. Up to this point it seems all right, it seems as if the colonial adventures of Germany were justified. Until you read the rest of the story.

Of the 12,000,000 that dwell in the colonies of the German Empire, exactly 24,389 are Germans! Principally soldiers.

The 5,000,000 Germans who sought their fortunes elsewhere did not go to the coral islets of the seas, did not go to Equatorial Africa.

They came to Milwaukee, to St. Louis, to New York. They are found in Brazil, where a whole state is practically all German; they are in the Argentine, where they have a great settlement in Buenos Aires.

The sturdy German worker who seeks his fortune far from the congested empire that he loves so much seeks not the abstract joy of gazing upon the German flag each day. He has that at home. He seeks a home for himself and his family. And he cannot find that home in the jungles of Africa.

He finds that home in a temperate climate, in a climate that is something like the climate at home. He might like to be a pioneer, like the English in Canada, like the Spaniards in South America. But he will pioneer only when that pioneering will finally make him a home in a place that will give him a habitation like his home in the Fatherland. He does not want to fight cobras or tse tse flies. He does not want to fight Zulus all the year. He wants a home. And if he cannot find a home under the German flag, Milwaukee gets him, Sao Paulo gets him.

The average German, the average American, says that "Great Britain has so many colonies; therefore, let 'us' also 'get' colonies." Well, Germany has lots of them. And as the humorist says, now that she has them, what is she going to do with them?

The reason that Germany has been engaged so long in the quest of colonies is twofold: First, to "have" something, to be rich, as if the nation were a person, and colonies were "things"; and, second, so that emigrating Germans would still be under the sway of the dear business men of the Heimat, so that business men of other bloods, of hatred nationalities, should not make profits from wandering Germans.

Germany has some colonies, if that does her any good. But the objects for which she wanted them are utterly defeated.

Exactly the same thing would result if Germany happened to conquer territory, unless that territory were vacant. And there is no vacant territory in Europe. The personifying of a nation is a dangerous thing to do. It leads to dire results. It has made many good men bite the dust. And it is a pure psychological error.

When the Morocco crisis was on—that is, one of the numerous Morocco crises, one of the numerous war scares that were excuses for the super-Socialist demonstrations—the German papers were perfectly frank about it. They had no delusion about it. They said that other countries had colonies, and why should not the Fatherland have Morocco, as France had Tunis and Algeria. There was nothing to it but the plainest kind of cupidity for a personified nation, wanting to have certain "things." As an afterthought they spoke of getting rid of surplus population in—well, they did not say in Morocco; if they had thought of where they were going to get rid of that population, they would have seen the stupidity of the thing, but they never thought more than their original thought.

Why Germany Armed

That is the reason that Germany armed. That is the reason that the wealth of that great nation was used to build murder boxes, to arm the good men for bloody war. That is the reason that Germany has carried a chip on its shoulders for forty four years—to get something, to do something, that a moment's thought would show to be a stupid bit of foolishness.

"Germany" meaning the great power back of the government, plunged the great empire into this, the greatest war in all history, very largely for something that is utterly silly, something that will merely add to them the job of garrisoning foreign ports, without the pleasure of the profit of a sun tracker, something that a freshman student of political science could have shown the ridiculousness of in one moment.

[illegible] ruling class knows just what to do to enrich itself. At least, so thinks the working class.

* * *

That is one thing, the matter of colonial expansion. For more colonies, for more and ever more territory in the island beyond the sea, millions of men have laid down their lives. And the most intelligent of the colonizing nations—England—has finally learned what to do. She has made her colonies independent republics, like Canada, like Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, with nothing but a Governor General (paid by the home country) to bind her to her children, and the British capitalists have their goods discriminated against for their pains. For Great Britain has free trade and the colonies make the home goods pay tariffs!

Every bit of colonial expansion that was not done under the old system of bloodsucking exploitation has been absolutely pure economic waste! And England, by practically turning the colonies loose, admits it. Other than for naval stations, and cable and coaling stations, all the blood that has been spilled has been for the esthetic joy of seeing the flag of the home nation floating over the new territory, and nothing more.

* * *

That is one thing. There is the other dominating motives in this war—to get England's trade. It can be asseverated until that excellent gentleman is purple to the gills, but no one will believe the Kaiser that he wanted peace. He wanted peace, at this moment, maybe. But the giant German navy was built as a challenge to Great Britain, to the great British fleet, as a bid for the world trade that Britain has, and everybody knows it. That the chip was knocked off his shoulder sooner than he wanted does not alter the case.

Analyzed, that challenge of Germany is just as intelligent, just as sensible, as the bid for colonies. It gets as much for the powers that pull the strings as the quest of colonies. And it bears out the contention that all governments have been run on theories that are wrong.

Men are no more intelligent now than they were then. Then they selected one fallacy. National policy was based on it. World empires were formed to carry it out. And if it had succeeded for one moment, then there would have been a terrible disaster, whose effects would be felt even today.

And today they select another fallacy. They select the fallacy of colonial expansion. They select the fallacy of "fighting for the trade of the world," when a child can see that peaceful, quiet, sober capitalist expansion can cause them to compete their rivals off the map. The giant trade of the Fatherland proves it. But they want the golden eggs, not day by day, but all at once. So they fight for it. Well, here it is. They are fighting for it. It is not enough that they have competed England off the map in many places without the firing of a single shot. They want it all. So instead of making better goods, and cheaper, they fight for it.

The working class of Europe is crucified, the working class of the world is made a sacrifice, to the greed of the capitalist class. And if they had won, if they had got every single one of their wishes, without the hellish debacle that it imports, it would be dead sea fruit, and turn to ashes at the lips!

That is your ruling class today, yesterday and forever. Brutal, greedy bloodthirsty—and ignorant.

The working class of Europe is today upon the cross because the master class has not intelligence enough to read up on freshmen economics!—N.Y. Call.

SAFETY AFTER EXPLOSION

The following query and answer appeared recently in a set of examination papers published by the Science and Art of Mining.

Q.—If at the moment of an explosion you were with a number of workmen in distant part of the mine not reached by the destructive force of the explosion, or by after damp, what steps would you take for the safety of your party?

A.—In the first place, get the men together as quickly as possible, use your judgment and explain to the men the steps you intend to take. Have full control over them, that is, super-vise them and ask them to have confidence in you so that everything may work out with the best of harmony and rapidity, as no time is to be lost. In the second place, knowing that you are situated at a distant part of the mine, you would be well acquainted with the district and the course of ventilation; also knowing that probably (and practically in almost every explosion) the force of the explosion travels against the air current, therefore, if that statement is to be relied upon, it is possible for such an occurrence to take place in this case.

Let us assume that, as we are in a distant part of the mine, the force of the explosion does not reach us, therefore, the enemy we have to fight against will be after-damp. It has been proved over and over again that more lives are lost by reason of the after-damp than through the destructive force of the explosion itself. The question now is, how to keep this deadly and poisonous after-damp from reaching us. As we have already explained, no time is to be lost, hence all capable persons should do their utmost to retreat together to the return airway. By so doing it may be possible to keep in front of the poisonous after-damp. Again, by retreating [illegible] not only will we be retreating before the deadly enemy after-damp, but we live in hope of some fresh air coming to meet us, trusting that the management has been able to [illegible] (2).

The following points may be of some interest:—

(1) Get all the persons in the district together as quickly as possible.

(2) Explain to them what has happened and what you intend doing, that they must realize and consider the seriousness of the position, and ask them to be careful and to obey all orders.

(3) All the party to muffle up their mouths and nostrils with articles well saturated with the contents of their bottles, and retreat in one body in an orderly manner to the return airway as quickly as possible, but cool and co-operating.

(4) If some of the party are in possession of electric lamps they should not be together but distributed here and there, to render a little assistance if possible, with the light of their lamps, which is more illuminating than that of the ordinary safety-lamp. More light, more progress on the journey.

(5) Place initials, number of the party, date, and time of retreat in plain chalk marks here and there. If possible take some brattice cloth, nails, wooden strips, and hammers, in case of emergency, and make an effort to save horses and ponies if there are any working in the district or close at hand when the retreat is about to be made.

(6) When retreating take particular notice of cross roads there may be between the intake roadway and the return roadway. If any such there would be a probability of some of them being damaged by the destructive force of the explosion, therefore after-damp may be finding its way into the return airway in more or less quantities.

(7) If some cross roads were found to be damaged, the brattice cloth, wooden strips, etc., should, if possible, be erected to prevent or check the poisonous gases that may be penetrating into the return airway. Thus, we could proceed carefully until we reached another cross road and then repeat the process. This work should be done as quick as possible, with the assistance of a few workmen.

(8) Some of the party should be given orders to render assistance to the older persons and also to some of the younger ones (such as boys), and to pay particular attention that the wrappers around their mouths and nostrils are continually and constantly saturated with the contents of their bottles. Here and there a little halt should be made to reckon the number of the party and book them down, and place initials, number of persons forming the party, date, and time of day.

(9) By using wrappers, mufflers, or scarves, at the starting point of retreat we would be on the safe side. At any instant the after-damp may overtake us, therefore we should be prepared to fight against it, and absorb as much oxygen as possible, which is essential in cases of this kind.

I have received assistance in answering this question from old and capable persons who have had experience in this kind of work, and in a case similar to the question reached the surface from a distant part of the mine before the after-damp affected them. Electric lamps were not then in use.—T. Phillips, 68, Dumfries Street, Treorchy, Glam.

SOCIALISTS CALL FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

COPENHAGEN, via London, Jan 26.—Three resolutions were passed unanimously at the closing session in Copenhagen today of the conference of Socialists of neutral countries, which opened here Sunday.

The first resolution declares it to be the duty of all Socialists to work for a speedy declaration of peace, the terms of which shall provide a basis for international disarmament; it also calls upon the International Socialist Bureau at Berne to convoke a meeting of all Socialist parties at the beginning of peace negotiations to take an advisary part therein.

The second resolutions proposes that all Socialist parties of neutral countries urge their respective governments to consider the possibility of offering mediation to the belligerents, with the view of lasting peace. The third protest against the arrest of five members of the Russian Duma, who met to draft a report from the present conference. Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Holland have been represented at this conference by four delegates each, and Italy by one. No delegates attended from the United States and Switzerland.

Yesterday the conference adopted a resolution protesting against Germany's "violation of Belgium's rights" and calling upon all Socialist parties to labor to bring the war to a speedy end.

M. P. Says

Senator D. Derbyshire of Brockville, says,—"Some time ago I contracted a very bad cold which settled on my lungs and bronchial tubes. I almost lost my voice, was constantly coughing and experienced considerable pain. A friend offered me a box of PEPs, and I was very much pleased with their almost instant action. They seemed to go direct to the sore places, stopped the coughing, and made my breathing easier. I continued using PEPs and they completely cured my cold. Now we always keep a supply of PEPs."

Mr. Gustave Boyer, M.P. for Vaudreuil, and President of the Dairymen's Assoc. of Quebec, writes,—"I have used PEPs for colds and bronchitis, and have found them far beyond all other remedies."

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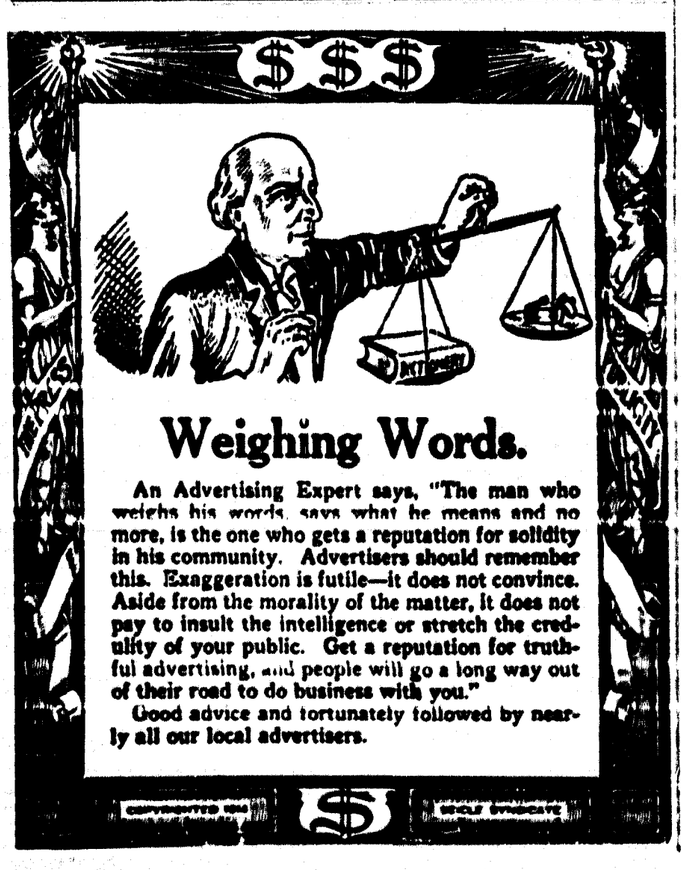

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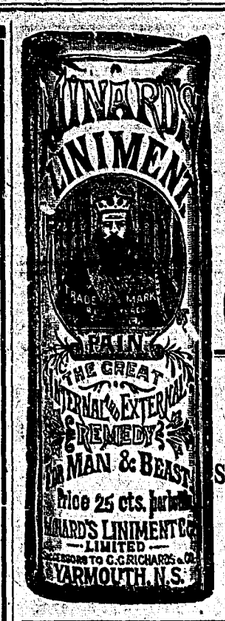

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Letter Received From Vancouver Man Tells How British and Germans Made Truce

That the stories told of fraternizing among British and Germans in the trenches at Christmas had considerable foundation in fact is shown in a letter, duly initialed by the censor, received by Mr. Thomas Clinton, of Eleventh Avenue east, from his brother, who is serving as rifleman with a machine gun section. According to Mr. Clinton, not only did the men meet in the no man's land between the trenches, but the officers also foregathered. Exchanges of Christmas trees for tea and cocoa took place, but German suspicion compelled the British to drink some of their own beverage before the "enemy" would touch it. Altogether the letter is a delightful human document. It is as follows:

"Just a line to let you know what sort of a Christmas we had in the trenches. It was rather interesting, taking it all round, and was more enjoyable than we expected. To start off, about 4.30 p.m. Christmas Eve we heard music and discovered the Germans had a band in their trench. It was quite nice till our artillery took it into their heads that there wasn't enough drum about it, so they sent over a couple of shells plunk in the centre of them, and as they were high explosives you can guess what became of that band. We were expecting to be attacked that night, as their idea is the better the day the better the deed, so when it got dark we were surprised to see the top of their trench lit up with lamps hanging from small trees, so we thought they wanted to be peaceful, so we passed a few remarks, and one of the boys went over to their lines and they gave him a tree lit up, which he brought back with him. A fine sight that I shall never forget was just after this. They shone a powerful searchlight between the two lines and two of our officers went out half way to meet two German officers who were also approaching. Both lines of trenches were lined with men, and you ought to have heard the cheer that went up when the officers met and shook hands and exchanged cigars and souvenirs, with the searchlight playing on them and the ground all covered with frost.

The Boys' Turn

"After about half an hour's talking the officers shook hands and came back, and then it was the boys turn, and you ought to have seen us swarm over and meet the other chaps as they came over to meet us. They were a young looking lot, all boys, but I suppose they are no different to us, as a lot of our boys were very young. We were pleased to see what sort of men we were each fighting against. We took them out some tea and cocoa, but we had to drink a drop first before they would touch it, and they gave us little boxes of cigars and cigarettes. I am keeping a couple of cigars for Charlie.

Christmas Truce

"Between us we agreed not to fire any more till after midnight Christmas Day, and we arranged for a game of football the next day. We finished up that evening with a few songs. Christmas Day came and we popped over the top of the trench and wished them the usual greetings, which they returned. We went out on the front to have a game of football, but their colonel wouldn't let them play, so we had a game of our own. After a bit we got called in, while they sent a party out to bury their dead that had fallen in a recent attack. We also took advantage to search the ruined farms behind us and get in a good supply of wood to last us for a week, so we have no fear of anyone getting sniped for a few days getting wood. As for water, we have a spring, and also a couple of pumps, so we shan't run short of water. Well, we enjoyed ourselves for the rest of the day, but when midnight came, away on the right we heard the same old rain of bullets striking the ground, but they remained quiet in front of us so we did not fire till next day. They had wounded one of our officers so we had to get our own back and sniped four of them over, so we were satisfied. We also gave them a ball out of the maxim last night. Don't know if it did any damage."

(Shortly after Christmas cable dispatches appeared in the Press stating that the events chronicled above had actually taken place, and now they are corroborated by those who participated therein. It may be incidentally remarked that the military authorities at Berlin are reported to have issued strict instructions against a repetition of these exchanges of courtesies. Very probably the reason therefore is the fear that if the spirit of camaraderie be allowed to grow, instead of two days' the truce might be prolonged indefinitely. Looking at the situation from a plain, every day common sense viewpoint it does seem paradoxical that men who have never seen each other—hence have no personal animosity—use every effort to slay each other. Yet, when they do meet in social intercourse, only the best of fellowship prevails.—Ed.)

GOB FIRES

At a meeting of the Castleford and District Mining Students' Association on the 10th ult., Mr. J. S. Butler submitted a paper on "Gob Fires: From Cause to Cure." Having mentioned that the chief cause of gob fires is spontaneous combustion, he said that to have a fire heat must be generated, and for a substance to heat spontaneously it must (1) undergo some change either within itself or by contact with other substances; (2) this change must produce heat; (3) this heat must be produced quicker than the substance loses heat to the substances surrounding it. The chief change undergone by the substances in the goaf are that they come into contact with the air which has penetrated into the goaf, and the oxygen in the air unites with the combustible material, producing or generating heat; this process is called oxidation. Apart from this there is the oxidation of iron pyrites or iron sulphate which produces heat and splits up the coal, opening up fresh surfaces of oxidation. Heat is also produced by the friction setting up owing to the roof settling down under very great pressure, also the grinding action thus incurred. As the roof settles down the very great pressure, also the grinding action thus incurred. As the roof settles down the heat already produced is in a still smaller space. If it was possible to ventilate the goaves and the heat produced within them could be dispersed or driven away, the result of the oxidation would be the same as when oxidation occurs on the surface, and no fires would take place. In the mine, however, the heat generated cannot be carried away, but is confined to the goaf, and here it is subject to roof pressure which causes it [illegible] perature to rise. With an increase in temperature more air will penetrate through the breaks, fissures, etc., into the goaf. An increase in temperature, therefore, means an increase in oxidation, and in this way heating and combustion are carried on until the ignition point is reached. It is naturally expected that if air can enter the goaf, the air or the gases produced from it within the goaf can escape. These gases will mingle with the air on the return side of the goaf in which the fire is situated, and can be detected by the smell or the colour given off. Another indication of heating is the "sweating" of the pack walls on the return side of the goaf.

Mr. Butler points out that if these fires can be prevented at a small cost it will be better than having to cure them or put them out afterwards. All combustible material such as timber, slack and coaly material should be removed from the goaf and when the seam is being worked out only incombustible material should be used for stowing purposes. Thoroughly air-tight packs are recommended, the most efficient and most modern being secured by hydraulic stowage or the water system of packing. By this system the packs soon form a solid concrete mass through which air cannot filter. Another method of air-tight packing is to build the packs of ordinary material and plaster the sides with puddled clay. There is also the wax-puddling method, and in South Staffordshire the coal is worked on the panel system. In the latter the royalty is divided into a series of panels or districts of the same area, and each panel is separated from the others by a solid barrier of coal. These barriers are in most cases faced with clay or air-tight material; in the event of a fire occurring it can be confined to one panel. Some mining engineers advocate airing the goaf by a regular system of roads crossing each other. The roads serve to keep the goaf cool, and make it easier to locate a fire or cut off the supply of air from any given point in the goaf.

In the event of a fire having broken out in a working district the correct and most sensible precaution would be to withdraw all the men from the return side of the goaf from which the signs of the fire are coming to the safe side. Communicate the conditions to the management and endeavor to locate the seat of the fire. Then steps must be taken to exclude all the air from this goaf, by building suitable [illegible] around it. The [illegible] and also the most common method of putting out the fire is to dig it out. To do this a narrow heading is driven into the goaf. This may or may not find the fire, and it is often [illegible] to turn to the left or right or keep straight on. The way to decide this is to have three bars of ¼ inch iron and six feet in length. These are rammed into the goaf on either side and also in front; when they are withdrawn and temperatures compared, the road is continued in the direction from which the hottest bar was withdrawn. Often more than one heading is driven. When the fire is reached it is first either saturated with water or put out with sand. Mr. Butler prefers sand, because water often proves injurious to the strata, and he says fires have been caused by the steam splitting up the material, thus allowing the fire to circulate or break out elsewhere. The men then dig out the burning matter, fill it into iron tubs, and send it out of the pit. It should be kept wet. Cases have occurred where it has fired in the tubs. To limit the possible effects on them the men should only work in short shifts. The provision of a set of rescue apparatus near at hand would be advisable; it is always better to be ready for any unforeseen occurrence. Other methods are, building stoppings as before and letting the gases produced by the fire itself serve to extinguish it; also pumping inert gases out of the seat of the fire after the stoppings have been around it. Carbon dioxide and nitrogen are the gases used. Another method—generally a last resort when the fire has assumed larger dimensions—is to flood the seam with water.—The Science and Art of Mining.

We pay the shoemaker because if he should quit work we wouldn't have any shoes. But why do we pay the landlord?

The optimist sees the doughnut and the pessimist sees the hole, probably because the optimist knows he's going to get the doughnut and the pessimist knows he's going to get the hole.

What diffrence does it make to the worker whether good men or bad men pay him the market price for his labor, if the market price for his labor isn't enough to pay the market price of the food?

A writer says "The Socialists seem to think they can make the working class rich by casting a certain kind of ballot." Well, the non-Socialists have made the working class poor by casting a certain kind of ballot.

A capitalist exchange argues: "War kills off Socialists; therefore, their strength in Germany is being reduced." That was the argument of the Caesars when they killed Christians; but it didn't work out in actualities.

Capitalism's labors consist of three things: Robbing the worker; killing the worker; making roseate promises.

The Meaning of "Value"

A Socialist Analysis

By H. Mayo Bartholomew

A thorough knowledge and understanding of what the word "value" means is necessary to any logical and complete analysis of modern capitalism.

The true Socialist is essentially a scientist. He bases his analysis upon known facts; and ever keeps in mind the law of causation. Above all he has a definite purpose; an intelligent ideal; a noble aim.

And so he approaches the social cancer of poverty with a view to its cure, and immediately seeks a cause. No cause, no effect.

This diagnosis depends upon economic reasoning; and in that economic reasoning a conception of value occupies an important position.

Thus it is that these articles are devoted to an analysis of "value," and an examination of the existing social order in the light of that analysis.

The Meaning of "Wealth."

A nation's wealth is essentially an accumulation of useful commodities. Houses, clothes, hats, ploughs, pens, books, pictures, horses and similar useful articles compose a nation's wealth.

This wealth is the result of the application of human labor power to land. Labor and land are the essentials in the production of wealth. As Sir William Petty well and truly said: "The earth is the mother and labor the father of all wealth."

By what measure is this wealth, so produced, valued?

The answer is given in no uncertain tones by all economists of note. All are agreed that quantity of labor constitutes value. In other words, the amount of labor embodied in any commodity determines its value.

Says Adam Smith

"The real price of everything, what everything really costs to the man who wants to acquire it, is the toil and trouble of acquiring it. What everything is really worth to the man who has acquired it, and who wants to dispose of it, or exchange it for something else, is the toil and trouble which it can impose on other people. . . . . It is natural that what is usually the produce of two days', or two hours', labor would be worth double of what is usually the produce of one day's or one hour's, labor."

Benjamin Franklin

(as even Karl Marx himself points out) tells us:

"Trade in general being nothing but the exchange of labor for labor, the value of all things is most justly measured by labor."

David Ricardo

adopts and elaborates Adam Smith's dictum. He says:

"To convince ourselves that this is the real foundation of exchangeable values, let us suppose any improvement to be made in the means of fabricating labor in any one of the various processes through which the raw cotton must pass before the manufactured stockings come to the market to be exchanged for other things; and observe the effects which will follow. If fewer men were required to cultivate the raw cotton, or if fewer sailors were employed in navigating . . . the stockings would inevitably fall in value, and command less of other things. They would fall, because a less quantity of labor was necessary to their production, and would therefore exchange for a smaller quantity of those things in which no such abridgment of labor has been made.

Sir William Petty

is equally emphatic.

"If a man can bring to London an ounce of silver out of the earth in Peru in the same time that he can produce a bushel of corn, then one is the natural price of the other; now, if by reason of new and more easy mines a man can get two ounces of silver as easily as formerly he did one, then corn will be as cheap at ten shillings a bushel as it was before at five shillings a bushel, caeteris paribus."

And thus one might continue to cite eminent economists ad lib. I could include J. S. Mill, but I haven't him by me. They all agree that the quantum of labor embodied in any commodity determines its exchange value. There they stop.

The Work of Marx

And it is just there that Karl Marx renders his great service to economic science. He takes the problem of value at the point at which it is left by orthodoxy, and leads us, by invincible logic, to a clear, complete solution.

He shows us that labor, per se, has no value. Labor constitutes value only when embodied in useful commodities. Labor as labor has no more value than weight as weight.

Note the words, "useful commodities." They are essential.

Labor has, and only can have, value when embodied in useful, socially necessary commodities. When engaged in digging holes in the ground, and then filling the same, engenders no value. **But if their labor be expended in such useful articles as bread, or boots, or books, then their labor is the sole basis and measure of the value of such commodities.**

Value in Exchange.

So that we KNOW that the value of any article is determined by the quantum of human labor power embodied in it.

Thus far do classical economists take us—and no further. But Karl Marx saw that this definition was loose, and indeed incomplete. He asked: "What labor constitutes value?" It was the fundamental question; but one carefully avoided by orthodoxy.

The reason for this avoidance is simple and clear. For this point, so fundamental, involves abstract investigation; and it is this abstract investigation which most people dislike.

The average man dislikes theories and plans. He does not realize that abstract investigation is the forerunner of all progress. To him ideals are the visions of unpractical dreamers. He does not appreciate the fact that all advance is the inevitable product of thought and study.

But Karl Marx knew the value of abstract investigation, and did not shirk the issue.

"What labor constitutes values?"

In his epoch-book, "Das Kapital," he shows us that labor has two sides. It is qualitative and quantitative.

The wealth of any community, as has been said, is an accumulation of useful commodities. In the production of this mass of useful articles it is obvious that different qualities of labor-power are expended. Although any two commodities, say pens and ploughs, are both incarnations of labor, yet this labor, thus embodied, is of essentially distinctive quality.

All this is simple and clear.

But what of the quantitative side of labor.

Take two workmen engaged in the production of such a useful commodity as a gun. Here the quality of the labor is essentially the same.

When the guns are finished they are exactly similar. Yet A has worked with old-fashioned tools; without the aid of machinery; whilst B has employed the most modern tools and machinery. So that B has expended only half the quantum of labor as has A.

Now here are two guns; both exactly alike; yet one contains in itself the embodiment of twice the quantum of labor of the other. By what standard of value must these guns be measured?

We have seen that the guns are made so alike that it is impossible to tell the one from the other. And their value in exchange is exactly the same.

How is this? If individual labor measured their exchange-value the gun made by A would be worth twice the gun produced by B. But individual labor is not the measure of value. No! The measure of value is not the quantity of labor embodied in the guns by either A or B as individuals; but rather the general social cost in simple social human labor power of producing a similar gun.

Here then is a concise, logical solution of our question.

Karl Marx shows us that the value of any commodity is determined by the quantum of simple, social human labor embodied in that article. If less of such labor be embodied in any article it becomes, other things being equal, of less value in exchange. On the other hand, if the quantum of simple social human labor embodied in any given commodity be increased, then, other things being equal, the exchange-value of such a commodity is increased.

In other words, a nation's wealth is an accumulation of useful commodities; such commodities are material incarnations of quantities of labor in various shapes; and their values are measured, not by themselves, but in one another.—Western Clarion.

Directory of Fraternal Societies

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS
Meets every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock in K. P. Hall.
Noble Grand, J. Pearson
Secretary, J. McNicholas.

ESTHER REBEKAH LODGE NO. 20
meets first and third Thursdays in month, at 8 p. m., in K. P. Hall.
Noble Grand—A. Biggs
R. Sec.—Sister Price

ANCIENT ORDER OF FORESTERS
Meet at Alelio's Hall second and third Mondays in each month.
John M. Woods, Secretary, Fernie, Box 657.

KNIGHTS OF PYTHIAS
Meet every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. in their own Hall, Victoria Avenue.
C. C., J. Coombe
K. of S., D. J. Black.
M. of F., Jas. Maddison.

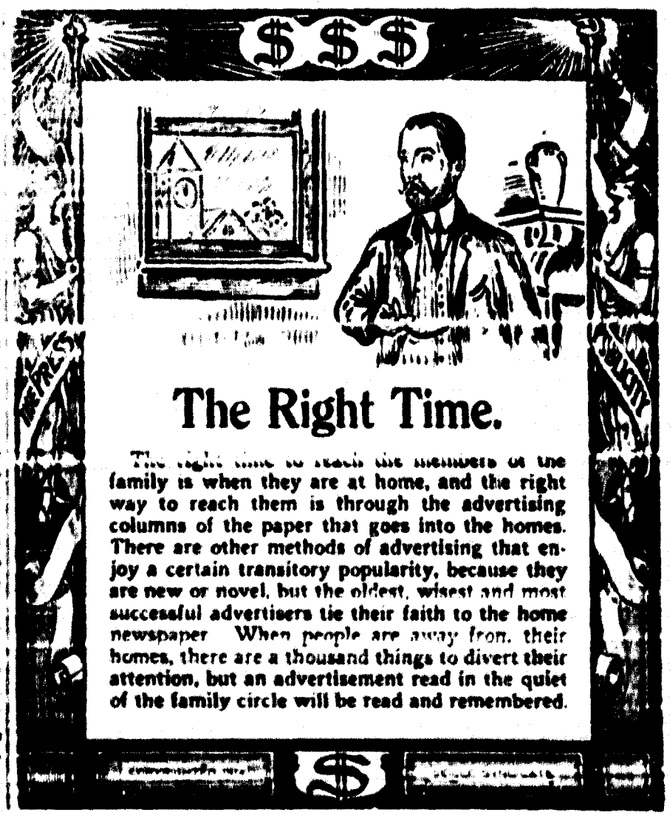
LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE
Meets every Monday at 7:30 p. m., in K. of P. Hall.
Dictator, F. H. Newnham.
Secretary, G. Moses.
140 Howland Ave.

LOYAL TRUE BLUE ASSOCIATION
Lady Terrace Lodge, No. 224, meets in the K. P. Hall second and fourth Friday of each month at 8 p. m.
MRS. J. BROOKS, W. M.
W. ORR, Secretary.

LOYAL ORANGEMEN
Terrace Lodge 1713. Meet at the K. P. Hall first and third Friday evening of each month at 7.30. Visiting brethren cordially invited.
R. CRICHTON, W. M.
J. SKILLING, Rec. Sec.

List of Locals District 18

No.	Name	Sec. and P. O. Address
29	Bankhead	P. Wheatley, Bankhead, Alta.
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	Bellevue	[illegible]
2162	Blairmore	Wm. Archer, Blairmore, Alta
949	Burmis	T. G. Harries, Passburg, Alta
2327	Carbondale	J. Mitchell, Carbondale, Coleman, Alta.
1387	Canmore	Michael Warren, Canmore, Alta.
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2877	Corbin	R. Garbitt, Corbin, B.C.
1136	Chinook Mines	P. Swanston, Chinook Mines, Commerce, Alt.
2314	Fernie	Thos. Uphill, Fernie, B. C.
1263	Frank	Evan Morgan, Frank, Alta.
1058	Hillcrest	Mack Stigler, Hillcrest, Alta
874	Lethbridge	L. Moore, 1731 Scott avenue, S. Lethbridge
1189	Lethbridge Collieries	Frank Barringham, Coalhurst Alta.
2929	Maple Leaf	T. G. Harries, Passburg, Alta
2231	Michel	Richard Beard, Michel, B. C.
2352	Passburg	T. G. Harries, Passburg, Alta.
102	Tabor	A. Patterson, Tabor, Alta.
2476	Georgetown, Canmore	Max Hucler, Georgetown, Canmore, Alta.
1047	Grassom Mines	Jas. Belcher, Nordegg, via Rocky Mountain House, Alberta



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Men's heavy wool sox less 20p. c.
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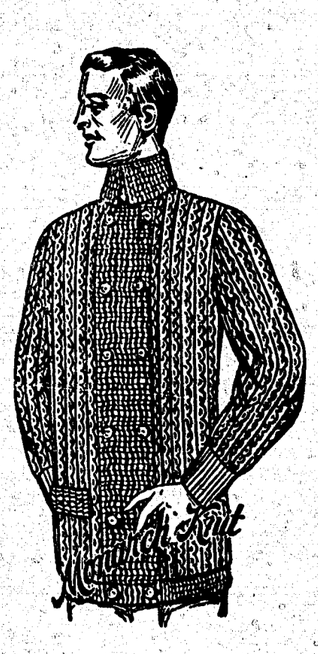

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Ladies' Snow Shoes, 12 x 40; regular $4.00
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Special ..... $2.75 pair

Men's Snow Shoes, 12x 42; regular $4.50
Special ..... $3.60 pair

Men's Snow Shoes, 14 x 42; regular $5.25
Special ..... $4.25 pair

Men's Snow Shoes, 12 x 60; regular, $7.00
Special ..... $5.50 pair

Specials

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Heinz Baked Beans, large size	.25
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Assorted Toilet Soap, 8 bars for	.25
Lyle's English Syrup, 2 tins	.35
Braid's Best Tea, per lb., bulk	.45
Riley's English Toffee, per lb.	.35
White Pine Cough Mixture, per bottle	.15

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Fresh Smoked Bacon, per lb.	.21
Frozen Halibut, per lb	12½
Frozen Herrings, per lb	.10
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JOHN LOUGHRAN "COMES FORWARD."

(Continued from Page One)

ers came out the sailors would refuse to carry coal from other countries, and if they did carry it, the railway men would refuse to haul or deliver it. The result would be industrial paralysis and a social revolution unless the government intervened. Besides at the present time the Federation has about 20 direct representatives in the British Parliament, mostly avowed Socialists, and although that may not count for much in the estimation of the Socialist Party of Canada, yet they are an acquisition to the labor movement.

But let us see for a moment how federation, even in a small way, effects strikes. About 12 years ago the Cumberland ore miners joined the Federation of Blastfurnacemen and kindred trades, and soon after a strike took place at two of the Lonsdale mines, owing to the encroachments of Lord Lonsdale (who, by the way, is a miniature J D. Rockefeller, with this difference, that while "His Lordship" is looked upon as a good sportsman, J. D. likes to pose as a religious philanthropist). However, when the strike had dragged its weary way for some weeks His Lordship condescended to meet a deputation in his offices, Whitehaven, and did so along with his mines manager. Your humble, as president, of the federation, accompanied the deputation, and after some preliminaries, His Lordship told us that his management was being caused a lot of trouble by the agitators who were connected with the miners union, and he wished us to understand that if the men were not satisfied with the prices offered, his agents could find plenty of men to fill their places. I then reminded him that the miners belonged to the Federation of Blastfurnace men and kindred trades, and that if the men on strike were re-placed the furnace men would refuse to handle the ore. After bestowing a look mingled with pity and contempt upon me, he asked if [illegible] ger then walked out without saying goodbye.

The gantry men at the furnaces were then cautioned not to tip any waggons [illegible] in a few days the siding were choked with full cars, while the furnaces were about to stop for ore. When the blastfurnace manager was assured that the gantry men would not empty the cars, and even if they did the fillers and chargers would refuse to handle the ore. After singing to the Lonsdale management, the manager went to Whitehaven, and the strike was settled next day.

When Bro. Dave tells us, "My friend is rather wide of the mark when he would make it appear that England, Scotland and Wales amalgamated 20 years ago," I must remind him that the countries mentioned never did amalgamate, and that what I said was, "these countries joined the British Federation." But we are not going to split hairs or quarrel over dates, it is sufficient for my purpose to say that they did join the federation within the past 20 years. I must also remind my friend that there is a wide difference between two or more unions federating and the same number of unions amalgamating. For instance when any number of unions amalgamate they forfeit their individualities, all their capital is mixed, blended or banked in one comon fund, and for all purposes they become one amalgamation, governed and controlled by the same management. But when the same number of unions federate each retains its own individuality and controls its own funds, but they all contribute towards the federation according to their membership; they are represented on its councils and they are all united, allied and leagued together for common purposes. Therefore, the system of federating is much simpler and more convenient than that of amalgamating.

But let us return to the system of electing officers. All local officers are elected at the first local meetings held in January of each year. The staff generally consists of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and delegate. The latter is considered to be the most important office, and as a rule the delegate is at the same time either secretary or president of the local, generally the president. His duties are to attend all conferences or meetings where his local requires representing, and to accompany all deputations or committees when it is necessary to meet the management.

As a rule every union holds its annual conference about the end of February or early in March, and this gives the newly formed Locals time to prepare resolutions and other business intended for the conference. The first item on the agenda for every annual conference is the election of district [illegible] delegates present. The reason for this is obvious, seeing that before a man is elected delegate he must have distinguished himself as a Local official to the members of his local. Perhaps the fact that the district officers are elected by the annual conference may give some the impression that they are not elected at all, but that is a mistake. Of course, if there are no resolutions on the agenda containing charges made by locals against a district officer, there will be no opposition to his re-election, and it is not uncommon for a delegate to move, and another to second, that all the district officers be re-elected en masse, when there are no charges against any of them. The conference also elects the executive, and other committees, auditors and delegates to various functions, but they are all elected by and chosen from the delegates and others present at the conference, and seeing the cream of the district as a rule are attending the conference, the chances are that the best men in the district, and those most capable for the various offices, will be elected to fill them. But while the annual conference elects some officres, and re-elects others, any local may use the recall against any district officer who fails to give satisfaction between conferences. And the charge or charges against the officer, together with the officer's explanation, would be considered by the executive committee, and a referendum vote, which would be equal to a vote of confidence, taken on the matter at local meetings. If the vote of confidence went against the officer, then an election would be declared, but the new candidate would be chosen from amongst those who attended the last annual conference, and would, as a rule, be nominated on the promotion principle, such as the vice-president being nominated for President, etc. Both Candidates would then arrange to address the locals either asparately or both travelling together, as might be agreed upon, and addressing the day shift in the evening and the evening and night shift men at meetings in the forenoon.

This system, in my opinion, has many advantages over the system of conducting elections in District 18 where the elections are held annually and where the candidates nominated against old district officers belong occasionally to isolated locals, and may be unknown outside their native towns or camps.

Further, when the officers are elected by the annual conference the expense of elections are saved to the District, and as a rule the members will get better value by way of service, while the officers will feel more independent in the execution of their official duties than if they had to appeal to the members individually on election days. For, if all we hear be [illegible] against an officer's chances at elections. For instance the fact that a man is a "Moose," or a member of some influential order, that he is a [illegible] er in a saloon bar, may tell in his favor locally, but these acquisitions would not count for much at a conference where men would be judged from a higher standard of ethics.

The above-mentioned are some of the reasons which lead me to believe that old country methods of conducting elections are preferable to what we are accustomed to here, but I am aware that most of the old country systems, especially that of retaining old men in office who have grown old in the service of the workers, is sneered at by some who believe that when a man grows whiskers he is too old for a responsible position. I am prepared to admit, however, that men reared on this continent, with its bracing atmosphere, which spurs young men on to activities and excesses almost unknown in milder and more temperate climates, grows old sooner than in some of the old countries. For instance, in last week's Ledger, page 4, (January 23rd) we read where Tom Burt, secretary for the Northumberland Miners' Association, announces his intention of resigning at the age 78 years. Mr. Burt has been re-elected continuously for 43 years, and was elected as member of Parliament for Morpeth, his native town, 40 years ago. On that occasion most of the trade unionists of the North of England contributed one shilling (equal to 24 cents) each towards his election expenses, and he has retained his seat ever since. His members contributed two cents each per month towards his expenses. But there are over a dozen labor leaders in Great Britain, with whom I was personally acquainted, who have held office for upwards of 30 years. Although the writer was 55 years last November, and has been connected with trade unionism since a boy, including ten years membership in the Durham miners Association; three years local secretary; five years district secretary, and seven years president of an important federation, yet he feels as good in many respects now as he did 20 years ago. Of course he would not be as useful in a sprint race, or at other things that could be mentioned.

Although I feel my letter is already too long, I do hope the editor will permit me to assure Brother Dave, when he says "I sincerely trust our brother will not misconstrue the appearance of the photographs of the successful officers in last week's Ledger," that I was highly pleased with the photographs. And although not an art critic, yet it was my privilege to scrutinize some celebrated pictures, including the "Last Supper, or Christ and His Apostles," "Ali-Baba and the Forty Thieves," [illegible] famous pictures of "Fagin the Jew," "Oliver Twist," "Bill Sykes, the Burglar" and "The Artful Dodger," but I am perfectly satisfied that the Ledger group won the biscuit, for whilst we could notice in each of the other groups at least one character who was trying to don the "smile that won't stop on," yet all the characters in the Ledger group are wearing "the smile that won't come off."

If friend Dave's intention was when he threw down the gauntlet to me to get the members a-thinking, he should be satisfied with the results, for he has succeeded even beyond his expectations, and who can tell but this controversy which ends with this letter, so far as I am concerned, may be beneficial to the District.

Bobby Burns was serious when he wrote—

"Oh wad some power the giftie gi'e us
To see oursel's as others see us!
It wad fra many a blunder free us
And foolish notion!"

And if this little debate will enable us to see ourselves through other people's binoculars, it might be the means of making us more tolerant, and less apt to think that we alone know everything worth knowing, for, after all is said there wil still remain many things that we *never dreamt of* in our philosophy.

Yours truly,
JOHN LOUGHRAN.
Beaver Mines, Alta.

VIVID PICTURE OF LABOR ILLS BY UNTERMYER

It was a vivid picture that was drawn of the oppression of labor by capital by Attorney Samuel Untermyer, former corporation counsel, in his address before the Federal Commission on Industrial Relations in New York, Monday of this week. Declaring that the United States was a full generation behind European states in providing safeguarding and protective legislation for the workers, Untermyer called attention to the need of laws to curb the power of concentrated wealth.

"Of course the concentration of wealth works against the worker," said Untermyer, in reply to a question by Walsh. "Labor has all the worst of it in its fight to get its due. The workers, of course, made their great error when they silently acquiesced in the formation of trusts.

"The effect of concentrated wealth is, of course, demoralizing. The despotic position taken by extremely wealthy employers in refusing to arbitrate labor troubles is a base example to the country. But I think there is an improvement in conditions. Corporations can't do what they used to do, though they continue short-sightedly to fight the labor unions."

"What caused this improvement?" asked Chairman Walsh.

"Partly exposures by newspapers [illegible] gentle government control. As corporations come more and more under the control of the government, conditions will continue to improve."

Untermyer praised the Socialist party for its efforts on behalf of the workers, but disclaimed the idea that he is a Socialist.

"Notwithstanding its faults, I believe in the capitalistic system," said Untermyer. "The world owes much to Socialism, but as a practical scheme, it will not work."

Untermyer's acclaimed belief in the continuance of a system in which he perceives so many evils, is on a par with the stand of those international peace advocates who maintain that the best way to promote this condition is to continue preparations for war. One would deduce from his utterances that Untermyer rather inclines toward "compulsory" feudal benevolence—for the central government to force industrial operators to treat their employes fairly. The fault that is found with most "intellectuals" is that, while they recognize prevailing oppressive methods of control, they will not recognize that there is pending a momentous change in the attitude of the people toward private control.—Wyoming Labor Journal.

A light stomach giveth light counsel.

Under capitalism a majority of us spend most of our time getting ready for old age and death. Under Socialism we will put in all our time just living.

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